

Personal data

Name: Annabel Dineke Nijhof
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Birth date: 16-10-1989

Work Experience

September 2025 – present

Postdoctoral researcher on the BeLAS project, Dept. of Experimental Clinical and Health Psychology
Ghent University, Faculty of Psychology and Pedagogical Science, Belgium

April 2025 – present

Autism coach, PRAKTIJK50
Lokeren, Belgium

November 2022 – August 2025

Doctor Assistant (70% research, 30% teaching), Dept. of Experimental Clinical and Health Psychology
Ghent University, Faculty of Psychology and Pedagogical Science, Belgium

December 2019 – October 2022

Postdoctoral researcher on a three-year FWO Fellowship (supervisors: Prof Dr Roeljan Wiersema and Prof Dr Marcel Brass): “The Self in Autism”
Ghent University, Faculty of Psychology and Pedagogical Science, Belgium

December 2017 – November 2019

Postdoctoral researcher on a two-year Newton International Fellowship (supervisor: Prof Dr Geoff Bird):
“Investigating the self in self-other control: the neural basis of (overcoming) egocentric bias”
King’s College London, Social, Genetic & Developmental Psychiatry Centre, United Kingdom

October 2013 – September 2017

PhD student (supervisors: Prof Dr Roeljan Wiersema and Prof Dr Marcel Brass), thesis: “Spontaneous mentalizing in adults with autism spectrum disorder and the role of the temporo-parietal junction”
Ghent University, Faculty of Psychology and Pedagogical Science, Belgium

September 2012 – August 2013

Intern (supervisor: Dr Roel Willems):
“Mentalizing during natural language comprehension”
Donders Institute for Brain, Cognition and Behavior, Nijmegen, the Netherlands

Education

September 2025 – present

Master of Science in Clinical Psychology
Ghent University, Belgium

September 2024 – June 2025

Postgraduate 'Autism Spectrum'

Karel de Grote Hogeschool, Antwerp, Belgium

September 2011 – August 2013

Master of Science in Cognitive Neuroscience, track: Language and Communication

Radboud University Nijmegen, the Netherlands – bene meritum

2007 – December 2010

Bachelor of Science in Psychology, track: Cognitive Neuroscience

University of Utrecht, the Netherlands – final GPA: 3.89 of maximum 4

- **2008 – 2010:** 'Von Humboldt' Honours Minor in Psychology, Cognitive Neuroscience track
- **2008 – 2010:** 'Descartes College' Honours Minor

Publications

Nijhof, A.D. (accepted). 'Wie ben ik?' Autisme, zelfbeeld en zelfgerelateerde informatie.

Wetenschappelijk Tijdschrift Autisme.

Amodeo, L., **Nijhof, A.D.**, Williams, D.M., Wiersema, J.R. (2024). Self-bias and self-related mentalizing are unaltered in adolescents with autism. *Journal of Autism and Developmental Disorders*.

El Kaddouri, R., **Nijhof, A.D.**, Brass, M., Wiersema, J.R. (2024). Intact neural responding to hearing one's own name in children with autism. *Journal of Autism and Developmental Disorders*.

Amodeo, L., Goris, J., **Nijhof, A.D.**, Wiersema, J.R. (2024). Electrophysiological Correlates of Self-Related Processing in Adults with Autism. *Cognitive, Affective & Behavioral Neuroscience*.

De Laet, H., **Nijhof, A.D.**, Wiersema, J.R. (2023). Adults with autism prefer person-first language in Dutch: a cross-country study. *Journal of Autism and Developmental Disorders*.

Nijhof, A.D., Catmur, C., Brewer, R., Coll, M-P., Wiersema, J.R., & Bird, G. (2023). Differences in Own-Face but not Own-Name Discrimination between Autistic and Neurotypical Adults: A Fast Periodic Visual Stimulation-EEG Study. *Cortex*.

Nijhof, A.D. (2023). Autisme en Neurobiologie: Wat We (Niet) Weten. *Wetenschappelijk Tijdschrift Autisme*.

Nijhof, A.D. (2023). Recent Neural Advances in Studies on Theory of Mind and Autism. *Social Neuroscience*.

Amodeo, L., **Nijhof, A.D.**, Brass, M., & Wiersema, J.R. (2023). The Relevance of Familiarity in the Context of Self-Related Information Processing. *Quarterly Journal of Experimental Psychology*.

Nijhof, A.D., von Trott zu Solz, J., Catmur, C., & Bird, G. (2022). Equivalent own name bias in autism: An EEG study of the Attentional Blink. *Cognitive, Affective & Behavioral Neuroscience*.

Nijhof, A.D. (2021). Mentaliseren en hersenactivatie bij autisme. *Wetenschappelijk Tijdschrift Autisme*.

Amodeo, L., Wiersema, J.R., Brass, M., & **Nijhof, A.D.** (2021). A comparison of self-bias measures across cognitive domains. *BMC Psychology*.

Oomen, D., **Nijhof, A.D.**, & Wiersema, J.R. (2021). The psychological impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on adults with autism: A survey study across three countries. *Molecular Autism*.

Nijhof, A.D., Shapiro, K.L., Catmur, C., & Bird, G. (2020). No evidence for a common self-bias across cognitive domains. *Cognition*.

Gao, X., Dera, J., **Nijhof, A.D.**, & Willems, R.M. (2019). Is less readable liked better? The case of font readability in poetry appreciation. *PloS One*.

- Boccadoro, S., Cracco, E., Hudson, A.R., Bardi, L., **Nijhof, A.D.**, Wiersema, J.R., Brass, M., & Mueller, S.C. (2019). Defining the neural correlates of spontaneous theory of mind (ToM): An fMRI multi-study investigation. *NeuroImage*.
- Nijhof, A.D.**, & Bird, G. (2019). Self-processing in individuals with Autism Spectrum Disorder. *Autism Research*.
- Nijhof, A.D.** (2019). 'Spontaniteit' brengt nieuw inzicht in autisme-onderzoek. <http://nl.in-mind.org>
- Goris, J., Braem, S., **Nijhof, A.D.**, Rigoni, D., Deschrijver, E., Van de Cruys, S., Wiersema, J.R., & Brass, M. (2018). Sensory prediction errors are less modulated by global context in autism spectrum disorder. *Biological Psychiatry: Cognitive Neuroscience and Neuroimaging*.
- Lopopolo, A., Frank, S.L., van den Bosch, A., **Nijhof, A.D.**, & Willems, R.M. (2018). The Narrative Brain Dataset (NBD), an fMRI Dataset for the Study of Natural Language Processing in the Brain. In Devereux, B.; Shutova, E.; Huang, C.-R.(ed.), Proceedings of LREC 2018 Workshop 'Linguistic and Neuro-Cognitive Resources (LiNCR)' (pp. 8-11). Paris: European Language Resources Association.
- Nijhof, A.D.**, Bardi, L., Brass, M., & Wiersema, J.R. (2018). Brain Activity for Spontaneous and Explicit Mentalizing in Adults with Autism Spectrum Disorder: An fMRI Study. *NeuroImage: Clinical*.
- Nijhof, A.D.**, Dhar, M., Goris, J., Brass, M., & Wiersema, J.R. (2018). Atypical Neural Responding to Hearing One's Own Name in Adults with Autism Spectrum Disorder. *Journal of Abnormal Psychology*.
- Nijhof, A.D.**, Brass, M., & Wiersema, J.R. (2017). Spontaneous Mentalizing in Neurotypicals Scoring High versus Low on Symptomatology of Autism Spectrum Disorder. *Psychiatry Research*.
- Bardi, L., Desmet, C., **Nijhof, A.D.**, Wiersema, J.R., & Brass, M. (2016). Brain activation for spontaneous and explicit false belief tasks overlaps: new fMRI evidence on belief processing and violation of expectation. *Social Cognitive and Affective Neuroscience*.
- Nijhof, A.D.**, Bardi, L., Brass, M., & Wiersema, J.R. (2016). Measuring Mentalizing Ability: A Within-Subject Comparison between an Explicit and Implicit Version of a Ball Detection Task. *PloS One*.
- Willems, R.M., Frank, S.L., **Nijhof, A.D.**, Hagoort, P., & Van Den Bosch, A. (2015). Prediction during Natural Language Comprehension. *Cerebral Cortex*.
- Nijhof, A.D.**, & Willems, R.M. (2015). Simulating Fiction: Individual Differences in Literature Comprehension Revealed with fMRI. *PloS One*.

Teaching Experience

2022 – 2025 (Ghent University)

Clinical Psychological Skills and Diagnostics (3rd year BSc students in Educational Science)

- Coordinating and teaching practical courses

Case Study Intervention (2nd year MSc students in Clinical Psychology)

- Coordinating practical courses

2013 – 2017 / 2019 – current (Ghent University):

Developmental and Behavioural Disorders: Psychological Diagnostics (3rd year BSc students in Educational Science)

- Since 2020: co-teaching with Prof Wiersema
- Teaching practical courses

2020 – 2025 (Ghent University):

Clinical Psychology in Practice: Observation and Reflection (3rd year BSc students in Clinical Psychology)

- Facilitator reflection sessions

2017 – 2019 (King's College London):

Two-day EEG skills training course (Medical Research Council - Doctoral Training Partnership)

- Lectures and practical sessions

Research Methods Module (MSc students in Developmental Psychology and Psychopathology)

- Lecture on EEG/ERP method

EEG skills Module (BSc Psychology students)

- Lectures and practical sessions

Introduction to Genes, Environment and Development (MSc students 'Genes, Environment and Development in Psychology and Psychiatry')

- Journal Club facilitator, Oral Presentations examiner

Supervision

PhD students:

- Hannah De Laet (PhD in Psychology, Ghent University, 2021 – present)
- Letizia Amodeo (PhD in Psychology, Ghent University, 2019 – 2023)

Jury:

- Julia Houdayer (PhD in Psychology, Université Paris Cité, 2025)
- Leslie Held (PhD in Psychology, Ghent University, 2025)
- Griet Warlop (PhD in Health Sciences, Ghent University, 2025)
- Mathias Van der Biest (PhD in Psychology, Ghent University, 2024)
- Tom Bylemans (PhD in Psychology, VU Brussels, 2023)
- Wei Peng (PhD in Psychology, Ghent University, 2023)
- Qianying Ma (PhD in Psychology, VU Brussels, 2022)
- Alessandra Piatti (PhD in Psychology, Ghent University, 2022)

Guidance committee:

- Maria Chiara Diana (PhD in Psychology, Ghent University, 2024 – 2028)
- Maura Nevejans (PhD in Psychology, Ghent University, 2022 – 2026)

Thesis students (finished):

- 15 MSc students Clinical Psychology (Ghent University)
- 2 MSc students Experimental Psychology (Ghent University)
- 1 MSc student Educational Science (Ghent University)
- 1 MSc student Personnel Management and Industrial Psychology (Ghent University)
- 1 MSc student Mental Health Studies (King's College London)
- 1 MSc student Neuroscience (King's College London)
- 3 BSc students Psychology (King's College London)

Research experience studentship:

- 2 BSc students Psychology (King's College London)
- 1 BSc student Psychology (Ghent University, visiting from Leuphana University)

Personal tutor:

- 2 MSc students Genes, Environment and Development in Psychology and Psychiatry (King's College London)

Conference Presentations (recent selection)

Neural correlates of self- and other-related processing in adults with and without autism (2025). Poster presentation. *Vision Sciences Society, St Pete Beach, Florida (US) (FWO Travel Award)*.

Neural correlates of self- and other-related processing in adults with and without autism (2024). Invited Symposium oral presentation. *European Society for Cognitive and Affective Neuroscience, Ghent, Belgium*.

Self-Related Processing and Mentalizing in Adolescents with Autism (2023). Invited Symposium oral presentation. *International Convention of Psychological Science, Brussels, Belgium*.

Differences in spontaneous self- and other-related processing in adults with autism (2022). Invited Symposium oral presentation. *Belgian Association for Psychological Sciences, Leuven, Belgium*.

Self- and Other-Related Processing in the Brain: An fMRI Study (2022). Poster presentation. *International Society for Autism Research, Austin, Texas (US)*.

An fMRI study on spontaneous and explicit mentalizing in autistic adults (2021). Invited Symposium oral presentation. *European Society for Cognitive and Affective Neuroscience (online)*.

Extracurricular projects and courses

- Organizing committee ESCAN 2024, Ghent University (2022 – 2024)
- Basic Teacher Training 2.0, Ghent University (2022)
- Volunteer Autism Phone, Flemish Autism Society (2021 – present)
- Representative in several (departmental and faculty-wide) committees at Ghent University (2021 – present)
- Organizing committee '10 years Cognitive Neuroscience' symposium, RU Nijmegen (2012-2013)

Science communication (see <https://annabelnijhof.wordpress.com/media/>)

- Columnist for 'EOS Psyche & Brein' magazine, Advisory Board member 'EOS Wetenschap', jury member 'EOS POWER 2024' award
- Co-editor-in-chief at online psychology magazine 'In-Mind Nederland'
- Invited webinars/podcasts for several Flemish organisations (e.g. Sig vzw, VVKP, EOS, Expertisecentrum Autisme Leuven) on 'Autism and the Brain'
- Responsible for team website as well as several social media accounts (Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/exploragent>, X: @explora_gent / @annabelnijhof)

Research skills

Stimulus presentation and data logging

- MatLab and SPM / BrainVision Analyzer, EEGLAB, Letswave
- PsychoPy, Presentation, E-Prime / SPSS, R, JASP

Neuroimaging

- Functional magnetic resonance imaging (fMRI): advanced (Master's, PhD, postdoc projects)
- Electro-encephalography (EEG): advanced (PhD and postdoc projects)
- Functional near-infrared spectroscopy (fNIRS): basic (NIRX-workshop Berlin)

Reviews (alphabetical order):

Acta Psychologica	Frontiers in Psychology	NeuroImage
Autism Research	iBrain	Neuropsychiatric Disease and Treatment
Biological Psychology	International Journal of Psychophysiology	PloS One
Brain and Behavior	Journal of Abnormal Psychology	Poland National Science Center (funding body)
Brain Sciences	Journal of Autism and Developmental Disorders	Psychology Research and Behavior Management
British Journal of Psychology	Journal of Cognitive Neuroscience	Psychological Science
Cerebral Cortex	Journal of Cognitive Psychology	Quarterly Journal of Experimental Psychology
Clinical Psychology Review	Journal of Experimental Psychology: Human Perception and Performance	Research in Autism Spectrum Disorders
Cognition	Journal of Experimental Psychology: General	Royal Society Open Science
Cognition and Emotion	Molecular Autism	Scientific Data
Cognitive, Affective, and Behavioral Neuroscience	Neurodiversity	Scientific Reports
Cognitive Science		Social Neuroscience
Cortex		Wetenschappelijk Tijdschrift Autisme
ERC (funding body)		
Experimental Brain Research		
French National Research Agency (funding body)		