



# Tracking the cognitive basis of social communication across the life-span

Dr Heather Ferguson

Dr Victoria Brunsdon

Dr Lizzie Bradford

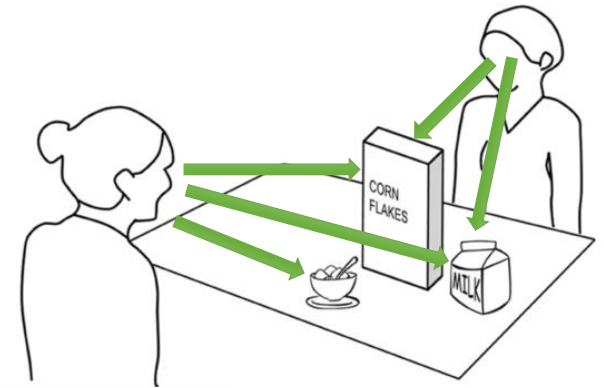
Martina De Lillo

*School of Psychology, University of Kent, UK*

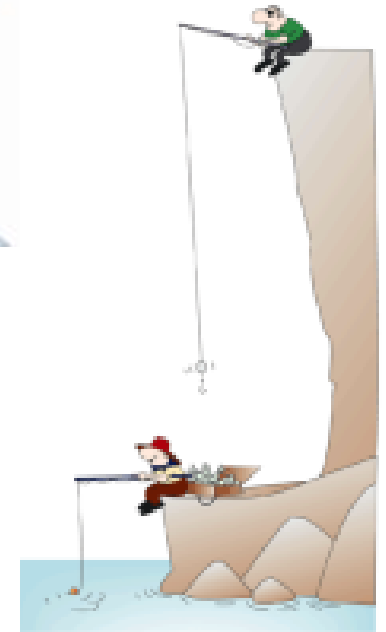
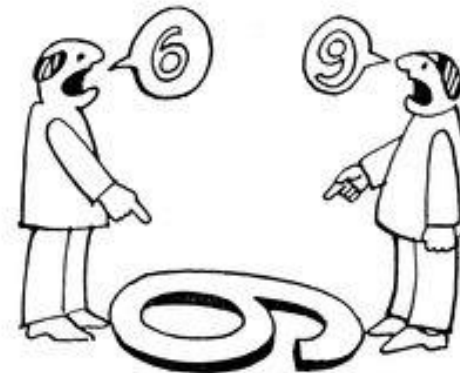
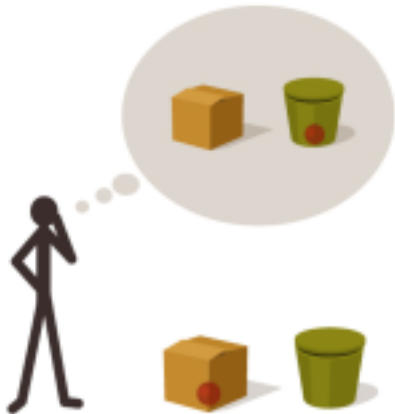




**Social Communication:  
Theory of Mind**

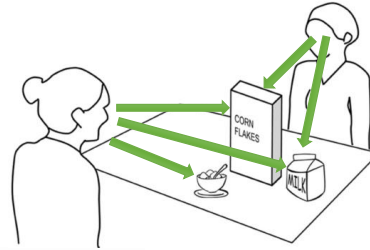


# Social Communication: Theory of Mind

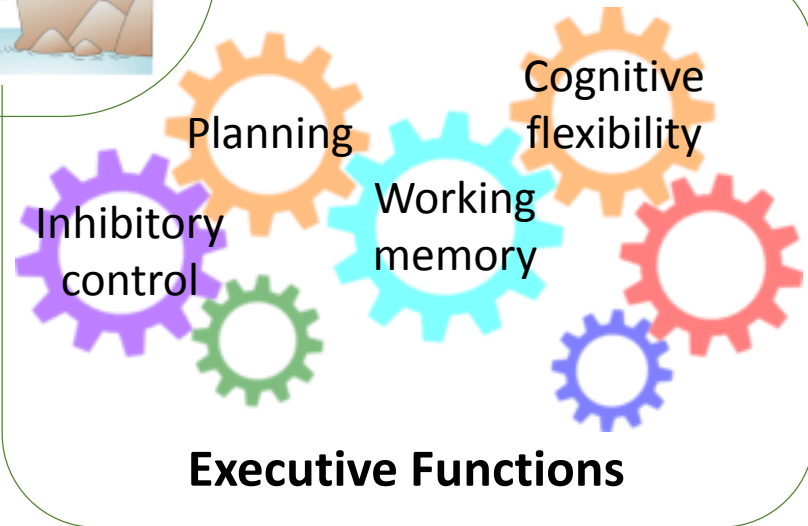
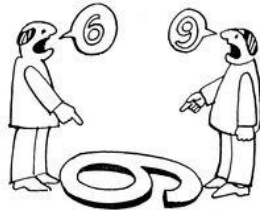
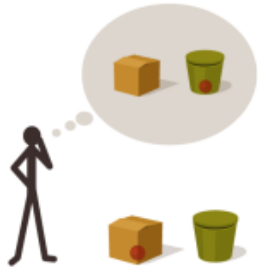


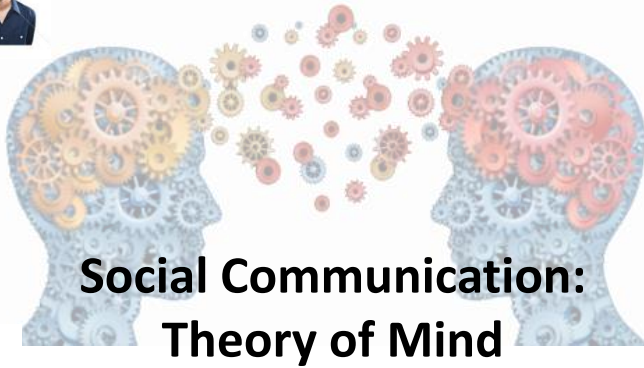
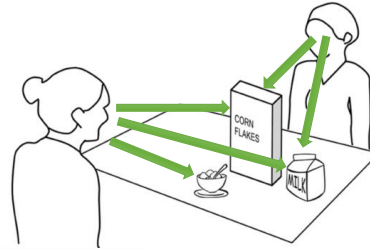
Our understanding of ToM remains limited



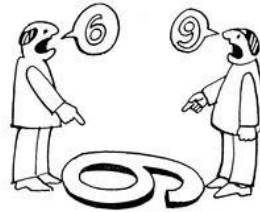
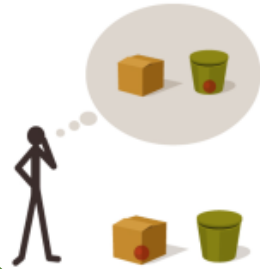


## Social Communication: Theory of Mind

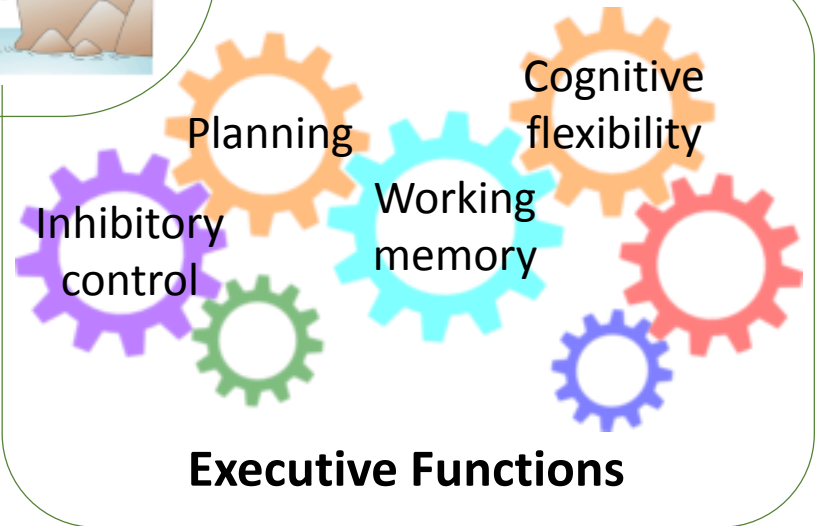




## Social Communication: Theory of Mind



9-90+ years



## Executive Functions

# Why **CogSoCoAGE** is important & timely

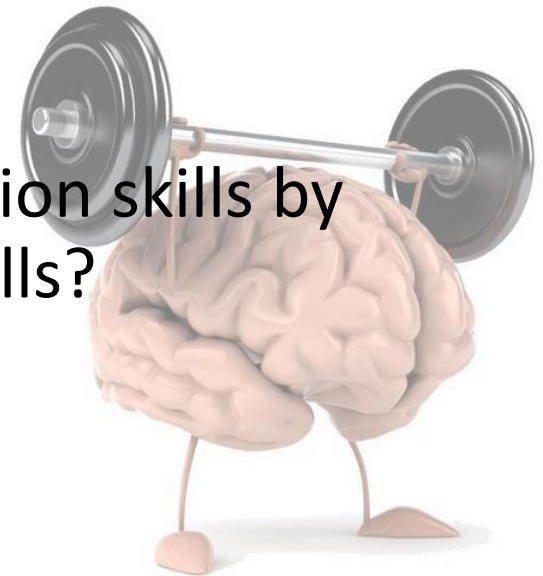
- ✓ Negative consequences of impaired social communication
- ✓ ToM difficulties limit social participation in older adults
- ✓ Ageing population worldwide

**No studies have systematically explored these relationships before**



# What are we trying to find out?

1. How do social communication skills and cognitive skills change with age?
2. Can we identify any predictors or precursors to a decline in social communication?
3. Can we enhance social communication skills by training the underlying cognitive skills?



pensive

irritated

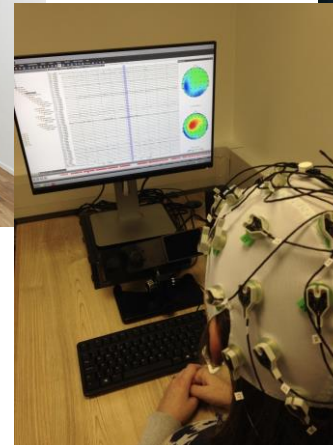
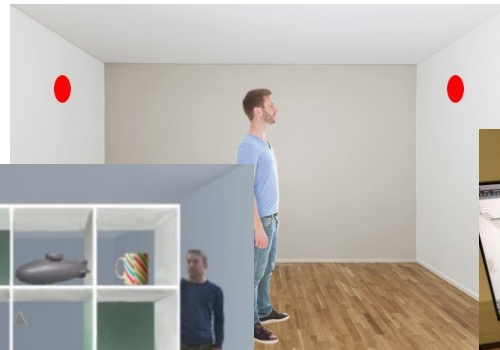
# Methods



excited

hostile

- ✓ Broad range of tasks to assess numerous different aspects of social communication and cognitive skills
- ✓ State-of-the-art experimental techniques, including eye-tracking, EEG
- ✓ Dynamic exploration of age effects (9 to 90+ years)



# We are currently recruiting!

- Join our growing team!

