Stijn Smeets

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Increasing the quality of life for all by helping highly intelligent children attain happy and productive lives.

Contact Information

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Education

Ph.D. in Psychology — Anticipated Fall 2013
Peabody College, Vanderbilt University

M.S. in Psychology — 2006
University of Leuven

B.S. in Psychology — 2004
University of Leuven

Research Interests

Social and emotional development of highly intelligent youth.
The role of mentors, parental involvement, and educational interventions in optimal talent development.

Research Experience

Department of Psychology and Human Development, Peabody College, Vanderbilt University (2008-present)

Graduate research Assistant, Study of Mathematically Precocious Youth
Co-advisers: Dr. D. Lubinski & Dr. Camilla P. Benbow
Dissertation: "Acceleration and well-being at age 50 in the top 1% in mathematical ability."

- Forty-year longitudinal study with over 2,500 participants and over 1,800 variables
- Initiated and organized data clean-up to create easy access to a large database
- Helped design age 50 follow-up survey
- Used multiple imputation, propensity score matching, and generalized propensity score sub-classification to evaluate the effects of acceleration
- Preliminary results show no harmful effects of acceleration in high school on socio-emotional adjustment at age 50

Master's thesis: "Graduate student-advisor relationship and the development of STEM in top STEM graduate students."

Department of Psychology and Educational Science, University of Leuven (2001-2006)

Master's Thesis: "Qualitative or quantitative differences with DIMCAT, applied to differences in successful intelligence". (under supervision of Dr. Paul De Boeck)

- Used a combination of IRT and Latent Class Analysis

Research Internship: "Differential effects of autonomous versus controlled regulation of performance approach goals". (under supervision of Dr. M. Vansteenkiste & Dr. W. Lens)

- Collected original survey data in a secondary school in Belgium

Publications (refereed)

<u>Published</u>

Ferriman, K., Smeets, S., Lubinski, D., & Benbow, C. P. (2010). Beyond the threshold hypothesis: even among the gifted and top math/science graduate students, cognitive abilities, vocational interests, and lifestyle preferences matter for career choice, performance, and persistence. *Current Directions in Psychological Science, 19,* 346-351.

Vansteenkiste, M., Smeets, S., Soenens, B., Lens, W., Matos, L., & Deci, E. L. (2010). Autonomous and controlled regulation of performance-approach goals: Their relations to perfectionism and educational outcomes. *Motivation and Emotion, 34,* 333–353.

Gielen, S., Tops, L., Dochy, F., Onghena, P., Smeets, S. (2010). A comparative study of peer and teacher feedback and of various peer feedback forms in a secondary school writing curriculum. *British Educational Research Journal, 36* (1), 143-162.

Publications (refereed)

In preparation

Smeets, S., Lubinski, D., & Benbow, C. P. (in preparation). Acceleration and well-being at age 50 in the top 1% in mathematical ability.

Smeets, S., Lubinski, D., & Benbow, C. P. (in preparation). Graduate student-advisor relationship and the development of excellence in STEM in top STEM graduate students.

Honors & Awards

Fulbright Fellow (2008-present)

John B. Carroll Award: Best Methodological Paper by a Graduate Student, International Society for Intelligence Research Conference (2010)

Vanderbilt University Graduate Fellowship (2008-2013)

Peabody Graduate Honor Scholarship (2008-2013)

Peabody Dean's Professional Development Fellowship (2008-2013)

Presentations (research)

Smeets, S., Lubinski, D., & Benbow, C. P. (April, 2013). Graduate student-advisor relationship and the development of excellence in STEM in top STEM graduate students (additional follow-up data). Paper accepted for the conference of the American Educational Research Association. San Francisco, CA.

Smeets, S., Lubinski, D., & Benbow, C. P. (September, 2012). Graduate student-advisor relationship and the development of excellence in STEM in top STEM graduate students. Paper presented at the conference of European Council for High Ability. Muenster, Germany.

Smeets, S., Lubinski, D., & Benbow, C. P. (August, 2011). The Study of Mathematically Precocious Youth (SMPY): Answering critical questions in talent development through 40-year longitudinal data. Paper presented at the conference of the World Council for Gifted and Talented Children. Prague, Czech Republic.

Smeets, S., Lubinski, D., & Benbow, C. P. (December, 2010). Development of scientific excellence in top STEM graduate students as a function of the adviser-advisee relationship. Paper presented at the conference of the International Society for Intelligence Research. Alexandria, VA.

Smeets, S., Lubinski, D., & Benbow, C. P. (May, 2010). Interventions, supports, and opportunities characterizing the development of exceptional accomplishments among intellectually precocious youth. Paper presented at the Wallace Symposium. Iowa City, IA.

Presentations (parents)

Smeets, S. (Fall, 2010). How to motivate my gifted adolescent? Presentation for parents of gifted teenagers (grades 7-12). Programs for Talented Youth, Vanderbilt University, Nashville, TN.

Smeets, S. (Spring, 2011, Fall 2011). How to motivate my gifted child? Presentation for parents of gifted children (K-6). Programs for Talented Youth, Vanderbilt University, Nashville, TN.

Workshops

Social and emotional development of highly gifted children. (Spring 2012, 2013). Workshop for parents of highly gifted children (K-12). Programs for Talented Youth, Vanderbilt University, Nashville, TN. Administered in collaboration with psycho-therapist Dr. Kalpana Gowda.

Motivating gifted students for a differentiated classroom. (Spring, 2012). Workshop for teachers of gifted students. Programs for Talented Youth, Vanderbilt University, Nashville, TN.

Mindset. (Fall, 2011). Motivation workshop for parents of gifted children (K-6). Programs for Talented Youth, Vanderbilt University, Nashville, TN. Administered in collaboration with psycho-therapist Dr. Kalpana Gowda.

How do you motivate gifted learners? (November, 2011). Workshop organized at the conference of the National Association for Gifted Children, New Orleans, LA.

Teaching

Teacher Certificate from the University of Leuven (obtained in 2008)

Psychology and persuasion. (Summer, 2013). Two one-week accelerated courses for gifted 6th and 7th graders. Programs for Talented Youth, Vanderbilt University, Nashville, TN.

Thinking like a researcher. (Spring, 2012). An accelerated weekend course taught at the Weekend Academy at Vanderbilt University. (16 gifted students, age 12-14). Programs for Talented Youth, Vanderbilt University, Nashville, TN.

Teaching Assistant: Developmental Psychology (undergraduate), Statistical Inference (graduate), Structural Equation Modeling (graduate), Introductory Statistics (undergraduate)

Computer Skills

Programming languages: R, SAS, SPSS, Matlab, Conquest, LISREL, and C++

Microsoft Office: Excel, Word, and Powerpoint

Shared Documents: Google Documents, Filemaker, and Zoho

Leadership Experience

Head Resident for the Vanderbilt Summer Academy. (June & July, 2011). Accelerated summer program for gifted middle and high school students. Supervision of 400 children and 16 undergraduate students. Programs for Talented Youth, Vanderbilt University, Nashville, TN

Founder of the "Celebration of Life", a monthly gathering that facilitates the integration of valuable aspects of a religion into daily life for believers and non-believers (inspired by Alain de Botton)

Co-founder of CRIT, a monthly art critique group for active artist from diverse disciplines including visual art, sculpture, and music

Coach of a Vanderbilt Intramural Volleyball Team