

# Pauline Maes

Postdoctoral Fellow

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## CURRENT RESEARCH POSITION

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- AUG 2023-PRESENT      **Postdoctoral Fellow**, Center for Autism Research Excellence (CARE), Department of Psychological and Brain Sciences, Boston University  
Belgian American Educational Foundation (BAEF) 23-24 fellow  
Supervisor: Dr. Helen Tager-Flusberg
- JULY 2023-PRESENT      **Scientific Collaborator**, Autism in Context: Theory and Experiment, Department of Language and Letters, Université libre de Bruxelles

## PREVIOUS RESEARCH POSITIONS

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- JULY 2022-JUNE 2023      **Postdoctoral Researcher**, Autism in Context: Theory and Experiment, Department of Language and Letters, Université libre de Bruxelles  
Postdoctoral researcher and project coordinator for the multi-centric research project [Belgian Language in Autism Study](#)  
Supervisor: Dr. Mikhail Kissine
- JULY 2018-JUNE 2022      **Doctoral Research Assistant**, Autism in Context: Theory and Experiment, Department of Language and Letters, Université libre de Bruxelles  
Doctoral researcher on the *Detecting Early Signs of Autism* project  
Supervisor: Dr. Mikhail Kissine

## EDUCATION

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- 2018-2022      **PhD in linguistics**, Université libre de Bruxelles, Belgium  
‘Social attention and profiles of expressive language in young autistic children’ under the supervision of Dr. Mikhail Kissine  
14 DEC 2021    private defense passed with no revision  
26 JAN 2022    public defense (PhD award date)
- 2016-2018      **Master in linguistics**, Université libre de Bruxelles, Belgium  
*Summa cum laude* (« *la plus grande distinction* »)

2012-2015                      **Bachelor in translation and interpreting**, Institut libre Marie Haps, Belgium  
*Cum laude* (« distinction »)  
Activities: Erasmus+ exchange program at Universidad de Granada (Spain)

#### PEER-REVIEWED PUBLICATIONS

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1. **Maes, P.**, Stercq, F., & Kissine, M. (2024). Brief report: temporal distribution of visual attention between the eyes and mouth in young autistic children. *Research in Autism Spectrum Disorders*, 110, 102292. <https://doi.org/10.1016/J.RASD.2023.102292>.
2. **Maes, P.**, Weyland, M., & Kissine, M. (2023). Structure and acoustics of the speech of verbal autistic preschoolers. *Journal of Child Language*, 1-17. <https://doi.org/10.1017/S0305000923000417>
3. **Maes, P.**, Weyland, M., & Kissine, M. (2023). Describing (pre)linguistic oral productions in 3- to 5-year-old autistic children: a cluster analysis. *Autism*, 27(4), 967-982. <https://doi.org/10.1177/13623613221122663>
4. Weyland, M., **Maes, P.**, Kissine, M., & Defresne, P. (2022). Impact of Belgian COVID-19 lockdown restrictions on autistic individuals' socio-communicative behaviors and their parents' quality of life. *PloS one*, 17(8), e0273932. <https://doi.org/10.1371/JOURNAL.PONE.0273932>
5. **Maes, P.**, Stercq, F., & Kissine, M. (2021). Attention to intentional versus incidental pointing gestures in young autistic children: An eye-tracking study. *Journal of Experimental Child Psychology*, 210, 105205. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jecp.2021.105205>
6. Clin, E., **Maes, P.**, Stercq, F., & Kissine, M. (2020). No preference for direct versus averted gaze in autistic adults: a reinforced preferential looking paradigm. *Molecular autism*, 11(1), 91. <https://doi.org/10.1186/s13229-020-00398-3>

#### ***Manuscripts under review, under revision and in preparation***

7. **Maes, P.**, La Valle, C., & Tager-Flusberg, H. (under review). Frequency and characteristics of spontaneous and repetitive speech in minimally verbal and verbally fluent autistic individuals. *Autism & Developmental Language Impairments*.

#### GRANTS AND FUNDING

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2024-2027                      Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions (MSCA) postdoctoral global fellowship (266,648.16€)

2023-2024                      Belgian American Educational Foundation (BAEF) postdoctoral fellowship (50,000\$)

2022-2023                      Postdoctoral grant – selected by Dr. Mikhail Kissine for a postdoctoral researcher position on the *Belgian Language in Autism Study* project funded by an F.R.S.-FNRS/FWO Excellence of Science grant (4M€)

2021-2022	Additional year of doctoral funding by ROGER DE SPOELBERCH foundation (37,000€)
2018-2021	Doctoral grant – selected by Dr. Mikhail Kissine for a doctoral researcher position on the <i>Detecting Early Signs of Autism</i> project funded by ROGER DE SPOELBERCH Foundation (385,000€)

### ***Other mobility funding received***

1. MoLA 2023 conference funding – March 2023 (F.R.S.-FNRS Scientific meeting abroad 724.45€)
2. Visiting researcher at Boston University (Dr. Helen Tager-Flusberg) – October 2022 (F.R.S.-FNRS Stay abroad 1298.09€)
3. Visiting doctoral researcher at University College London (Dr. Courtenay Norbury) – May 2020 (F.R.S.-FNRS Stay Abroad 1800€) *cancelled*
4. Visiting doctoral researcher at University College London (Dr. Courtenay Norbury) – May 2020 (ULB, CCCI mobility funding for doctoral researchers 1800€) *cancelled*

### **TEACHING AND MENTORSHIP**

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SEPT 2022-JUNE 2023	<b>Teaching Assistant</b> , Department of Language and Letters, Université libre de Bruxelles  Assistant to Mikhail Kissine in the course ‘Quantitative methods in linguistics’ for master students (MA1)
FEBR 2019-JUNE 2023	<b>Lecturer</b> , inter-university Certification on Autism Spectrum Disorder, Belgium  Epidemiology of Autism Spectrum Disorder
SEPT 2018-JAN 2021	<b>Teaching Assistant</b> , Department of Language and Letters, Université libre de Bruxelles  Exercise classes of general linguistics I and general linguistics II for undergraduate students (BA1 & BA2)

### ***Invited talks***

1. **Maes, P.** (2024, February). *Preverbal vocalizations or early vocal stereotypies? A longitudinal follow-up of autistic preschoolers with different language profiles*. Invited talk for the language-focused TalkShop Series, University of Connecticut (CT), USA.

### ***Theses supervised***

Béatrice Busson, Master’s thesis	2022-2023
Thesis title: “Suivi d’une étude sur le développement du langage spontané chez des enfants autistes minimalement verbaux”	

**Oral presentations**

1. **Maes, P.**, Busson, B., & Kissine, M. (2023, May). *Highlighting the importance of early (pre)verbal productions: language outcomes of young autistic children*. International Society for Autism Research (INSAR) Annual Meeting, Stockholm, Sweden.
2. **Maes, P.**, Weyland, M., & Kissine, M. (2022, November). *Using naturalistic speech samples to follow linguistic profiles of autistic children*. Marguerite-Marie Delacroix Support Fund Symposium, Brussels, Belgium.
3. **Maes, P.**, Weyland, M., & Kissine, M. (2022, August). *Early linguistic productions or (pre)verbal stereotypies: a language follow-up of autistic preschoolers*. Second Workshop on Early Language in Neurodevelopmental Disorders (NeuroD-WELL), Universidade de Lisboa, Portugal.
4. **Maes, P.**, Weyland, M., & Kissine, M. (2022, June). *Describing (pre)linguistic oral productions in young autistic children: a cluster analysis*. TABU Dag, Rijksuniversiteit Groningen, The Netherlands.
5. **Maes, P.**, Weyland, M., & Kissine, M. (2022, May). *Describing (pre)linguistic oral productions in young autistic children: a cluster analysis*. International Society for Autism Research (INSAR) Annual Meeting, Austin (TX), USA.
6. **Maes, P.**, Weyland, M., & Kissine, M. (2021, November). *Describing (pre)linguistic oral productions in young autistic children: a cluster analysis*. Groupe de contact FNRS Psycholinguistique et Neurolinguistique (GCPN) Meeting, Université catholique de Louvain, Belgium.
7. **Maes, P.**, Weyland, M., & Kissine, M. (2021, September). *Language heterogeneity in autism: linguistic profiles of young children on the spectrum*. Journée des doctorants ED3bis, Université de Mons, Belgium.
8. **Maes, P.**, Stercq, F., & Kissine, M. (2020, December). *Attention to intentional vs. incidental pointing gestures in young autistic children: an eye-tracking study*. Language Abilities in Children with Autism (LACA) Zoom Meeting, online.
9. **Maes, P.**, Weyland, M., & Kissine, M. (2020, December). *Coding procedure for analysis of early linguistic productions in autism spectrum disorder*. Language Abilities in Children with Autism (LACA) Zoom Meeting, online.

**Poster presentations**

1. **Maes, P.**, La Valle, C., & Tager-Flusberg, H. (2024, March). *Frequency and linguistic complexity of spontaneous and non-spontaneous speech in minimally verbal and verbally fluent autistic individuals*. Meeting on Language in Autism (MoLA), Duke University (NC), USA.
2. **Maes, P.**, Busson, B., & Kissine, M. (2023, March). *Characterizing vocal and verbal stereotypies in autistic children who were minimally verbal at preschool*. Meeting on Language in Autism (MoLA), Duke University (NC), USA.
3. **Maes, P.**, Stercq, F., & Kissine, M. (2021, May). *Attention to intentional vs. incidental pointing gestures in young autistic children: an eye-tracking study*. International Society for Autism Research (INSAR) Annual Meeting, online.

4. **Maes, P.**, Clin, E., Stercq, F., & Kissine, M. (2020, June). *Autistic children show a preference for subtle averted gaze versus direct gaze*. International Society for Autism Research Annual Meeting, online.
5. **Maes, P.**, Stercq, F., & Kissine, M. (2020, March). *Can autistic children discriminate intentional from incidental pointing gestures in a word learning context?* Meeting on Language in Autism (MoLA), cancelled.
6. **Maes, P.**, Clin, E., Stercq, F., & Kissine, M. (2019, December). *Autistic children show a preference for subtle averted gaze versus direct gaze*. Groupe de contact FNRS Psycholinguistique et Neurolinguistique (GCPN) Meeting, Université catholique de Louvain, Belgium.
7. **Maes, P.**, & Kissine, M. (2019, December). *Anticipatory Eye Movement: an adequate paradigm to measure categorical perception of speech?* Groupe de contact FNRS Psycholinguistique et Neurolinguistique (GCPN) Meeting, Université catholique de Louvain, Belgium.
8. **Maes, P.**, Clin, E., Stercq, F., & Kissine, M (2019, November). *Autistic children show a preference for subtle averted gaze versus direct gaze*. Marguerite-Marie Delacroix Autism Research Workshop (MMD3), Brussels, Belgium.
9. **Maes, P.**, & Kissine, M. (2019, November). *Categorical perception of speech in neurotypical children and children with autism spectrum disorder*. Workshop on Early Language in Neurodevelopmental Disorders (NeuroD-WELL), Universidade de Lisboa, Portugal.

## ADDITIONAL SKILLS

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### ***Behavioral/language assessments***

Autism Diagnostic Observation Schedule (research reliable), Peabody Picture Vocabulary Test, Clinical Evaluation of Language Fundamentals, Leiter International Performance Scale, Vineland Adaptive Behavior Scales

### ***Specific data collection methods***

Eye tracking, natural language sampling

### ***Stimulus presentation softwares***

E-prime, Tobii Studio, Psychopy

### ***Data processing softwares***

Tobii Studio, Praat, Systematic Analysis of Language Transcripts (SALT), ELAN linguistic annotator

### ***Programming languages***

R, MATLAB

### ***Languages***

French (native), English (excellent proficiency), Spanish (excellent proficiency), Italian (good proficiency), Dutch (passive knowledge)