

**Social Cognition: The developmental stages of social skills and their association with other basic cognitive functions.**

**ABSTRACT:**

Social cognition refers to the sum of neurocognitive processes responsible for the integration of a person in a social context (Bertoux, 2016). By making it possible to understand, manage, and adapt behavior to the available social information, social intelligence is an ever-evolving ability (Kovács et al., 2010), directly correlated with the development of cognitive functions. Cognitive processes such as language skills (Clark, 1978; Macnamara, 1972), executive functions (Benson & Sabbagh, 2013), the ability to produce deductive reasoning (Bodenhausen & Morales, 2013), fluid intelligence (Huepe & Salas, 2013) and metacognition (Vohs et al., 2014), have been associated with the development of social cognition. However, despite the significant correlation between the referred cognitive functions and social cognition, the lack of a unifying model that sufficiently defines the degree and the type of their association, remains an important experimental issue. Based on the suggested theory by Demetriou et al. (2014, 2016, 2018), that separates human cognitive development in 4 distinct cycles, the present research will try to investigate the stages of social cognition evolution and its role in the development of the different cognitive function taking place in every developmental cycle. For the purpose of the current study, a two-phase sampling with participants aged among 3 to 17 years old will be conducted. In order to assess all the needed cognitive processes, the use of multiple tests is judged mandatory. More specifically, the neuropsychological battery that will be used for the cognitive assessment will include tests evaluating language awareness, executive control, fluid intelligence, reasoning, awareness, and social cognition. The present study is expected to enlighten the way in which a person's social skills are an integral part of his mental development, presupposing and influencing the development of basic mental processes.