

AVA KIAI

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ABOUT

Hello! I'm passionate about the evolution & neurobiology of language and vocal communication in humans and other animals. My background is in cognitive science. In my PhD, I study a species of fruit bat (*Carollia perspicillata*) as a model to understand how the mammalian brain supports the flexible use of social vocalizations. I'm always eager to share a love for biology, music, and the outdoors.

EDUCATION

Goethe Universität Department of Biology Doctoral Candidate	<i>2020 - present</i> <i>Frankfurt</i>
École des hautes études en sciences sociales/École normale supérieure Department of Cognitive Studies Master of Science, with honors	<i>2017 - 2018</i> <i>Paris</i>
Université de Paris 1: Pantheon-Sorbonne Department of Philosophy Master 1 (1st year of Masters)	<i>2016 - 2017</i> <i>Paris</i>
New York University College of Arts and Science Bachelor of Arts, with honors	<i>2011 - 2015</i> <i>New York</i>
John L. Miller Great Neck North High School High School Diploma	<i>2007 - 2011</i> <i>Great Neck</i>

EXPERIENCE

Institute for Cell Biology & Neuroscience, Goethe University <i>Auditory Computations Group</i> Doctoral Candidate Supervisors: Dr. Julio Hechavarría, Dr. Manfred Kössl, Dr. David Poeppel	<i>11/2020 - present</i> <i>Frankfurt</i>
Max Planck Institute for Empirical Aesthetics <i>Neuroscience Department</i> Scientific Researcher	<i>02/2018 - present</i> <i>Frankfurt</i>
NeuroSpin, INSERM/CEA-Saclay <i>Brain Dynamics Group</i> Student Researcher Supervisor: Dr. Virginie van Wassenhove	<i>05/2017 - 01/2018</i> <i>Gif-sur-Yvette</i>
Freelance Biographer Research Assistant	<i>01/2015 - 08/2016</i> <i>New York</i>
Conceptual Development & Social Cognition Lab, NYU Undergraduate Research Assistant Supervisor: Dr. Marjorie Rhodes	<i>07 - 09/2014</i> <i>New York</i>
Davachi Lab, NYU Undergraduate Research Assistant Supervisor: Dr. Lila Davachi	<i>03 - 05/2013</i> <i>New York</i>

SELECTED PUBLICATIONS

Kiai, A., Melloni, L. (2021) What canonical online and offline measures of statistical learning can and cannot tell us. *bioRxiv*

Kiai, A. (2019) To protect credibility in science, banish “publish or perish.” *Nature Human Behavior*, 3, 1017-1018.

Kiai, A. (2018) Pinker’s (1994) *The Language Instinct*. Shackelford T., Weekes-Shackelford V. (Eds) *Encyclopedia of Evolutionary Psychological Science*. Springer, Cham.

Kiai, A. (2018) Steven Pinker. Shackelford T., Weekes-Shackelford V. (Eds) *Encyclopedia of Evolutionary Psychological Science*. Springer, Cham.

TEACHING

Experimental Psychology Practical Course (BSc), Winter 2021-2022, Psychology Department, Goethe University. [Course Jupyter Book](#)

SCHOLARSHIPS & AWARDS

Main-Campus-doctus PhD Scholarship, Stiftung Polytechnische Gesellschaft, 2020-2023.

Deans Undergraduate Research Fund Grant, NYU College of Arts & Science, 2015.

French Department Book Award, NYU College of Arts & Science, 2014.

TALKS

“The Neustadt and the Grande-Ile: The Urban Transformation of Strasbourg at the Crossroads of France and Germany,” NYU Undergraduate Research Conference 2015. *Inquiry*, Vol. XIX.

SCIENTIFIC OUTREACH

[Skype a Scientist](#) (2021)

[Deutsche Neurowissenschaften Olympiade](#) (2019)

OTHER SKILLS, INTERESTS & ACTIVITIES

Languages	English (native), French (fluent), Farsi (fluent), German (advanced)
Music	Classical violin, KOMMchester (Goethe Uniklinikum Orchestra, 2019 - present)
Sports & Outdoors	Long-distance cycling, swimming, rock climbing, bouldering, alpine hiking
Debate Societies	Stoa Reading Group (2020 - present) Socratic Happy Hour , NYU (Co-founder, 2015)
	Le Cercle de la Sorbonne, University of Paris I (Co-founder, 2016)
Volunteering	Housingworks Bookstore & Café (2016)