

Supplementary information:

Academic independence and international mobility

The German host institution will be the Department of General Psychology at the Friedrich Schiller University of Jena, where I completed my PhD in 2023 under supervision of Prof. Schweinberger and Prof. Dr. Annett Schirmer (University of Innsbruck, Austria). Currently, I am working there as a postdoc and pursue my habilitation.

Note that staying in the group where I completed my PhD does not impede my academic independence. Quite the contrary. After my PhD I deliberately stayed in Prof. Schweinberger's lab because it provided the perfect environment for the development of my independent academic profile, starting with the choice of my habilitation topic. I have been given great freedom in the development of my ideas about voice naturalness, which ultimately resulted in the publication in *Trends in Cognitive Sciences* in 2025. Crucially, Prof. Schweinberger invited me in 2023 to support him as co-PI on a huge proposal for a European-wide MSCA-doctoral network, if I agree to stay in the department as postdoc and will function as primary supervisor for the potential PhD candidate. This network is now funded by the European Union under the name Voice Communication Sciences (VoCS). So far, I was actively involved in the >10 months of application, I proposed our PhD topic "Neurocognitive processing of voice naturalness in human and synthetic voices", and I also chaired our recruitment panel. The PhD student will start his contract in September 2025. In his second year, he will have scheduled research stays in other departments for up to 12 months, which gives me the perfect opportunity to pursue my PRIME project with the DAAD without neglecting my supervision duties

Thanks to the VoCS, my collaborative network now spans Prof. Sascha Frühholz (Oslo), Prof. Emma Roderer (Barcelona), Prof. Sonja Kotz (Maastricht), Dr. Thierry Chaminade (Marseille), Prof. Deniz Baskent (Groningen), as well as Prof. Pascal Belin (Marseille), Prof. Volker Dellwo (Zurich), Prof. Carolyn McGettigan (London), Dr. Nadine Lavan (London) and more. Crucially, I am a founding member of the newly formed Voice Communication Sciences Association (VoCSA) where I have been appointed to the executive board as well. In this role, I have been given the responsibility to organize the 3rd VoiceID conference, which will take place in Jena from 2-4 September 2026 and will unite voice researchers from all over the world. Since 2024, I am also the principal coordinator of the Jena Voice Research Unit (VRU, <https://www.voice.uni-jena.de/>), an interdisciplinary network which connects voice research in Jena and beyond. Thus, while my work is primarily rooted in Jena, I am well-connected with several world-leading institutions in the voice field. This provides me with ideal conditions and the necessary resources to pursue ground-breaking discoveries on the topic of voice naturalness. To enhance my academic independence, Prof. Schweinberger explicitly encouraged me in the persuasion of individual research collaborations, of which one already culminated in a publication and two are in preparation.

On a final note, I have already gained previous experience with living abroad, although in a non-academic context. 2012/13, I lived in London for 10 months as a social worker, and in 2018, I worked in a hospital in Buenos Aires in Argentina. Scientifically, my international mobility has been expressed by my participation in conferences at locations like Vancouver, London, and Nottingham.