

# Manuel Bohn

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## Education

Ph.D. Psychology, Leipzig University, 2016

Advisors: Josep Call and Michael Tomasello

M.Sc. Psychology, University of Vienna, 2013

## Employment

since 2025	Professor of Developmental Psychology Institute of Psychology in Education Leuphana University Lüneburg
2023 – 2025	Tenure-Track Assistant Professor of Developmental Psychology Institute of Psychology in Education Leuphana University Lüneburg
2020 – 2023	Group Leader (Senior Scientist) Department of Comparative Cultural Psychology Max Planck Institute for Evolutionary Anthropology, Germany
2017 – 2020	Marie Skłodowska-Curie Fellow Language and Cognition Lab, Stanford University, USA & Leipzig Research Center for Early Child Development, Germany
2016 – 2017	Postdoctoral Researcher Department of Developmental and Comparative Psychology Max Planck Institute for Evolutionary Anthropology, Germany
2013 – 2016	PhD Student Department of Developmental and Comparative Psychology Max Planck Institute for Evolutionary Anthropology, Germany

## Publications

\* Student author      \*\* Group authorship

### Peer reviewed journal articles

1. BOHN, M., & Frank, M. C. (2024). Pragmatics as social inference about intentional action. *Open Mind*, 9, 290-304.
2. BOHN, M., Prein, J., Engicht, J., Haun, D. B. M., Gagarina, N., & Koch, T. (2025). PREVIC: An adaptive parent report measure of expressive vocabulary in children between 3 and 8 years of age. *Behavior Research Methods*, 57, 95.

3. Prein, J. C., Bednarski, F. M., Dzabatou, A., Frank, M. C., Henderson, A. M. E., Kalbitz, J., ... BOHN, M. (2025). Measuring variation in gaze following across communities, ages, and individuals - a showcase of the TANGO-CC. *Advances in Methods and Practices in Psychological Science*, 8(1).
4. BOHN, M., Fong, F., Pope-Caldwell, S., Stengelin, R., & Haun, D. (2024). Understanding cultural variation in cognition one child at a time. *Nature Reviews Psychology*, 3, 641-643.
5. Prein, J., Maurits, L., Werwach, A., Haun, D., & BOHN, M. (2024). Variation in gaze understanding across the life span: A process-level perspective. *Developmental Science*.
6. BOHN, M., Prein, J. C., Delikaya, B, Haun, D., & Gagarina, N. (2024). oREV: an Item Response Theory based open receptive vocabulary task for 3 to 8-year-old children. *Behavior Research Methods*, 56, 2595-2605.
7. Prein, J. C., Kalinke, S., Haun, D. & BOHN, M. (2024). TANGO: A reliable, open-source, browser-based task to assess individual differences in gaze understanding in 3 to 5-year-old children and adults. *Behavior Research Methods*, 56, 2469-2485.
8. BOHN, M., da Silva Vieira, W. F., Torr ns, M. G., K rtner, J., Itakura, S., Cavalcante, L., Haun, D., K ster, M., & Kanngiesser, P. (2024). Mealtime conversations between parents and their 2-year-old children in five cultural contexts. *Developmental Psychology*.
9. Franke, M., BOHN, M., & Fr hlich, M. (2024). Latent meaning representations in great-ape gestural communication. *Proceedings of the 46th Annual Conference of the Cognitive Science Society*.
10. Stengelin, R., BOHN, M., Sanchez-Amaro, A., Haun, D., Thiele, M., Daum, M., ... Schuhmacher, N. (2024). Responsible Research is also concerned with generalizability: Recognizing efforts to reflect upon and increase generalizability in hiring and promotion decisions in psychology. *Meta-Psychology*, 8.
11. Steffan, A., Zimmer, L., Arias-Trejo, N., BOHN, M., Dal Ben, R., Flores-Coronado, M. A., ... Schuwerk, T. (2023). Validation of an Open Source, Remote Web-based Eye-tracking Method (WebGazer) for Research in Early Childhood. *Infancy*.
12. BOHN, M., Tessler, M. H., \*Kordt, C., \*Hausmann, T., & Frank, M. C. (2023). An individual differences perspective on pragmatic abilities in the preschool years. *Developmental Science*, e13401.
13. BOHN, M., Eckert, J., Hanus, D., Lugauer, B., Holtmann, J., & Haun, D. (2023). Great ape cognition is structured by stable cognitive abilities and predicted by developmental conditions. *Nature Ecology & Evolution*, 7, 927-938.
14. Zahra, A., Martin, P.-E., BOHN, M., & Haun, D. (2023). Computer vision for analyzing children's lived experiences. In K. Arai (Ed.), *Intelligent Systems and Applications - Proceedings of the 2023 Intelligent Systems Conference, IntelliSys 2023, Amsterdam, The Netherlands, 7-8 September, 2023*. Springer.
15. BOHN, M., \*Schmidt, L. S., Schulze, C., Frank, M. C., & Tessler, M. H. (2022). Modeling individual differences in children's information integration during pragmatic word learning. *Open Mind*, 6, 311-326.
16. \*\*MANYPRIMATES, et al. (2022). The evolution of primate short-term memory. *Animal Behavior and Cognition*, 9(4), 428-516.
17. Bang, J., BOHN, M., \*Ramirez, J., Marchman, V., & Fernald, A. (2022). Spanish-speaking caregivers' use of referential labels with toddlers is a better predictor of later vocabulary than their use of referential gestures. *Developmental Science*, e13354.
18. BOHN, M., Liebal, K., & Tessler (2022). Great ape communication as contextual social inference: a computational modeling perspective. *Philosophical Transactions of the Royal Society B*, 377, 20210096

19. BOHN, M., Tessler, M. H., Merrick, M., & Frank, M. C. (2022). Predicting pragmatic cue integration in adults' and children's inferences about novel word meanings. *Journal of Experimental Psychology: General*, 151(11), 2927-2942.
20. Margiotoudi, K., BOHN, M., Schwob, N., Taglialatela, J., Pulvermüller, F., Epping, A., Schweller, K., & Allritz, M. (2021). Bo-NO-bouba-kiki: Picture-word mapping but no spontaneous sound symbolic speech-shape mapping in a language trained bonobo. *Proceedings of the Royal Society B*, 289, 20211717
21. BOHN, M., Tessler, M. H., Merrick, M., & Frank, M. C. (2021). How young children integrate information sources to infer the meaning of words. *Nature Human Behaviour*, 5, 1046-1054
22. Eckert, J., BOHN, M., & Spaethe, J. (2021). Does quantity matter to a stingless bee?. *Animal Cognition*
23. BOHN, M., Eckert, J., Hanus, D., & Haun, D. (2021). A Longitudinal Study of Great Ape Cognition: Stability, Reliability and the Influence of Individual Characteristics. *Proceedings of the 43rd Annual Conference of the Cognitive Science Society*
24. BOHN, M., \*Le, K., Peloquin, B., Koymen, B., & Frank, M. C. (2021). Children's interpretation of ambiguous pronouns based on prior discourse. *Developmental Science*, 24, e13049
25. Brooks, J., Onishi, E., Clark, I., BOHN, M., & Yamamoto, S. (2021). Uniting against a common enemy: Perceived outgroup threat elicits ingroup cohesion in chimpanzees. *PLoS ONE*, 16(2), e0246869
26. Hardwicke, T. E., BOHN, M., MacDonald, K. E., Hembacher, E., Nuijten, M. B., Peloquin, B., ..., & Frank, M. C. (2021). Analytic reproducibility in articles receiving open data badges at Psychological Science: An observational study. *Royal Society Open Science*, 8, 201494
27. Kachel, G., Hardecker, D., & BOHN, M. (2021). Young children's developing ability to integrate gestural and emotional cues. *Journal of Experimental Child Psychology*, 210, 104984
28. BOHN, M., \*Kordt, C., \*Braun, M., Call, J., & Tomasello, M. (2020). Learning novel skills from iconic gestures: A developmental and evolutionary perspective. *Psychological Science*, 31(7), 873-880
29. Tauzin, T., BOHN, M., Gergely, G., & Call, J. (2020). Context-sensitive adjustment of pointing in great apes. *Scientific Reports*, 10, 1048
30. BOHN, M., & Frank, M. C. (2019). The pervasive role of pragmatics in early language. *Annual Review of Developmental Psychology*, 1, 223-249
31. \*\*MANYPRIMATES, et al. (2019). Collaborative open science as a way to reproducibility and new insights in primate cognition research. *Japanese Psychological Review*, 62(3), 205-220
32. BOHN, M., Kachel, G., & Tomasello, M. (2019). Young children spontaneously recreate core properties of language in a new modality. *PNAS*, 116(51), 26072-26077
33. \*\*MANYPRIMATES, et al. (2019). Establishing an infrastructure for collaboration in primate cognition research. *PLoS ONE*. 14(10), e0223675
34. Margiotoudi, K., Allritz, M., BOHN, M., & Pulvermüller, F. (2019). Sound symbolic congruency detection in humans but not in great apes. *Scientific Reports*, 9, 12705
35. BOHN, M., Tessler, M. H., & Frank, M. C. (2019). Integrating common ground and informativeness in pragmatic word learning. *Proceedings of the 41st Annual Conference of the Cognitive Science Society*
36. BOHN, M., Call, J., & Tomasello, M. (2019). Natural Reference: A phylo- and ontogenetic perspective on the comprehension of iconic gestures and vocalizations. *Developmental Science*, 22, e12757

37. BOHN, M., \*Zimmermann, L., Call, J., & Tomasello, M. (2018). The social-cognitive basis of infants' reference to absent entities. *Cognition*, 177, 41-48
38. BOHN, M. & Köymen, B. (2018). Common ground and development. *Child Development Perspectives*, 12(2), 104-108
39. BOHN, M., Allritz, M., Call, J., & Völter, C. J. (2017). Information seeking about tool properties in great apes. *Scientific Reports*, 7, 10923
40. Schmelz, M., Duguid, S., BOHN, M., & Völter, C. (2017). Individual and cooperative problem solving in giant otters (*Pteronura brasiliensis*) and Asian small-clawed otters (*Aonyx cinerea*). *Animal Cognition*, 20: 1107
41. BOHN, M., Call, J., & Tomasello, M. (2016). Comprehension of iconic gestures by chimpanzees and human children. *Journal of Experimental Child Psychology*, 142, 1-17
42. BOHN, M., Call, J., & Tomasello, M. (2016). The role of past interactions in great apes' communication about absent entities. *Journal of Comparative Psychology*, 130(4), 351-357
43. BOHN, M., Call, J., & Tomasello, M. (2015). Communication about absent entities in great apes and human infants. *Cognition*, 145, 63-72
44. Stieger, S., Burger, C., BOHN, M., & Voracek, M. (2013). Who commits virtual identity suicide? Differences in privacy concerns, Internet addiction, and personality between Facebook users and quitters. *Cyberpsychology, Behavior, and Social Networking*, 16(9), 629-34

## Bookchapters

1. \*\*MANYPRIMATES, et al. (2022). Collaboration and Open Science Initiatives in Primate Research. In M. J. Beran & B. Schwartz (Eds.), *Primate Cognitive Studies* : Cambridge University Press.
2. BOHN, M., Call, J., & Völter, C. J (2020). Evolutionary precursors of negation in non-human reasoning. In V. Deprez & M.T. Espinal (Eds.), *Oxford Handbook of Negation*(pp. 577-588): Oxford University Press.
3. BOHN, M. (2017). Information and the Evolution of Human Communication. In W. Hofkirchner, M. Burgin (Eds.), *Information Studies and the Quest for Transdisciplinarity* (pp. 345-362): World Scientific.

## Preprints

1. BOHN, M., M., Prein, J. C., Ayikoru, A., Bednarski, F. M., Dzabatou, A., Frank, M. C., ... Stengelin, R., & Haun, D. B. M. (2024). A universal of human social cognition: Children from 17 communities process gaze in similar ways. *PsyArXiv*.
2. Gagarina, N., BOHN, M., Bohnacker, U., ... Walters, J. (2025) A story of stories: a large-scale cross-linguistic study of young children's narratives
3. Schuwerk, T., Kampis, D., Baillargeon, R., Biro, S., BOHN, M., Byers-Heinlein, K., ... Rakoczy, H. (2021). Action anticipation based on an agent's epistemic state in toddlers and adults. *PsyArXiv*
4. Jasbi, M., BOHN, M., Long, B., Fourtassi, A., Barner, D., & Frank, M. C. (2019). Comment on Cesana-Arlotti et al. (2018). *PsyArXiv*

## Funding

2025 – 2029 VolkswagenStiftung Impulse Professorship (€ 1 999 228 ).

2024 – 2026	Jacobs Foundation LEVANTE Grant (CHF 342 272).
2023 – 2025	Jacobs Foundation Research Fellowship (CHF 165 000).
2022 – 2023	Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (Network, PI Kiley Hamlin, CAD 200 000).
2022 – 2023	New York University Research Challenge Fund (Co-PI with Ailis Cournane, \$ 16 748).
2020 – 2023	German Research Foundation (Co-PI, main applicant Gregor Kachel, € 324 249).
2017 – 2020	Marie Skłodowska-Curie Global Fellowship (€ 239 860).
2013 – 2016	Studienstiftung des deutschen Volkes (PhD scholarship, € 45 000).
2012	University of Vienna (KWA short-term research grant, € 1 500).
2011	University of Vienna (Joint Study Stipend, € 2 000).

## Awards

2021	Disciplinary Diversity & Integration Award, Cognitive Science Society
2010 - 2013	Performance scholarship, University of Vienna

## Invited Talks

2025	Jacobs Center for Productive Youth Development, University of Zürich, Switzerland Department of English, University of Mannheim, Germany Keynote XPRAG conference, University of Cambridge, UK
2024	Department of Cognitive Science, CEU, Austria Kick-off meeting Many Curiosities, University of Göttingen, Germany Department of Developmental Psychology, University of Göttingen, Germany
2023	Jahrestagung der Deutsche Zoologische Gesellschaft, Kassel, Germany Pragmatics: Theory & Experiments Group, Oslo University, Norway Department of Primate Behavior and Evolution, MPI for evolutionary Anthropology
2022	Culture Conference (keynote), Zurich, Switzerland Centre for Language Sciences Colloquium Series, Macquarie University, Australia Language Acquisition, Evolution, and Development Group, Newcastle University, UK iSearch Group, Max Planck Institute for Human Development Evolutionary Pragmatics Group, University of Warwick, UK
2021	Developmental Brown Bag, Aix-Marseille University, France Institute of Psychology, Leuphana University Lüneburg, Germany Institute of Psychology, Regensburg University, Germany
2020	Department of Psychology, University of Portsmouth, UK Department of Cognitive Science, CEU, Hungary Institute Seminar, Max Planck Institute for Evolutionary Anthropology, Germany Developmental Brownbag Seminar, Duke University, USA

2019	<p>Cognitive Science Colloquium, University of Göttingen, Germany</p> <p>Social Origins Lab, UC Berkeley, USA</p> <p>Department of Psychology, FAU Erlangen-Nürnberg, Germany</p> <p>Department of Psychology, University of Chicago, USA</p> <p>Developmental Psychology Colloquium, UC Santa Cruz, USA</p> <p>Cognitive Science Seminar Series, Stanford University, USA</p> <p>Developmental Brownbag Seminar, Stanford University, USA</p> <p>Language and Cognitive Development Lab, UC Berkeley, USA</p>
2018	<p>Symposium on Language and Cognitive Development, Tsinghua University, China</p> <p>Friday Seminar, Stanford University, USA</p> <p>EcoGest Workshop, Bielefeld University, Germany</p> <p>Social Learning Lab, Stanford University, USA</p> <p>Developmental Brownbag Seminar, Stanford University, USA</p> <p>Stanford-Berkeley-UCSC Developmental Psychology Symposium, UCSC, USA</p>
2017	<p>SOMICS synergy meeting, CEU, Hungary</p> <p>Department of Philosophy, University of Leipzig, Germany</p> <p>Brain Language Laboratory, Free University Berlin, Germany</p>
2016	<p>Wissenschaftskolleg zu Berlin, Germany</p> <p>Marsilius Kolleg, University of Heidelberg, Germany</p> <p>Brain Language Laboratory, Free University Berlin, Germany</p>
2015	<p>International Society for Information Studies, Vienna, Austria</p>

## Mentorship

### Phd

Julia Prein (2020 - 2025) – Postdoc Leuphana

Anam Zahra (2020 - 2023) – Data Scientist, Alexander Thamm GmbH

Junyu Li (since 2022) – current PhD Student

Nele Suffo (since 2024) – current PhD Student

Chiara Carraro (since 2025) – current PhD Student

### Master and Bachelor

10 Master's thesis

6 Bachelor's thesis

## Reviewer

*Animal Behavior and Cognition, Animal Cognition, Biological Reviews, Child Development, Child Development Perspectives, Cognition, Cognitive Development, Cognitive Science, Cortex, Current Anthropology, Current Biology, Developmental Science, Infant Behavior and Development, Journal of Comparative Psychology, Language Learning, Language Learning and Development, Mind and Language, Nature Human Behaviour, PLOS Biology, PLOS One, PNAS, Proceedings of the Royal Society B, Psychological Review, Synthese, Topoi.*

## Teaching

Spring (2024- )	Leuphana University Lüneburg Lecture (BA Psychology): Developmental Psychology Seminar (BA Psychology): Drivers of developmental change
Fall (2023- )	Leuphana University Lüneburg Lecture (BA Education): Developmental Psychology Lecture (MA Education): Psychology of change in secondary schools Seminar (BA Education): Developmental Psychology Seminar (MA Psychology): Origins of the sustainable mind
Spring 2022	Leipzig University Session in seminar (Psychologie): Communication – a comparative perspective
Fall 2019	Leipzig University Session in seminar (Early childhood research): Language development Session in seminar (Early childhood research): Research practise and open science
Spring 2018	Stanford University Guest lecture (Linguistics): Development of Pragmatics Session in seminar (Psychology): Introduction to R
Summer 2017	Studienstiftung des deutschen Volkes Summer school (interdisciplinary): How to study animal minds?
Spring 2017	Leipzig University Guest lecture (Early Childhood Research): Non-verbal communication
Fall 2016	University of Vienna Seminar (Psychology): Phylo- and ontogenetic roots of uniquely human cognition
Spring 2016	University of Heidelberg Seminar (Psychology & Philosophy): Human communication from a phylo- and ontogenetic perspective
Fall 2015	University of Vienna Seminar (Psychology): Social-cognitive development from a phylo- and ontogenetic perspective
Fall 2014	Friedrich-Schiller-Universität Jena Seminar (Psychology & Philosophy): Origins of Meaning - the Gricean theory of meaning and its interdisciplinary adoption

## Selected Media Coverage

TV	<p>“Mein Körper. Meine Worte. Sprachwunder Mensch” – ARD, 05.2023</p> <p>“Kinder können bei Bedarf eine neue Sprache entwickeln” – MDR Wissen, 02.2020</p> <p>“Am Drücker” – Elefant, Tiger &amp; Co, MDR, 01.2017</p> <p>“Quadratisch, praktisch, gut” – Elefant, Tiger &amp; Co, MDR, 10.2016</p> <p>“Krimi im Kreissaal” - Elefant, Tiger &amp; Co?, ARD, 06.2015</p>
Radio	<p>“Große Fragen in 10 Minuten” – MDR Wissen, 05.2023</p> <p>“Primatenforschung - Nicht immer nur Schimpansen!” – Dlf Forschung aktuell, 03.2020</p>

“Wie entsteht Sprache? “ – Dlf Aus Kultur- und Sozialwissenschaften, 02.2020

“Globales Primatenforschungsprojekt“ – SWR Wissen, 02.2020

“Wie Sprache entsteht“ – MDR Aktuell, 12.2019

“Turning Off Volume on Skype Sheds Light on How Languages Emerge“ – Living Lab Radio, 12.2019

“Sprache der Tiere“ – Deutschlandradio Kultur, 05.2015

Print “Familiengespräche am Esstisch“ – Spektrum.de, 03.2024

“Vom Ursprung der Sprachen“ – Kreuzer online, 01.2020

“Watching a ‘language’ develop when kids can’t speak to each other“ – Ars Technica, 12.2019

“How Did Language Originate? Charades Might Offer A Clue“ – forbes.com, 12.2019

“Wie Sprachen aus dem Nichts entstehen“ – wissenschaft.de / focus.de, 12.2019

“Wie Sprachen entstehen: Experiment stellt die ersten Schritte nach“ – derstandard.at, 12.2019

“Affen wissen, wenn sie etwas nicht wissen - so wie wir“ – welt.de, 12.2017

“Menschenaffen reflektieren über ihr eigenes (Un-)Wissen“ – derstandard.at, 09.2017

“Menschenaffen wissen, wenn sie etwas nicht wissen“ – kurier.at, 09.2017

“Verstehst du uns, Kleines? “ – Baby und Familie, 03.2017

“Mitdenker“ – DB Mobil, 12.2013