Curriculum Vitae - Pr. Edouard GENTAZ, PhD.

1. Information

Faculty of Psychology and Education Sciences (FPSE9, University of Geneva and Swiss Center for Affective Sciences.
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2. Current position, Professional and academic experiences

Since 2012  Full Professor in Psychology of Development, University of Geneva
2010-2012  Program Manager of the French National Agency in Research (ANR) for cognitive sciences
2009-2012  Director of Research in cognitive sciences at CNRS in France

3. Main executive activities and institutional responsibilities from 2012

2016-2021  Member of scientific committee (selection and monitoring) of the program “e-Fran "espace de formation, de recherche et d'animation numériques" for the French Gouvernent– 30 million d'euros. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=roj8G9Ny5U
Since 2019  Head of Archives of Jean Piaget, University of Geneva
http://archivespiaget.ch/index.php?id=1
2016-2019  Head of Department of Psychology, FPSE, University of Geneva
2017-2021  Permanent Delegate of the "Equality Delegation" of the Rectorat de Genève
https://www.unige.ch/rectorat/egalite/ancrage/delegation/
2013-2016  President of the « Conseil Participatif » de la FPSE de l'Université de Genève
Since 2015  Member of the SNSF Research Commission (COREC) at the University of Geneva
2013  Member of the scientific committee of the « Boursières d’excellence » program, University of Geneva
2013  Member of the scientific committee of the program on « Learning » for the French National Research Agency (ANR)

4. Research projects as leading investigator from 2012

5. (Co-)Supervision of PhD theses from 2012


6. Editions and diffusion of Knowledge

To academic people and students
   Director of a book series in psychology at Dunod publisher since June 2002
   Associated-Editor (2010-present): L’Année Psychologique

To Professionals (Neuropsychology, Teachers, Pediatricians, etc.)
   Associated-Editor (2013-present): Médecine et Enfance

To parents and professionals
   Padlet (Mur collaboratif virtuel) (open in april 2020 – Covid-Crisis) : ANAE Revue - Mutualisation de ressources francophones pour les familles, les enseignants, les professionnels en temps de confinement https://anae-revue.padlet.org/admin1114/ljs2rw0fbd8

7. Main reviewing

a) for French and international agencies: AERES, ANR, ANRT.AGENCY FOR SCIENCE de Singapour, European Research Council Executive Agency- ERCEA», RTI (Research Triangle Institute), etc.
c) for Publisher : Psychology Press, Odile Jacob, Les doigts qui rêvent, les éditions Play bac.
d) for thesis committees : 35
Scientific achievements - Prof. Edouard GENTAZ

During his academic career at the CNRS in France (1999-2012) and at the University of Geneva (from 2012), Prof. Edouard Gentaz developed several research programs to design and evaluate several types of intervention aimed at young children, which involved collaborations with other scientific disciplines. He is the author or co-author of more than 130 articles in refereed journals, several books and a MOOC about the psychological development of young children.

1. Development and evaluation of specific interventions for children

Pr. Gentaz designed specific interventions to increase the academic performances of children. He also evaluated their effect. These different studies have been supported by grants from the government; agencies (ANR, CNRS) or foundations (Fyssen, Boninchi) obtained by Prof Gentaz (PI). They were systematically conducted in collaboration with colleagues from educational sciences and with teachers from educational organizations.

He showed that an efficient method to prepare kindergarten children coming from average or low socio-economic status families to reading (Gentaz, Colé, and Bara, 2003; Bara, Gentaz, and Colé, 2007), handwriting (e.g., Palluel-Germain, Hillairet de Boisferon, Hennion, Gouagout, & Gentaz, 2007; Jolly, Palluel-Germain, & Gentaz, 2010), and mathematics (Pinet & Gentaz, 2007, 2008; Kalénine, Pinet, and Gentaz 2011; Gimbert, Gentaz & Mazens, 2019) involves the addition of the visual-haptic and haptic exploration of letters geometric shapes or approximate number system to traditional educational methods.

The present findings provided several helpful multisensory methods and tools for teachers to improve learning during their courses, and for parents to help their children. These methods or tools have been published by editors specialized in pedagogy.

Prof. Gentaz managed for the French Minister of Education an original research (2010-2011) that evaluates the effects of a program combining training based on the decoding and understanding of the reading performance of 1806 grade one children (in 52 schools) enrolled in priority education networks compared to a conventional training, and the scale, which led to an implementation at realistic scale and conditions (Gentaz, Sprenger-Charolles, Colé, Theurel, Gurgand, Huron, Rocher, Le Cam, 2013).
2. Development of research in collaboration with other scientific disciplines: pediatrics, semiotics and robotics.

He developed research on the cognitive and affective development of premature children (Witt, Gentaz, & Hüppi 2013; for review, Lejeune & Gentaz, 20012, 2018) and the evaluation of the combined effect of emotional knowledge and working memory training on children born very preterm (VP), at about 6 – 7 years of age, with a randomized controlled trail procedure (supported by the Foundation Boninchi and FNS), in collaboration with Pr. Hüppi (HUG).

He developed research on the development and the evaluation of new haptic illustrations for visually impaired children (Theurel, Witt., Claudet, Hatwell, & Gentaz, 2013, Valente an Gentaz, submitted, in revision) in collaboration with the field of semiotics for the creation and reception of interfaces as well as the development of projects in participatory design (supported by FNS). This research project “Haptic-books - Development and evaluation of haptic books for visually impaired and sighted children”, supported by FNS between 2015-2019 (grant 100019_162688), has produced scientific advances published in important journals (Bara, Gentaz & Valente, 2018, Journal of visual impairment and blindness; Valente & Gentaz, 2019, ANAE; Valente, Palama, & Gentaz, submitted, PloS One; Valente, Palama, Malsert, Bolens, & Gentaz, 2019, PloS One; Valente, Theurel, & Gentaz, 2018, Psychonomic bulletin & review).

Prof. Gentaz conducted studies with specialists in robotics and virtual reality (Hennion, Gentaz, Gouagout, & Bara, 2005; Bluteau, Coquillart, Payan, & Gentaz, 2008; Bluteau, Hillairet de Boisferon, & Gentaz, 2009). For example, an original haptic feedback interface (a force-feedback programmable pen) was developed and used to teach children how to reproduce a letter according to a static and dynamic standard.