



ARIANNA COLOMBANI

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 clmrnn.github.io

I am a sign language interpreter and a psycholinguist specializing in sign languages and deafness. I am currently a PhD candidate in Psycholinguistics. My research interest focuses on investigating gesture learning in childhood and infancy using brain, eye-tracking, and behavioral measures.

LANGUAGE SKILLS

My native language is Italian. I am fluent in English, Spanish, and Italian Sign Language (LIS). I am a good user of Portuguese and familiar with German, French, Catalan, and Swedish.

12/05/2022 IELTS Certificate, overall score 8

NETWORKS

26/10/2018 – current

I am a Member of ANIOS “National Association of Interpreters of Italian Sign Language”.
Membership No. 107

RECENT PUBLICATIONS

Colombani, A., Sharma, M., Tuomainen, O., & Saksida, A. (2026). Learning gestures as object labels through cross-situational learning in 3- to 4-year-old children. *Cognitive Development*, 79, 101737. doi.org/10.1016/j.cogdev.2026.101737

Saksida, A., Rebesco, R., Scuderi, M., Colombani, A., Messineo, I., Pavani, F., ... Pintonello, S. (2025). The role of symbolic gestures in the path towards auditory rehabilitation of infants with hearing loss: a feasibility study. *Deaf & Educ Inter.*, 1–21. <https://doi.org/10.1080/14643154.2025.2542541>

Colombani, A., Peter V., Quian, Y.M., Saksida A., Boll-Avetisyan N., Tuomainen O., Sharma, M. (2025), Cross-situational learning of sign-like gestures in children and adults: a behavioural and event-related potential study. *Language, Cognition and Neuroscience* <https://doi.org/10.1080/23273798.2025.2539136>

Rebesco, R., Colombani, A., Handjaras, G., Bottari, D. & Orzan, E. (2024). Early assessment of communicative competence in children with hearing loss using the Child-Caregiver Communication Assessment through Rebesco's Evaluation (CC-CARE) method. *International Journal of Pediatric Otorhinolaryngology*. 111927. <https://10.1016/j.ijporl.2024.111927>

EDUCATION

02/2023 – ongoing

JOINT PhD PROGRAM “INTERNATIONAL DOCTORATE FOR EXPERIMENTAL APPROACHES TO LANGUAGE AND BRAIN” (IDEALAB) IN PSYCHOLINGUISTICS – Macquarie University (Sydney, Australia) and University of Potsdam (Germany)

- Symbolic gestures in infants' communication
- Evoked potentials (ERPs) and Eye-tracking measures
- Statistical analysis in R

10/2014 – 01/2016

SCHOOL FOR SIGN LANGUAGE INTERPRETERS – National Association of the Deaf (Rome, Italy)

- Simultaneous and consecutive interpretation techniques
- Conference and liaison interpreting
- Professional ethics of the interpreter

10/2010 – 07/2014

MASTER'S DEGREE IN LINGUISTICS – University of Florence (Italy)

- Psycholinguistics
- Semantics, Typological Linguistics, Sociolinguistics, Historical Linguistics

10/2006 – 07/2010

BACHELOR'S DEGREE IN FOREIGN LANGUAGES & LITERATURE – University of Milan (Italy)

- Spanish and Scandinavian languages (Swedish)
- Spanish and Scandinavian linguistics and literature

WORKING EXPERIENCE

06/2023 – 12/2023

SESSIONAL TEACHING ACADEMIC, Macquarie University – Sydney (Australia)

- Tutorials of the course *Introduction to Psychology*
- Marker for the course *Principles of Psychological Assessment*

08/2021 – 01/2023:

RESEARCH GRANT HOLDER, Institute for Maternal and Child Health IRCCS Burlo Garofolo – Trieste (Italy)

- I worked on the project RC 42/2022 *Introducing a novel approach to early interventions and diagnostic measures in children with hearing loss*.
- I worked on the project RC 17/2017 *Clinical application of new tools in pediatric audiology to improve the prevention, evaluation, and rehabilitation of auditory-linguistic disorders*.

05/2020 – 01/2023:

START-UP CO-FOUNDER & EDUCATION DEPARTMENT MANAGER, BeeThere! – Florence (Italy)

- I am the co-founder of BeeThere!, a start-up specializing in live and interactive streaming experiences in the field of education and tourism. I oversaw the Educational Department, where I created educational projects for schools using the live-streaming technology to promote innovative didactic methods and new learning experiences.

12/2017 – 01/2023:

BABY SIGNS TRAINER, Baby Signs Italia – Padova (Italy)

- I conducted training workshops for parents and professionals working with children (speech therapists, pediatricians, and educators).
- I conducted training courses on Baby Signs® certification for kindergartens.

01/2016 – 01/2023

SIGN LANGUAGE INTERPRETER, Italy

- 01/2018 – 01/2023 – Interpreter and Tutor for Deaf Students at The University of Florence and The University of Pisa
- 01/2016 – 01/2023 – Freelance interpreter
- 08/2019 – 03/2020 – Interpreter and Tour Leader for Travel Agency "La Tartaruga"
- 05/2017 – 03/2020 – Interpreter and Tour Leader for Travel Agency "Mamberto Viaggi"

10/2014 – 07/2022:

SIGN LANGUAGE TEACHING ASSISTANT, Cooperativa Elfo – Florence (Italy)

- Teacher for Deaf Children in elementary and middle school