

Friederike Contier

Postdoc in Cognitive Neuroscience
University of Potsdam
Née Friederike **Schütte**

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Education

- 2025 **PhD, University of Potsdam, Germany**
Dr. Phil in Psychology
Summa cum laude (highest distinction)
Thesis: “The P600, norepinephrine, and domain-general processes during sentence comprehension” (defended 26 Feb 2025)
Advisors: Prof. Dr. Milena Rabovsky, Prof. Dr. Mathias Weymar, & Prof. Dr. Isabell Wartenburger
External reviewer: Gina R. Kuperberg, PhD (Tufts University, US)
- 2018 – 2020 **PhD student, University of Göttingen, Germany**
PhD project: “Learning from reliable and unreliable speakers”
Advisors: Dr. Tanya Behne, Prof. Dr. Nivedita Mani
- 2018 **M.A., University of Erfurt, Germany**
Applied Linguistics – Acquisition, Processing and Use of Language
Grade: 1.0¹
- 2015 **B.A., European University Viadrina Frankfurt (Oder), Germany**
Cultural and Social Studies & Sciences
Grade: 1.2¹
Exchange semester at Malmö Högskola, Sweden

¹German grading scale: 1.0 = excellent, 5.0 = fail

Peer-reviewed Publications

- Contier, F.**, Höger, M., & Rabovsky, M. (2025)^P. The P600 during sentence reading predicts behavioral and neural markers of recognition memory. *Journal of Cognitive Neuroscience*, 1-20. <https://doi.org/10.1162/jocn.a.68>
- Xiao, H., Schweppe, J., Querella, P., Attout, L., **Contier, F.**, & Majerus, S. (2025)^P. Syntactic knowledge does support working memory for serial order: A comparison across French and German languages. *Memory & Cognition*. <https://doi.org/10.3758/s13421-025-01788-9>
- Contier, F.**, Wartenburger, I., Weymar, M., & Rabovsky, M. (2024)^P. Are the P600 and P3 ERP components linked to the task-evoked pupillary response as a correlate of norepinephrine activity? *Psychophysiology*, 61(7), e14565. <https://doi.org/10.1111/psyp.14565>
- Bleijlevens, N., **Contier, F.**, & Behne, T. (2023)^P. Pragmatics Aid Referent Disambiguation and Word Learning in Young Children and Adults. *Developmental Science*, 26(4). <https://doi.org/10.1111/desc.13363>

Contier, F., Weymar, M., Wartenburger, I., & Rabovsky, M. (2022). Sustained Attention as Measured by Reaction Time Variability Is a Strong Modulator for the P600, but Not the N400. *Journal of Cognitive Neuroscience*, 34(12). 2297-2310. https://doi.org/10.1162/jocn_a_01918

Schweppe*, J., **Schütte*, F.,** Machleb, F., & Hellfritsch, M. (2021)^P. Syntax, morphosyntax, and serial recall: How language supports short-term memory. *Memory & Cognition*, 50. 174-191. <https://doi.org/10.3758/s13421-021-01203-z>

Schütte, F., Mani, N., & Behne, T. (2020)^P. Retrospective inferences in selective trust. *Royal Society Open Science*, 7(2), 1-11. <https://doi.org/10.1098/rsos.191451>

Fritz, T.H., **Schütte, F.,** Steixner, A., Contier, O., Obrig, H., & Villringer, A. (2019). Musical meaning modulates word acquisition. *Brain and Language*, 190(3). 10-15. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.bandl.2018.12.001>

Publications in Progress

Contier, F., Wartenburger, I., Weymar, M., & Rabovsky, M. (in revision)^P. No effect of continuous transcutaneous auricular vagus nerve stimulation on the P3 and the P600 in an oddball and sentence comprehension task. *Psychophysiology*. Link to preprint: <https://doi.org/10.1101/2025.09.05.674460>

^P Preregistered * Equal contribution

Invited Talks

IDEALAB Doctoral Program Summer School (October 2025). The P600 and Domain-General Mechanisms of Sentence Comprehension. *Invited talk, Potsdam University.*

Contributions to Conferences

Contier, F. & Rabovsky, M. (2023, October). The P600 during sentence reading predicts behavioral and neural markers of recognition memory. *Poster presented at the 15th annual meeting of the Society of the Neurobiology of Language, Marseille, France, October 24-26, 2023.*

Contier, F., Höger, M., & Rabovsky, M. (2022, October). The P600 and explicit memory formation. *Poster presented at the 14th annual meeting of the Society of the Neurobiology of Language, Philadelphia, US, October 6-8, 2022.*

Contier, F., Weymar, M., Wartenburger, I., & Rabovsky, M. (2022, October). Phasic norepinephrine release during sentence comprehension? Influence of transcutaneous auricular vagus nerve stimulation on the P600. *Poster presented at the 14th annual meeting of the Society of the Neurobiology of Language, Philadelphia, US, October 6-8, 2022.*

Contier, F., Weymar, M., Wartenburger, I., & Rabovsky, M. (2022, July). The P600 and P3 ERP components are linked to pupil dilation as correlate of norepinephrine activity. *Poster presented at the 47th Annual Conference of the Cognitive Science Society, Toronto, Canada, July 27-30, 2022.*

Contier, F., Weymar, M., Wartenburger, I., & Rabovsky, M. (2022, June). The P600 and P3 are linked to noradrenergic activity: Evidence from EEG and pupillometry. *Poster presented at the 47th Annual Conference of Psychology and the Brain, Freiburg, Germany, June 16-18, 2022.*

Contier, F., Wartenburger, I., Weymar, M., & Rabovsky, M. (2022, March). Co-registration of EEG and pupil size links the P600 to norepinephrine activity. *Poster presented at Neurobiology of Language - Key Issues and Ways Forward II, hosted by the MPI for Psycholinguistics, virtual, March 16-17, 2022.*

Schütte, F., Wartenburger, I., Weymar, M., & Rabovsky, M. (2021, October). The P600, but not the N400, is modulated by sustained attention. *Short talk held at the 13th annual meeting of the Society of the Neurobiology of Language, virtual, October 5-8, 2021.*

- Schütte, F.**, Wartenburger, I., Weymar, M., & Rabovsky, M. (2021, September). Is the P600 linked to phasic noradrenaline release? Relating ERPs to pupil size in a sentence processing paradigm. *Short talk held at the Architectures and Mechanisms for Language Processing (AMLaP) Conference, Paris, France, September 2-4, 2021.*
- Bleijlevens, N., **Schütte, F.**, & Behne, T. (2021, August-September). Do pragmatic inferences aid word learning in young children and adults? *Poster presented at the 28th Conference of the European Society for Philosophy and Psychology, Leipzig, Germany, August 30 - September 2, 2021.*
- Bleijlevens, N., **Schütte, F.**, & Behne, T. (2021, January). The role of object novelty and pragmatic reasoning in referent selection and retention. *Poster presented at the Budapest CEU Conference on Cognitive Development, Budapest, Hungary, January 4-8, 2021.*
- Schweppe, J., **Schütte, F.**, & Hellfritsch, M. (2020, September). Syntax, morphosyntax, and serial recall: How language supports short-term memory for order. *Talk held at the 10th European Working Memory Symposium, Cardiff University, Cardiff, UK, September 1-3, 2020.*
- Schütte, F.**, Schweppe, J., & Hellfritsch, M. (2020, June). Verbal short-term memory without language processing? The role of syntax and morpho-syntax. *Poster presented at IMPRS Conference, Nijmegen, The Netherlands, June 3-5, 2020.*
- Schütte, F.**, Mani, N., & Behne, T. (2020, January). „Now I know who was right before!“ When learning from others, preschoolers consider subsequent cues of informant reliability. *Poster presented at the Budapest CEU Conference on Cognitive Development, Budapest, Hungary, January 9-11, 2020.*
- Schütte, F.**, Mani, N., & Behne, T. (2019, October). Preschoolers Make Retrospective Inferences in Their Selective Trust Choices. *Poster presented at the Bi-Ennial Conference of the Cognitive Development Society, Louisville, Kentucky, US, October 17-19, 2019.*
- Schütte, F.**, Mani, N., & Behne, T. (2019, September). Retrospective inferences in selective trust. *Talk within the symposium on “Preschoolers selective trust in different contexts”, paEpsy, Leipzig, September 9-12, 2019.*
- Schweppe, J., **Schütte, F.**, Machleb, F. & Rummer, R., (2018, August). Immediate serial recall at the transition from unrelated word lists to sentences. *Poster presented at the 9th European Working Memory Symposium, Pavia, Italy, August 29-31, 2018.*
- Schütte, F.** & De Houwer, A. (2018, May). Production and comprehension of translation equivalents in 24 months old bilingual toddlers: An investigation on the basis of M-CDI and FRAKIS data. *Poster presented at the Harmonious Bilingual Network Colloquium, La Hulpe, Belgium, May 24-26, 2018.*

Skills

Methods	EEG/ERP, eye-tracking/pupillometry, behavioral testing, language screenings, transcutaneous auricular vagus nerve stimulation
IT	Stimulus presentation: <i>PsychToolBox</i> , <i>E-Prime</i> , <i>Experiment Builder</i> Data processing: <i>EEGLAB</i> & <i>ERPLAB</i> , <i>P/ICA</i> , <i>pupillometryR</i> Statistics: <i>SPSS</i> , <i>JASP</i> , <i>lme4</i> /mixed effects models in <i>R</i> Programming languages: <i>R</i> (proficient), <i>MATLAB</i> (proficient), <i>Python</i> (beginner)
Languages	German (native), English (fluent), Spanish (Intermediate), Swedish (beginner), German Sign Language (beginner)

Research Experience

April 2025 – current	Research staff position (postdoc), University of Potsdam, Germany Cognitive Neuroscience Lab (M. Rabovsky)
2020 – 2025	Research staff position (predoc), University of Potsdam, Germany Cognitive Neuroscience Lab (M. Rabovsky)
2018 – 2020	Research staff position (predoc), University of Göttingen, Germany Cognitive Development Lab (T. Behne)
2018	Research staff position, University of Erfurt, Germany Cognitive and Instructional Psychology Lab (J. Schweppe)
2017 – 2018	Research assistant, University of Erfurt, Germany Language Acquisition and Multilingualism Lab (A. De Houwer)
2017	Research trainee, Max Planck Institute for Psycholinguistics, Nijmegen, The Netherlands Psychology of Language Department (S. Lev-Ari)
2016 – 2018	Research assistant, University of Erfurt, Germany Cognitive and Instructional Psychology Lab (R. Rummer, J. Schweppe)
2014 – 2015	Visiting researcher, Max Planck Institute for Human Cognitive and Brain Sciences, Leipzig, Germany Department of Neurology (T.H. Fritz)
2013 – 2015	Research assistant, European University Viadrina Frankfurt (Oder), Germany Pragmatics and Contrastive Linguistics Lab (P. Rosenberg)

Awards & grants

Travel grant, Potsdam Graduate School (2022)
Paper of the Month, Research Focus Cognitive Sciences, University of Potsdam (2022)
Travel grant, German Association of (Developmental) Psychology (2019)
Erasmus+ stipend for international internships (2017)
Erasmus stipend for semester abroad (2013-14)

Further experience

Ad hoc reviewing	<i>Psychological Science, Human Brain Mapping, Journal of Cognitive Neuroscience, Psychophysiology, Journal of Psychophysiology</i>
Teaching	European University Viadrina Frankfurt (Oder), Germany Tutor & teaching assistant (2012-2015)
Supervision	<i>Master's theses:</i> L. Wenke (current, U Potsdam) M. Urbaniak (2021, U Potsdam, with Prof. Milena Rabovsky) N. Bleijlevens, E. Yildirim (2020, U Göttingen, with Dr. Tanya Behne)

Bachelor's theses:

A. Sterzik, M. Höger (2022, U Potsdam, with Prof. Milena Rabovsky)

M. Hellfritsch, F. Schwenzer, H. Weber (2018, U Erfurt, with Prof. Judith Schweppe)

Research interns:

J. Kirschner (2022), M. Höger (2021-2022)

Courses

“Neuromatch Academy: Deep learning track” (2023)

“Summer School on Statistical Methods for Linguistics and Psychology” (Foundational frequentist track), University of Potsdam, Potsdam, Germany (2020)

“Neurocognitive methods in infant and toddler research”, Summer school at Utrecht University, The Netherlands (2019)

“Linear models in R”, Workshop held by Roger Mundry, Max Planck Institute for Evolutionary Anthropology, Leipzig, Germany (2019)

“Statistical modeling with R”, bootcamp workshop held by Prof. Stefan Th. Gries, University of Erfurt, Germany (2018)

“Programming with R”, Workshop at the Max Planck Institute for Psycholinguistics, Nijmegen, The Netherlands (2017)

“General Psychology I”, “General Psychology II”, “Social Psychology”, “Research Methods”, “Statistics I” from the BA Psychology program at the University of Erfurt, Germany (2016-2017)

Activities

Mentee in the Mentoring Plus Program for female PhD candidates and postdocs, University of Potsdam, Germany (Cohort 2021-22)

Mentee in the Dorothea Schlözer Mentoring Program for female PhD candidates and postdocs, University of Göttingen, Germany (Cohort 2020-21)

Board member of the DFG Research training group 2070 “Understanding social relationships” (University of Göttingen) as the elected student representative (2018 - 2020)

Co-founder of the R-Ladies chapter Göttingen (2019)

Co-organization of the contribution of the research training group 2070 to the “Science Goes City” day (2019)

Assistance in organization of the Harmonious Bilingual Network Colloquium, La Hulpe, Belgium (May 24-26, 2018)

Assistance in organization of the third Conference of the German Association of Applied Linguistics (GAL), Frankfurt (Oder) / Stübice, Germany (September 23-25, 2015)

Tutor for cultural studies freshmen, European University Viadrina, Frankfurt (Oder), 2012-2013