**Career Plan - Christine Nussbaum**

**My background:**

I am an empirical neuroscientist with a specialization in perceptual psychology, and I am mostly interested in the human voice. In my future research, I strive to advance our understanding on voice perception via high-quality basic and applied research, with a multimodal and interdisciplinary perspective. During my PhD, my work was mostly focused on the perception and expression of emotions in voices. Currently, my primary research interest lies with the perception of naturalness in voices, and I plan to pursue my habilitation on this topic. Starting in 2025, I will be supervising the PhD project “Neurocognitive processing of voice naturalness in human and synthetic voices” in the context of a HORIZON-MSCA Doctoral Network (<https://www.vocs.eu.com/>).

**My mission:**

In the digital era, synthesized and artificial voices have already become an integral part of our daily life, and with the emergence of artificial intelligence it is hard to keep up with the pace of new innovations. Yet, how these innovations affect perception and interaction across different areas of application is insufficiently understood. Therefore, I see my mission in striving for a systematic understanding of naturalness in voices. My approach is rooted in voice perception theory, while simultaneously bridging various disciplines where aspects of naturalness play a critical role, such as human, pathological, manipulated and synthesized voices. It is my goal to advance theory, back is up with robust empirical knowledge, and effectively communicate it to a widespread readership to leverage the use of this knowledge.

Besides my passion for research, I am a dedicated teacher. I have been teaching psychology classes across all levels for almost eight years, in both German and English. I take my responsibility as a lecturer as important as my research, and I strongly believe that both roles belong together and profit from one another. Outside my own academic network, I find great joy in research communication. I am currently the chairperson of *PhdScicom*, an initiative that supports research communication in early career stages.

**My long-term career goals**:

I see my academic future in Germany, preferably in the Eastern part. Especially in structurally weaker parts of Germany, we are currently facing increased political tension and an atmosphere of hostility and mistrust towards science. Now more than ever, we need people in these regions who embody a clear commitment to education, science and the freedom of the mind. I want to be one of these voices. Coming from a small town in eastern Germany myself, I want to be an example that being home-rooted does not exclude being open-minded, international, future-oriented and interconnected. Therefore, upon completing my PRIME fellowship, I plan on returning to Eastern Germany and, in the long run, striving for a permanent research position.

**Why DAAD PRIME:**

In the past years, the Friedrich Schiller University Jena has provided me with an extraordinary environment to develop my skills as a voice researcher. Now, it is time for new horizons. PRIME offers me the unique opportunity to gain new perspectives from a different research environment, collaborate with and learn from world-leading voice researchers, obtain new research skills with regard to online testing of diverse participant group, and interconnect with the large interdisciplinary network in London. Equipped with these valuable experiences, I will return to Jena where I will continue my work on voice naturalness on an international level within the VoCS EU-project and beyond.