

University of Groningen
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Research interests

My main research interest is positive bias. I want to test the idea that most people see the world more brightly and more positive than it really is and that individuals who do not show this positivity bias may experience mental or social problems later in life. During my PhD in psychiatry, I investigated low positive bias in adolescence as an underlying mechanism of depression with different instruments and from different perspectives, combining longitudinal data collected every 2-3 years with more fine-grained momentary assessments, data from laboratory tasks, and biomarkers. In my current position as a postdoctoral researcher I focus on social rather than on mental functioning. Next to investigating social experiences of children and adolescents and mental and social functioning later in life, I coordinate the genetic part of the project, which is aimed at investigating genetic and environmental mechanisms of intergenerational transmission of peer experiences. Ultimately, my aim is to combine both research areas by studying positive bias from a developmental perspective, investigating when and how individual differences arise, what role genetic vulnerabilities and parenting play, and whether and at what ages individual differences in positive bias are associated with differences in mental problems and social development.

Research experience

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| 2018 – present | Postdoctoral researcher on the European Research Council-funded project 'Ghosts from the past: Consequences of Adolescent Peer Experiences across contexts and generations' (PI: Dr. T. Kretschmer)
Behavioral and Social Sciences, University of Groningen |
| 2013 – 2018 | PhD candidate Psychiatry, University Medical Center Groningen, thesis 'Happy faces and other rewards: Different perspectives on a bias away from positive and toward negative information as an underlying mechanism of depression', supervisors: Prof. A.J. Oldehinkel, Dr. C. Hartman, & Prof. Dr. P. de Jonge (defense May 13, 2019) |
| 2001 – 2005 | PhD candidate Philosophy, University of Groningen, thesis 'The Philosophical Development of Gilbert Ryle: A Study of His Published and Unpublished Writings', supervisors: Prof. Dr. L.W. Nauta & Prof. Dr. M.R.M. ter Hark (defense June 14, 2007) |

Peer-reviewed publications

2020

Vrijen, C., Wiertsema, M., Ackermans, M., van der Ploeg, R., & Kretschmer, T. (2020). Childhood and Adolescent Bullying Perpetration and Later Substance Use: A Meta-analysis. *Pediatrics*
[accepted for publication]

Wiertsema, M., **Vrijen, C.**, & Kretschmer, T. (2020) Intergenerational Transmission of Bullying Perpetration. [submitted for publication]

Vrijen, C., Ackermans, M. A., Bosma, A., & Kretschmer, T. (2020). Reward Responsiveness, Optimism, and Social and Mental Functioning in Children Aged 6-7: Protocol of a Cross-Sectional Pilot Study. *JMIR Research Protocols*, 9(9), e18902. <https://doi.org/10.2196/18902>

2019

Vrijen, C., Hartman, C.A., de Jonge, P., & Oldehinkel, A.J. (2019). Blijde gezichten en andere beloningen: aandacht voor positieve informatie als beschermend mechanisme tegen depressie. *Neuropraxis* 24, 10–18 (2020). <https://doi-org.proxy-ub.rug.nl/10.1007/s12474-019-00245-z>

Kretschmer, T., **Vrijen, C.** (2019). De genetica van opvoeding. *Kind en adolescent*. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s12453-019-00213-8>

Vrijen, C., Hartman, C.A., & Oldehinkel, A.J. (2019). Reward-Related Attentional Bias at Age 16 Predicts Onset of Depression During Nine Years of Follow-Up. *Journal of the American Academy of Child & Adolescent Psychiatry*. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jaac.2018.06.009>

2018

Vrijen, C., Hartman, C.A., van Roekel, E., de Jonge, P., & Oldehinkel, A.J. (2018). Spread the Joy: How High and Low Bias for Happy Facial Emotions Translate into Different Daily Life Affect Dynamics. *Complexity*. <https://doi.org/10.1155/2018/2674523>

van Roekel, E., Heininga, V.E., **Vrijen, C.**, Snippe, E., Oldehinkel, A.J. (2018). Reciprocal associations between positive emotions and motivation in daily life: Network analyses in anhedonic individuals and healthy controls. *Emotion*. <http://dx.doi.org/10.1037/emo0000424>

2017

van Roekel, E., **Vrijen, C.**, Heininga, V.E., Masselink, M., Bos, E.H., & Oldehinkel, A.J. (2017). An Exploratory Randomized Controlled Trial of Personalized Lifestyle Advice and Tandem Skydives as a Means to Reduce Anhedonia. *Behavior Therapy*, 48(1), 76-96. DOI: 10.1016/j.beth.2016.09.009

Vrijen, C., Schenk, H.M., Hartman, C.A., & Oldehinkel, A.J. (2017). Measuring BDNF in saliva using commercial ELISA: Results from a small pilot study. *Psychiatry Research*, 254(Supplement C), 340–346. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.psychres.2017.04.034>

2016

van Roekel, E., Masselink, M., **Vrijen, C.**, Heininga, V.E., Bak, T., Nederhof, E., & Oldehinkel, A.J. (2016). Study protocol for a randomized controlled trial to explore the effects of personalized lifestyle advices and tandem skydives on pleasure in anhedonic young adults. *BMC Psychiatry*, 16, [182]. DOI: 10.1186/s12888-016-0880-z

Vrijen, C., Hartman, C.A., Lodder, G.M.A., Verhagen, M., de Jonge, P., & Oldehinkel, A.J. (2016). Lower Sensitivity to Happy and Angry Facial Emotions in Young Adults with Psychiatric Problems. *Frontiers in Psychology*, 7. <https://doi.org/10.3389/fpsyg.2016.01797>

Vrijen, C., Hartman, C.A., & Oldehinkel, A.J. (2016). Slow identification of facial happiness in early adolescence predicts onset of depression during 8 years of follow-up. *European Child & Adolescent Psychiatry*, 1–12. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s00787-016-0846-1>

2006 (Philosophy)

Vrijen, C. (2006). Ryle and Collingwood: Their Correspondence and its Philosophical Context. *The British Journal for the History of Philosophy*, Vol. 14, no. 1.

McGuinness, B., & **Vrijen, C.** (2006). First thoughts: an unpublished letter from Gilbert Ryle to H.J. Paton. *The British Journal for the History of Philosophy*, Vol. 14, no. 4.

International conference presentations and invited presentations

- 2019 **Vrijen, C.**, Hartman, C.A., & Oldehinkel, A.J., Low Reward Responsiveness at age 16 Predicts Onset of Depression During 9 Years of Follow-up. Biennial Conference of the Society for Research in Child Development, Baltimore, United States. (poster presentation)
- 2019 Kretschmer, T., & **Vrijen, C.**, Co-organized a workshop on Open Science at the pre-conference of the Biennial Conference of the Society for Research in Child Development, Baltimore, United States.
- 2018 **Vrijen, C.** & Kretschmer, T., Ghosts from the past: Consequences of Adolescent Peer Experiences across social contexts and generations (CAPE). International meeting of the scientific research network, Research Foundation Flanders, Leuven, Belgium. (oral presentation)
- 2018 **Vrijen, C.**, Reward, Affect, and Depression in Adolescence. Symposium organizer and chair. Biennial Conference of the European Association for Research on Adolescence, Ghent, Belgium.
- 2018 **Vrijen, C.**, Hartman, C.A., & Oldehinkel, A.J., Low reward responsiveness at age 16 predicts onset of depression during nine years of follow-up. Biennial Conference of the European Association for Research on Adolescence, Ghent, Belgium. (oral presentation)
- 2018 **Vrijen, C.**, Van Roekel, E., Heininga, V.E., Masselink, M., Personalized interventions based on experience sampling can effectively improve pleasure. Annual Conference of the Association for Psychological Science, San Francisco, United States (oral presentation, part of the symposium 'From Description to Intervention: Can Network Models Based on Ambulatory Assessments Provide Novel Treatment Targets?')
- 2017 **Vrijen, C.**, Hartman, C.A., Van Roekel, E., De Jonge, P., & Oldehinkel, A.J., Spread the joy: How happy bias translates into daily life affect dynamics. International meeting of the scientific research network, Research Foundation Flanders, Leuven, Belgium. (oral presentation)
- 2017 **Vrijen, C.**, Hartman, C.A., Van Roekel, E., De Jonge, P., & Oldehinkel, A.J., How a bias for happy facial emotions translates into daily life affect dynamics. Part of a symposium about network analyses. Biennial Conference of the Society for Ambulatory Assessment, Luxembourg, Luxembourg. (oral presentation)
- 2017 **Vrijen, C.**, Hartman, C.A., Van Roekel, E., De Jonge, P., & Oldehinkel, A.J., Spread the joy: Bias for happy facial emotions in daily life. Biennial Conference of the Society for Research in Child Development, Austin (Texas), United States. (poster presentation)
- 2017 **Vrijen, C.**, Hartman, C.A., Lodder, G.M.A., Verhagen, M., De Jonge, P., & Oldehinkel, A.J., Lower sensitivity to happy and angry facial emotions in late adolescents with psychiatric problems. Biennial Conference of the Society for Research in Child Development, Austin (Texas), United States. (poster presentation)
- 2017 **Vrijen, C.**, Hartman, C.A., & Oldehinkel, A.J., How bias for happy facial emotions translates into everyday life network dynamics. Face processing pre-conference of the Biennial Conference of the Society for Research in Child Development, Austin (Texas), United States. (oral presentation)
- 2017 **Vrijen, C.**, Hartman, C.A., & Oldehinkel, A.J., Spread the joy: How bias for happy facial emotions translates into daily life affect dynamics. Laboratory for Affective and Translational Neuroscience; Harvard, United States. (invited oral presentation)
- 2016 **Vrijen, C.**, Hartman, C.A., & Oldehinkel, A.J., Is the pathway from facial emotion identification bias to depression mediated by emotion-regulation? Part of the symposium Self-regulation: New Insights on Aspects, Underlying Neural Mechanisms and Interventions. Biennial Conference of the European Association for Research on Adolescence, Cadiz, Spain. (oral presentation)
- 2016 **Vrijen, C.**, Hartman, C.A., Lodder, G.M.A., Verhagen, M., De Jonge, P., & Oldehinkel, A.J., Lower sensitivity to happy and angry facial emotions in late adolescents with psychiatric problems. Biennial Conference of the European Association for Research on Adolescence, Cadiz, Spain. (oral presentation)

- 2016 **Vrijen, C.**, Hartman, C.A., & Oldehinkel, A.J., Slow identification of happy facial emotions in early adolescence predicts depression onset during 8 year follow-up. Biennial Conference of the International Society for Affective Disorders, Amsterdam, The Netherlands (oral presentation)
- 2015 **Vrijen, C.**, Van Roekel, E., Masselink, M., Heininga, V.E., & Oldehinkel, A.J., From diary study to personalized lifestyle advice. International meeting of the scientific research network, Research Foundation Flanders, Leuven, Belgium. (oral presentation)
- 2015 **Vrijen, C.**, Schenk, H.M., Hartman, C.A., & Oldehinkel, A.J., Measuring BDNF in saliva: not yet possible with commercial ELISA kits. Poster presentation Society Ambulatory Assessment (SAA) conference, Penn State University, United States
- 2014 **Vrijen, C.**, Hartman, C.A., & Oldehinkel, A.J., Depression and facial emotion recognition. International meeting of the scientific research network, Research Foundation Flanders, Leuven, Belgium. (oral presentation)
- 2014 **Vrijen, C.**, Hartman, C.A., & Oldehinkel, A.J., The role of facial emotion recognition in the development of sadness and anhedonia: a longitudinal study on TRAILS data. International symposium Understanding Each Other: Towards an Interdisciplinary Conceptualization of Empathy, Utrecht, The Netherlands (poster presentation)
- 2005 **Vrijen, C.**, The Development of Philosophical Analysis in the Work of Gilbert Ryle. Conference on The Varieties of Analysis; Oxford, United Kingdom. (oral presentation)
- 2002 **Vrijen, C.**, The Ryle-Collingwood correspondence. Symposium on Gilbert Ryle organized by Linacre College, Oxford, United Kingdom. (oral presentation)

Awards

- 2019 Travel award (Society for Research in Child Development)
- 2018 PhD top publication award for the paper 'Reward-Related Attentional Bias at Age 16 Predicts Onset of Depression During Nine Years of Follow-Up' (Research Institute SHARE)
- 2015 Award for best poster presentation 'Measuring BDNF in saliva: not yet possible with commercial ELISA kits' (Society for Ambulatory Assessment)
- 2000 Scholarships received for studying one semester at University College London from the following funders: Marco Polo Fonds, Hendrik Muller's Vaderlandsch Fonds, and Focus UK.

Activities to bring research outside academia

- 2019 At Noorderzon 2019 I co-organized the Noorderlichten activity 'Like parent, like child?'. Noorderlichten is an event to bring scientific research outside academia and give children and other non-scientists the opportunity to experience what it is like to do research. During our activity, children and their parents were invited to investigate for themselves how similar they were in looks, physics, character and emotions. The posters we made for the assignments and to explain the influence of genetics and parenting have been made publicly available on OSF (<https://osf.io/6f59z/>).

Media and editorials featuring my research

- 2019 News article in the local newspaper Dagblad van het Noorden about the Noorderlichten activity 'Like parent, like child?' I (co-)organized during Noorderzon 2019 to give children and their parents the opportunity to investigate how similar they were to each other
- 2019 Editorial: 'Missing the Pull of Life's Rewards? Attention Shifting and the Development of Depression' by Erica Forbes in the *Journal of the American Academy of Child & Adolescent Psychiatry* about our publication 'Reward-Related Attentional Bias at Age 16 Predicts Onset of Depression During Nine Years of Follow-Up' in the same journal (<https://europepmc.org/article/med/30832902>)
- 2019 Blogpost on the website of the journal *Complexity* titled 'Seeing others happy may help prevent depression' about our publication 'Spread the Joy: How High and Low Bias for Happy Facial

Emotions Translate into Different Daily Life Affect Dynamics' in the same journal
(<https://www.hindawi.com/post/seeing-others-happy-to-prevent-depression/>)

- 2016 Interview with UMCg magazine KennisInzicht, 'Herken de emotie, voorspel de depressie?'
(<https://kennisinzicht.umcg.nl/Paginas/Snelheid-van-emoties-herkennen-kan-depressie-voorspellen.aspx>)
- 2016 News article in Volkskrant about the No Fun No Glory project ('Plezier van parachutesprong duurt maar kort')
- 2016 News article in Dagblad van het Noorden about the No Fun No Glory project ('Parachutesprong maakt niet gelukkiger')
- 2015 News article in Volkskrant about the No Fun No Glory project ('Sprong voor vreugde')

International study and work visits

- 2017, April Work visit, Laboratory for Affective and Translational Neuroscience, Harvard, United States.
- 2001-2004 Several visits of a few weeks to the Gilbert Ryle archives at Linacre College and other Oxford colleges, United Kingdom
- 2000, first semester Visiting student at University College London (UCL), United Kingdom

Teaching and supervision

- Sep. 2019 - present **Daily supervisor and copromoter of PhD student Maria Wiertsema**
Work title thesis: Parent-child transmission of peer problems
University of Groningen
- 2019/2020 **Supervisor of 2 master students (1 thesis including internship and 1 student assistantship)**
University of Groningen
- 2019 **Supervisor of 6 bachelor theses**
University of Groningen
- 2016 & 2017 **Coach scientific research traineeship** First year Medical Students
University Medical Centre Groningen
- 2004 **Teacher and developer** of the master course 'Ryle's Concept of Mind'
University of Groningen
- 1998-2005 **Teaching assistant** of several first year Philosophy courses
University of Groningen

Working experience other than research and teaching

- 2005 – 2013 **Policy worker** at the Ministry of Domestic Affairs, The Hague, The Netherlands
- 1997 – 1999 **Editor/writer** Wolters-Noordhoff (publishing company), section economics

Education

- 2013 – 2018 **PhD candidate** Psychiatry, University Medical Center Groningen
- 2011 – 2013 **Pre-master** program Clinical Psychology, University of Groningen
- 2001 – 2005 **PhD candidate** Philosophy, University of Groningen
- 1996 – 2001 **Master Philosophy**, University of Groningen

Professional memberships

Society for Research in Child Development, The Society for the Improvement of Psychological Science

Organizational experience and service

2020 - present	Member of the Ethics Committee of the Department of Pedagogy and Educational Sciences
2019 – present	Member of the YESS BSS (Young Enthusiastic Social Scientists - Behavioral and Social Sciences). YESS BSS is a network within the Faculty of Behavioural and Social Sciences that brings together early career staff to stimulate interdisciplinary cooperation, exchange best practices and advise the faculty board.
2019 - present	Member of the Open Science Community Groningen, my main task is to organise regular pre-registration workshops and in September 2020 I was jury member for the RuG Open Science Award
2002-2003	President of the GAIOO (Groninger AiO Overleg) which has now become GRIN (Groningen Graduate Interest Network), a political organization which is concerned with the rights of PhD students
2001-2002	Board member of the GAIOO (now GRIN)
1999-2000	President of the Student Consultative Body and member of the Departmental Board, Department of Philosophy, University of Groningen
1997-1999	Member of the Faculty board and president of the student body, Department of Philosophy, University of Groningen

Reviewing

I review on occasional basis for the *Journal of Child Psychology and Psychiatry*, the *International Journal of Cognitive Therapy*, *Frontiers in Psychology*, and *Psychology Research and Behavior Management*. For my reviewer profile, see Publons: <https://publons.com/researcher/2977669/>

Summer schools

2018	BBSRC STARS Course Advanced Methods for Reproducible Science, Windsor, United Kingdom
2017	Advanced course on using Mplus, University of Utrecht, The Netherlands
2014	Stress & Cognition, Radboud University, Nijmegen, The Netherlands

References

Current supervisor:	Dr. T. (Tina) Kretschmer Faculty of Behavioural and Social Sciences University of Groningen E-mail: t.kretschmer@rug.nl Phone +31 50 363 6232
Promotor:	Prof. A.J. (Tineke) Oldehinkel Interdisciplinary Center Psychopathology and Emotion regulation University Medical Center Groningen, CC72 Email: a.j.oldehinkel@umcg.nl Phone +31 50 361 2054