A Physiological Assessment of Lateral Interactions Within the Early Visual Areas of Individuals with ASD.

Principal Investigator: Sabrina Censi

We are interested in improving our understanding of how individuals with autism see and understand the world around them. Over the past ten years, we have learned a great deal regarding how people with autism process visual information. We know that people with autism are better at visual-spatial tasks, such as putting the pieces of a puzzle together. On the other hand, people with autism have difficulties in identifying and recognizing faces because they tend to focus on the details or parts of the face, such as the mouth, instead of seeing the face as a whole. In this study, we aim to understand if there is a difference in brain responses in the visual center of individuals with autism that are sensitive to certain visual information compared to people without autism. To know how visual perception is different (or similar) in autism, the electrophysiological activity of the brain of individuals with autism will be compared to individuals without autism. Therefore, the information obtained by this study will be used to further our understanding of how visual perceptual abilities develop in autism and how such abilities converge and diverge from typical development in childhood, adolescence, and adulthood.