

Anna-Kristin Kaufmann

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After getting my university entrance diploma from the Waldorf School in my hometown, I moved to Munich to study philosophy at the Munich School of Philosophy and biology at the Ludwig Maximilian University of Munich. While my studies in philosophy allowed me to ask fundamental questions and learn about ways to more formally address them, I particularly appreciated learning the scientific evidence-based method through my studies in biology. In my final year of my BSc in biology, I specialised in neuroscience and worked on the vestibular system for my bachelor's thesis. Neuroscience in the broadest sense allowed me to combine my interest in philosophical questions and appreciation of the scientific method.

After graduating in philosophy and biology, I started an MSc in neuroscience at the University of Oxford. During my MSc, I highly valued working together with classmates with diverse backgrounds, ranging from linguistics to physics and engineering. My first research project focused on language processing and my second project on the development of cortical microcircuits.

Following my MSc, I decided to stay in Oxford to pursue my PhD. My PhD project focused on the dopamine system in the midbrain and how it is affected by Parkinson's disease. Being faced with the challenge of handling and storing heterogeneous types of data I generated during my PhD, I developed a strong interest in the management of scientific data to allow for traceability and reproducibility of results. This led me to search for positions with a focus on the management of neuroscientific data and thus to join Blue Brain as Data Integration Specialist after completing my PhD.

At Blue Brain, I work in the Data and Knowledge Engineering team as the Data Integration Specialist. I work on the integration of experimental data generated in the LNMIC laboratory at EPFL or provided to us by collaborators via Blue Brain's data management platform Blue Brain Nexus. I greatly enjoy working with neuroscientific data while learning a lot about challenges and solutions regarding data management.

My spare time is largely spent on sports (I am a passionate handball player and recently picked up boxing), outdoors (I love mountains and lakes) or with books (fiction and non-fiction).

