**Maximilian Schmidt**

Ruhr-University Bochum – Germany

Email: maximilian.schmidt-y2i@rub.de

**Education:**

**B.Sc. in Psychology**

Minor: Cognitive Neuroscience

Oct 2017 – Present

Ruhr-University Bochum – Germany

**Research Experience:**

**Onur Guentuerkuen Lab for Biological Psychology**

Undergraduate research assistant

Nov 2019 – Present

Ruhr-University Bochum – Germany

Collection and analysis of optogenetic, electrophysiological and behavioral data from pigeons in a stop-change signal task to study serial versus parallel processing of multicomponent behaviour. Assisting in surgeries for optogenetic and electrophysiological implants.

**Socio-Economic Panel, Supervisor: Dr. Theresa Entringer**

Intern

Aug 2019 – Sep 2019

German Institute for Economic Research (DIW Berlin) – Germany

Generating datasets from a Big-Data source for research projects concerning regional differences in psychological traits across Germany. Conducting research on the effects of ostracism in urban versus rural areas in homosexual versus heterosexual individuals. Writing R-code to create multiple thematic maps of Germany showing previously calculated effect sizes for different geographic regions.

**Mike Colombo Lab for the Neural Basis of Learning and Memory**

Intern

Mar 2019 – May 2019

University of Otago – New Zealand

Collection and analysis of electrophysiological and behavioral data from pigeons in a stimulus discrimination paradigm. Conducting histology and brightfield microscopy. Improving scientific writing skills, as well as acquiring foundational programming skills in MATLAB.

**Birgit Leyendecker Lab for Developmental Psychology**

Undergraduate research assistant

May 2018 – Dec 2018

Ruhr-University Bochum – Germany

Data management, visualization and analysis of multi-level data from a longitudinal study using R. The project aimed at comparing language development in preschool children attending differentially funded and supported kindergartens in Germany.

**Scholarships and Travel Funding:**

**German Academic Scholarship Foundation (Studienstiftung des deutschen Volkes)**

Oct 2019 – Present

Study Scholarship

**DAAD Travel Scholarship for an internship at the University of Otago in Dunedin, New Zealand**

Mar 2019 – May 2019

Ruhr-University Bochum – Germany

**Teaching Experience:**

**Teaching Assistant for Statistical Methods I and II, Supervisor: Professor Maike Luhmann**

**Oct 2018 – Present**

Ruhr-University Bochum – Germany

**Tutor for secondary school children**

May 2013 – June 2016

Ricarda-Huch Grammar School – Germany

Personal tutoring of students from 7th grade to A-levels in Latin, English, math, biology and chemistry.

**Technical Expertise and Languages:**

**Computer skills:** **R** (high intermediate) for data analysis, statistical modeling and visualization of multi-level longitudinal and geographical data. **MATLAB** (some experience) for the analysis and collection of behavioral and single-unit data. **CorelDraw** (some experience) for the visualization of histological results and neuronal spike data. **LaTeX** (some experience) for writing and formatting text elements. **Qualtrics** (some experience) for creating and conducting online surveys. **MS Office** (advanced). **GitHub and Git** (some experience) for efficient workflows and to set up GitHub Pages.

**Single unit electrophysiology and optogenetics:** 18 channel microdrive construction for neuronal recordings. Assisting in stereotaxic surgical implantation of microdrives and electrodes for single unit recordings in awake-behaving pigeons targeting the medial striatum (MSt). Assisting in surgical viral injection for optogenetic viral transfection. Recording single units in awake-behaving pigeons.

**Languages:** German (native), English (proficient, Cambridge English Certificate ESOL International, C1), Latinum

**Professional Memberships and Research Interests:**

**Student membership in the Association for Psychological Science**

Dec 2019 – Present

**Social psychological perspectives on ostracism and applied social psychology:** What factors determine whether individuals with specific attributes are more vulnerable or resilient when they are subject to ostracism? How can we employ social psychological constructs and models profitably for society (including education systems, businesses and organizations, and in peoples’ private lives)?

**Statistical and methodological advancements in psychological science:** How can we develop appropriate standards for statistical analyses and by what means can we promote good scientific practice? What should be our general guidelines and to what extent should we grant exceptions to the standard rules for specific fields?

**Biological foundations of human behaviour and thought:** Besides the underlying neuronal mechanisms of human cognition, I am also interested in the further study of biological human responses to stimuli that influence their inner and outer emotional state and their mind.

**Volunteer Work:**

***BEaHEAD Initiative for students with a refugee background***

Mar 2020 – Present

Department of Psychology and the International Office of the Ruhr-University Bochum – Germany

Psychoeducation and peer support for students who have recently come to Germany to escape from armed conflicts or prosecution of any kind. The information we provide about psychological topics, such as positive psychology, PTSD, or depression, are reviewed by professionals from the Department of Psychology. As senior psychology students we offer support to those students, who are currently finding their way into a new campus, culture, language and more.

***Walk In Ruhr* Center for sexual health**

Jul 2017 – Present

AIDS Service Organization Bochum – Germany

Anonymous counseling and testing service for homosexual men regarding sexual health and behavior. Education about sexually transmitted infections and safer sex for the general public. Mentoring incoming volunteers regarding the different programs offered by the teams within the organization.

**References:**

Professor Maike Luhmann (maike.luhmann@rub.de)

Professor Mike Colombo (mike.colombo@otago.ac.nz)

Professor Onur Guentuerkuen (onur.guentuerkuen@rub.de)