

**Faculty Mentor:** Dr. Kristy vanMarle, Psychological Sciences

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## Can babies remember poor caregiving?

Mandar Bhoyar and Krsity vanMarle

**Purpose:** Attachment is an enduring emotional bond that an infant develops with their primary caregiver<sup>1</sup>. Insecure attachment in infancy poses risk for poorer peer relationships, externalizing problems, and internalizing symptoms into adulthood<sup>2</sup>. According to attachment theory, infants develop internal working models (IWMs) to represent their experiences with caregivers<sup>3</sup> encompassing representations of self, others, and the nature of relationships that are carried forward into future interpersonal contexts<sup>4</sup>. We asked whether infants expect an individual will behave responsively towards a crying infant, whether infants will develop a preference to responsive (R) versus unresponsive (U) individual, and, whether infants' expectations and/or preferences are modulated by their attachment security, indexed using maternal responsiveness questionnaire (MRQ)<sup>5</sup>.

**Procedure:** Thirty-two 12-to-13-month-old infants and primary caregivers are being recruited. Infants are familiarized with four pseudo-randomized videos (two adults act responsively or unresponsively to a crying baby). At test, infants view headshots of the adults in pseudo-randomized order. Looking time is measured for both events. The primary caregiver completes the (MRQ)<sup>5</sup> which assess their responsivity to distressed infant.

**Results:** We adapted to and piloted an online data collection format due to the covid-19 pandemic, hence the current dataset consists of only 5 babies. Therefore, none of the findings so far are significant. Although, currently, infants are looking longer on average at the unresponsive events ( $M=47.54$  sec,  $SD=19.99$ ) than the responsive events ( $M=40.41$  sec,  $SD=18.66$ ) during familiarization which means the unresponsive act is an unexpected event. If this result holds once data collection is complete, it will be important to determine whether this expectation derives from infants' own experiences, or whether it may be a core expectation that is innate or emerges with minimal modification from experience. We will be able to determine this once data collection is complete by correlating infants' MRQ scores with their looking time preference score.