# Specialist Module with Workshop: Child Witnesses

## Prof. Rossella Procaccia

***COURSE AIMS AND INTENDED LEARNING OUTCOMES***

– learn the main *theories* on child witness;

– learn the main international *techniques* for interviewing child witnesses.

– understand, through *direct experience*, how child witness interviews are carried out in Italy by the Public prosecutor’s office and the police headquarters;

– learn to recognize and manage the emotions that hearing a child victim of abuse arouses in the operator himself.

***COURSE CONTENT***

The workshop will analyse the main techniques for interviews and hearings used at international level. Considerable space will be dedicated to analysing the various stages that take place in the course of an interview with a child witness. There will be presentation and discussion of the various strategies used to facilitate communication with the child, partly through the use of external aids such as play and drawing. The course will also examine how different kinds of questions (open questions, closed, leading, misleading questions and so on) can influence how a child relates the event he has experienced. It will also look at the theme of memory in relation to trauma and witnesses. Lastly, time will be spent recognising and managing the emotions of professionals when faced with a child who is the victim of maltreatment or abuse.

***READING LIST***

The reading list will be communicated by lecturer during the course***.***

***TEACHING METHOD***

Theoretical moments, role playing exercises, group discussion, small group and individual work, presentation of video cassettes.

***ASSESSMENT METHOD AND CRITERIA***

Approval after evaluation of a short paper centered on the individual analysis of one of the auditions chosen, with attention to the conducting technique and emotional aspects.

***NOTES AND PREREQUISITES***

Further information can be found on the lecturer's webpage at http://docenti.unicatt.it/web/searchByName.do?language=ENG or on the Faculty notice board.