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The role of orthographic and phonological processing in dyslexia and reading

Bekebrede, J.I.

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Biography

Judith Ilse Bekebrede was born in Amsterdam, the Netherlands on February 11th 1981. After completing secondary education at “Vossius Gymnasium” in Amsterdam in 1999, she studied Educational Sciences at the University of Amsterdam (UvA). During her study she came in contact with Prof. dr. Aryan van der Leij while working as a research assistant (2002-2004), and as her supervisor for her master thesis regarding reading and orthographic knowledge in English and Dutch. Judith wrote a second master thesis about youth memories - children in World War II and the consequences of traumatic experiences, before deciding to graduate in 2004. Her second master thesis was awarded the third price at the Educational Sciences thesis award 2004.

From January 2005 to July 2010, she carried out her PhD project in the Research Institute of Child Development and Education at the University of Amsterdam. Her research focused on orthographic processing as an additional predictor of reading fluency, and as an explanation for the heterogeneity in dyslexia.

Between 2005 and 2009 Judith was a member of PhD committee of ISED (Institute for the Study of Education and Human Development), and during the last year the PhD representative in the ISED board. In June 2008, she was co-organizer of the ISED two-day Symposium “Domain General and Domain-Specific Cognitive Processes in the Development of Learning Disabilities” in Amsterdam. Concurrently to her PhD project, she co-developed the “Interactive Dyslexia test Amsterdam-Antwerp” (IDAA), a diagnostic instrument for dyslexia in secondary school, and for vocational education (IDAA-mbo), in collaboration with the Research Institute of Child Development and Education (UvA), Lessius University College in Antwerp, Belgium, and Muiswerk Educatief. Since September 2010 she is working as an instructor special educational needs at the Center for Educational Training, Assessment, and Research at the Free University (‘Onderwijscentrum VU’).