

Since my PhD in Neuroscience (2008), I have been studying the effects of early life conditions on (social) behavior and underlying brain changes. This fascinating topic brought me on an adventure to different labs and places. During my PhD I worked within a Bordeaux-Leiden collaboration studying the effects of cross-fostering and changes in maternal care on drug self-administration and emotional behavior within an INSERM-unit at the University of Bordeaux. Moving back to the Netherlands, I worked as a post-doc on amphetamine sensitization and vulnerability to schizophrenia at the Leiden-Amsterdam Centre for Drug Research. A bit of a switch in gears when I was asked to teach a course in the department and Child and Family studies at Leiden University, which I did and then continued working there as a post-doc on human early life research and stress physiology for some years. Neuroscience and preclinical modelling kept being my main interest, so being appointed as an assistant professor at the faculty of social sciences in Leiden, I set-up a collaboration with the Translational Neuroscience group at Utrecht University and since then have worked within an interdisciplinary setting on early life (stress) conditions and its effects on pro-social behavior and stress coping. I continue this line of research in my current position as an assistant professor at the University of Amsterdam (Brain plasticity group) and the Centre of Urban Mental Health.

Working within this field, you can imagine I always enjoy the EBBS meetings, meeting-up with like-minded colleagues that work on interesting questions, doing great research. In the past months, I have been assisting the current EBBS treasurer in organizing the 2023 event in Amsterdam. I would love to continue and officially be part of the EBBS committee, to help fostering this sense of community within EBBS and support coming meetings and events.