

Juan Felipe Pérez Ariza

Researcher

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About me

I am a Ph.D. student at the [Department of Cognition, Emotion, and Methods in Psychology](#) at the University of Vienna. My main interest is to understand how learning occurs in humans, and how it is mediated by neural plasticity and the interaction between neuronal networks. As such, I am deeply interested in understanding how our brains and behavior change when we learn new information, from the moment we encounter it to when we are skilled enough to creatively manipulate it in different contexts.

Skills

Programming			
R	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Data Cleaning, Wrangling, and Visualization• Multilevel Linear Models using Maximum Likelihood and Bayesian Updating• Generalized Multilevel Linear Models Using Maximum Likelihood and Bayesian Updating• Reproducible reports using R markdown and \LaTeX		
Python	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Data Cleaning, Wrangling, and Visualization• General File Management• Display of Graphical and Auditory Stimuli		
MATLAB	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Basic Syntax and Data Structures• Basic Familiarity with the SPM12 Toolbox to Analyze fMRI Data		
Julia	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Basic Syntax and Data Structures		
Research Software Packages		<ul style="list-style-type: none">• OpenSesame• PsychoPy• Jamovi• Audacity• Praat	Languages <div><div>Spanish</div><div>English</div><div>French</div><div>German</div></div> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Native• C1• C1• A2

Research

Research Interests	Learning, Memory, Attention, Music Cognition
Primary Research Methods	Behavioral Experiments, Computational Modelling

Education

University of Vienna	Vienna, Austria
Ph.D. Psychology	Current
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Research Project: <i>Structure Building in Language and Music</i>• Supervisor: Dr. Tudor Popescu• My research project explores similarities in how the brain processes syntactical structures of music and language.	
Goldsmiths, University of London	London, United Kingdom
M.Sc. Music, Mind & Brain	2022
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Research Project: <i>Exploring the Region of Proximal Learning with Music</i>• Supervisor: Dr. Diana Omigie• My research project explored the influence of musical structure on attention by studying the relationship between music-induced curiosity and mind-wandering.	

- Research Project: *Musicalidad y Cohesión Social: Una Aproximación Experimental y Bibliográfica* [Musicality and Social Cohesion: A Bibliographic and Experimental Approach]
- Supervisor: Dr. Juan David Leongómez
- My research project explored the hypothesis that making music among humans has had an evolutionary value by promoting prosocial behaviors.

Experience

Teaching

Universidad El Bosque

Adjunct Lecturer

Bogotá, Colombia

2023

- Research Methods I: Epistemological Foundations of Scientific Research
- Senior Research Seminar III: Interdisciplinary Approaches to Psychological Research

Research

Universidad El Bosque

Research Assistant at *EvoCo: Human Behaviour and Evolution Lab*

Bogotá, Colombia

2023 - 2024

- Design and Execution of Original Empirical Research
- Supervision of Undergraduate Research Projects
- Technical, Methodological, and Logistical Support

Published Journal Articles

Savage, P. E., Ampiah-Bonney, A., Arabadjiev, A., Arhine, A., **Ariza, J. F.**, . . . , & Zariquiey, R. (In Principle Accepted). *Does singing enhance cooperation more than speaking does? A global experimental Stage 1 Registered Report*. Preprint. <https://doi.org/10.31234/osf.io/pv3m9>

Pérez Ariza, J. F., & Omigie, D. (2025). Curiosity and Mind Wandering During Music Listening Are Negatively Correlated. *Behavioral Sciences*, 15(3), 393. <https://doi.org/10.3390/bs15030393>

Preprints and Articles Under Review

Ariza, J. F., & Leongómez, J. Spontaneous Thought and Memory Consolidation: An Investigation into Mindwandering Evoked by Preferred Music and Its Influence on Short-Term Memory Consolidation. Open Science Framework. https://doi.org/10.31234/osf.io/wbfs3_v1

Scholarships, Awards and Honors

COLFUTURO - Minciencias

Colfuturo Scholarship - Loan

- In Recognition of High Academic Merit to Pursue a Master's Degree Abroad