

Eva-Madeleine Schmidt

Doctoral Researcher – AI and Emotions

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Education

2019 – 2022

Technical University Munich

M.Sc. Human Factors Engineering – GPA: 1.1 (grade scale from 6 to 1)

Thesis: Mood Induction Through Imitation of Full-body Movements With Different Affective Intentions (published pre-registered report in British Journal of Psychology)

2020 – 2022

Open University of Catalonia, Barcelona (Spain)

M.Sc. Neuropsychology – GPA: 9.1 (grade scale from 0 to 10)

Thesis: Plasticity of Socio Emotional Competencies on Behavior and Brain Level in Children: A Virtual Reality Based Approach

2016 – 2017

Autonomous University of Madrid (Spain)

Exchange semester – Erasmus+

2014 – 2018

Heidelberg University

B.Sc. Psychology – GPA: 1.3 (grade scale from 6 to 1)

Thesis: Transformational Leadership - The Importance of Affective Commitment and Perceived Organizational Support for Employee Well-being

Research Experience

09/2025 – 01/2026

University College London

Visiting researcher (DAAD funded) – Affective Brain Lab (Prof. Tali Sharot)

2023 – current

Max Planck Institute for Human Development

Doctoral researcher – Center for Humans and Machines (Dr. Iyad Rahwan)

06/2023

University of Oxford

Visiting researcher – Department of Computer Science, Human Centered Computing Group (Prof. Marina Jirotka)

04/2023 – 06/2023

Max Planck Institute for Cognitive and Brain Sciences

Lab rotation – Mind-Body-Emotion Group (Dr. Michael Gaebler)

Focus areas: VR, continuous measures of affect

01/2023 – 03/2023

Max Planck Institute for Human Development

Lab rotation – Center for Humans and Machines (Dr. Iyad Rahwan)

Focus areas: LLMs, social preferences, human-machine interaction

09/2022 – 12/2022

Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin

Lab rotation – Clinical Psychology of Social Interaction group (Prof. Isabel Dziobek)

Focus areas: emotional competences, fMRI, rDoC, autism

2022 – current

Max Planck School of Cognition

Doctoral researcher

2022 – current

Max Planck Institute for Empirical Aesthetics

Honorary Contract

2021 – 2022

Max Planck Institute for Empirical Aesthetics

Research Assistant – Department of Cognitive Neuropsychology (Dr. Julia Christensen)

Focus areas: embodied emotion; cross-cultural and personality differences

Teaching Experience

2023 – 2025

TUM: Junge Akademie

Tutor for interdisciplinary research team on LLM-based analysis of ethics and morality

2020 – 2021

Technical University of Munich

Tutor – Introduction to Informatics

Organization of Conferences & Other Activities

01/2026	Max Planck Science Policy Winter School
09/2025 – current	Mentor, MAXMINDS Program, Max Planck Society Supporting at-risk early-career researchers through mentoring on career paths, intercultural challenges, contributing to diversity and inclusion in international research
2023 – current	Applicant Support Program, Max Planck School of Cognition Providing feedback on PhD applications to support prospective candidates and ensure transparent, inclusive selection processes
09/2024	EADM Summer School on LLMs in Behavioral Science, Berlin Co-organization of a 1-week Summer School
07/2024	Max Planck Schools of Cognition Summer Academy, Dresden Organization of a 1-week Summer Academy
05/2024 – current	Elected PhD Representative, Max Planck Institute for Human Development Initiated and led a Work-Life Balance initiative, including the development and implementation of a comprehensive survey to assess researcher needs and improve institutional support

Invited Talks & Conference Presentations

09/2025	BPS Social Psychology Section Annual Conference, Oxford Presentation Title: Can AI Undermine Empathy? Testing the Impact of AI-Based Facial Neutralization on Empathy and Prosociality
08/2025	CogSci Conference, San Francisco Poster Presentation Title: Can AI Undermine Empathy? Testing the Impact of AI-Based Facial Neutralization on Empathy and Prosociality
11/2024	Postdisciplinary Colloquium for Artistic-Scientific Research, Universität der Künste and Technical University Berlin Talk on the reciprocal relationships between technology and society
09/2024	Max Planck Schools Day, Berlin Selected to represent Max Planck School of Cognition, 5-minute flash talk
09/2024	University of Granada (Prof. Ana Gallego Cuiñas) Invited talk on the use of AI in humanities and social sciences research Title: Las humanidades ante la IA – perspectivas metodológicas
03/2024	Mind Brain Body Symposium Poster Presentation Title: Affective and Behavioral Effects of Other-Alteration Through AI-Based Face Altering Technologies

Scholarships/Awards

2025	DAAD Research Grant Scholarship for a 4-month research stay at University College London (UCL)
2023	Heinz-Schmidtke-Preis for best graduate of year 2022/23, awarded by Technical University Munich
2020 – 2022	TUM: Junge Akademie Scholarship for 22-month interdisciplinary research project on opinion polarization; member of student board
2020 – 2022	Hans-Böckler-Stiftung Scholarship as part of the Federal Ministry of Education and Research's programs for gifted students; elected member of the student representative committee

Other activities

2025 – current	D64 (Center for Digital Progress) engagement
2025 – current	Art/Science collaboration with Jenny Brockmann on connectedness across special distance
2018 – current	Worker's union engagement (IG Metall / GEW)

Publications

- Schmidt, E.-M.**, Dong, M., Bersch, C., Köbis, N., Bonnefon, J., Rahwan, I. (2025) First Interactions with Generative Chatbots Shape Local but Not Global Sentiments About AI. *Computers in Human Behavior: Artificial Humans*. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.chbah.2025.100223>
- Christensen, J. F., **Schmidt, E.-M.**, Frieler, K., Smith-Chase, R. A., Sancho-Escanero, L., Michalareas, G., ... & Cross, E. S. (2025). Aesthetic appeal of dance actions depends on expressivity, liveness and audience characteristics. *Cognition*, 263, 106152. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.cognition.2025.106152>
- Schmidt, E.-M.**, Bonati, S., Köbis, N., & Soraperra, I. (2024). GPT-3.5 altruistic advice is sensitive to reciprocal concerns but not to strategic risk. *Scientific Reports*, 14(1), 22274. <https://doi.org/10.1038/s41598-024-73306-x>
- Christensen, J. F., Wesseldijk, L. W., Mosing, M. A., Fayn, K., **Schmidt, E.-M.**, Blattmann, M., Sancho-Escanero, L., Ullén, F. (2024). The dancer personality: Comparing dancers and non-dancers in Germany and Sweden. *Personality and Individual Differences*, 222, 112603. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.paid.2024.112603>
- Christensen, J. F., Fernández, A., Smith, R. A., Michalareas, G., Yazdi, S. H., Farahi, F., **Schmidt, E.-M.**, & Roig, G. (2024). EMOKINE: A software package and computational framework for scaling up the creation of highly controlled emotional full-body movement datasets. *Behavior Research Methods*, 56(7), 7498-7542. <https://doi.org/10.3758/s13428-024-02433-0>
- Schmidt, E.-M.**, Smith, R., Fernández, A., Emmermann, B., & Christensen, J. F. (2023). Mood Induction Through Imitation of Full-body Movements With Different Affective Intentions. *British Journal of Psychology*, 115(1), 148-180. <https://doi.org/10.1111/bjop.12681> [M.Sc. Thesis]
- Christensen, J. F., Bruhn, L., **Schmidt, E.-M.**, Bahmanian, N., Yazdi, S. H. N., Farahi, F., Sancho-Escanero, L., Menninghaus, W. (2023). A 5-emotions stimuli set for emotion perception research with full-body dance movements. *Scientific Reports*, 13(1), 8757. <https://doi.org/10.1038/s41598-023-33656-4>

Additional Skills

Language skills	German (mother tongue), English (fluent), Spanish (fluent), French (A2), Chinese (HSK2/A2)
Computer skills	Statistics programs: SPSS, R; Programming languages: Java, Python, C#; Web design: HTML, CSS, Java Script; Virtual Reality: Unity; CAD: Fusion
Scientific Methods	Surveys and behavioral experiments (extensive); VR (extensive); ECG (practical experience); fMRI, EEG (basic practical experience in data collection and analysis)