

Curriculum Vitae

Dr Raphaela Heesen

Jun.-Professor and DFG Emmy Noether Group Leader

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Webpage : [Comparative joint action lab](#)

EMPLOYMENT AND PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

- 01.10.2025 - present **Jun.-Professor and DFG Emmy Noether Group Leader**
Department of Biology, University of Konstanz, Germany
IMPRS-QBEE Faculty Member (Max Planck Institute of Animal Behaviour)
- 02.2025 – 09.2025 **SNSF Ambizione Group Leader**
Department of Evolutionary Anthropology, University of Zürich, Switzerland
- 11.2023 – 10.2025 **Marie Skłodowska-Curie Postdoctoral Fellow**
Centre for the Advanced Study of Collective Behaviour, University of Konstanz, Germany
- 10.2023 – 08.2025 **Honorary Fellow**
Department of Psychology, University of Durham, UK
- 10.2019 – 09.2023 **Postdoctoral Research Associate**
Department of Psychology, University of Durham, UK, Advisor: Dr Zanna Clay
UKRI-ESRC funded project on emotional expressions/perception in humans and great apes
- 01.2015 – 08.2015 **Research Intern**
Lester E. Fisher Center for the Study and Conservation of Apes, Lincoln Park Zoo, Chicago, USA, Advisors: Dr Stephen Ross, Dr Lydia Hopper
- 03.2014 – 08.2014 **Research Assistant**
Primate and Predator Project, Lajuma Research Centre, South Africa, Advisors: Prof Russel Hill and Dr Sam Williams
- 12.2011 – 03.2012 **Research Assistant**
Department of Comparative and Developmental Psychology, Max-Planck-Institute for Evolutionary Anthropology, Leipzig, Germany, Advisor: Prof Michael Tomasello

EDUCATION

- 10.2016 – 09.2019 **Ph.D. in Biology**
Institute of Biology and Institute of Work and Organizational Psychology (IPTO), University of Neuchâtel, Switzerland, SNSF funded project, coordinating joint action in great apes and human children, Advisors: Profs Klaus Zuberbühler and Adrian Bangerter, Date of defence/viva: 08.11.2019, Award: 22.04.2020 • *nominated for best thesis prize*
- 09.2015 – 10.2016 **Master of Research in Primate Biology, Behaviour and Conservation**
University of Roehampton, UK, Advisor: Prof Stuart Semple, Grade: Distinction
- 10.2011 – 11.2014 **Bachelor of Science in Biology**
Institute of Zoology, University of Bonn, Germany, Advisor: Prof Horst Bleckmann, German grades: 1.6 Compulsory modules, 1.4 Elective modules (good/very good), includes *Erasmus semester*, University of Vienna, average grade: 1.3 (very good)

PRIZES, GRANTS, SCHOLARSHIPS – *Principal investigator (~2.8 Mio €)*

- 05.2025 *Nominated for Heinz Maier-Leibnitz-Preis 2026, University of Konstanz (decision in 2026)*
- 04.2025 Mobility Grant, Nicolaus Copernicus University (NCU), Center for Language Evolution Studies, Toruń, Poland, **4,500 PLN**
- 11.2024 CASCB Small Project Grant, Cluster of Excellence, Centre for the Advanced Study of Collective Behaviour, University of Konstanz, “Gaze-follow framework under natural interaction conditions for non-human apes”, **10,000 €**

10.2024	Emmy Noether Group Leader Grant, Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft (DFG), HE 9976/1-1, project number 550994438, « <i>Understanding togetherness: Unravelling the evolutionary, developmental, and cultural foundation of human interaction</i> », 1.614.796 €
07.2024	Ambizione Group Leader Grant, Swiss National Science Foundation (SNSF), grant number 223809, « <i>Nature versus nurture: A multidisciplinary approach to study how humans (have) become ultra-cooperative</i> », 932.786 CHF
06.2023	Marie Skłodowska-Curie Action Postdoctoral Fellowship « <i>JORIGINS</i> », Horizon Europe, European Commission, HORIZON-MSCA-2022-PF-01, grant number 101105532, « <i>Building blocks of human sociality: A comparative assessment of joint actions in humans and their closest ape relatives</i> », 173.847,36 €
04.2018	Free conference waiver for abstract excellence, EvoLang XII, Toruń, Poland
11.2016	Kölner Gymnasial- und Stiftungsfond PhD funding, Germany, 4.500 €
10.2016	Annual prize for best dissertation in MRes, University of Roehampton, 50 £
11.2015	Kölner Gymnasial- und Stiftungsfond Masters funding, Germany, 3.600 €
10.2013	Erasmus scholarship, University of Bonn, 850 €
10.2012	Undergraduate scholarship for honours students, University of Bonn, 3.600 €

GRANTS – Team member

2019-2024	Economic and Social Research Council (Open Research Area), ES/S015612/1 (RF010124), « <i>Production and perception of expressions of emotions in humans and their closest relatives</i> », principal investigators: Mariska Kret, Zanna Clay, Anthony Atkinson; Budget: 449.966,40£ ; Role: Postdoctoral researcher
2016-2019	Swiss National Science Foundation (Recherche Interdisciplinaire), CR31I3_166331, « <i>Coordinating joint action in apes and human children</i> », principal investigators: Klaus Zuberbühler and Adrian Bangerter; Budget: 657,564 CHF ; Role: PhD student

MARKERS OF ESTEEM

Guest editor

03.2021 – 07.2022	Special theme issue « <i>Revisiting the human ‘interaction engine’: comparative approaches to social action coordination</i> », <i>Phil Trans Royal Soc B</i> , 377 (1859)
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Referee (journals)

eLife • Biological Reviews • Perspectives on Psychological Science • Proceedings of the Royal Society B: Biological Sciences • iScience • Journal of Human Evolution • Neuroscience & Biobehavioral Reviews • Frontiers in Psychology • International Journal of Primatology • Behavioural Processes • Animal Behavior • Animal Cognition • Cogent Arts & Humanities • Cognitive Science • PLoS ONE

Referee (grants)

European Science Foundation: FWO's 2024 Call for Senior Research Projects

Referee (conference abstracts)

EvoLang XII • International Primatological Society (IPS)

PUBLICATIONS IN PEER-REVIEWED SCIENTIFIC JOURNALS

- Heesen, R.**, Zuberbühler, K., Bangerter, A., Rossano, F., Guéry, J.P., & Genty, E. (2025). Potential evidence of reengagement attempts following interruptions of a triadic social game in bonobos and chimpanzees. *PLoS One*, 20(3), e0292984
- Heesen, R.**, Szentecki, M., Yena, K., Kret, M., Upton, Z., Atkinson, A., & Clay, Z. (2024). Impact of social context on human facial and gestural emotion expressions. *iScience*, 27(11), 110663.
- Heesen, R.**, Kim, Y., Kret, M. E., & Clay, Z. (2024). Perceptual integration of bodily and facial emotion cues in chimpanzees and humans. *PNAS nexus*, 3(2), pgae012.
- Heesen, R.**, Fröhlich, M., Sievers, C., Woensdregt, M., & Dingemanse, M. (2022). Coordinating social action: a primer for the cross-species investigation of communicative repair. *Phil. Transactions of the Royal Society B*, 377(1859), 20210110.
- Heesen, R.**, & Fröhlich, M. (2022). Revisiting the human ‘interaction engine’: comparative approaches to social action coordination. *Philosophical Transactions of the Royal Society B*, 377(1859), 20210092.
- Bangerter, A., Genty, E., **Heesen, R.**, Rossano, F., & Zuberbühler, K. (2022). Every product needs a process: unpacking joint commitment as a process across species. *Philosophical Transactions of the Royal Society B*, 377(1859), 20210095.
- Rossano, F., Terwilliger, J., Bangerter, A., Genty, E., **Heesen, R.**, & Zuberbühler, K. (2022). How 2-and 4-year-old children coordinate social interactions with peers. *Philosophical Transactions of the Royal Society B*, 377(1859), 20210100.
- Heesen, R.**, Austri, D.A., Upton, Z., Clay, Z. (2022). Flexible signalling strategies by victims mediate post conflict interactions in bonobos. *Philosophical Transactions of the Royal Society B*, 377(1860), 20210310.
- Safryghin, A., Cross, C., Fallon, B., **Heesen, R.**, Ferrer-i-Cancho, R., & Hobaiter, C. (2022). Variable expression of linguistic laws in ape gesture: a case study from chimpanzee sexual solicitation. *Royal Society Open Science*, 9(11), 220849.
- Kim, Y., Vlaeyen, J.M., **Heesen, R.**, Clay, Z., Kret, M. (2022). The association between the bared-teeth display and social dominance in captive chimpanzees (*Pan troglodytes*). *Affective Science*, 1-12.

- Vlaeyen, J. M., **Heesen, R.**, Kret, M. E., Clay, Z., Bionda, T., & Kim, Y. (2022). Bared-teeth displays in bonobos (*Pan paniscus*): An assessment of the power asymmetry hypothesis. *American Journal of Primatology*, 84(9), e23419. **This paper was rated as one of the 10% most downloaded papers during its first 12 months of publication*
- Heesen, R.**, Zuberbühler, K., Bangerter, A., Iglesias, K., Rossano, F., Pajot, A., Guéry, J. P., & Genty, E. (2021). Evidence of joint commitment in great apes' natural joint actions. *Royal Society Open Science*, 8(12), 211121.
- Heesen, R.**, Bangerter, A., Zuberbühler, K., Iglesias, K., Neumann, C., Pajot, A., Perrenoud L., Guéry, J. P., Rossano, F., & Genty, E. (2021). Assessing joint commitment as a process in great apes. *iScience*, 24(8), 102872.
- Genty, E., **Heesen, R.**, Guéry, J. P., Rossano, F., Zuberbühler, K., & Bangerter, A. (2020). How apes get into and out of joint actions: Shared intentionality as an interactional achievement. *Interaction Studies*, 21(3), 353-386.
- Heesen, R.**, Bangerter, A., Zuberbühler, K., Rossano, F., Iglesias, K., Guéry, J. P., & Genty, E. (2020). Bonobos engage in joint commitment. *Science Advances*, 6(51), eabd1306.
- Watson, S. K., **Heesen, R. (co-first authors)**, Hedwig, D., Robbins, M. M., & Townsend, S. W. (2020). An exploration of Menzerath's law in wild mountain gorilla vocal sequences. *Biology letters*, 16(10), 20200380.
- Heesen, R.**, Hobaiter, C., Ferrer-i-Cancho, R., & Semple, S. (2019). Linguistic laws in chimpanzee gestural communication. *Proceedings of the Royal Society B*, 286(1896), 20182900.
- Heesen, R.**, Genty, E., Rossano, F., Zuberbühler, K., & Bangerter, A. (2017). Social play as joint action: A framework to study the evolution of shared intentionality as an interactional achievement. *Learning & Behavior*, 45(4), 390-405.

PEER-REVIEWED BOOK CHAPTERS

- Heesen, R.**, Sievers, C., Gruber, T., & Clay, Z. (2022). Primate communication: Affective, intentional, or both? in *Primate Cognitive Studies*, 411-438. B.L.Schwartz & M.J.Beran. *Cambridge University Press*.

ORGANISATION OF CONFERENCE WORKSHOPS OR SYMPOSIA

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|---------|---|
| 06.2024 | Symposium "Building blocks of emotion sharing in primates", <i>European Federation for Primatology (EFP)</i> , Lausanne, Switzerland, with Profs. Zanna Clay and Mariska Kret |
| 12.2023 | Workshop "The Evolution of Emotion Expressions in Humans and Other Animals", with Zanna Clay, Emma Doherty, Mariska Kret, Anthony Atkinson at Durham University, UK |
| 09.2023 | Symposium "Communicative repair: What is it, how did it evolve, and how can it be studied across species?", <i>Protolang Conference Series (Protolang 8)</i> , Rome, with Marlen Fröhlich |
| 06.2022 | Symposium "Great apes' production and perception of emotional expressions", <i>Joint Conference of the European Federation for Primatology and the Gesellschaft für Primatologie (EFP-GfP)</i> , Arnhem, Netherlands, with Yena Kim, Zanna Clay, Mariska Kret |
| 04.2020 | Workshop "Language as explicandum? Dissecting the interaction engine hypothesis", <i>EvoLang XIII</i> , with Marlen Fröhlich (<i>cancelled due to COVID-19</i>) |

PUBLISHED PEER-REVIEWED CONFERENCE ABSTRACTS

- Safryghin, A., Cross, C., Fallon, B., **Heesen, R.**, Ferrer-i-Cancho, R., & Hobaiter, C. (2022) Human language laws in chimpanzee sexual solicitation gestures. *Proceedings of the Joint Conference on Language Evolution (JCoLE)*, Kanazawa, Japan, p.650
- Heesen, R.**, Kim, Y., Kret, M., Clay, Z. (2022) What the body reveals: Emotion perception from body movements in chimpanzees and humans. Abstracts of the conference of the European Federation for Primatology (EFP), 1-3 June 2022, Royal Burgers' Zoo, Arnhem, The Netherlands, *Revue de primatology*, 13, p.13
- Kim, Y., Vlaeyen, J.M.R., **Heesen, R.**, Clay, Z., Kret, M. (2022) The association between the bared-teeth display and social dominance structures: a comparison between bonobos and chimpanzees. Abstracts of the conference of the European Federation for Primatology (EFP), 1-3 June 2022, Royal Burgers' Zoo, Arnhem, The Netherlands, *Revue de primatology*, 13, p.7
- Heesen R.**, Hobaiter C, Ferrer-i-Cancho R, Semple S. (2018) Linguistic laws in chimpanzee gestural communication. *Proceedings of the 12th International Conference on Language Evolution*, Torun, Poland, p.166
- Semple S, **Heesen R.**, Hobaiter C, Ferrer-i-Cancho R. (2017) Linguistic laws in chimpanzee gestural communication. *Folia Primatologica*, 88(2), p.116

INVITED SEMINARS

- Heesen, R.** Understanding togetherness: Exploring evolutionary and developmental origins of human interaction through comparative primate research. *IEA Seminar Series*, University of Zürich (**December 2025**)
- Heesen, R.** Understanding togetherness: Exploring evolutionary and developmental origins of human interaction through comparative primate research. *Cognitive Science Seminar*, University of Neuchâtel (**November 2025**)
- Heesen, R.** Understanding togetherness: Exploring evolutionary and developmental origins of human interaction through comparative primate research. *Max Planck Institute of Animal Behavior*, Strandburg-Peshkin Lab, Konstanz (**November 2025**)
- Heesen, R.** Applying advanced technologies to study cognition, affect, behavior and communication across species. *Center for Language Evolution Studies*, Nicolaus Copernicus University, Toruń (**April 2025**)

- Heesen, R.** Unravelling language origins through comparative communication research in humans and their closest ape relatives. *Center for Language Evolution Studies*, Nicolaus Copernicus University, Toruń (**April 2025**)
- Heesen, R.** Understanding togetherness: Exploring evolutionary and developmental origins of human ultra-cooperative sociality through comparative primate research. *Institute of Psychology*, Nicolaus Copernicus University, Toruń (**April 2025**)
- Heesen, R.** Exploring the evolutionary and developmental origins of human ultra-cooperative sociality through comparative primate research. *Department of Biology Seminar*, University of Konstanz (**January 2025**)
- Heesen, R.** Exploring the interactive foundation of language: Comparative research in humans and nonhuman great apes. *Dendy'n Science Seminar*, Laboratoire Dynamique du Langage, Université Lumière Lyon 2 (**September 2024**)
- Heesen, R.** Foundations of human joint action. *Seminar Series*, Centre for The Advanced Study of Collective Behaviour (CASCb) and Max Planck Institute of Animal Behavior, University of Konstanz (**September 2022**)
- Heesen, R.** Foundations of human joint action: A comparative view on affective and cognitive joint action capacities. *CBE Seminar Series*, Newcastle University, UK (**March 2022**)
- Heesen, R.** Communicating intentions and emotions: joint action in great apes. *Durham Psychology Seminar Series*, University of Durham, UK (**March 2021**)
- Heesen, R.** Emotion expressions and perception in great apes and humans. *Department of Psychology Research Day*, University of Durham, UK (**September 2020**)

ORAL PRESENTATIONS AT CONFERENCES

*Note. First authors were presenters, exceptions indicated. *Invited.*

- ***Heesen, R.**, Doherty, E., Kret, M., Szenteczki, M., Atkinson, T., Clay, Z. A cross-cultural investigation of the impact of social context on human emotional face and hand movements in Uganda and the UK. Symposium “*We still need to know more about how emotions and social context interact in driving facial activity*”, 10th Conference of the Consortium of European Research on Emotion (CERE), Grenoble, France (**July 2025**)
- *Georgia, S., **Heesen, R.**, Brooker, J.S., Warren, E., Call, J., Paukner, A., Clay, Z. Self-regulation and sociality in zoo housed chimpanzees and bonobos. Symposium “*Social structures and cognition in primates*”, *International Primatological Society (IPS)*, Madagascar (**July 2025**)
- ***Heesen, R.**, Chan, A., Putra, P., Brun, J., Clay, Z., Kano, F. Sharing emotions through bodily attunement: How to measure synchrony in primate joint actions. Workshop “*Building blocks of emotion sharing in primates*”, *European Federation for Primatology (EFP)*, Lausanne, Switzerland (**June 2024**)
- Heesen, R.**, Kim, Y., Kret, M., Krupenye, C., Rapport Munro, E., Régnier, A., Clay, Z. Flexible emotion communication as key step towards language? A comparative assessment in bonobos using infra-red thermography. *Protolang Conference Series 8*, Rome, Italy (**September 2023**)
- ***Heesen, R.**, Yena, K., Kret, M., & Clay, Z. Emotions as fuel to joint action? Emotion expressions during collaboration in zoo housed bonobos. Symposium on “*Coordinated interactions across nonhuman primates*”, *International Primatological Society (IPS)*, Kuching, Malaysia (**August 2023**)
- *Krupenye, C., Köster, M., **Heesen, R.**, Kano, F., Laméris, D., Sato, Y., Stevens, J., Townrow, L., Clay, Z. Great apes understand but are not sympathetically aroused by others' needs: A pupillometry experiment with bonobos and chimpanzees. Symposium “*Caring about others: Evidence for empathy in animals*”, *Behaviour*, Bielefeld, Germany (**August 2023**)
- Kim, Y., **Heesen, R.**, Clay, Z., Atkinson, A. & Kret, M. Drivers of attention: Investigations into the effects of eye-cues on attention and emotion perception. *The Cognition, Behavior & Evolution Network (CBEN)*, Leiden, Netherlands (**October 2022**)
- Heesen, R.**, Fröhlich, M., Sievers, C., Woensdregt, M., & Dingemanse, M. Coordinating social action: a species-agnostic framework for the investigation of communicative repair. *Pragmatics and Language Evolution Workshop 2022*, Kanazawa, Japan (**September 2022**; presented by Woensdregt, M.)
- Safryghin, A., Cross, C., Fallon, B., **Heesen, R.**, Ferrer-i-Cancho, R., & Hobaiter, C. (2022) Human language laws in chimpanzee sexual solicitation gestures. *Joint Conference on Language Evolution (JCoLE)*, Kanazawa, Japan (**September 2022**)
- ***Heesen, R.**, Kim, Y., Kret, M., Clay, Z. What the body reveals: Emotion perception from body movements in chimpanzees and humans. Symposium on *Great apes' production and perception of emotional expressions*, *Joint Conference of the European Federation for Primatology and the Gesellschaft für Primatologie (EFP-GfP)*, Arnhem (**June 2022**)
- *Kim, Y., Vlaeyen, J.M.R., **Heesen, R.**, Clay, Z., Kret, M. The association between the bared-teeth display and social dominance structures: a comparison between bonobos and chimpanzees. Symposium on “*Great apes' production and perception of emotional expressions*”, *EFP-GfP*, Arnhem, Netherlands (**June 2022**)
- Heesen, R.**, Hobaiter, C., Ferrer-i-Cancho, R., Semple, S. Linguistic laws in chimpanzee gestural communication. 12th *International Conference on Language Evolution (Evolang XII)*, Toruń, Poland (**April 2018**)
- Heesen, R.**, Genty, E., Rossano, F., Zuberbühler, K. & Bangerter, A. Joint action in humans and non-humans: a comparative framework to study shared intentionality. *Annual Meeting of Biology 18*, University of Neuchâtel, Switzerland (Flash talk) (**February 2018**)
- Semple, S., **Heesen, R.**, Hobaiter, C., Ferrer-i-Cancho, R. Linguistic laws in chimpanzee gestural communication. *European Federation for Primatology (EFP)*, Strasbourg, France (**August 2017**)

ORAL PRESENTATIONS AT OTHER SYMPOSIUMS AND WORKSHOPS

*Note. First authors were presenters, exceptions indicated. *Invited.*

- Brun, J. and **Heesen, R.** Understanding “togetherness”: The process and mechanisms facilitating the coordination of social action

in humans and other apes. *Prosocial Bites Workshop*, University of Zürich, Switzerland (**June 2025**)

Brun, J. and Heesen, R. Understanding “togetherness”: The process and mechanisms facilitating the coordination of social action in humans and other apes. *IEA Symposium 2025*, University of Zürich, Switzerland (**May 2025**)

*Heesen, R. Tracing language origins through comparative research: A multi-disciplinary approach. Workshop “*Evolutionary Linguistics and Non-Lexical Vocalizations*”, Linköping University, Sweden (**February 2024**)

*Heesen, R. Evolution of Flexible Emotion Signalling. Workshop “*The Evolution of Emotion Expressions in Humans and Other Animals*”, Durham University, UK (**December 2023**)

*Heesen, R., Austri, D.A., Upton, Z., Clay, Z. Flexible emotional signals in bonobos and its link to empathy. Workshop on *Explanatory roles of Emotions in Comparative Cognition and Philosophy*, University of Bern, Switzerland (**June 2022**)

*Heesen, R., Austri, D.A., Upton, Z., Clay, Z. (2022). Strategic use of emotional signals in bonobos increases bystander empathy. *Forum on Performativity in Language and Beyond (PerForum)*, University of Oslo, Norway (**June 2022**)

Heesen, R., Genty, E., Rossano, F., Zuberbühler, K. & Bangerter, A. Entering and exiting joint actions in great apes: a pragmatic approach to studying language evolution. *ISLE Inaugural Workshop*, University of Zürich, Switzerland (**March 2019**)

Heesen, R., Genty, E., Rossano, F., Zuberbühler, K. & Bangerter, A. The tug-of-war game: evidence for reengagement behaviour in great apes. *Annual meeting (NeuZü)*, University of Zürich, Switzerland (**January 2019**)

Heesen, R., Genty, E., Rossano, F., Zuberbühler, K. & Bangerter, A. Coordination of joint action in bonobos, *Pan paniscus*: a model to study the evolution of shared intentionality. *Annual meeting (NeuZü)*, University of Neuchâtel, Switzerland (**January 2018**)

POSTER PRESENTATIONS

*Note. First authors were presenters, exceptions indicated. *Invited.*

Sandars, G., Heesen, R., Clay, Z. Self-regulation, behavioural contagion and sociality in captive chimpanzees. *Primate Society of Great Britain (PSGB) Winter Meeting*, London Zoo (**January, 2024**)

Heesen, R., Genty, E., Rossano, F., Zuberbühler, K. & Bangerter, A. Joint action in humans and non-humans: a comparative framework to study shared intentionality. *Annual Meeting of Biology 18*, University of Neuchâtel, Switzerland (**February 2018**)

CONFERENCE ATTENDANCE (WITHOUT PRESENTATION)

2017 7th Meeting of European Federation for Primatology (EFP), Strasbourg, France

2015 Primate Social Learning and Culture, Primate Society of Great Britain, Winter Meeting, London, UK

2015 84th Meeting of American Association of Physical Anthropologists (AAPA), St. Louis, Missouri, USA

TEACHING AND SUPERVISION EXPERIENCE

Block Courses

15.05.-20.05.25 University of Zürich, title: “Primate Behaviour”, included lecture on shared intentionality, trip to Gossau (Walter) Zoo, and an exam on presenting the collected data

Lectures

24.07.2025 University of Konstanz, Konstanz Summer School of Collective Behaviour (CASC), invited by Ahmed Hady, topic: *Joint action in humans and other apes*

30.04.2025 Pädagogische Hochschule Thurgau (PHTG), invited by Prof. Sonja Perren, topic: *Development of joint action in human children and great apes*

28.02.2023 University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA), Department of Psychology, invited by Prof. Erica Cartmill, topic: *How to study communicative repair in nonhuman animals*

23.11.2023 Leiden University, Cognitive Psychology Unit, Netherlands, invited by Prof. Mariska Kret, topic: *Primate communication: Affective, intentional, or both?*

Primary supervision

PhD students

10.2025 - present Arthur Touchais, University of Konstanz, Germany

10.2025 - present Sarah von Götz, University of Konstanz, Germany

Master students

02.2026 - 08.2026 (incoming) Laura Marissal, University of Liege, Belgium

10.2025 - 05.2026 Rubia Wilks, University of Zürich, Switzerland

BSc students

04.2026 - 06.2026 (incoming) Dorin Betz, University of Konstanz, Germany

Research assistants

01.2020 - Present	Sverre Tautz, Anna Kiefl, Yulai Xia, Svenja Schuhen, Hannae Brun, Julia Brun, Molly Radford, Nina Coetzer, Goretti Hurtado-Barbeito, Alara Celik, Julia Landstedt, Feyza Atakul, Maisie Ettinger, Giammarco Di Gregorio, Bea Forward, Emilie Rapport, Zoe Upton, Pankhuri Singhal, Anne Régnier
09.2018 – 12.2018	Héritier Izansone, at Lola Ya Bonobo, DR Congo Africa

Secondary or co-supervision

Postdocs

06.2023 – 04.2024	Dr. Emma Doherty, University of Durham, UK
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PhD students

03.2025 – present	Karlijn van Heijst, University of Leiden, Netherlands (w/Mariska Kret)
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Master students

02.2025 – present	Wout Damen, University of Utrecht, Netherlands
01.2020 – 10.2020	Jolinde Vlaeyen, University of Leiden, Netherlands
09.2019 – 01.2021	Tarandeep Tang, University of Durham, UK
03.2019 – 08.2019	Alexandra Safryghin, University of St Andrews, UK

Research assistants

04.2017 – 09.2017	Cindy Maslarova, Laura Perrenoud, Aude Pajot, at La Vallée des Singes, France
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PhD Panel Discussant

29.11.2023	Roma Tre University, Rome, Italy, mid-term PhD evaluation of Marta Panunzi on joint attention and social play in bonobos
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Additional student training

09.11.2024	Talk for Bachelor students, <i>Human and great ape joint action and communication</i> , Association BEBOP, University of Poitiers, France
07.12.2023	Talk for PhD students and postdocs, <i>How to write a competitive proposal? Horizon Europe Marie Skłodowska Curie Actions Postdoctoral Fellowships</i> , University of Konstanz
02.2017	Training for undergraduate students in the Comparative Cognition Lab, University of California, San Diego (UCSD), Quantifying <i>social relationships (Dyadic Sociality Index) and dominance ranks (EloRanking)</i> , as part of an SNSF funded project at the University of Neuchâtel, Cognitive Science, Prof. Federico Rossano

ACADEMIC TALKS IN LAB MEETINGS/COLLOQUIA

2025	AG Wirtz Psychology, Petra Wirtz, University of Konstanz, Germany
2025	Sociology Group, Christian Meyer, University of Konstanz, Germany
2025	Evolutionary Cognition Group, University of Zürich, Switzerland
2019-2022	Four independent talks, C4D Lab, University of Durham, UK
2020	Primate meeting, Department of Anthropology/Psychology, Durham University
2019	CoPAN lab, Cognitive Psychology Unit, Leiden University (PhD defence practice)
2018	Institute of Work and Organizational Psychology, University of Neuchâtel
2017	Institute of Biology, University of Neuchâtel, Switzerland
2017	Comparative Cognition Lab, University of California San Diego

RESEARCH METHOD TRAINING

03.2024 – 06.2024	Cooperation and behavioural experiments, thermography, and observational research in bonobos, La Vallée des Singes (LVdS), France
05.2021 – 12.2021	Cooperation/playback experiments and thermography in bonobos, LVdS
10.2020 – 05.2021	Eye-tracking experiment with chimpanzees, Basel Zoo, Switzerland
03.2020 – 09.2020	Emotion expression experiment with humans, Durham University, UK
10.2019 – 12.2019	Research visit, training on eye-tracking and E-prime, Cognitive Psychology Unit, Leiden University, Netherlands, Advisor: Prof Mariska Kret
09.2018 – 12.2018	Behavioural experiments with bonobos, Lola Ya Bonobo, DR Congo, Africa
05.2018 – 09.2018	Behavioural experiment with bonobos and chimpanzees, LVdS, France
04.2017 – 09.2017	Observational research on bonobos, LVdS, France
02.2017 – 04.2017	Observational research on bonobos, San Diego Zoo, USA

CAREER DEVELOPMENT (EDUCATION & TRAINING)

07.2025	“Introductory Course in Laboratory Animal Science for experimenters”, LTK Module EGA (part of LTK Module 1-20), University of Zürich, approved by the Federal Food Safety and Veterinary Office FSVO (Approval nr.: 18/0005a)
06.2025	“Swiss 3 Rs Day” Congress, University of Zürich, Organised by the Swiss 3R Competence Centre (3RCC) with ETH, UZH, and ZHAW
06.2025	“Writing an ERC proposal”, University of Konstanz
02.2024	“Writing successful grant proposals”, University of Konstanz
02.2019	“Career booster: how to communicate with impact in a job interview”, University of Neuchâtel
02.2018	“Advanced programming with R”, University of Lausanne
10.2017	Statistical reading group, Kruschke (2014) <i>Doing Bayesian data analysis: A tutorial with R, JAGS, and Stan</i> , University of Neuchâtel
10.2017	“Giving, using and receiving text feedback”, University of Neuchâtel
10.2016	“Introduction to data handling and (cluster) analysis in R”, University of Neuchâtel
10.2016	“Processing interactional data with PRAAT and R”, University of Neuchâtel

PUBLIC OUTREACH

30.04.2025	Public lecture (“Ringvorlesung”) on the development of joint action in human children and great apes, Pädagogische Hochschule Thurgau (PHTG), Switzerland (Link)
12.12.2024	Public talk on great ape joint action capacities, La Vallée des Singes, France (audience: zoo staff)
09.11.2024	Youtube interview on animal cognition and sentience, Association BEBOP, University of Poitiers
09.11.2024	Public talk on human and great ape joint action and communication, La Vallée des Singes, France (audience: Bachelor and Master students, Association BEBOP, University of Poitiers, France)
14.07.2024	Scientific workshop with children “How to become an ethologist”, <i>La Fête de la Conservation</i> , La Vallée des Singes, France (audience : zoo visitors)
Since 01.2024	Quality editor of podcast “In the Swarm”, Centre for the Advanced Study of Collective Behaviour, University of Konstanz (audience: wider public)
22.-23.08.2022	Theatrical science engagement workshop with children to increase awareness about great ape communication, “Feeling your inner ape”, <i>Junior Scientist Day</i> , Durham University, UK (audience: human children aged 4-10 y)
08.2021	Public talk on great ape emotion communication, <i>La Fête de la Conservation</i> , La Vallée des Singes, France (audience : zoo visitors)
12.2018	Public talk on bonobo communication and social cognition, Lola Ya Bonobo Sanctuary, DRC (audience: staff and zoo visitors)
09.2018	Public talk on bonobo and chimpanzee communication, La Vallée des Singes, France (audience: staff and zoo visitors)
08.2018	Scientific engagement with children who engaged in a communication experiment used for empirical testing in bonobos, <i>La fête de la Conservation</i> , La Vallée des Singes, France (audience: zoo visitors)
09.2017	Public talk on great ape interactions and sociality, La Vallée des Singes, France (audience: staff and zoo visitors)
04.2017	Public talk on great ape interactions and sociality, San Diego Zoo, USA (audience: staff and zoo visitors)

PRESS COVERAGE (NON-EXHAUSTIVE)

*Some links can no longer be retrieved as the event lies too far in the past

[BBC World News TV](#) • [BBC Radio 4 Today](#) • [BBC Newsround](#) • BBC World Service- The Newsroom • [Times Radio](#) • [Nature Research Highlights](#) • [BBC Science Focus Magazine](#) and [BBC Science Focus Magazine](#) • [National Geographics \(German Issue, August 2023\)](#) • [CNN](#) • [The Guardian](#) • [The Times](#) • [The Telegraph](#) • [Radio Télévision Suisse \(RTS\)](#) • [Evening Standard](#) • [CNN Brasil](#) • [El Mundo](#) • [Big Think](#) • [Sci News](#) • [Naked Science](#) • [New Scientist](#) • [mdr](#) • [Metro](#) • [Le Temps](#) • [The Sunday Post](#) • [Irish News](#) • [Le Matin](#) • Evening Express • FOCUS Online • [Berner Zeitung](#) • [Blue News](#) • [Earth](#) • [La Liberté](#) • [Grenzwissenschaft Aktuell](#) • ORF Mittagsjournal • [Pieuvre](#) • [Heidi News](#) • [Der Standard](#) • [Tierwelt](#) • [France24 news](#) • [Inverse](#) • [Frapp](#) • [Science ORF](#) • [Basler Zeitung](#) • [Swissinfo](#) • [Bote](#) • [Sci News](#) • [AAS EurekaAlert!](#) and [AAS EurekaAlert!](#) • [20min](#) • [Planeta](#) • [TalkRadio](#) • [Corriere Del Ticino](#) • Florida News Times • [GMX News](#) • [Daily Star](#) • [RJF](#) • [RTN](#) • [Science Daily](#) • [Scientias](#) • [Südostschweiz](#) • [Tagesanzeiger](#) • [Telemundo](#) • [Wissenschaft](#) • [Correio Braziliense](#) • [Sciencepost](#) • [ZAP](#) • [Ambiente Bio](#) • [Geo](#) • [Helsingin Sanomat](#) • [Head Topics](#) • [El Heraldo De México](#) • [Science Alert](#) • [Phys Org](#) • [Daily Mail](#) • [Smithsonian Magazine](#) • [Newsweek](#)

PERSONAL SKILLS

<i>Language skills</i>	German (native), English (fluent), French (fluent), Italian (intermediate)
<i>Digital competencies</i>	Label Studio (software for machine learning- building a ground truth) Bayesian LMMs/GLMMs (Inferential statistics) R and R Studio (Statistical analyses and data processing) Tobii Pro Lab (eye-tracking software) FLIR Tools (thermal imaging software) E-prime (software to design experiments in psychology) Gorilla (software to design online experiments in psychology) OpenFace (automated facial tracking software for emotion expression research) ELAN (software for behavioural coding) Matlab (software for statistical computing) Adobe Premier Pro (professional video editing software to prepare stimuli)

ACADEMIC MEMBERSHIPS, COLLEGIALITY, AND SOCIAL SERVICE

2025 - present	IMPRS-QBEE Faculty Member (Max Planck Institute of Animal Behaviour)
	Member of the Deutscher Hochschulverband (DHV)
2024 - present	Affiliate and voting member of the Centre for the Advanced Study of Collective Behaviour, University of Konstanz
2015 – Present 02.2024	Member of the Kölner Gymnasial- und Stiftungsfond, Cologne, Germany Active engagement and support during writing retreat in Hegne, for the reapplication grant of the DFG Excellence Cluster: Collective Behaviour, Centre for the Advanced Study of Collective Behaviour, University of Konstanz
2016 – 2019	Member of Interuniversity Doctoral Program in Biology, University of Neuchâtel
2018	Organizer of journal club, Institute of Biology, University of Neuchâtel
2016 and 2017	Representing the Comparative Cognition lab, Open Student Day, University of Neuchâtel
2015 – 2016	Member of the Primate Society of Great Britain (PSGB)
2013 – 2014	Member of Honors Program for exceptional students, University of Bonn, Germany