

# Curriculum Vitae

## Oana Benga

Professor

Babeş-Bolyai University, School of Psychology and Educational Sciences, Department of Psychology

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### Research domains:

- Typical and atypical development
- Early mental health

### Research interests:

- Cognitive and emotional self-regulation in early childhood: internal (temperament, attentional processing) and external (parenting, parental self-regulation, socialization of emotions) mechanisms
- Individual differences and early predictors of psychopathology
- Neural correlates of atypical development

### Professional experience:

#### Teaching

**2013- present:** Professor, Department of Psychology, Babes-Bolyai University

**2005 - 2013:** Associate Professor, Department of Psychology, Babes-Bolyai University.

**2000 – 2005:** Lecturer, Department of Psychology, Babes-Bolyai University

**1997 - 2000:** Assistant Profesor, Department of Psychology, Babes-Bolyai University

**1996 -1997:** Teaching Assistant, Department of Psychology, Babes-Bolyai University

Head/co-head of disciplines: *Developmental Psychology (1996 – present)*, *Atypical developmental Profiles (2002 – present)* - BA level; *Cognitive neuroscience (2000-2001)*, *Genetic counselling (2003-2006)*, *Clinical child psychology (2006-2007)*, *Development and mental health in infancy and early childhood (2008-present)*, *Child and Adolescent Development: Features and mechanisms (2007-present)*, *Parental education and development(2012-present)*- MA level).

#### Research

**2005 – present:** Director and founding member of Developmental Psychology Lab, BBU.

**2004 - 2007:** Director of the Cognitive Neuroscience Program, Department of Psychology, BBU.

**05/2001 – 09/2001:** Visiting Researcher, Nagoya City University, Japan.

**05/2000 – 06/2000:** Visiting Researcher, Sackler Institute for Developmental Psychobiology, Cornell Medical School, New York (USA).

**02/1999 – 04/1999:** Visiting Researcher, University of Sidney, Australia.

**1996- prezent:** Researcher, Applied Cognitive Psychology Center,

## **Education**

**2004: PhD in Psychology** (Summa cum Laude), Babes-Bolyai University. *Thesis title: Development of social cognition in children.* Supervisor: Prof. Ioan Radu, Ph.D..

**1999: Hon. B.A. in Biology**, Babes-Bolyai University, Cluj-Napoca.

**1996: Hon. B.A in Psychology**, Babes-Bolyai University, Cluj-Napoca.

**1996: Graduate of the Invisible College: Next Generation**, (an intensive research training on Cognitive Science at BBU during 1994-1996, supported by Soros Foundation and McDonnell Foundation New York). *Dissertation: Cognitive functioning in children with autism.*

**02/1994-04/1994: Tempus fellowshisp** at the University of Sunderland (U.K.) in clinical psychology. Work at the Autism Research Unit, focused in neurocognitive aspects of autism.

## **Oher professional activities and training (selection)**

2009 Expert and trainer for Save the Children Romania, Iasi Branch, on two Phare Projects: *Community services for the psychological rehabilitation of children and adolescents*, respectively *Community resource center for children with parents working abroad*

2008 the Tool-Kit of Cognitive Neuroscience, F.C. Donders Centre for Cognitive Neuroimaging, Nijmegen, Olanda

2007 Expert in a UNICEF project on the Romanian National Strategy for Mental Health Services in Childhood (0 to 7 years)

2005 Certified psychologist in Cognitive and Behavioral Psychotherapy, **Romanian College of Psychologists**

2000 Trainee in early childhood mental health and early parent-child interaction *Videogestuzte Interaktionsdiagnostik bei fruhkindlichen Regulationsstorungen*, Ludwig Maximilians University Munchen.

## **Professional affiliation**

**Since 2008:** Vicepresident, Romanian Association for Cognitive Science

**Since 2006:** Society for Research in Child Development

**Since 2005:** Distinguished Sackler Network Scholar, Sackler Institute for Developmental Psychobiology, New York, USA

**Since 2005:** Salzburg Seminar Alumna

**Since 2005:** National Neuroscience Society, vicepresidente 2005-2008

**Since 2004:** Federation of European Neuroscience Societies

**Since 2004:** International Brain Research Organization

**Since 2003:** European Society for Developmental Psychology

### **Prizes, scholarships, fellowships**

2009: Bologna Professor

2007 Harold W. Stevenson Travel Award for International Scholars

2007 CEEPUS II Mobility Award.

2005 Award of the Salzburg Seminar, Austria for the session on *Early Childhood Development*

2005 Leonardo da Vinci Programme Award

2004 Award of International Brain Research Organization

2004 Scientific Excellence Award, Babes-Bolyai University Cluj-Napoca

2001 Travel Award of the European Science Foundation

2000: Award of the Internationale und Deutsche Akademie für Entwicklungs-Rehabilitation

2000: Travel Award of the European Science Foundation

1998 Travel Award of the European Genetics Foundation

### **Editorial activity**

Since 2007: Editorial Board Member: Early Education and Development.

2006-2014: Executive Editor of the previously-called journal *Cognitie, Creier, Comportament/Cognition, Brain, Behavior*, now *Cognition, Brain, Behavior. An Interdisciplinary Journal (Abstracted: PsychInfo; International Bibliography of Social Science; SCOPUS; Full text: EBSCO; ProQuest)*

Since 2004: Editorial Board Member: Journal of Cognitive and Behavioral Psychotherapies

### ***SPECIAL ISSUES (EDITOR/CO-EDITOR)***

Visu-Petra, L. & **Benga, O.** (Eds.) (2007). *Developmental Cognitive Neuropsychology*. Special issue of *Cognition, Brain, Behavior. An Interdisciplinary Journal*, 3.

Miu, M. & **Benga, O.** Volume 10, Numbers 2-3, November (2006) - Special Issue "Metals in Alzheimer's Disease"

**Benga, O.**, Miu, A. (Editori) (2005). *Developmental Cognitive Neuroscience* *Cognitie, Creier, Comportament*, vol. IX, nr. 3, 301-317.

**Benga, O.**, Ionescu, T. (Editori) (2004). *Typical and atypical development* –*Cognitie, Creier, Comportament*, vol. VIII, nr. 3-4,

**Benga, O.** (2004). *Special Issue on Autism*. *Journal of Cognitive and Behavioral Psychotherapies*.

Ionescu, T., **Benga, O.** (2003). *Development - Social, Cognitive and Neural Perspectives*, *Cognitie, Creier, Comportament* vol. VII, nr. 2.

**Benga, O.**, Ionescu, T. (2003). *Development – Learning and Categorization*, *Cognitie, Creier, Comportament* vol. VII, nr. 1.

### **Research grants**

#### **a) International funding**

##### Director

**2006:** *Neuroscience in the International W. A. Mozart Year*, grant al Federation of European Neuroscience Societies (co-director)

- 2003** *Developmental Cognitive Neuroscience - Integrative Perspectives*, McDonnell Foundation and New School for Social Research, New York, SUA (director)
- 1999-2001** *Development of executive attention in children with ADHD, autism and anxiety*, finanțat de McDonnell Foundation and Sackler Institute, New York, SUA (director)
- 1998-2000** *Development of autobiographical memory in children*, McDonnell Foundation and New School for Social Research, New York, SUA (director)

Investigator

- 2014-2017:** *Contributions of child temperament and culture to the development of behavioral problems and psychopathology in early childhood*, Berry Family Faculty Excellence Fellowship Project, project coordinated by dr. Maria Gartstein, Washington State University, USA
- 2012 – present:** *Executive control: individual differences*, coordinated by Luis Fuentes, University of Murcia
- 2011– present:** *Emotion Socialization in an Interdisciplinary Cross-Cultural Perspective* (USA, Israel, Turkey, Romania) coordinated by Wolfgang Friedlmaier, Grand Valley State University, USA
- 2007-2009:** *Cognitive and language development in children at neurodevelopmental risk*, grant al Ministry of Science, education and Sports in the Republic of Croatia, 013-1081870-262
- 2004-2009:** *Emotional development/ emotion recognition in preschoolers: Cross-cultural comparisons*, coordinated by Susanne Denham, George Mason University, USA
- 2001:** *Developmental Neuropsychological Research on Social Cognition and Emotion*, grant of Nagoya City University, Japonia

**b) National funding**

Director

- 2013-2016:** PN-II-ID-PCE-2012-4-0668 - *Maternal self-regulation, parenting practices and child self-regulation in early childhood: implications for developmental psychopathology*
- 2006-2008,** CEEEX –ET 131 - *Critical periods in the development of executive functions*
- 2006-2008,** grant CEEEX –ET 54 - *Developmental trajectories and neurobiological correlates of cognitive-emotional processes in typical and atypical populations*
- 2002-2003,** grant CNCSIS tip AT cod 34 – *Psychological assessment in early childhood*
- 2001-2002,** grant CNCSIS tip AT cod 601 - *Psychological assessment in early childhood*

Investigator

- 2013- 2016:** PN-II-RU-TE-2012-3-0323 *The connected lie: Longitudinal links between early deception skills, sociocognitive development and problematic behaviors in young children.*
- 2011-2012:** PN-II-ID-PCCE-2011-2-0045 - *Genetic and environmental factors in emotion regulation development during adolescence: implications for anxiety disorders and depression*
- 2009- 2011,** CNCSIS nr. 2440, Program Idei, *Factorii critici in psihoterapia mediata de calculator a tulburarilor de anxietate*

**2007-2010**, *Diagnosticul social al performantei scolare prin scala sociala a succesului scolar si proiectarea unor metode de interventie validate prin cercetare*, Proiect parteneriate, PC

**2006-2008**, Contract nr. 122, CEEEX II 03 - *Analiza neurocognitiva si developmentala a anxietatii. Aplicatii in optimizarea metodelor de diagnoza si psihoterapie*

**2006-2008**, Contract nr. 88, CEEEX II 03 - *Exploatarea proceselor cognitive relevante in designul si evaluarea softurilor educationale*

**2006-2009**, CNCSIS, Nr. 1374/2006 - *Asigurarea calitatii activitatii didactice in universitatile din Romania*

**2004-2006**, cod S2PED, Program VIASAN Neurostiinte - *Evaluare si recuperare cognitiva in patologia neurologica a copilului*

Grant tip E, CNCSIS, cod CNCSIS 62 - *Dezvoltarea infrastructurii de cercetare a Laboratorului de Neurostiinte Cognitive al Centrului de Psihologie Cognitiva Aplicata*

**2000-2002**, cod CNCSIS 74, Banca Mondiala - *Program complex de masterat –doctorat in Medicina Moleculara si Neurostiinte - in colaborare cu UMF Cluj-Napoca*

**2000-2002**, cod CNCSIS 38, Banca Mondiala, grant tip B - *Baza de cercetare cu utilizatori multipli in psihologie experimentală și aplicată*

**1998-2000** grant tip C, CNCSIS-Banca Mondiala - *Psihologie cognitiva aplicata*

**1997**, cod CNCSU 402 - *Procesarea inconștientă a informației*

**1996**, cod CNCSU 994 - *Procesarea inconștientă a informației*

#### **POSDRU PROJECTS (MEMBER)**

*Modernizarea educatiei prescolare in vederea prevenirii fenomenului de parasire timpurie a scolii* proiect POSDRU ID 7859

*Formarea competentelor personalului didactic pentru promovarea stării de bine a copiilor in școli* proiect POSDRU ID 33894

*Definirea calificării de psiholog și a descriptorilor sectoriali de învățare, în vederea adaptării programelor de master in psihologie la nevoile pieței muncii din România,* proiect POSDRU ID 86/1.2/S/58717