

Ania M. Fiksinski, MSc. (biographical sketch June 29th 2018)

Ania Fiksinski is a psychologist and researcher working at the University Medical Center in Utrecht, the Netherlands, and the Dalglish 22q Family Clinic in Toronto, Canada. She obtained her Master's degree in Clinical Psychology at the University of Utrecht. For multiple years she has worked as a psychiatric social worker at an assisted-living facility, working with children and young adults from multi-problem families with intellectual disability and comorbid psychiatric disorders. Working as a psychologist at the Children's Hospital in Utrecht, she got acquainted with children with the 22q11.2 deletion syndrome (22q11DS). Fascinated by the complex clinical expressions these children presented with, her work over the years has focused increasingly on 22q11DS. Her current research work focuses on delineating and understanding the variability of the neuropsychiatric and cognitive phenotype in individuals with 22q11DS. Her current PhD project, where she is working closely together with dr. Jacob Vorstman (Hospital for Sick Children, Toronto), dr. Anne Bassett (Dalglish 22q Clinic, Toronto), and Prof. Rene Kahn (Mount Sinai, New York), focuses on identifying early risk markers for psychotic illness, viewing 22q11DS as an invaluable informative genetic model. Working with children in the Netherlands, and with adults in Canada, in her research she aims to encompass trajectories over the lifespan and include familial factors, both genetic and environmental, in understanding the neuropsychiatric phenotype of 22q11DS.