

Johanna Prugger (she/her)

✉ annahoi@hotmail.de
🏠 based in Berlin, Germany
🇮🇹 from Bolzano, Italy

🔗 [Google Scholar](#)
🔗 [Research Gate](#)
🔗 [LinkedIn](#)



EDUCATION

M.Sc. (grad. 2022): International Graduate Program Medical Neurosciences at Charité Medical University, Berlin, GER

Thesis: *Systematic literature review and meta-analysis: Dose-response relationships of LSD- induced subjective experiences in humans*

Thesis grade: **1.3**



B.Sc. (grad. 2020): Molecular Biology at University of Vienna, AT

Thesis (at Medical University and Technical University of Vienna):

Establishing a simultaneous qualitative imaging method for 5HT2A- and NMDA-receptor distribution mapping in rat brain using lanthanide labeled antibodies and LA-ICP-mass spectrometry

Thesis grade: **1**



Secondary School (grad. 2015): Wissenschaftliches Realgymnasium Bozen, IT, with Focus: Applied Natural Sciences

Thesis: *The Deep Brain Stimulation*

Thesis grade: **1**

EXPERIENCE

2024.11 **Freelance work for the Freie University Berlin** (4 months)

- present Creating an onboarding platform for international Master students at FU (OIM Project)
Freie Universität Berlin, GER



2024.03 **Gender Equality Officer** (1 year)

- present [Center for Environmental Neuroscience](#) (CEN)
Max Planck Institute for Human Development (MPIB), Berlin, GER



2023.05 **Research Coordinator** (~2 years)

- present Center for Environmental Neuroscience (CEN)
Max Planck Institute for Human Development (MPIB), Berlin, GER



2021 **Freelance contribution to open science:**

- present [The Altered States Database](#) (~4 years)
Schmidt, TT. & Prugger, J. *The Altered States Database (ASDB)*. Open Science Framework (OSF): <https://doi.org/10.17605/OSF.IO/8MBRU>

2022 **Employment** (7 months): Creating an onboarding-platform for the *Master Cognitive Neuroscience Berlin* containing courses with learning material ranging from neuroanatomy to statistics to scientific writing, etc.
- 2023 Center for Cognitive Neuroscience Berlin (CCNB), Freie Universität Berlin, GER



2022 **Project assistance:** on the citizen science *Altered eXperience Project*
- 2023 with Prof. Enzo Tagliazucchi, Dr. Timo Torsten Schmidt, and others
in Buenos Aires, AR



2022 **Research Project**
- 2023 *Meta-analysis for calculation of Dose-response relationships of LSD-induced subjective experiences in humans*
Psychedelic Substances Research Group, Dept. of Psychiatry and Psychotherapy, Charité Medical University, Berlin, GER



2022 **Clinical Trials Advisor** (9 months)
- 2023 at Knowde Group, Inc., a Canadian-based global Contract Research Organization (remote)

2021 **Research assistant** (6 months)
- 2022 fMRI neuroimaging for the study *Efficacy and Safety of Psilocybin in Treatment-Resistant Major Depression: EPIsoDE*
PIs: Prof. Gerd Gründer (Zentralinstitut für Seelische Gesundheit, Mannheim) and Prof. Andreas Ströhle (Charité Medical University, Berlin) Berlin Center for Advanced Neuroimaging (BCAN); Dept. of Psychiatry and Psychotherapy, Charité Medical University, Berlin, GER



2021 **Lab rotation** (3 months)
Post-Acute Effects of Psilocybin Treatment on Depression Patients: Establishing a fMRI-Data Analysis Preprocessing Pipeline using fMRIPrep
Dept. of Psychiatry and Psychotherapy, Charité Medical University, Berlin, GER
Supervision: Prof. Florian Schlagenhauf, Dr. Michael Koslowski



2021 **Lab rotation** (5 months)
Psychometric Data of Altered States of Consciousness Experiences and Updating the Altered States Database: A Systematic Review according PRISMA Standards),
Psychedelic Substances Research Group, Dept. of Psychiatry and Psychotherapy, Charité Medical University, Berlin, GER
Supervision: Dr. Timo T. Schmidt, Dr. med. Tomislav Majić



2021 **Research assistant** (5 months)
Neuropsychological testing and data analysis for the study *Long-term Effects of Serotonergic Hallucinogens: LZESH*
Psychedelic Substances Research Group, Dept. of Psychiatry and Psychotherapy, Charité Medical University, Berlin, GER



2021 **Lab rotation** (3 months)
Levels of Emotional Awareness in patients suffering from schizophrenia spectrum disorders: Examining the validity of the Levels of Emotional Awareness Scale
research groups Empathy and Interpersonal Processes; Psychotherapy for Psychosis, Dept. of Psychiatry and Neurosciences, Charité Medical University, Berlin, GER
Supervision: Prof. Christiane Montag, Dr. Eva Maaßen



2019 Research Project (1 year)

- 2020 *Establishing a simultaneous qualitative imaging method for 5-HT_{2A} and NMDA neuroreceptor distribution mapping in rat brain using lanthanide labelled antibodies and laser ablation-inductively coupled plasma-mass spectroscopy (LA-ICP-MS)*

Dept. of Psychiatry and Psychotherapy, research groups Neuroimaging; Neuropsychopharmacology, Medical University of Vienna, AT; and Technical University of Vienna, Research Group for Surface Analytics, Trace Analytics and Chemometry, Vienna, AT
Supervision: Prof. Dr.techn. Andreas Limbeck, Prof. Rupert Lanzenberger



2019 Internship (6 months)

Analysis of the radioactivity emitted from Harmin-C13 tracer in blood plasma during PET-Scans

Dept. of Psychiatry and Psychotherapy, research groups Neuroimaging; Neuropsychopharmacology, Medical University of Vienna, AT;
Supervision: Prof. Rupert Lanzenberger



2018 Research assistance (1.5 years)

- 2020 Laboratory and fMRI / PET imaging for 8 psychopharmacological neuroimaging studies (analyzing different SSRIs, FDOPA, ketamine)
Dept. of Psychiatry and Psychotherapy, research groups Neuroimaging; Neuropsychopharmacology, Vienna General Hospital, AT

2018 Internship (6 months)

Segmentation of the Hippocampus and its Subfields: A 7T MRI analysis, as part of the study A Randomized Controlled Trial on the Effects of a 12-Week High- vs. Low-Intensity Exercise Intervention on Hippocampal Structure and Function in Healthy Adults

Dept. of Radiology and Nuclear Medicine, Academic Medical Centre Amsterdam, NL
Supervision: Prof. Dr. Liesbeth Reneman, Dr. Antonia Kaiser



PUBLICATIONS (6 first-authored/co-first-authored, 1 co-authored)

* equal contributions

(5) Ulkova O.*, **Prugger J.***, Hirschfeld T., Schmidt T. T. (2025) *Update of the Altered States Database (ASDB): 2024-12-31*. Preprint on PsyArXiv.
https://doi.org/10.31234/osf.io/wkpjc_v1

(4) Devitt K.*, **Prugger J.***, Hirschfeld T., Schmidt T. T. (2024) *Update of the Altered States Database (ASDB): 2023-12-31*. Preprint on PsyArXiv.
<https://doi.org/10.31234/osf.io/ge93w>

(3) Hirschfeld T.*, **Prugger J.***, Majić T., Schmidt T. T. (2023) *Dose-response relationships of LSD-induced subjective experiences in humans*. Nature: Neuropsychopharmacology 1–10. <https://doi.org/10.1038/s41386-023-01588-2>
LSD Dose-Response Web-Application: <https://dose-response-lsd.asdb.info>

- (2) Peters M.*, **Prugger J.***, Dimkov P., Schmidt T. T. (2023) *Update of the Altered States Database (ASDB): 2022-12-31*. Preprint on PsyArXiv.
<https://doi.org/10.31234/osf.io/wdfhg>
- (1) **Prugger J.**, Derdiyok E., Dinkelacker J., Costines C., Schmidt T. T. (2022) *The Altered States Database: Psychometric Data from a Systematic Literature Research*. Nature: Scientific Data 9, 720. <https://doi.org/10.1038/s41597-022-01822-4>
Website: <https://alteredstatesdb.org/>
OSF: <https://osf.io/8mbru/>
- (submitted to Nature: Molecular Psychiatry, 2025) **Prugger J.***, Sztuka M. I.*, Kühn S. *Urban versus Rural Living: Associations with Mental Health, Physical Health, and Psychological Constructs*
- (in prep, 2025) **Prugger J.**, Kühn S. *The Blind Spot in Research on Nature's Benefits: Restorative vs. Instorative Effects and Potential Biases*.
- (in prep, 2025) **Prugger J.***, Mascherek A. C.*, Kühn S., Gallinat J. *Salutogenic Psychiatry Architecture and Design*

PRESENTATIONS

- 2024 *Preliminary data: Review on effects of rural vs. urban living on mental and physiological health.*
at Max Planck Institute for Human Development (MPIB), Berlin, GER
- 2022 *Dose-response relationships of LSD and psilocybin experiences.*
at Psychedelic Substances Research Group, Charité Medical University, Berlin, GER
- 2019 *Mapping receptor distributions in rat brain using rare-earth elements and mass spectrometry.*
at Neuropsychopharmacology Research Group, Medical University of Vienna, AT
- 2018 *Segmenting the hippocampus on MRI imaging using FSL. Preliminary findings of an exercise study.*
at Translational Neuroradiology Research Group, Academic Medical Centre, Amsterdam, NL

CONFERENCES, SUMMER SCHOOLS, LAB VISITS

- 2023 1-week visit of the lab Theoretical Neurosciences Group, PI: Prof. Viktor Jirsa at Institut de Neurosciences des Systèmes (INS), Inserm and Aix-Marseille University, Marseille, FR
- 2023 10-day participation of the summer school *Neuroscience School of Advanced Studies "Integrated Information Theory of Consciousness"*, in Venice, IT
- 2018 1-day conference attendance of the Annual Meeting of Amsterdam Neuroscience at Amsterdam University Medical Center, NL
- 2015 1-day lab visit at Institute for Biomedicine, Eurac Research, with Dr. Andrew A. Hicks, in Bolzano, IT

CERTIFICATIONS, SCHOLARSHIPS

- 2024 1-day course certificate *Track, organize and share your work: An introduction to Git/GitHub for research*, from Max Planck Institute, Berlin, GER
- 2022 2-weeks *Python intensive course certificate*, from Charité Medical University, Berlin, GER
- 2021 *MRI Operation and Safety Certificate (Advanced User)*, from Berlin Center for Advanced Neuroimaging (BCAN), Charité Medical University, GER
- 2021 Certificate of Attendance and exam of the course *MRI in neuroscience and neurology* (24 units á 45 min), from Center for Stroke Research Berlin, Charité Medical University, GER
- 2020 Certificate of Attendance of the kickoff workshop of the *Experimental and Preclinical Imaging Cluster and Charité 3^R*, Charité Medical University, GER
- 2018 *ERASUMS Plus* Traineeship Certificate, from Academic Medical Center, Amsterdam, NL
- 2018 *ERASMUS Plus* stipend for research internship abroad, from University of Vienna, AT

MEMBER OF

- *Gender Equality Teams* of Max Planck Institute for Human Development, Berlin, GER
- *Psychedelic Substances Research Group*, Dept. of Psychiatry and Neurosciences, Charité Medical University, Berlin, GER
- *Berlin Neuroscience Network*, Einstein Center for Neurosciences (ECN), Berlin, GER
- *International Graduate Program Medical Neurosciences Alumni*, Charité Medical University, Berlin, GER

EXTRA-CURRICULAR, VOLUNTEER WORK

- Member of the *SCIENTISTS FOR FUTURE (S4F South Tyrol)*, participating at workshops on climate change, IT (since 2023)
- Member of the association *eclipse e.V.*, offering psycare and information on safer substance use at festivals and in clubs, GER (since 2022)
- Member of *Students for Sensible Drug Policy (SSDP)*, advocating transformation of global drug policy towards a focus on human rights, public health, harm reduction, and equity, Berlin, GER (since 2022)
- Translation of the book "*How to Regulate Cannabis. A Practical Guide. 3rd edition*" from English into German with *#MyBrainMyChoice initiative* and *akzept e.V.*, Berlin, GER (2022-2023)
- 1-month volunteering at the eco-farm *Puilquen Posada de Campo* in Argentina, which offers trainings in sustainability and ecological awareness as well as daycare for children, AR (2022)
- Translating and proofreading translations of scientific articles for the online blog of the *MIND Foundation*, Berlin, GER (2021)
- Leading a movement and exercise group for patients with paranoid schizophrenia through the *Psychosocial Services of Vienna*, AT (2019-2020)

SKILLS

Languages fluent: English, German, Italian. conversational: Spanish, Latin. learning: French

Software & IT good: R Studio, VOSviewer, BioRender, Zotero, Lightworks, Wiki Atlassian Confluence, Open Science Framework (OSF), MS Office

beginner: Python, fMRIPrep, Brain Imaging Data Structure (BIDS), Matlab (Psychtoolbox), Git/Github, Bash, FMRIB Software Library (FSL), ITK: Insight Toolkit, FreeSurfer (Freeview), ASHS: Automatic Segmentation of Hippocampal Subfields, GraphPad Prism, SPSS, Unix Shell Scripting, C#

Neuropsychological testing, Questionnaires: Wechsler Adult Intelligence Scale IV (WAIS-IV), Stroop test, Wisconsin Card Sorting Test – 64 (WCST-64), Raven's Progressive Matrices, Rey-Osterrieth Complex Figure (Rey-O CFT), Tower of London (TL-D), Wechsler Memory Scale IV Logical Memory, Wortschatztest (WST), Altered States of Consciousness Rating Scale (APZ, 5D-ASC, 11-ASC), Phenomenology of Consciousness Inventory (PCI), Hallucinogen Rating Scale (HRS), Mystical Experience Questionnaire (MEQ30), Levels of Emotional Awareness Scale (LEAS), Reversal Learning task, Face Recognition task

Molecular Biology: PCR, Western blotting, DNA Sequencing, Electrophoresis, Cloning, Mass spectrometry, fPET-blood analyses with gamma counter Wizard2

Teaching

Supervision of a total of 4 M.Sc. and 4 B.Sc. students on various projects/theses, at Charité Medical University / Freie Universität Berlin / Max Planck Institute for Human Development, GER (paid and voluntary);

Tutoring in Mathematics, Chemistry, and Biology for B.Sc. students at the University of Vienna, AT (voluntarily);

Piano lessons, Vienna, AT (voluntary);

English lessons in Hoi An, Vietnam (voluntarily);

German lessons for children, Bozen, IT (paid);

Teaching natural sciences (theory and laboratory) at the high school Wissenschaftliches Realgymnasium Bozen, IT (paid);

Private tutoring in secondary school subjects for pupils Bolzano, IT (paid)

Other skills

review writing according to Preferred Reporting Items for Systematic Reviews and Meta-Analyses (PRISMA) 2020 standards;

Grant writing (e.g., "Berlin Institute of Health at Charité: Digital Health Accelerator Program 2023", "Funding Consciousness Research with Registered Reports - Center for Open Science", "Veteran Marijuana Research Grant Program - State of Michigan", "Wiener Wissenschafts-, Forschungs- und Technologiefonds");

Creating graphical abstracts for papers;

first aid courses

Passionate for Open Science, Philosophy of Science, Gender roles in academia, Ashtanga Yoga, Mountain climbing, Friendships

REFERENCES

Please feel free to ask me for contact information from previous supervisors.