

Title: Thought in the absence of language

Context: As human beings, we spend a large part of our mental life imagining possibilities—situations that are not real. We often consider alternative possible worlds or reflect on how different versions of the past might have influenced the present. Reasoning about possibilities is essential for human survival, as it allows us to predict the future, plan our actions, and make better decisions. Despite its importance, the origins of reasoning about possibilities have been debated by philosophers and researchers for centuries. Currently, a major disagreement remains: is this kind of reasoning (and logical thinking more broadly) available to non-human animals and prelinguistic infants in the absence of language, or does it depend heavily on language and therefore only emerge in individuals capable of linguistic reasoning?

Location: Marseille, CRPN

Duration: second semester of 2025-26

Requirements: A background in cognitive science, linguistics, psychology, or a related field. Enthusiasm for research with infants and strong analytical and programming skills are essential.

If you are interested in applying, please send the following materials to [isabelle.dautriche@cnrs.fr](mailto:isabelle.dautriche@cnrs.fr) :

1. A CV.
2. A brief cover letter detailing your research interests and motivation

Feel free to reach out if you have any questions about the internship.

Best regards,

Isabelle Dautriche

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