

October 26, 2023

Curriculum Vitae Aleksandra Ćwiek

Leibniz-Centre General Linguistics
Pariser Str. 1
10719 Berlin
+49 30 20192 561
cwiek@leibniz-zas.de

[ORCID](#) | [X](#) | [ResearchGate](#) | [Google Scholar](#)

Otto-Weidt-Platz 3
10557 Berlin
+49 162 39 07 553
cwiekaleksandra@gmail.com

Academic Experience

- 09.23 – 10.23 **Visiting Researcher**
Department of Translation and Language Sciences, Universitat Pompeu Fabra,
Barcelona, Spain
- 06.23 – 06.23 **Visiting Researcher**
Donders Institute for Brain, Cognition, and Behaviour, Radboud University,
Nijmegen, The Netherlands
- 09.22 –
ongoing **Principal Investigator**
Leibniz-Centre General Linguistics, Berlin, Germany
Project: *On the FLExibility and Stability of gesture-speech coordination: Evidence from
multimodal production, comprehension, and imitation (FLESH)*
- 02.18 – 12.21 **Doctoral Researcher**
Leibniz-Centre General Linguistics, Berlin, Germany
Project: *PSIMS: The Pragmatic Status of Iconic Meaning in Spoken Communication:
Gestures, Ideophones, Prosodic Modulations*
- 01.15 – 01.18 **Student / Research Assistant**
Bielefeld University, Germany
Phonetics Work Group led by Prof. Dr. phil. Petra Wagner

Education

- 2018 – 2022 **Doctor of Philosophy, General Linguistics**
Humboldt University of Berlin, Faculty of Language, Literature and Humanities
Title: *Iconicity in Language and Speech*
Supervisors: Manfred Krifka, Susanne Fuchs, Marcus Perlman
- 2016 – 2018 **Master of Arts Linguistics: Communication, Cognition, and Speech Technology**
Bielefeld University, Faculty of Linguistics and Literary Studies
Title: *The Acoustic Realisation of Prosodic Prominence in Polish: Word Stress and Sentence
Accent*
Supervisors: Petra Wagner, Zofia Malisz
- 2013 – 2016 **Bachelor of Arts Linguistics/Teaching German as a Foreign Language**
Bielefeld University, Faculty of Linguistics and Literary Studies
Title: *Acoustics and discourse functions of two types of breathing signals*
Supervisors: Petra Wagner, Mattias Heldner

Publications

Peer-reviewed Journal Articles

- Kilpatrick, A. J. *, **Ćwiek, A. ***, & Kawahara, S. (2023). Random forests, sound symbolism and Pokémon evolution. *PLOS One*, 18(1), e0279350. (* shared first authorship)
- Kilpatrick, A., **Ćwiek, A.**, Lewis, E., & Kawahara, S. (2023). A cross-linguistic, sound symbolic relationship between labial consonants, voiced plosives, and Pokémon friendship. *Frontiers in Psychology*, 14, 722.
- Fuchs, S., & **Ćwiek, A.** (2022). Sounds Full of Meaning and the Evolution of Language. *Acoustics Today* 18(1), 43-51.
- Ćwiek, A.**, Fuchs, S., Draxler, C., Asu, E. L., Dediu, D., ... Winter, B. (2022). Bouba/kiki across cultures and writing systems. *Philosophical Transactions of the Royal Society B: Biological Sciences*, 377, 1841.
- Ćwiek, A.**, Fuchs, S., Draxler, C., Asu, E. L., Dediu, D., ... Perlman, M. (2021). Novel vocalizations are understood across cultures. *Scientific Reports*, 11(1), 10108.
- Wagner, P., **Ćwiek, A.**, & Samlowski, B. (2019). Exploiting the speech-gesture link to capture fine-grained prosodic prominence impressions and listening strategies. *Journal of Phonetics*, 76, 100911.

Peer-reviewed Journal Articles in Preparation

- Ngai, C. H. (undergraduate student), **Ćwiek, A.**, & Kilpatrick, A. J. (first revision in PLoS One). Sound Symbolism in Japanese Names: Machine Learning Approaches to Gender Classification.
- Kilpatrick, A. J., & **Ćwiek, A.** (under review in PeerJ). Using Artificial Intelligence to Explore Sound Symbolic Expressions of Gender in American English.
- Kilpatrick, A.J., **Ćwiek, A.**, Sidhu, D., & Peperkamp, S. (in prep.). Information Equilibration and Iconicity: Modulating Factors in American English Information Distribution.
- Ebert, M. (M.A. student), Kilpatrick, A. J., & **Ćwiek, A.** (in prep.). Sound symbolism in adjective dimensions across languages.
- Ćwiek, A.**, & Fuchs, S. (in prep.). The Mind-Body Connection: Exploring Iconic Prosody and Sensorimotor Properties.
- Ćwiek, A.**, & Barnes K. (in prep.). Ideophones in non-tonal languages.
- Trujillo, J.P., **Ćwiek, A.**, de Melo, G., Owoyele, B., Fronzetti Colladon, A., Segneri L., Hudson, D., & Pouw, W. (in prep.). Towards a Multidisciplinary and Multiscale Approach to Studying Multimodal Team Dynamics.
- Żygis, M., Błaszczak J., & **Ćwiek, A.** (in prep.). Attitudes in the German-Polish context based on perceptual evidence.

Dissertation

- Ćwiek, A.** (2022). Iconicity in Language and Speech. [Doctoral dissertation, Humboldt University of Berlin]. DOI: [10.18452/24544](https://doi.org/10.18452/24544)

Conference Proceedings (* peer-reviewed)

- Ćwiek, A., Kadavá, Š., Stoltmann, K., Pouw, W., & Fuchs, S. (2023). When Gestures Enter the Game, Prosody Breaks the Rules. Abstract in *Proceedings of GeSpIn. Gestures and Speech in Interaction*, Nijmegen, The Netherlands. (*)
- Kadavá, Š. (Ph.D. student), Ćwiek, A., Stoltmann, K., Fuchs, S., & Pouw, W. (2023). Is gesture-speech physics at work in rhythmic pointing? Evidence from Polish counting-out rhymes. *Proceedings of the 20th International Congress of Phonetic Sciences*. ICPhS 2023, Prague, Czechia. (*)
- Żygis, M., Błaszczak, J., Ćwiek, A., Saint-Pettersen, M., Wesołek, S., & Gulowski, P. (2023). Attitudes in the German-Polish Context Based on Perceptual Evidence. *Proceedings of the 20th International Congress of Phonetic Sciences*. ICPhS 2023, Prague, Czechia. (*)
- Gregori, A. (Ph.D. student), ..., Ćwiek, A., ... & von Eiff, C. (2023). A Roadmap for Technological Innovation in Multimodal Communication Research. In: Duffy, V.G. (eds) *Digital Human Modeling and Applications in Health, Safety, Ergonomics and Risk Management. HCII 2023*. Lecture Notes in Computer Science, vol 14029. pp. 402-438. Springer, Cham. (*)
- Ćwiek, A., & Fuchs, S. (2021). Hand-Mouth Coordination in a Pointing Task Requiring Manual Precision. *Proceedings of the 12th ISSP*. 12th International Seminar on Speech Production, New Haven, CT: Haskins Laboratories. (*)
- Ćwiek, A., & Fuchs, S. (2019). Iconic Prosody is Rooted in Sensori-Motor Properties: Fundamental Frequency and the Vertical Space. *Proceedings of the Annual Meeting of the Cognitive Science Society*, 41, 1572-1578. (*)
- Ćwiek, A., & Wagner, P. (2018). The Acoustic Realization of Prosodic Prominence in Polish: Word-level Stress and Phrase-level Accent. *9th International Conference on Speech Prosody 2018*, 922-926, Poznań, Poland. (*)
- Ćwiek, A., Włodarczak, M., Heldner, M., & Wagner, P. (2017). Acoustics and discourse function of two types of breathing signals. *Nordic Prosody: Proceedings of the XIIth Conference, Trondheim 2016*, 83-91, Trondheim, Norway. (*)
- Ćwiek, A., Neueder, S., & Wagner, P. (2016). Investigating the communicative function of breathing and non-breathing “silent” pauses. *Tagungsband Der 12. Tagung Phonetik Und Phonologie Im Deutschsprachigen Raum*, 27-29, Munich, Germany.
- Wagner, P., Ćwiek, A., & Samlowski, B. (2016). Beat it! – Gesture-based Prominence Annotation as a Window to Individual Prosody Processing Strategies. *Tagungsband Der 12. Tagung Phonetik Und Phonologie Im Deutschsprachigen Raum*, 211-214, Munich, Germany.
- Malisz, Z., Ćwiek, A., & Wagner, P. (2015). The perception of prominence by Polish native speakers: A crowdsourcing study. *Proceedings of the 45th Poznań Linguistic Meeting*. The 45th Poznań Linguistic Meeting (PLM2015), Poznań, Poland.

Awards and Grants

- | | |
|------|--|
| 2023 | ViCom short-term collaboration (<u>3000€</u> to conduct collaborative research) |
| 2022 | German Research Council (DFG) Grant (together with Susanne Fuchs and Wim Pouw): On the FLExibility and Stability of gesture-speechH coordination: Evidence |

- from multimodal production, comprehension, and imitation (FLESH) (individual funding within the project 319.439€)
- Radboud Excellence Initiative Fellowship (166.000 €) – resigned
- 2021 Jury prize for the best presentation during Tabula Rasa, a satellite event to Berlin Science Week (500€ to participate in Berlin Science Week events)
- 2019 Young Entrepreneurs in Science Workshop, Falling Walls Foundation (2500€ to participate in a scientific entrepreneurs' course)
- 2016 Young Female Researchers in Speech Science & Technology (\$1700)
- 2016 Helmut Skowronek Scholarship, Westfälisch-Lippische Universitätsgesellschaft, Bielefeld University (3750€)
- 2015 Helmut Skowronek Scholarship, Westfälisch-Lippische Universitätsgesellschaft, Bielefeld University (3750€)

Presentations

Invited Talks

- Ćwiek, A. (09.2023). *Exploring the Dynamic Interplay of Gestures and Prosody in Polish Counting-Out Rhymes*. Seminar of the Group of Prosodic and Gesture Studies (GrEP-G), Pompeu Fabra University, Barcelona.
- Ćwiek, A. (01.2023). *Lautsymbolik um uns herum*. Seminar “Sprachproduktion und -perzeption,” Humboldt University of Berlin.
- Ćwiek, A. (10.2022). *Language and motion*. Workshop on Laboratory Methods in Linguistics, Leibniz-Centre General Linguistics, Berlin.
- Ćwiek, A. (07.2022). *Komm und schnapp sie dir!: Sound Symbolism in German Pokémon Names*. Seminar “Ideophones and Iconicity” (online), Goethe University Frankfurt.
- Ćwiek, A., & Perlman, M. (04.2022). *Making meaning with sound*. PSYCHE Exhibition, Science Gallery Bengaluru (online).
- Ćwiek, A. (11.2021). *Sorting through the Mischmasch of German Ideophones*. Semantik Kolloquium, Goethe University Frankfurt.
- Ćwiek, A. (04.2021). *Komm und schnapp sie dir!: Sound Symbolism in German Pokémon Names*. Seminar “Warum klingt Orkisch böse? Zur Phonologie und Sprachästhetik von sogenannten Plansprachen” (online), Humboldt University of Berlin.
- Ćwiek, A. (03.2021). *Iconicity in Everyday Communication*. Brown Bag Lunch (online), Leibniz-Centre General Linguistics, Berlin.
- Ćwiek, A. (02.2021). *The Iconic Bits in Language*. GULP Lablunch (online), University of Glasgow.
- Ćwiek, A., Fuchs, S., Perlman, M., & Winter, B. (11.2020). “Bouba” and “Kiki” across the Globe. Séminaires de Recherches en Phonétique et Phonologie, Sorbonne Nouvelle, Paris (online).
- Ćwiek, A., Draxler, C., Fuchs, S., Winter, B., & Perlman, M. (11.2019). *Comprehension of Non-Linguistic Vocalizations across Cultures*. MAMPF Seminar, Ludwig Maximilian University of Munich.
- Ćwiek, A., & Fuchs, S. (07.2019). *Iconic Prosody is Rooted in Sensorimotor Properties: Fundamental Frequency and Vertical Space*. McGill University, Montreal, Canada.

Ćwiek, A. (07.2018). *Warum soll man dem Sprachinstinkt folgen?* Kolloquium Phonetik und Phonologie, Bielefeld University.

Conference Presentations (students underlined)

Ćwiek, A., Kadavá, Š., Stoltmann, K., Pouw, W., & Fuchs, S. (09.2023). *When Gestures Enter the Game, Prosody Breaks the Rules*. Presentation at GeSpIn 2023, Nijmegen, The Netherlands.

Kadavá, Š., Ćwiek, A., Stoltmann, K., Fuchs, S., & Pouw, W. (08.2023). *Is gesture-speech physics at work in rhythmic pointing? Evidence from Polish counting-out rhymes*. Poster presented with Šárka Kadavá (Ph.D. student) at the 20th ICPhS, Prague, Czechia.

Żygis, M., Błaszczak, J., Ćwiek, A., Saint-Pettersen, M., Wesołek, S., & Gulowski, P. (08.2023). *Attitudes in the German-Polish Context Based on Perceptual Evidence*. Poster presented with Marzena Żygis and Sarah Wesołek (Ph.D. student) at the 20th ICPhS, Prague, Czechia.

Ebert, M. & Ćwiek, A. (07.2023). *Does thin sound “small” and heavy sound “big”? – An investigation of the size sound symbolic potential of antonym adjective pairs*. Poster presented by Melissa Ebert (M.A. student) at the workshop From icon to abstraction: how iconicity shapes the lexicon, Birmingham, United Kingdom.

Ćwiek, A. (03.2023). *Through the lens of a language: Is there a sound-symbolic functional load?* Presentation at the 65th TeaP, Trier, Germany.

Christoph, N. & Ćwiek, A. (10.2022). *Lautsymbolische Größencodierung bei der Benennung von Hunden*. Poster presented by Nadine Christoph (M.A. student) at the Phonetik und Phonologie im deutschsprachigen Raum, Bielefeld, Germany.

Ćwiek, A. (09.2021). *Are German Pokémon Names Sound-symbolic?* Presentation at the 54th Annual Meeting of the Societas Linguistica Europaea, online conference.

Ćwiek, A., & Fuchs, S. (12.2020). *Hand-Mouth Coordination in a Pointing Task Requiring Manual Precision*. Poster presented at the 12th International Seminar on Speech Production, online conference.

Ćwiek, A., Draxler, C., Fuchs, S., Kawahara, S., Winter, B., & Perlman, M. (08.2019). *Comprehension of Non-Linguistic Vocalizations across Cultures*. Presentation at the 15th International Cognitive Linguistics Conference, Kwansan Gakuin University, Nishinomiya, Japan.

Ćwiek, A., & Fuchs, S. (07.2019). *Iconic Prosody is Rooted in Sensorimotor Properties: Fundamental Frequency and Vertical Space*. Poster presented at the 41st Annual Meeting of the Cognitive Science Society, Montreal, Canada.

Ćwiek, A., Draxler, C., Fuchs, S., Winter, B., & Perlman, M. (03.2019). *Comprehension of Non-Linguistic Vocalizations across Cultures*. Presentation at the 41. Jahrestagung der Deutschen Gesellschaft für Sprachwissenschaft, AG11, Bremen, Germany.

Ćwiek, A., Fuchs, S., Savin, E., Ebert C., & Krifka, M. (05.2018). *A tiny tiny abstract on a biiiiiig topic: An analysis of adjective re(du)plications in a social media corpus*. Presentation at the Iconicity Workshop, Leibniz-Centre General Linguistics, Berlin, Germany.

Ćwiek, A., & Wagner, P. (06.2018). *The Acoustic Realization of Prosodic Prominence in Polish: Word Stress and Sentence Accent*. Poster presented at the Speech Prosody 2018, Poznań, Poland.

- Ćwiek, A., & Wagner, P. (09.2017). *Fine-grained prosodic prominence perception in Polish – A comparison of annotations with and without the speech-gesture link*. Presentation at the Phonetik und Phonologie im deutschsprachigen Raum, Berlin, Germany.
- Ćwiek, A., Neueder, S., & Wagner, P. (10.2016). *Investigating the communicative function of breathing and non-breathing “silent” pauses*. Poster presented at the Phonetik und Phonologie im deutschsprachigen Raum, Berlin, Germany.
- Wagner, P., Ćwiek, A., & Samlowski, B. (10.2016). *Beat it! – Gesture-based Prominence Annotation as a Window to Individual Prosody Processing Strategies*. Poster presented at the Phonetik und Phonologie im deutschsprachigen Raum, Berlin, Germany.
- Ćwiek, A. (09.2016). *Acoustics and Discourse Function of Two Types of Breathing Signals*. Poster presented at the Workshop for Young Female Researchers in Speech Science & Technology, im Rahmen von INTERSPEECH 2016, San Francisco, USA.
- Ćwiek, A., Włodarczak, M., Heldner, M., & Wagner, P. (08.2016). *Acoustics and discourse function of two types of breathing signals*. Presentation at the Nordic Prosody XII, Trondheim, Norway.

Teaching

WS23/24	Grundkurs Linguistik (with Jordan Chark) <i>Humboldt University of Berlin, Faculty of Language, Literature and Humanities</i>
SS22	Lautsymbolik <i>Humboldt University of Berlin, Faculty of Language, Literature and Humanities</i>
WS20/21	Ikonizität in der Sprache <i>Humboldt University of Berlin, Faculty of Language, Literature and Humanities</i>
WS18/19	Ikonizität in der Sprache (with Susanne Fuchs) <i>Humboldt University of Berlin, Faculty of Language, Literature and Humanities</i>
WS16/17	Tutorium Phonetik und Phonologie <i>Bielefeld University, Faculty of Linguistics and Literary Studies</i>
SS15 – SS17	Tutorium Grundkurs Linguistik DaF <i>Bielefeld University, Faculty of Linguistics and Literary Studies</i>

Supervision

2021 – ongoing	Narjes Eskandarnia (with Cornelia Ebert) <i>M.A. Linguistics, Goethe University Frankfurt</i>
2022 – 2023	Theresa Stender (with Christine Mooshammer), Grade: 1.3 <i>B.A. Germanistische Linguistik, Humboldt University of Berlin</i>
2022 – ongoing	Alexandra Fossa <i>B.A. Germanistische Linguistik, Humboldt University of Berlin</i>
2023 – ongoing	Šárka Kadavá (with Markus Steinbach, Susanne Fuchs, & Wim Pouw) <i>Ph.D. Linguistics, University of Göttingen & Radboud University</i>
2023 – ongoing	Melissa Ebert <i>M.A. Linguistik, Humboldt University of Berlin</i>

Organization

11.2023	Workshop „The practical application of decision tree-based AI models” by Alexander J. Kilpatrick, Leibniz-Centre General Linguistics, Berlin
---------	--

- 03.2023 45. Jahrestagung der Deutschen Gesellschaft für Sprachwissenschaft, AG15: Ideophones and lexicalized iconicity in language (Kurz-AG, with Kathryn Barnes), Cologne, Germany
- 12.2021 [Envision Bootcamp](#), Hasso-Plattner-Institute, Potsdam (with Babajide Owoyele, Wim Pouw, and James Trujillo)
- 12.20 – 03.21 FB1 seminar with international guests
- 03.2019 41. Jahrestagung der Deutschen Gesellschaft für Sprachwissenschaft, AG11: Iconicity in Language (with Cornelia Ebert and Susanne Fuchs), Bremen, Germany
- 05.2018 Workshop “Iconicity in speech and gesture”, Leibniz-Centre General Linguistics, Berlin, Germany (with Susanne Fuchs, Cornelia Ebert, and Manfred Krifka)

Media Attention (selected)

- [Why Are Letters Shaped the Way They Are?](#) (interview), *Vice*, February 11, 2022.
- [How shapes sound and how sounds shove](#) (interview), *Chemical & Engineering News*, January 12, 2022.
- [What is the Bouba/Kiki effect and what does it mean for the origins of language?](#) (interview), *Euronews Culture*, November 28, 2021.
- [Sterke connectie tussen 'nonsenswoorden' en mentale beelden bestaat in alle talen en geschriften](#) (interview), *EOS Wetenschap*, November 23, 2021.
- [BBC Inside Science](#), radio interview, November 25, 2021.
- [L'effet « bouba/kiki » confirmé dans plus de 20 langues](#) (interview with AFP), Radio Canada, November 18, 2021.
- [Nonsense words make people around the world think of the same shapes](#) (interview), *Science Magazine*, November 11, 2021.
- [Made-Up Sounds Convey Meaning across Cultures](#) (interview), *Scientific American* online, September 2021. (in print under the title: Sounds about Right, *Scientific American* 325, 3, 19)
- Radio interview, *Imperial College Radio*, August 20, 2021.
- [Berliner Forscher: Sprache ist auch aus Lautmalereien entstanden](#) (interview), *Berliner Zeitung*, Juni 15, 2021. (in print under the title: Am Anfang war die Lautmalerei)
- [Prägten Lautmalereien die Sprachevolution?](#), *wissenschaft.de*, May 17, 2021.
- [No shared language? No problem! People across cultures understand clues from ‘vocal charades’](#) (interview), *Science Magazine*, May 14, 2021.
- Iconic vocalizations may have been precursor to language, *ScientificInquirer*, May 13, 2021.
- [Sprachforschung: Universelle Geräusche sagen mehr als Worte – Interview](#) (radio interview), *Deutschlandfunk*, May 12, 2021.
- [Verstehen ohne Worte: Der Ursprung der Sprache](#) (radio interview), *MDR Kultur*, May 12, 2021.
- [Lautmalereien werden überall verstanden](#), *science ORF.at*, May 12, 2021.
- [‘Iconic’ Sounds May Be Missing Link to Language](#), *Language Magazine*, May 12, 2021.
- [Interview mit unserer Doktorandin Aleksandra Ćwiek](#), In: *Bericht über das Forschungsjahr 2019*: ZAS, 2020, p. 79-80, Berlin: ZAS.
- Das FlicFlac Problem (radio interview), *Radio NRW*, August 23, 2019.

Outreach

- Book-a-Scientist, *Leibniz Gemeinschaft*, June 1, 2021.

- Book-a-Scientist, *Leibniz Gemeinschaft*, November 10, 2020.
- Der Ton macht die Musik: Eine Reise in die Abgründe der Sprache (presentation for the public), *Long Night of the Sciences*, June 15, 2019.
- Von der Form zum Wort (presentation for the public), *Long Night of the Sciences*, June 9, 2018.

Training

11.2023	Wertschätzende Kommunikation mit dem Inneren Team <i>Freie Universität Berlin</i>
05.2023	Zeitmanagement <i>Freie Universität Berlin</i>

Professional Service

2023 – ongoing	envisionBOX co-founding member
2023 – ongoing	ZAS Mentoring Program co-organizer Leibniz-Centre General Linguistics
2022 – ongoing	ViCom Data Network coordinator
2022	PostDoc Representative during the evaluation of the Leibniz-Centre General Linguistics
2017	Students' Representative , Review committee for W1/W2-Professor Bielefeld University, Faculty of Linguistics and Literary Studies
2016	Students' Representative , Review committee for W3-Professor Bielefeld University, Faculty of Linguistics and Literary Studies
2016 – 2018	Co-Founding Member of Linguistics Student Council Bielefeld University, Faculty of Linguistics and Literary Studies
2016 – 2017	Student Assistants' Representative Bielefeld University, Faculty of Linguistics and Literary Studies
2016 – 2017	Students' Representative , Faculty committee Bielefeld University, Faculty of Linguistics and Literary Studies
2016 – 2017	International Speech Communication Association: Student Advisory Committee

Reviewing

2023	Cognitive Science (1), Language and Speech (1), GESPIN (6), Animals (1), Language and Cognition (1), Open Linguistics (2), The diachrony of world class peripheries (1), IcoSem (2), EVOLANG (2), JASA (2, as Guest Editor for a Special Issue)
2022	Cognition (1), Cognitive Processing (2), Cognitive Science (1), CogSci 2022 (1), JASA (1), Languages (1), PLOS ONE (1), Scientific Reports (2)
2021	PLOS ONE (1)
2020	JASA (1)
2019	Glossa (1), Language and Cognition (1)
2018	Language and Cognition (1)

Academic Membership

Junge Sprachwissenschaft e.V. (since 2016)

Languages

Polish (native), English (proficient), German (proficient), Spanish (basic), Russian (basic)

Software & Skills

R (advanced), Python (basic), PRAAT (advanced), LaTeX (advanced), MATLAB (fundamental), MS Office (advanced), OptiTrack (intermediate), RespTrack (intermediate)