

## RESEARCHER SPOTLIGHT

Dr. Sofia Mastrokouskou is an Assistant Professor of Developmental and Educational Psychology at Universitas Mercatorum in Italy. Her research centers on socio-emotional and relational processes in educational settings, with particular focus on bullying victimization, student–teacher relationship quality, psychological adjustment, and inclusive learning environments. She investigates how interpersonal dynamics within schools influence students’ well-being, resilience, and developmental trajectories across childhood, adolescence, and emerging adulthood.

A central theme in her scholarship is the examination of bullying and peer victimization among vulnerable student populations, including adolescents with ADHD and students facing socio-emotional challenges. Her recent work highlights the role of classroom relationships as protective or risk factors, demonstrating how supportive teacher–student bonds can buffer the negative effects of victimization on mental health and life satisfaction. In longitudinal and cross-cultural studies, she has also explored cyberbullying pathways, aggressive behaviors, and the psychosocial correlates of social media addiction in youth.

Dr. Mastrokouskou has published extensively in high-impact international journals, including *Current Psychology*, *Scientific Reports*, *Journal of Learning Disabilities*, and *Social Psychology of Education*. Her work demonstrates broad engagement with developmental risk, emotional regulation, resilience, and inclusive educational practice, while maintaining a strong interdisciplinary and cross-cultural perspective through collaborations across Europe and beyond.

Alongside her research, she has substantial teaching experience in developmental and educational psychology and has served as Visiting Professor in Psychology of Disability at Masinde Muliro University of Science and Technology in Kakamega, Kenya. Her academic profile is further enriched by editorial responsibilities and active membership in international scientific associations, including the American Psychological Association and the International Society for the Study of Behavioral Development.

## SELECTED PUBLICATIONS

1. **Mastrokouskou, S.**, Kaliris, A., & Longobardi, C. (2025). Drivers of Academic Procrastination and Achievement: A Moderated Mediation Analysis in Students With and Without Specific Learning Disabilities. *Journal of Learning Disabilities*, 00222194251391831. <https://doi.org/10.1177/0022219425139183>.
2. **Mastrokouskou, S.**, Berchiatti, M., Badenes-Ribera, L., Galiana, L., & Longobardi, C. (2025). Bullying in Students with Attention Deficit/Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD): Analyzing Students’ Social Status and Student–Teacher Relationship Quality. *International Journal of Environmental Research and Public Health*, 22(6), 878. <https://doi.org/10.3390/ijerph22060878>.
3. Lin, S., Fabris, M. A., Longobardi, C., & **Mastrokouskou, S.** (2025). The association between social media addiction and aggressive behaviors: A longitudinal and gender-specific analysis. *Journal of Adolescence*, 97(3), 798-807. <https://doi.org/10.1002/jad.12454>.
4. Marengo, D., Settanni, M., **Mastrokouskou, S.**, Fabris, M. A., & Longobardi, C. (2024). Social Media Linked to Early Adolescent Suicidal Thoughts via Cyberbullying and Internalizing Symptoms. *International Journal of Bullying Prevention*, 1-10. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s42380-024-00269-y>.
5. Longobardi, C., Settanni, M., Berchiatti, M., **Mastrokouskou, S.**, & Marengo, D. (2023). Teachers’ sentiment about physical appearance of primary school students: Associations

with student–teacher relationship quality and student popularity among classroom peers. *Social Psychology of Education*, 26(2), 383–403. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s11218-022-09749-9>.

6. Fabris, M. A., Longobardi, C., Settanni, M., & **Mastrokoulou, S.** (2024). Childhood trauma and factors influencing primary school teachers' reporting of child abuse: insights from Italy. *Child Abuse & Neglect*, 149, 106631. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.chiabu.2023.106631>.

#### Guest Editor:

- Motivating Teachers for Europe: Advancing EU Knowledge and Values in Education. *Education Sciences* (MDPI). Guest Editors: Prof. Dr. Foteini Asderaki and Dr. Sofia Mastrokoulou. (Call for Papers - [submission open](#)).
- Digital Lives, Developing Minds: Adolescents, Technology and Mental Health. *Behavioral Sciences* (MDPI). Guest Editors: Dr. Paolo Bozzato and Dr. Sofia Mastrokoulou. (Call for Papers - [submission open](#)).
- Mental Health Associated with Bullying and Cyberbullying Across the Lifespan. *International Journal of Environmental Research and Public Health* (MDPI). Guest Editors: Prof. Dr. Claudio Longobardi and Dr. Sofia Mastrokoulou. (Call for Papers - [submission open](#)).