

Dear Applicant!

In order to be able to assess your application and obtain a vote, the Ethics Council of the Max Planck Society requires some basic information. We would therefore ask you to answer the following questions insofar as they are applicable to your project. This will help to categorize your application and identify any issues of potential ethical relevance.

Please note: A vote by the Ethics Council is not a substitute for a legally required official approval. Please check first whether an official approval process is required before consulting the Ethics Council. Please enclose any previously issued decisions with this application.

Some of the questions below will be irrelevant to your project. Please skip these. We would ask you to answer the relevant questions fully so that the Ethics Council can gain an accurate impression of your research project and its potential ethical implications.

If you are uncertain regarding certain aspects of the questionnaire, we will be more than happy to provide information and support. Please contact the office of the Ethics Council by e-mail to [ethikrat@mpg.de](mailto:ethikrat@mpg.de).

Moreover, you will find relevant information as well as deadlines for applications on the Intranet (<https://intranet.mpg.de/beauftragte/ethikrat/Seiten/default.aspx>). In case you consider the assessment of your application to be urgent we would kindly ask you to note this fact in the cover letter to your application.

### General Information

Name of Applicant: Annika Tjuka

Name/title of Project: Cross-linguistic strategies of denotation: Advancing data and methods in lexical typology

Max-Planck-Institute for/of: the Science of Human History

Department: Linguistic and Cultural Evolution

Participants: Annika Tjuka, Johann-Mattis List, Damián Blasi

Initial application ☒ or Follow-up application ☐

(Please tick as appropriate.)

If this is a follow-up application, please specify the year, title and, if possible, the number of the initial application:

Year: Click the box to enter year.

Title: Click the box to enter title.

Registration: Click the box to enter text.

<b>Project Information</b>
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1. Please sketch the scientific outline of the research project (incl. goals, methods, resources) not exceeding 300 words:

In our project, we are investigating how languages vary in terms of naming the different parts of the body. While English has two separate words for hand and arm, Vietnamese uses one word “tay” for the body part that extends from the shoulder to the fingertips. To understand the reasons for this language variation, we will conduct a rating study in which participants evaluate their perception of different body parts on three scales. We will present a pair of two body part concepts (e.g., HAND-ARM) and ask participants to rate the pair on whether a) they are adjacent to each other, b) they look the same, c) they are perceived in the same way. The study will be conducted via a platform like Amazon Mechanical Turk or ClickWorkers. The ratings are then used to predict colexification networks between different language families. Colexification occurs when two concepts are named with the same word, for example, in Vietnamese the concepts HAND and ARM are colexified.

2. Why do you require a vote by the Ethics Council?  
(e.g. due to legal requirements, for third-party funding sources, cooperation Partners or institutions or publishers)

Due to legal requirements and for potential third-party funders.

3. Are cooperation partners and institutions involved in the project?

*If so, which?*

No.

4. Has an application already been submitted for this research project to another ethics committee and has a vote or an assessment already been obtained? If not, do you intend to submit an application for this research project?

*If so, please enclose the application and vote.*

No.

5. Does one of your cooperation partners require and possess an ethics committee vote?

*If so, please enclose this vote with your application.*

No.

6. Please describe qualification and professional experience of the project participants.

*Note: The Ethics Council retains the right to request documentation demonstrating such on demand.*

Annika Tjuka is a linguist and currently working as a doctoral researcher at the MPI-SHH. She received her BA and MA at Humboldt University Berlin, focusing on psycholinguistics and typology.

Johann-Mattis List is a senior scientist at MPI-EVA and a Privatdozent at the Friedrich Schiller

University Jena. He is the group leader of an interdisciplinary research project on Computer-Assisted Language Comparison (CALC).

Damián Blasi is a Harvard Data Science Initiative Fellow. He works as a postdoctoral researcher at Culture, Cognition, Coevolution Lab led by Joseph Henrich, based at the Department of Human Evolutionary Biology at Harvard University.

7. Does your project touch on legal and/or ethical issues such as the following:

Please tick as appropriate.  
If possible, enter the section and page of your application.

Personal rights of individuals

☒
☐

yes

no

Data privacy and data security

☒
☐

yes

no

Biological risks

☐
☒

yes

no

Medical risks / test persons / study participants

☐
☒

yes

no

Animal welfare / animal rights

☐
☒

yes

no

Environmental risks

☐
☒

yes

no

Risk of the use (and misuse) of research results for military or terrorist purposes (so called "dual use")

☐
☒

yes

no

Does your study include genetic or gene-modifying procedures?

In human beings/human tissue

☐

in animals

☐

in plants

☐

Other risks (e.g. cultural, political, historical risks...) not exceeding 100 words

Click the box to enter text.

<b>Research Involving Human Subjects</b>
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**Note: If you have any questions on specific data privacy issues, please consult the MPG Data Protection Officer at [datenschutz@gv.mpg.de](mailto:datenschutz@gv.mpg.de).**

- |   |                                     |                                     |
|---|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 8. Does your study work with test persons or patients?  | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>            |
|   | yes                                 | no                                  |
| 9. Do children, persons who are incapable of giving consent or other especially vulnerable populations play a role in your study? | <input type="checkbox"/>            | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
|   | yes                                 | no                                  |
| 10. In your study, are you working with human tissue?   | <input type="checkbox"/>            | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
|   | yes                                 | no                                  |

11. How will the test persons or rather their attendants or their legal representatives be provided with information about the project?

Along with this application, I am sending in a consent form. Subjects will also be informed of the investigated research question after completing the study.

*Please enclose the information sheets and declaration of consent which has to be signed (legal consent).*

- |   |                          |                                     |
|---|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 12. Does your research affect the interests of test persons/patients/study participants? Could their participation in your research project affect the interests of legally relevant third parties, e.g. relatives? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
|   | yes                      | no                                  |

*If you answer yes to this question, please also answer question 13.*

13. If question 12 applies to your research project, please specify possible interests of those persons.

Click the box to enter text.

14. What personal details are generated and used for your research (e.g. contact data/characteristics/research data)?

We will collect evaluations of concepts. In other words, the subjects will rate a concept based on a 5-point scale and we will note down the selected value. In addition, we will ask for demographic information such as age, sex, first language, and educational level.

15. If you are collecting personal details, what technical and organizational measures are adopted to protect this information from misuse?

Each subject is assigned an ID and the data is anonymized. In addition, we will store the data encrypted on the MPG server.

*If you have a separate data privacy document, please attach it to this application.*

16. Are you using tissue of living or deceased persons?

☐
☒

*If you answer yes to this question, please also answer questions 17 and 18*

yes

no

17. Please specify the sources from which you obtain the human tissue or material?

Click the box to enter text.

*e.g. tissue or gene database*

18. Was it possible to inform the tissue donors about the research project? Is there a declaration of consent?

☐
☐

yes

no

*If so, please attach the declaration of consent form.*

19. Does the research involve human embryonic stem cells?

☐
☒

*If so, please attach the appropriate permit on the import of the respective cell lines<sup>1</sup>.*

yes

no

### Research Involving Animals

**Note: The competent authorities are responsible for assessing and approving animal experiments. If your research project includes animal experiments and if you require a vote by the Ethics Council in addition to the required authorization, information on the animal experiments involved (animal species, amount, intervention depth etc.) and the official approvals should be contained in your application.**

20. Does your study include animal experiments in any way?

☐
☒

*If so, please enclose the official authorization documents.*

yes

no

21. Do you require a vote by the Ethics Council for these animal experiments above and beyond the legally required official approvals?

☐
☒

yes

no

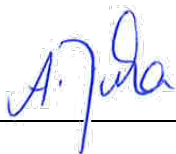
<sup>1</sup> German legislation is dealing with human embryonic stem cells in the Stammzellgesetz (StZG, a statute of June 28, 2002, current version of March 29, 2017 - <https://www.gesetze-im-internet.de/bundesrecht/stzg/gesamt.pdf>). Production and use are in principle forbidden. There is a possibility for researchers to import and use stem cells generated before a certain closing date (currently May 1, 2007) from abroad under certain conditions. The competent authority for authorization and control are the Federal Ministry of Health as well as the Central Ethics Committee for Stem Cell Research. The Ethics Council of the Max Planck Society is not the competent authority for those approvals. Any investigation by the Ethics Council of the Max Planck Society is only possible if you require an ethics approval in addition to the authorization mandatory by law, e.g. within the Max Planck Society, for third-party funding sources or publishers of scientific publications.

**Research Involving Plants**

- |   |                          |                                     |
|---|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 22. Does your study use genetically modified plant material?  | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
|   | yes                      | no                                  |
| 23. Does your research project contain works with genetic tools such as the CRISPR technology or comparable technologies?             | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
|   | yes                      | no                                  |
| 24. Is it a release experiment?   | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| <i>If so, please enclose the official approval documents.</i>   | yes                      | no                                  |
| 25. Do you require a vote by the Ethics Council for this release experiment above and beyond the legally required official approvals? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
|   | yes                      | no                                  |

**I herewith confirm that I have answered all questions posed by the Ethics Council of the Max Planck Society truthfully and to the best of my knowledge**

16.03.2022  
Date, place

  
Applicant

16.03.2022  
Date, place

Responsible Max Planck Director or  
responsible Max Planck Research Group Leader