Early Child Development Unit (ECDU) is the overarching framework of a number of research groups and projects that integrate basic and applied research and incorporate theory and methods from experimental and observational psychology, attachment theory and clinical child psychology. The overall aim of ECDU is to contribute to the science of early child development, early intervention and promotion of early childhood mental health.

Essential experiences in the developing child happen in the interactions between the infant and the significant adults in their lives. Our studies focus on mother-infant interaction during infancy, its associations with maternal distress (e.g. depression, psychosis) and with risk and resilience in the infant and toddler in relation to attachment, language, cognitive and socioemotional development. The research is conducted within an overall Developmental Psychopathology framework. Basic and applied research are integrated in the theoretical and longitudinal studies on early cognitive and socioemotional developmental processes asking questions like: How do infant and caregiver regulate both self and other in interactional patterns? How do infant and caregiver develop and co-create a shared meaning in intersubjective pre-verbal experiences? And how are these early pre-verbal meanings related to later cognitive and socioemotional child development? In our research we use innovative methods, for example an infrared 3D motion capture system for an automated measurement of mother and infant behavioral patterns and physiological measures of cortisol and heart rate in both mother and child. We follow infant development through cohort studies and test the effects of new screening instruments and early preventive interventions in large scale randomized controlled designed studies.

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The research group consists of following members

- **Susanne Harder** (susanne.harder@psy.ku.dk)
- **Simo Køppe** (simo.koeppe@psy.ku.dk)
- **Mette Skovgaard Væver** (mette.vaever@psy.ku.dk)
Areas of expertise and academic field

We invite both theoretical and empirical master thesis, empirical theses can be based on either published data (reviews and meta-analyses) or own empirical data. You need to have established access to already collected empirical data beforehand, in order to have time enough to write a master thesis based on own empirical data.

We offer supervision in:

Susanne Harder


Simo Køppe:

Constitution of the subject, embodiment, sense modalities and meaning making, socialization theory, motor intentionality, models of development, psychoanalytic theories.

Mette Skovgaard Væver:

Infant/Child Mental Health and Developmental Psychopathology

Early identification of Risk, Prevention and Treatment

Parenting, Attachment and Family Interventions

Parent-infant interaction, Mutual embodied regulation and Micro-process analysis

Self and emotion regulation

Play, Exploration and Learning in Early Childhood

If you choose this research group

We expect from you:

That you have specified focus of interest for your master thesis

That you have read the guidelines for master thesis at the departmental home page.
That you take responsibility for the process and the product.

**Format & Deadlines**

In this research group, we offer collective supervision for MA students only.

The format for collective supervision is:

- Meeting with collective supervisor group (app. 4 hour meeting)
- Meeting with collective supervisor group (app. 4 hour meeting)
- Meeting between individual student and supervisor (app. 1 hour meeting)
- Meeting with collective supervisor group (app. 4 hour meeting)
- Meeting between individual student and supervisor (app. 1 hour meeting)

An additional meeting can be either collective or individual (app. 4 / 1 hour meeting)

The first two meetings within the collective supervision group are to be held within the first two months of the thesis-period.

The last meetings is partly collective and partly individual supervision and is distributed during the last, three months, period of the thesis writing process.