



Title: Exteroceptive and Interoceptive Contributions to Bodily Self Alterations in the Schizophrenia Continuum

Bio: **Francesca Ferri** completed a PhD in Cellular and Molecular Biology at the University of Bologna and a PhD in Neuroscience at the University of Parma, before moving to the University of Ottawa in 2013 for a three-year postdoc at the Institute of Mental Health Research. She then moved to the University of Essex in 2016 as a Lecturer in Psychology, and to her current role as Assistant Professor in 2019.

Her interdisciplinary research focuses on how the body, through action and multisensory processing, shapes self-awareness and adaptive behavior, especially in the context of psychopathologies like schizophrenia.

Abstract : Schizophrenia is primarily characterized by a disruption of the core self, which is deeply rooted in bodily experience—the bodily self. In individuals with schizophrenia, this sense of the bodily self is significantly altered, reflecting changes in both exteroceptive (external sensory) and interoceptive (internal bodily) processing. This presentation will explore how disturbances in multisensory integration and interoceptive processes contribute to altered body representations, shaping various symptom dimensions across the schizophrenia spectrum. Particular attention will be given to the roles of respiration, excitation/inhibition (E/I) imbalance, and multisensory disruptions, as well as their reciprocal interactions. By examining these factors, we aim to offer novel insights into the mechanisms underlying bodily self-disturbances in schizophrenia and discuss potential avenues for targeted therapeutic interventions