Why do some people make friends easily while others struggle? What are important factors contributing to a good quality social life, social interactions and number of friendships? Individual differences in social cognitive processes may play an important role in differences between individuals in daily life social functioning. During adolescence, major changes in these social cognitive processes and underlying brain mechanisms take place, while at the same time, peer relations become more important. In this talk, I will present functional neuroimaging research on the neural correlates of social cognition, and I will explore how these neural correlates develop and may contribute to individual differences in social cognition and social functioning in adolescence.

Dr. Mariët van Buuren is an assistant professor at the department of Clinical Developmental Psychology at the Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam. She obtained her PhD in cognitive neuroscience at the department of Psychiatry, Utrecht University in 2012, before joining the lab of Prof. Guillén Fernández at the Donders Institute for Brain, Cognition and Behaviour as a postdoctoral researcher. Her research focuses on brain mechanisms underlying individual differences in social cognition in adolescents. To this aim, she combines functional MRI with resting-state, behavioral paradigms, hormone assessment and social network measures.

The colloquium lectures of this semester take place online!
Thursday, April 22 2021; 3 p.m.

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