

WARD BERND EILING

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Personal Profile

Driven Research Master's student in Methodology and Statistics at Utrecht University with a strong academic foundation in communication (writing and presenting), programming, data visualization, and statistical modeling. Aspiring to pursue a PhD to contribute to research on causal discovery, Bayesian statistics, dimension reduction, and ideographic time-series analysis of momentary symptom dynamics.

Education

Utrecht University Research Master, Methodology and Statistics (English)	Sep. 2023 – May 2025 (Expected) First-year GPA: 8.7/10.0
University of Groningen Honours College (extra programme of 45 ECTS; English)	May 2021 – July 2023 GPA: 7.5/10.0
University of Groningen Bachelor of Science, Psychology (English)	Sep. 2020 – Aug. 2023 Graduated Cum Laude GPA: 8.7/10.0

Research Experience

Utrecht University, Master Thesis Project ↔ Prof. Ellen Hamaker & Dr. Jeroen Mulder	Sep 2024 – present
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Investigated bias in treatment effect estimation in multilevel linear models with randomized treatment and time-varying endogenous covariates by performing large-scale simulations (parallelized in R) and creating causal graphs.Managed reproducible research compendium on GitHub.Presented preliminary findings and wrote intermediary research report independently.	
University of Groningen Research Intern ↔ Dr. Sebastiaan Mathôt & MSc Veera Ruuskanen	Oct. 2022 – July 2023
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Investigated state-dependent pupil dilation and feature selectivity in an experimental study.Drafted Ethics Committee proposals, conducted laboratory data collection and calibrated eye trackers.Computed perceptual sensitivity and analyzed data using regression, ANOVA, and ROC curves in R.	
University of Groningen, Bachelor Thesis Project ↔ Dr. Laura Bringmann & Prof. Casper Albers	Sep. 2022 – July 2023 15 ECTS Grade: 9/10
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Investigated model misspecification in VAR(1) models (related to non-stationarity) by performing a simulation study and empirical analysis in R, comparing cross-validation techniques and predictive accuracy metrics (e.g., MSPE, Mahalanobis distance).Collaborated with a research master's student and presented findings through an oral presentation and final report.	
University of Groningen Research Intern ↔ Dr. Brian D. Ostafin	Sep. 2021 – Aug. 2022
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Explored the relationship between awe induction and perceived meaning in life in collaboration with fellow students.Designed a Qualtrics survey and conducted data collection.Analyzed data using ANOVA, planned comparisons, and moderation analyses in SPSS.Delivered the methods and results of a research report and presented the findings to an audience.	

Work Experience

Utrecht University, Society in the Loop Project Research Assistant (8 hours/week)	Oct. 2024 – present
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Explored available open data and created data visualizations to support stakeholder conversations.Identified underrepresented groups or facilities within data sets.Explored 3D mapping tools (e.g., Netherlands3D) for digital twin applications.	
Utrecht University, Advanced course on using Mplus Teaching Assistant	Aug. 2024
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Assisted in the teaching of the Summer School course S23 Advanced Course on Using Mplus, covering topics such as longitudinal mixture modeling, causal inference in cross-lagged panel research, and dynamic structural equation modeling (DSEM).	
Utrecht University, Introduction to Research Methods Teaching Assistant (6 hours/week)	Sep. 2023 – Nov. 2023
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Actively taught research methods to two practical groups consisting of more than 20 Bachelor's students.	

University of Groningen, Educational Institutional Research *Research Assistant (12 hours/week)* **Sep. 2022 - Sept. 2023**

- Improved Qualtrics surveys regarding the state of education (for students and teachers) in different faculties.
- Preprocessed data with SPSS syntax and made factsheets with advanced Microsoft Excel formula syntax.

University of Groningen, Statistics 2 *Teaching Assistant (10 hours/week)* **Aug. 2022 – Jan. 2023**

- Supervised/taught two practical groups of about 15 students each.
- Assisted students with manual calculations and software exercises (JASP/SPSS) pertaining to varying types of regression (e.g., simple linear, multiple, logistic) and ANOVA.

Team050 *Ambulatory Attendant (6 hours/week)* **Mar. 2022 – Dec. 2022**

- Provided emotional and practical support to children, helping alleviate parental burdens.
- Motivated clients to engage in educational activities and guided clients with planning and structure, resulting in the improvement of grades.
- Enhanced clients' sense of self by providing emotional support.

Awards

Judicium Cum Laude Graduated with the judicium Cum Laude for the Bachelor of Psychology. **2023**

Best in Class, Data Visualization **2021**
Awarded (a book) for creating the best Tableau-based data visualization dashboard in the "Analyzing Data" course.

Projects & Extracurricular Courses

Non-Stationarity and Model Selection *Researcher* **June 2024 – present**

↔ M.Sc. Yong Zhang, Dr. Anja Ernst, Dr. Ginette Lafit, Dr. Laura Bringmann

- Co-authored a manuscript (under submission) for the British Journal of Mathematical and Statistical Psychology, focusing on in-sample and out-of-sample model selection techniques for non-stationary autoregressive (AR) models.
- Evaluated non-stationary AR models (e.g., time-varying, hidden Markov, regime-switching, threshold) using information criteria (AIC, AICc, HQ, BIC) and cross-validation errors on empirical psychopathological dataset.
- Designed and conducted a systematic review on ecological momentary assessment studies using Rayyan.

University of Groningen *A gentle introduction to deep learning* **Dec. 2022**

- Explored topics in 1) machine learning and neural networks; 2) gradient descent, vanishing gradients, training networks; 3) convolutional neural networks and variants; and 4) how to use transformer networks.

Great Learning Academy *Introduction to R* **Sept. 2020 – Jan. 2021**

- The contents of this course pertained basics of R (e.g., basic programming, accessing packages, writing functions).

Technical Skills

Programming Languages	R, Python & MATLAB.
Markup Languages	Markdown (e.g., Quarto) & L ^A T _E X.
Software Applications	RStudio, GitHub, SPSS, JASP, Tableau, Zotero, ATLAS.ti, Anaconda, Mendeley, Rayyan, Microsoft Office & Adobe Acrobat DC.
Languages	Dutch (native) & English (fluent).
Miscellaneous	Exceptional analytical and problem solving skills, strong verbal and written communication skills.

Selected Coursework

M.Sc. Methodology & Statistics (grade)	B.Sc. Psychology (3rd year) (grade)
Bayesian Statistics (10/10)	Experimental Skills (10/10)
Causal Inference and SEM (8.5/10)	Programming for Psychologists (9.5/10)
Computational Inference with R (9/10)	Introduction to Qualitative Research Methods (8.5/10)
Fundamentals of Statistics (8.5/10)	Statistical Solutions to Research Problems in Psychology (9.5/10)
Introduction to Biomedical Statistics (8/10)	Philosophy of Psychology (9/10)
Survey Data Analysis (9/10)	

Interests

Academic	Causal discovery, Bayesian statistics, high dimensional data analysis, time-series analysis, philosophy of science, clinical versus statistical prediction, qualitative research & missing data.
Health	Mindfulness, yoga, meditation, running, skiing, snowboarding, cycling, windsurfing & playing guitar.
Computers	Building electronics projects at home & optimizing work-flow.
Other	Reading novels (e.g., Fyodor Dostoevsky) & philosophy (e.g., Alan Watts, Seneca, Marcus Aurelius).