

Elena Benini

PostDoc Researcher at RWTH Aachen University: [Homepage](#)

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Education

Postdoc Researcher, Psychology

Field: Cognitive and Experimental Psychology

RWTH Aachen

June, 2024 - Present

PhD Candidate, Psychology

Field: Cognitive and Experimental Psychology

RWTH Aachen

November 2019 - May 2024

Supervisors: Andrea M. Philipp, Ph.D., Iring Koch, Ph.D.

Dissertation title: The role of feature binding and episodic retrieval processes in task switching with a special focus on binding and retrieval of task-irrelevant contextual features.

Defense date: May 14th, 2024

M.Sc. in Applied Experimental Psychological Sciences

Final grade: 110/110 with distinction

Milan-Bicocca University, Milan

October 2019

Master's thesis supervisor: Carlo Reverberi

Time abroad: "Erasmus" traineeship with Giosuè Baggio

at NTNU, Trondheim, Norway

Bachelor degree in "Psychology and Mental Health"

Final Grade: 110/110 with distinction

"La Sapienza" University, Rome

July 2017

Bachelor thesis supervisors: Fabio Ferlazzo, Stefano Sdoia

Time abroad: "Erasmus" project at Universidad de Zaragoza,

Teruel, Spain

Academic experience

Invited Talks

Wilfried Kunde's lab at Würzburg University (9th December 2024) • Martin Fischer's lab at Postdam University (online), March 2024 • Jan de Houwer and Senne Braem's labs at Ghent University (in person), January 2024 • Christian Frings' Lab at Trier University (in person), February 2024 • Tamar Gollan's lab at University California San Diego (online), January 2024.

Teaching

Taught hands-on course (experiment design, data analyses with R, results interpretation) in Psychology Bachelor for 5 semesters. April 2021 - July 2023. Supervised two Bachelor's theses.

Lab Visit

February 2025, 8-weeks lab visit at the University of Zurich with Klaus Oberauer.
• September 2022, four-weeks lab visit at the University of Passau, Germany, with Susanne Mayr and Malte Möller.

Professional Service

Peer Reviewer

Reviewed more than 10 empirical articles for the following outlets: • Journal of Experimental Psychology: Learning Memory and Cognition • Journal of Experimental Psychology: Human Perception and Performance • Journal of Cognition • Attention, Perception & Psychophysics • Memory & Cognition • Psychological Research • Frontiers • Cognitive, Behavioural, & Affective Neuroscience

Professional Service (Continued)

Conferences	Organized and chaired a double symposium about feature binding and episodic retrieval at the TeaP conference in Trier in 2023 and in Regensburg in 2024 (with Tom Verguts and Mengqiao Chai from Ghent University among the invited speakers).
Others	Organizing a symposium with Dr. Luca Moretti about conflict adaptation in single- and multi-tasking paradigm that will take place in Aachen in July, 2025 and includes 8 invited speakers from the US, Belgium, Italy, France and Germany. • Organized an online meeting of the Women+ in Control group, with prof. Miriam Gade, prof. Eva Van den Bussche and dr. Kerstin Froeber and served as chairperson.

Grants

RWTH Start-Up Grant 2024	Received funding for a project proposal including 4 experiments and a lab visit in the US (ca. €16k)
DFG International Events Grant	I applied as a co-organizer for a Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft (German Research Foundation) grant to fund an international symposium in Aachen that was awarded to Luca Moretti (MO 4887/3-1 ca. €3,600).
Gorilla Grants 2020	Won platform credit to run ca. 100 participants on the Gorilla Experiment Builder Platform (ca. €100) https://app.gorilla.sc/grants/winners2020

Publications

- Strivens, A., Lavric, A., Benini, E., Philipp, A. M., and Koch, I. (2025). The effect of preparation on binding between spatial and non-spatial features of voices in a multitalker setting. *Psychological Research*, 89(2):88.
- Benini**, E., Koch, I., Mayr, S., Frings, C., and Philipp, A. M. (2022). Contextual features of the cue enter episodic bindings in task switching. *Journal of Cognition*, 5(8):1–17.
- Benini**, E., Koch, I., Mayr, S., Frings, C., and Philipp, A. M. (2023a). Binding of task-irrelevant contextual features in task switching. *Quarterly Journal of Experimental Psychology*, 76(8):1872–1888.
- Benini**, E., Koch, I., and Philipp, A. M. (2024). Repetition costs in task switching are not equal to cue switching costs: evidence from a cue-independent context. *Psychological Research*, 88(3):910–920.
- Benini**, E., Möller, M., Koch, I., Philipp, A. M., Qiu, R., and Mayr, S. (2023b). Evidence of task-triggered retrieval of the previous response: a binding perspective on response-repetition benefits in task switching. *Psychonomic Bulletin & Review*, Advance Online Publication.
- Contreras-Saavedra, C. E., Willmes, K., Koch, I., Schuch, S., **Benini**, E., and Philipp, A. M. (2020). Multilingual two-digit number naming: The influence of composition rules on language switching. *Quarterly Journal of Experimental Psychology*, 73(9):1481–1494.
- Frings*, C., Beste*, C., **Benini***, E., Möller*, M., Dignath, D., Giesen, C. G., Hommel, B., Kiesel, A., Koch, I., Kunde, W., Mayr, S., Mocke, V., Moeller, B., Münchau, A., Parmar, J., Pastötter, B., Pfister, R., Philipp, A. M., Qiu, R., Render, A., Rothermund, K., Schiltenswolf, M., and Schmalbrock, P. (2024). Consensus definitions of perception-action-integration in action control. *Communications Psychology*, 2(1):7.

Mocke, V., **Benini**, E., Parmar, J., Schiltenswolf, M., and Kunde, W. (2023). What is behind partial repetition costs? Event-files do not fully occupy bound feature codes. *Psychonomic Bulletin Review*, 30(4):1463–1474.

Papageorgiou, K. A., **Benini**, E., Bilello, D., Gianniou, F., Clough, P. J., and Costantini, G. (2019). Bridging the gap: A network approach to Dark Triad, Mental Toughness, the Big Five, and perceived stress. *Journal of Personality*, 87(6):1250–1263.

*shared first authorship

Manuscripts in preparation or submitted

Benini, E., Moeller, M., Mayr, S., Koch, I., Qiu, R., Grange, J., Philipp, A. M., and Moretti, L. Repeating the response retrieves the task: An MPT model approach to the influence of response selection on task selection.

Benini, E., Mocke, V. (Submitted) Spatial Numerical Associations in the Absence of Lateralized Codes: Magnitude Processing Creates Horizontal Biases in Vertical Mouse Movements

Benini, E., Hazeltine, E., Weissman, D., Koch, I. (Submitted) Evidence for the contribution of a signalling heuristic during cued task switching: Increasing the number of response alternatives can reduce response-repetition costs

Benini, E., Koch, I., Mayr, S., and Philipp, A. M. Context binding in language switching.

Conferences Attended as a Presenter

Psychonomics annual meeting, New York, 2024. Poster: "Episodic retrieval in task switching: Repeating the response induces retrieval of the task"

Teap, Regensburg 2024. Symposium talk: "Evidence of episodic retrieval in task switching: Repeating the response retrieves the task and vice versa"

NeuroMi, annual meeting of Milan center for neuroscience, Milan, 2023. Poster: "Compositionality of neural representations of logical rules: an fMRI study"

Psychonomics annual meeting, San Francisco, 2023. Poster: "Evidence of Task-triggered retrieval of the previous response: A binding perspective on response-repetition benefits in task switching"

Meeting of the DFG-funded Research Unit "Binding and Retrieval in Action Control" with international guests, Trier 2023. Talk and poster on the topic "Binding of task-irrelevant contextual features in task switching: Results and perspectives"

Teap, Trier 2023. Symposium talk: "A Repeating task retrieves the previous response in task switching.". Attended pre-conference workshop about an introduction to bayesian statistics with JASP

Psychonomics annual meeting, Boston, 2022. Poster: "Binding of task-irrelevant contextual dimensions in language switching."

NeuroMi, annual meeting of Milan center for neuroscience, Milan, November 2022. Poster: "Putting pieces together: how logical connectives combine propositions. An fMRI study."

ESCoP, Lille, 2022. Symposium talk: Benini, E., Koch, I., Mayr, S., Frings, C., Philipp, A.M. Binding of task-irrelevant contextual features in task-switching.

Teap, Cologne (online), 2022. Talk: "Binding of task-irrelevant cue features in cued language-switching."

Psychonomics annual meeting, New Orleans (online) 2021. Poster: "Binding of task-irrelevant contextual features in task switching."

ADok conference for PhD students, Würzburg, June 2021. Talk: "Is language bound in task switching when it is task-irrelevant?"

Teap, Ulm (online), 2021. Talk: "Binding of task-irrelevant contextual features in task-switching".
Attended pre-conference workshop about Multinomial Processing Tree Models.

Summer/Winter Schools and Workshops

Amsterdam, July 2024. "Model-Based Neuroscience and Cognition Summer School".

Mannheim, June 2023. "An introduction to cognitive modelling" workshop organized by the Statistical Modeling in Psychology (SMiP) program.

TeaP 2022 (online), pre-conference workshop: "Multinomial Processing Tree Modeling: Basic Methods and Recent Advances"

Milan (online), December 2022. "Intensive course on the analysis of power"

Hamburg (online) September 2021. "Cognitive Modeling Academy Hamburg" (CMAH) An introduction to cognitive models and hands-on exercises about reinforcement learning models and drift diffusion models.

Chalmers (online) September 2020. Workshop organized by the IDEA League about "Analysis and Modelling of Road User Behavior".

Technical skills

Programming Languages/Tools	RStudio, Python, git, Matlab, MS office package, multiTree
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Language proficiencies

Italian	Native
English	Very fluent
Spanish, German	Intermediate