## **English abstract**

## The Role of Pragmatic Competence and Ostensive Communication in Language

The thesis delves into the cognitive mechanisms that underpin pragmatic competence, with a specific emphasis on ostensive communication and its dependence on higher-level versus lower-level cognitive processes. Contrary to the prevailing view that advanced Theory of Mind capacities are crucial for basic ostensive interaction, this study posits that motor simulation, alongside other more low-level cognitive architectures, can adequately account for the capacity to express and recognize communicative and informative intentions. The research is a synthesis of theoretical investigation, an examination of experimental semiotics literature, and the employment of electroencephalography (EEG) techniques, bringing evidence for a deflationary account of ostensive communication. Event-related potential (ERP) data reveal that the recognition of communicative and informative intentions happens early, through the engagement of less complex cognitive mechanisms. This contribution seeks to enrich the ongoing debate concerning the evolutionary trajectory of language and the ontogenetic emergence of pragmatic skills, contending that basic manifestations of ostensive communication may extend beyond the human species and be observable in early stages of human development.