

## Research agreements with universities and other institutions

The Institute has been part of official research partnerships with other universities and institutions in Italy and abroad since 2008.

- In 2008, the Institute entered into a research Cooperation Agreement with the Psychology and Counselling Department of Moscow University. The two institutions are currently jointly working on some research protocols on primary family relationships.
- In 2009, a Cooperation Agreement was signed with the Educational Processes Department of Catania University (directed by Professor Santo Di Nuovo). The partnership focuses on research in the field of perception and of psychotherapy and training outcome.
- In 2009, the Institute concluded a collaboration agreement with the Turin School of Management (S.A.A.) for the organization of advanced training courses.
- Since 2009, the Institute has signed accreditation agreements with Catania University for its undergraduate and graduate internship programmes. At the moment there are also collaborations for the development of theoretical-practical laboratories.
- Since 2009, the Institute has signed accreditation agreements with “Kore” University of Enna (Italy) for its undergraduate and graduate internship programmes. At the moment there are also collaborations for the development of theoretical-practical laboratories.
- Since 2000 till 2010, the Institute cooperated formally with the Catania University PhD programme in Humanities and Conservation of Cultural Heritage (directed by Professor Savoca) for the organization of seminars on Psychology and Literature.
- In 2010, the Institute signed a Cooperation Agreement with the Research Unit in Pediatric Psychology, Department of Psychology, University of Palermo. The Agreement is still active and concerns research and intervention projects to be carried out on the topic of primary relationships. At the moment the validation and application of an observational tool for caregivers/child interactions is in progress. In 2016, the tool has been published in Spagnuolo Lobb M. (2016). Gestalt Therapy with Children: Supporting the Polyphonic Development of Domains in a Field of Contacts. In: Spagnuolo Lobb M., Levi N., Williams A. D. (Eds.). Gestalt Therapy with Children: From Epistemology to Clinical Practice. Siracusa: Istituto di Gestalt HCC Italy Publ. Co., [www.gestaltitaly.com](http://www.gestaltitaly.com).
- In 2019, the research was presented at 3 conferences on research in psychotherapy: on May 13 at the conference sponsored by the *University of Palermo* titled “15th day of Child, Adolescent and Family psychotherapy care”; on May 31st at the IV International *Research Conference in Gestalt Psychotherapy in Santiago de Chile*; on September 21<sup>st</sup> at the *EAGT*

*Conference* in Budapest. In 2020 the research will be extended to typical preverbal children, with the collaboration of pediatricians, and the results of the research will be sent to international scientific journals.

- Since 2011, the Institute has been collaborating with the Catholic University of the Sacred Heart of Milan for scientific projects and conference organization. In 2014 the Catholic University of the Sacred Heart of Milan, Faculty of Psychology "Agostino Gemelli" has instituted the 2nd level Master entitled "Phenomenology of intimate relationships and violence" in collaboration with the Istituto di Gestalt HCC Italy, based in Palermo. Directors of the Master Programme: Proff. Raffella Iafrate and Margherita Spagnuolo Lobb.

The Institute maintains agreements of scientific and didactic collaboration with:

- Kore University of Enna, Faculty of Psychology and specialization in Clinical Psychology: organization of conferences for students, research collaboration with the involvement of trainees, scientific exchange with University professors (Prof. Ugo Pace, Prof. Calogero Iacolino, Prof. Adriano Schimmenti, Prof. Giuseppe Craparo).
- University of Catania, Faculty of Psychology: organization of conferences, collaboration in research with the involvement of trainees, scientific exchange with University professors (Prof. Santo Di Nuovo)
- University of Palermo, Faculty of Psychology: organization of conferences, research collaboration with the involvement of trainees, scientific exchange with University professors (Prof. Di Vita, Prof. Perricone).
- University Department of Clinical Neuroscience, School of Specialization in Psychiatry, University of Palermo (Dir. Prof. Daniele La Barbera), didactic-scientific exchange for the postgraduates of the School of Specialization in Psychiatry of the University.
- Research Unit in Pediatric Psychology, Department of Psychology, University of Palermo, research collaboration on primary family relationships of preterm born children (Prof. Giovanna Perricone). In 2018 a scholarship was assigned to deepen the research on the observational grid called "Dance Steps' between caregivers and child", an observational tool for child-caregiver interaction created by Dr. Margherita Spagnuolo Lobb; the scholarship being aimed to "Validation of an observational grid of the caregiver-child relationship in early childhood", in agreement with Palermo Hospital "Villa Sofia – Cervello". In 2020 the research will be extended to the study of interactions between caregivers and typical preverbal children.