

Elisabetta Versace — Curriculum Vitae

Current position

- Senior Lecturer (tenured) at Queen Mary University of London (UK)

Previous academic positions

- 2018-2021: Lecturer at Queen Mary University of London (UK)
- 2014-2017: Postdoc at Animal Cognition and Neuroscience laboratory, University of Trento (Italy)
- 2016-2017: Postdoc at the de Bivort lab, Center for Brain Science, Harvard University (USA)
- 2012-2013: Postdoc at the Institute of Population Genetics, VetmedUni Vienna (Austria)

Qualifications

- 2020: Fellow of the Higher Education Academy (UK)
- 2008: PhD in Psychology at the Animal Cognition Laboratory, University of Trieste (Italy)
- 2004: Degree in Psychology (Psychobiology), University of Trieste (Italy)

Recent Research grants

- 2021-2022: Royal Society Leverhulme Trust fellowship: *Generalisation using sparse data: from animal to artificial systems* (PI: £65,000)
- 2021-2024: Leverhulme Trust research grant: *Generalisation from limited experience: how to solve the problem of induction* (PI: £269,000)
- 2021-2022: ESRC research grant: *Augmented Feedback to Enhance Motor and Artistic Learning During Social Distancing* (PI: £294,000)
- 2020-2022: BBSRC research grant: *Developmental reprogramming following prenatal acoustic signals* (PI: £253,000)
- 2019-2021: Alan Turing Institute grant: *General AI and interactive robots for farming* (PI: £22,000)
- 2019: Royal Society Research grant (PI: £20,000)

Peer-reviewed publications

° corresponding author; * these authors contributed equally

- 43) Szabó E, Chiandetti C, Téglás E, **Versace** E, Csibra G, Kovács AM, Vallortigara G (2022), Young domestic chicks spontaneously represent the absence of objects, *eLife* 11:e67208, doi: 10.7554/eLife.67208
- 42) Lonardo L, **Versace** E, Huber L (2022) Recognition of rotated objects and cognitive offloading in dogs, *iScience*, doi: <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.isci.2022.103820>
- 41) Josserand M, Rosa-Salva O, **Versace** E, Lemaire BS (2021) Visual Field Analysis: a reliable method to score left- and right-eye use using automated tracking, *Behavior Research Methods* (2021). <https://doi.org/10.3758/s13428-021-01702-6>

- 40) **Versace**^c E, Ragusa M, Pallante V, Wang S (2021) Attraction for familiar conspecifics in young chicks (*Gallus gallus*): an interbreed study, *Behavioural Processes* 104498 <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.beproc.2021.104498>
- 39) Slonina A, Bonzini A, Brown J, Wang S, Farkhatdinov I, Althoefer K, Jamone L, **Versace**^c E (2021) Using RoboChick to Identify the Behavioural Features Promoting Social Interactions, 2021 *IEEE International Conference on Development and Learning (ICDL)* 10.1109/ICDL49984.2021.9515641
- 38) Lorenzi E, Lemaire B, **Versace** E, Matsushima T, Vallortigara G (2021). Resurgence of an inborn attraction for animate objects via thyroid hormone T3, *Frontiers in Behavioural Neuroscience* 15 (72)
- 37) Rosa-Salva O, Mayer U, **Versace** E, Hébert M, Vallortigara G (2021) Sensitive periods for social development: Interactions between predisposed and learned mechanisms, *Cognition* 213, 104552 <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.cognition.2020.104552>
- 36) Pallante^c V, Rucco D, **Versace**^c E (2021) Young chicks quickly lose their spontaneous preference to aggregate with females. *Behavioral Ecology and Sociobiology* 75 (5), 1-10, <https://doi.org/10.1007/s00265-021-03012-5>
- 35) Lemaire B, Rucco D, Josserand M, Vallortigara G, **Versace**^c E (2021) Stability and individual variability of social attachment in imprinting. *Scientific Reports* doi.org/10.1038/s41598-021-86989-3
- 34) **Versace**^c E, Damini S, Stancher G (2020). Early preference for face-like stimuli in solitary species as revealed by tortoise hatchlings, *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences of the United States of America* 117, 39, 24047–24049
- 33) Hsu SK, Jakšić AM, Nolte V, Lirakis M, Kofler R, Barghi N, **Versace** E, Schlötterer C (2020) Rapid sex-specific adaptation to high temperature in *Drosophila*. *eLife* 9:1–16. <https://doi.org/10.7554/eLife.53237>
- 32) **Versace**^c E, Caffini M, Werkhoven Z, de Bivort BL (2020) Individual, but not population asymmetries, are modulated by social environment and genotype in *Drosophila melanogaster*. *Scientific Reports* 10:1–13. <https://doi.org/10.1038/s41598-020-61410-7>
- 31) **Versace**^c E, Ragusa M, Vallortigara G (2020). A transient time window for early predispositions in newborn chicks. *Scientific Reports* 9:18767. <https://doi.org/10.1038/s41598-019-55255-y>
- 30) Hébert^c M, **Versace**^c E, Vallortigara^c G (2019). Inexperienced preys know when to flee or to freeze in front of a threat, 1 *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences of the United States of America*, doi.org/10.1073/pnas.1915504116.
- 29) **Versace**^c E, Rogge J, Shelton-May N, Ravignani A (2019), Positional encoding in cotton-top tamarins (*Saguinus oedipus*). *Animal Cognition*, 22(5), 825–838. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10071-019-01277-y>
- 28) Lorenzi E, Pross A, Rosa-Salva O, **Versace** E, Sgadò P, Vallortigara G (2019) Embryonic Exposure to Valproic Acid Affects Social Predispositions for Dynamic Cues of Animate Motion in Newly-Hatched Chicks. *Front. Physiol.* 10:501, [doi: 10.3389/fphys.2019.00501](https://doi.org/10.3389/fphys.2019.00501)
- 27) **Versace**^c E, Martinho-Truswell A, Kacelnik A, Vallortigara G (2018). Priors in Animal and Artificial Intelligence: Where Does Learning Begin? *Trends in Cognitive Sciences* 22(11) 963–925. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.tics.2018.07.005>

- 26) Rosa-Salva O, Fiser* J, **Versace*** E, Dolci C, Chehaimi S, Santolin C, Vallortigara G (2018). Spontaneous Learning of Visual Structures in Domestic Chicks. *Animals* 8, 135.
- 25) Peruffo S, **Versace^c** E, Maccagnani B, Vallortigara G (2018) Honeybees learn patterns with flashing lights, in The Evolution of Language, Proceedings of the 12th International Conference, pp. 519-521.
- 24) **Versace^c** E, Damini S, Caffini M, Stancher G (2018), Born to be asocial: newly-hatched tortoises spontaneously avoid unfamiliar individuals, *Animal Behaviour* 138, pp. 187-192
- 23) Sgadò P, Rosa-Salva* O, **Versace*** E, Vallortigara G (2018) Embryonic Exposure to Valproic Acid Disrupts Social Predispositions in Newly-Hatched Chicks, *Scientific Reports* 8, 5919, oi:10.1038/s41598-018-24202-8
- 22) Belloni V, Galeazzi A, Bernini G, Mandrioli M, **Versace** E, Haase* A (2018) Evolutionary compromises to environmental toxins: Ammonia and urea tolerance in *Drosophila suzukii* and *Drosophila melanogaster*. *Physiology and Behavior*, 191, 146–154. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.physbeh.2018.04.021>
- 21) Chiandetti C, Lemaire B, **Versace** E, Vallortigara G (2017) Two temporal windows for embryonic light stimulation to modulate lateralization in chicks, *Symmetry* 9(6), 84, doi:10.3390/sym9060084
- 20) **Versace^{c*}** E, Spierings* M, Caffini M, ten Cate C, Vallortigara G (2017) Spontaneous generalization of abstract multimodal patterns in young domestic chicks. *Animal Cognition* 20(3):521-529. doi: 10.1007/s10071-017-1079-5.
- 19) **Versace^c** E, Fracasso I, Baldan G, Dalle Zotte A, Vallortigara G (2017) Newborn chicks show inherited variability in early social predispositions for hen-like stimuli. *Scientific Reports* 40296, doi:10.1038/srep40296
- 18) Vallortigara G, **Versace^c** E (2017) *Laterality at the Neural, Cognitive and Behavioural Levels*, In: Burghardt G, Pepperberg I, Call J, Zendall T (eds), "APA Handbook of Comparative Psychology", American Psychological Association Press, Washington, USA, pp. 557-577
- 17) Di Giorgio* E, Loveland* J, Mayer* U, Rosa-Salva* O, **Versace*** E, Vallortigara G (2017). Filial responses as predisposed and learned preferences: Early attachment in chicks and babies. *Behavioral Brain Research* <http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.bbr.2016.09.018>
- 16) **Versace^c** E, Schill J, Nencini AM, Vallortigara G (2016) Naïve Chicks Prefer Hollow Objects. *PLOS ONE* 11(11): e0166425. doi:10.1371/journal.pone.0166425
- 15) Rogers LJ, Frasnelli E, **Versace^c** E (2016) Lateralized antennal control of aggression and sex differences in red mason bees, *Osmia bicornis*. *Scientific Reports* 6: 29411
- 14) **Versace^c** E, Eriksson A, Castellan I, Rocchi F, Haase A (2016) Physiological and behavioral responses in *Drosophila melanogaster* to odor compounds present at different plant maturation stages. *Physiology & Behavior* doi: 10.1016/j.physbeh.2016.05.027
- 13) **Versace^c** E, Vallortigara, G (2015) Forelimb preferences in human beings and other species: multiple models for testing hypotheses on lateralization. *Frontiers in Psychology* 6 (233), doi: 10.3389/fpsyg.2015.00233
- 12) **Versace^c** E (2015) Experimental evolution, behavior and genetics: Associative learning as a case study. *Current Zoology* 61 (2): 226–241
- 11) **Versace^c** E, Vallortigara G (2015) Origins of knowledge: Insights from precocial species. *Frontiers in Behavioral Neuroscience* 9: 338. doi: 10.3389/fnbeh.2015.00338

- 10) **Versace**^e E, Reisenberger KJ (2015) Large-scale assessment of olfactory preferences and learning in *Drosophila melanogaster*: behavioural and genetic components. *PeerJ* 3:e1214. doi:10.7717/peerj.1214
- 9) **Versace** E, Nolte V, Pandey RV, Tobler R, Schlötterer C (2014) Experimental Evolution Reveals Habitat Specific Fitness Dynamics among *Wolbachia* Clades in *Drosophila melanogaster*. *Molecular Ecology* 23 (4): 802–814. doi:10.1111/mec.12643
- 8) Schlötterer C, Kofler R, **Versace** E, Franssen S, Tobler R (2014) Combining experimental evolution with next-generation sequencing: a powerful tool to study adaptation from standing genetic variation. *Heredity* 114 (431-440), doi:10.1038/hdy.2014.86
- 7) **Versace**^e E, Vallortigara G (2014) Preliminary Study on Preferences for Hollow vs. Filled Social Partners in Domestic Chicks. *Proceedings of the Trieste Symposium on Perception and Cognition*, November 27th-28th 2014, pp. 457-458. eISBN 978-88-8303-610-1
- 6) Endress A, Carden S, **Versace** E, Hauser MD (2010) The apes' edge: Positional learning in chimpanzees and humans. *Animal Cognition* 13(3): 483-495 doi:10.1007/s10071-009-0299-8
- 5) Morgante M, Giancesella M, **Versace** E et al. (2010) Preliminary study on metabolic profile of pregnant and non-pregnant ewes with high or low degree of behavioral lateralization. *Animal Science Journal* 81: 722-730
- 4) **Versace**^e E, Endress A, Hauser MD (2008) Pattern recognition mediates vocal plasticity in a nonhuman primate: experiments with cottontop tamarins. *Animal Behaviour* 76 (6): 1885-1892. doi:10.1016/j.anbehav.2008.08.015
- 3) **Versace**^e E, Regolin L, Vallortigara G (2006) Emergence of Grammar as Revealed by Visual Imprinting in Newly-hatched Chicks. In: *The Evolution of Language*. In: Proceedings of the 6th International Conference, Rome, 12-15 April. pp 457–458
- 2) **Versace** E, Morgante M, Pulina G, Vallortigara G (2007) Behavioural lateralization in sheep (*Ovis aries*). *Behavioural Brain Research* 184: 72-80
- 1) Morgante M, Giancesella M, Stelletta C, **Versace** E, Cannizzo C, Ravarotto L, Vallortigara G (2007) Short-term adaptive response in strongly versus weakly lateralized dairy ewes. *Italian Journal of Animal Science* 6: 567-569