



---

## Curriculum Vitae Professor Dr. Uta Frith

**Name:** Uta Frith  
**Born:** 25 May 1941 in Rockenhausen



**Main areas of research: experimental, neuropsychological and neuroscientific methods to study neuro-developmental disorders, cognitive theories of autism, experimental study of dyslexia**

Uta Frith established a cognitive neuropsychological approach to developmental disorders, which overturned previously held concepts of autism and dyslexia as social-emotional problems. The teams led by her succeeded in identifying specific cognitive deficits in autism and dyslexia and discovered their basis in the brain.

### Academic and Professional Career

since 2006 Professor emeritus of Cognitive Development at University College London, UK  
since 2005 Guest Professor at Aarhus University Denmark  
since 1996 Professor of Cognitive Development at University College London, UK  
1968 - 2006 Medical Research Council (MRC) Scientific Staff, UK  
1968 Ph.D at the London University, UK  
1966 Diploma in Abnormal Psychology Institute of Psychiatry, London University, UK  
1961 - 1964 Studies at the Universities of the Saarland in Saarbrücken, Germany

### Project coordination, Membership in collaborative research projects

1996 - 1999 European Project on Reading and Dyslexia in Italy, France and UK  
2006 - 2011 Niels Bohr Project Interacting Minds, Aarhus University, Denmark  
1998 - 2006 MRC Programme Grant Leader

### **Functions in Scientific Societies and Committees**

- 2008 - 2011 Chair of Section 6 Psychology of the British Academy, UK
- 2009 - 2012 Chair of Library Committee of the Royal Society, UK
- 2006 - 2009 Committees for Faraday Prize, Rosalind Franklin Prize, Ralph Kohn Prize
- 2006 - 2007 Elected member of Council of the Royal Society, UK
- 2006 - 2009 President of the Experimental Psychology Society

### **Honours and Awarded Memberships**

- 2012 Dame Commander of the British Empire “for services to clinical science”
- 2012 Honorary Doctorate Cambridge University, UK
- 2010 Mind & Brain Prize, Centre for Cognitive Science Torino University, Italy
- 2009 European Latsis Prize “Brain and Mind” jointly with Chris Frith
- 2009 Research Board Lifetime Achievement Award of the British Psychological Society
- 2008 UKRC Women of Outstanding Achievement in SET
- 2007 Lifetime Achievement Award International Association for Autism Research
- 2007 Samuel T. Orton Award International Dyslexia Association
- 2007 Honorary Fellow UCL Department of German, UK
- 2007 Honorary Doctorate Nottingham University, UK
- 2006 President Experimental Psychology Society
- 2005 Elected Fellow of the Royal Society
- 2004 Honorary Doctorate, University of York, UK
- 2004 Honorary Doctorate, University of Palermo, Italy
- 2001 Elected Fellow of the British Academy
- 2001 Elected Fellow of the Academy of Medical Sciences
- 2000 Honorary Doctorate, University of St Andrews, UK
- 1998 Honorary Doctorate, University of Göteborg, Sweden
- 1992 Elected Member of the Academia Europaea

## Major Scientific Interests

Uta Frith established a cognitive neuropsychological approach to developmental disorders, which overturned previously held concepts of autism and dyslexia as social-emotional problems. The teams led by her succeeded in identifying specific cognitive deficits in autism and dyslexia and discovered their basis in the brain. As regards autism, Frith initiated, tested and developed the two of the three now widely accepted neuro-cognitive accounts of this disorder “lack of theory of mind” and “weak central coherence”.

As regards dyslexia, her team was also the first to identify the identical phonological deficit in experimental tests as well as in patterns of brain activity, in individuals from three different countries. She also was one of the first to develop a cognitive model for the acquisition of reading and spelling that explained and predicted dissociations between difficulties in reading and spelling and stimulated empirical research in education.