

Michelle Kowalski

Curriculum Vitae

Max Planck Institute for Human Development
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EDUCATION

- 2023 - 2025 **M.S.**
University of Potsdam, Potsdam, Germany
Psychology with Focus on Cognition and Behavior
Advisors: Prof. Dr. Mathias Weymar & Dr. Carlos Ventura-Bort
- 2019 - 2022 **B.A.**
Leiden University, Leiden, the Netherlands
Psychology

AWARDS & SCHOLARSHIPS

- 2024 **Stipend recipient, University Scholarship Potsdam (€3,600)**
- 2017 **Selected Volunteer, FSJ Program**

PUBLICATIONS

Journal Articles in progress

Kowalski, M., Buchberger, E.S., Trudel, N., Luttegau, L., Koch, C., Ngo, C.* & Zika, O.*
(2024). The development of rule generalization in school-aged children [Manuscript in preparation]. Max-Planck-Institute for Human Development Berlin.

**Shared senior authorship*

Thesis

Kowalski, M. (2025). Effects of taVNS on episodic memory for untrustworthy faces: Behavioral & electrophysiological correlates. [Master's dissertation, University of Potsdam].

PRESENTATIONS

Invited Talks

Charting Autobiographical Memory Development in the Wild. Scientific outreach talk together with Marie Schmidt and Pedro Espinosa to a class of Psychology IB students of International School of Hellerup (Copenhagen, Denmark) at the Max Planck Institute for Human Development (May 2026), Berlin, Germany.

Posters

Schmidt, M.K., Espinosa-Villafranca, P., **Kowalski, M.**, Aksünger, O. & Ngo, C.T. (May 2026). Linking Memory and Event Cognition in Early Childhood, Association of Psychological Science (APS) Annual Convention. Barcelona, Spain.

Workshops

Kowalski, M. (2024). Emotions, Stress, and Self-Care Workshop [Workshop]. Designed by Dare2Care. Presented at Lilienthal Gymnasium, Berlin, Germany, April 16, 2024; Goethe Gymnasium, Berlin, Germany, May 21, 2024; Freiherr-vom-Stein-Gymnasium, Berlin, Germany, October 7, 2024.

TRAINING

06/2026 MRI Operator Training, Freie Universität Berlin

SERVICE

Representative roles

12/2023 - **Member of Student Council**
12/2024 Psychology Department, University of Potsdam

TEACHING

04/2024 - **Tutor**
03/2025 Department of Psychological Methods, Statistics and Evaluation, University of Potsdam
Statistics I, Second Semester of 2024
Statistics II, Third Semester of 2024/25

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

10/2025 - **Max Planck Institute for Human Development Berlin**
09/2026 **Emmy Noether Group RAVEN**
Lab Manager
Supervisor: Dr. Chi T. Ngo
MemoryMaker study: Memory and brain development in children aged 4-10 (longitudinal study)

- Project management, budgeting
- Providing technical support for task programming and experimental setup
- Behavioral and functional MRI experimental sessions with children (in preparation)
- Independent creation of reports and presentations for the project

05/2024 -
09/2025

Max Planck Institute for Human Development Berlin
Center for Lifespan Psychology

Research Assistant

Lifespan Neuromodulation of Cognition (LINE)

Connecting the Dots (CtD) study: Relationship between locus coeruleus norepinephrine (LC-NE) system, physiological responses and cognitive performance using functional & structural MRI

- Trained as MRI second person: participant prep, ECG, respiration belt, eye-tracking (EyeLink), pulse oximeter
- Application of transcutaneous auricular vagus nerve stimulation (taVNS) device
- Managed scheduling, documentation, and organizational tasks

G-CASA study - Generalization in school-aged children

- Designed and deployed study questionnaires using LimeSurvey and Qualtrics
- Programmed short-term memory task (backward Corsi-block-tapping task) in PsychoPy
- Conducted participant recruitment and led behavioral assessment sessions with child participants (8-14 years); administration of matrix reasoning subtest of Wechsler Intelligence Scale for Children, backward Corsi-block-tapping task, state and trait anxiety questionnaires, experimental generalization task

Completed manual EEG electrode placement training at the MPIB

11/2023 -
04/2024

Fraunhofer Institute for Industrial Engineering Berlin

Research Assistant

KI ULTRA - AI Company Labs for Transformation and Change

- Conducted factor analyses (CFA & EFA) to develop AI implementation guidelines and toolkit
- Authored sections of final report on project outcomes
- Prepared scientific presentations
- Literature reviews

01/2023 -
12/2023

Charité - Universitätsmedizin Berlin
Clinic for Psychiatry and Psychotherapy

Research Assistant

IMAGEN & STRATIFY - Identification of commonalities on biological, behavioral and cognitive levels across reward-related disorders

- Conducted and evaluated clinical diagnostic interviews (Mini-International Neuropsychiatric Interview (MINI) and Simplified Negative and Positive Symptoms Interview (SNAPSI))
- Guided neuropsychological tests for visual attention and cognitive flexibility (Cambridge Gambling Task (CGT), Intra-/Extra-Dimensional Set Shift (IDED), Pictorial Association Learning Paradigm (PALP))
- Administered psychological questionnaires (PHQ-9, ASRS, EDDS)

SKILLS

Data Acquisition	MRI operator, eye tracker (EyeLink), ECG, pulse oximeter, respiration belt, behavioral lab, first experience with EEG application, taVNS
Data Analysis	R, Python, SPSS, JASP
Programming	PsychoPy, Python
Other Software	Git, Pavlovia, LimeSurvey, Qualtrics, Psytools, MS Office, BioRender, MAXQDA
Languages	German (native), English (C2), Polish (native), Italian (B2)