



Editorial

Dear Readers,

Welcome to the summer edition of the LIFE newsletter!

We begin with a piece by UVA alumnus David Dobolyi who reflects on his life as an interdisciplinary researcher and presents the interesting work he has been doing over the last years. Among others, he has been working on algorithmic fairness related to eyewitness accounts and facial recognition software.

MPIB alumnus Andreas Wilke was a member of the first cohort of LIFE fellows 20 years ago. He presents fascinating research on the way humans grasp the statistical nature of the world. In a new project funded by the National Science Foundation, he is now collaborating with LIFE faculty Annie Wertz to examine the developmental trajectory of humans' misperception of randomness.

The Spring Academy was organized by LIFE at UVA and held online. The fellows' abstracts give an impression of what the latest cohorts are working on.

It is once again time to announce the Outstanding Alumni Award. If you are eligible, please consider applying!

Nathalie Giroud is one of several alumni who have meanwhile become LIFE faculty themselves, and she answers our 10 questions. We then introduce new LIFE Berlin faculty member Laurel Raffington, who worked with LIFE alumna Yee Lee Shing during her predoc and then with alumni K. Paige Harden and Elliot Tucker-Drob during her postdoc. We also present new fellow Jasmin Brumer from Zurich before coming to the publications and latest LIFE news.

As we are experiencing heated times, some splashes of water are distributed throughout the newsletter to cool us down. Enjoy the summer!

Julia Delius



Source: Akira Hojo on Unsplash

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Reminder

Fellows, alumni, and faculty, please keep us informed about your LIFE-relevant news (e.g., awards, career moves)! Fellows and alumni, please check that your web profiles are up-to-date—they are often the first thing that pops up when your name is googled! Send your updates to delius@mpib-berlin.mpg.de

LIFE Website: <https://www.imprs-life.mpg.de>

Twitter: [@imprs_life](https://twitter.com/imprs_life)



Life as an Interdisciplinary Researcher

David G. Dobolyi

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My academic trajectory has spanned a broad range of disciplines including computer science, English literature, cognitive psychology, and business. As such, I have brought a highly interdisciplinary perspective to research collaborations, which have involved a variety of topics including eyewitness memory, reproducibility, healthcare, big data, text analytics, customer analytics, etc.

This atypical path has ultimately been rewarding: Earlier this year, I accepted a tenure track position within the Organizational Leadership and Information Analytics (OLIA) division of the Leeds School of Business, University of Colorado Boulder. As part of this transition, I have been reflecting on my broader research portfolio to identify which aspects I am most passionate about. Fundamentally, I am motivated by projects in which predictive analytics can be used to help people and realize a greater good. Broadly speaking, these research streams can be divided into two groups: fraud prevention and algorithmic fairness. The following sections provide a concise overview of my existing and ongoing work in each of these areas.

Fraud prevention

Phishing is a security risk that affects both individuals and organizations alike. To better protect against it, my co-authors and I recently published a paper describing a model that is better able to predict user susceptibility to phishing in real-time by evaluating the entire phishing process holistically (Abbasi et al., 2021). Based on a field experiment described in the paper, the resulting model was able to deliver user-tailored interventions that outperformed a wide variety of existing models in the literature. Moreover, my colleagues and I also recently published the results of a lab experiment that explored ways of improving user trust in anti-phishing tools (Chen et al., 2021). We are presently planning to develop an open-source phishing simulator framework to assist the research commu-

nity and practitioners in conducting these user-focused studies in the future.

Beyond phishing, I have recently taken an interest in sponsored content detection, which continues to be a rapidly growing problem when it comes to meeting disclosure requirements (Federal Trade Commission, 2019). While existing research has spent significant effort exploring this problem in the context of influencers and posts on image sharing platforms such as Facebook and Instagram, little research has focused on video-based sponsored content detection despite the proliferation of short-form, video-based social media platforms in recent years (e.g., TikTok, YouTube Shorts), particularly among younger generations (Haenlein et al., 2020). Building on work conducted via a Faculty Research Support Program Initiation Grant (FRSP-IG) I received last year from the University of Notre Dame, I am currently developing deep learning models using multiple modalities including video/image and audio/text to classify and rank videos based on the degree of sponsored content they contain and determine whether or not disclosure requirements are being met. A core tenet of this research project is the release of open-source tools which will serve not only to facilitate disclosure enforcement but also to educate students who are interested in learning how to train deep learning models with real-world utility.

Algorithmic fairness

My dissertation in cognitive psychology involved eyewitness lineup identifications — specifically how eyewitnesses justify their lineup decisions and how others interpret these decisions based on the eyewitnesses' verbal statements (e.g., Dobolyi & Dodson, 2018). In our broader research, we found that eyewitness statements that contained statements beyond simple expressions of certainty such as "I'm completely sure" were perceived as less reliable by observers. For example, a statement like "I'm completely sure be-

cause I remember his eyes” or “I’m completely sure because he looks like a friend of mine” were perceived as less accurate despite containing additional information beyond certainty alone. Ironically, we found that less is more when it comes to accurately expressing one’s confidence in a lineup decision.

Beyond verbal justifications, a wide range of biases pervade the eyewitness identification process, and mistakes often result in grave consequences, including cases in which the innocent are incarcerated for decades for crimes they did not commit. Unfortunately, a recent trend in law enforcement has involved the use of facial recognition technology to identify criminal suspects, including the infamous case of a Clearview AI: A company that describes itself as the world’s largest scraped database of faces with aspirations to catalog every human face in existence. Although research has shown that facial recognition algorithms have become quite powerful at performing one-to-one and one-to-many matches (e.g., Phillips et al., 2018), plenty of research has shown that there are limits to accuracy due to a variety of factors including image quality and race (e.g., Buolamwini & Gebru, 2018).

My current research explores an understudied topic in facial recognition algorithms: psychological vs. algorithmic similarity. Specifically, my colleagues and I conducted a large-scale study involving facial similarity ratings using a variety of commercial and open-source algorithms with a face database that includes both Black and White faces. In addition to algorithmic ratings of similar-

ity, we collected similarity ratings from over 4,000 Black and White individuals with a wide range of face recognition ability using both a pair rating and triplet choice task (see Fig. 1). Our overarching goal was to assess how different algorithms scaled facial similarity ratings, how these algorithmic ratings compared to human ratings, and how differences in human facial recognition ability influenced the correspondence.

Figure 2 highlights results from the rating task, illustrating the correspondence we observed between one of the algorithms we evaluated (x-axis) and the participants’ responses (y-axis) relative to their facial recognition ability based on the Cambridge Face Memory Test (CFMT; Duchaine & Nakayama 2006), as indicated by the red, green, and blue lines (i.e., weak, moderate, and strong facial recognition ability, respectively). As shown in the figure, we observe a greater correlation between algorithms and humans who possess stronger face recognition ability, albeit with an unexpected breakdown in this relationship at higher levels of algorithmic similarity (i.e., above 70), at least in the case of this particular algorithm.

Collectively, our research improves our understanding of the degree to which algorithmic and human similarity are comparable while simultaneously uncovering limitations and areas for improvement. Moving forward, we intend to evaluate the suitability of algorithmic similarity ratings for decision support in the construction of fairer eyewitness lineups: An application that is less focused on using fallible algorithms to identify suspects and more on ensuring less bias in the crimi-

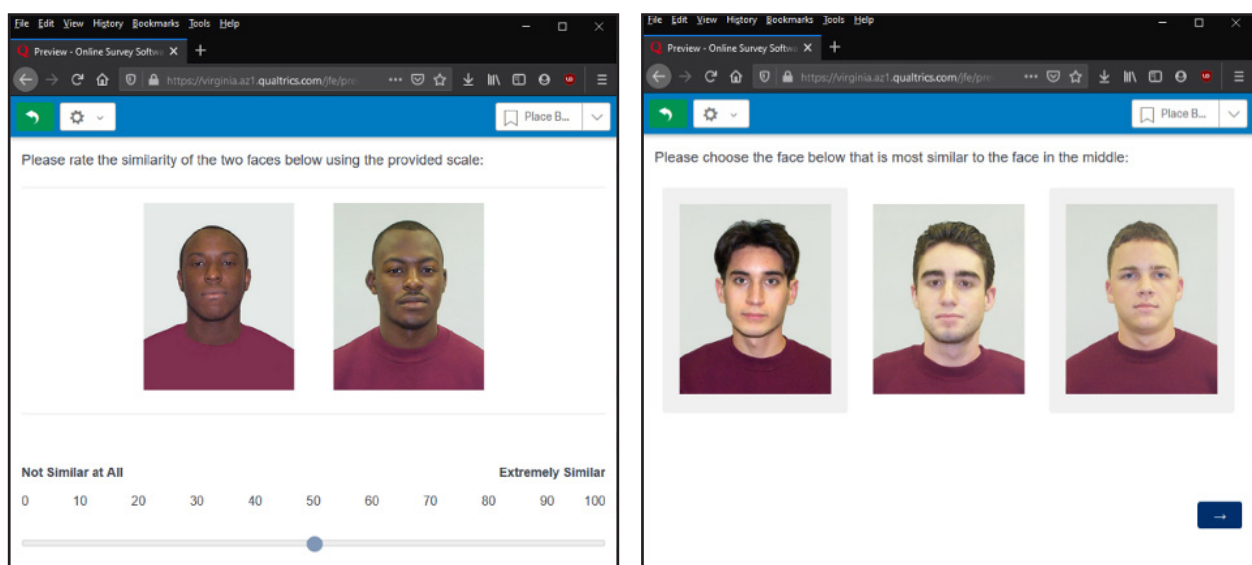


Figure 1. The rating task (left) and choice task (right).

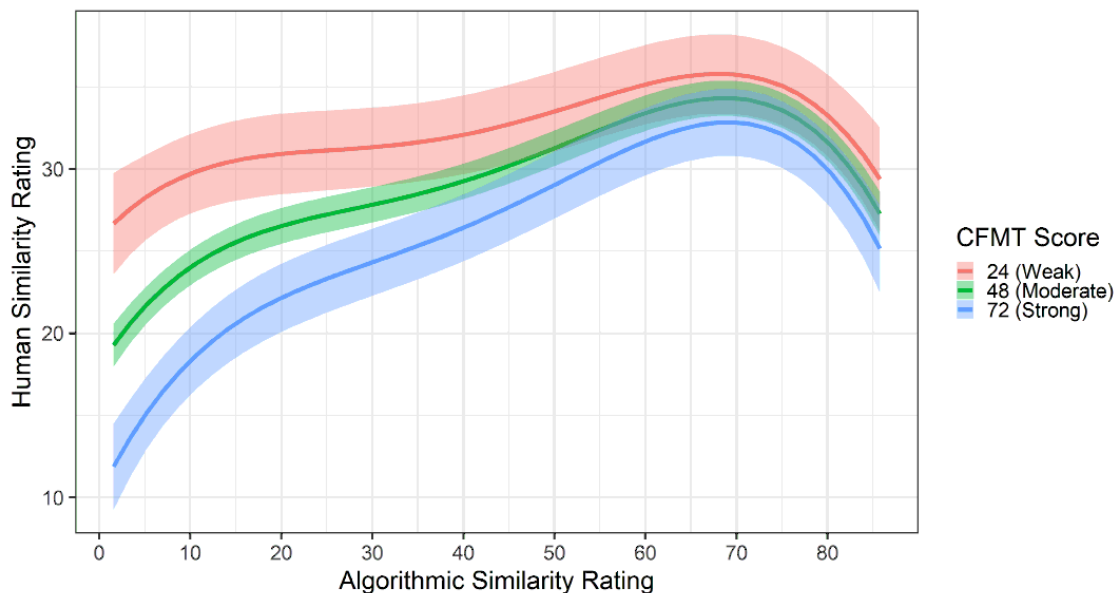


Figure 2. Human similarity ratings compared to algorithmic similarity ratings across differing levels of facial recognition ability (i.e., CFMT Score). The shaded areas indicate a 95% confidence interval.

nal justice process. More broadly, we expect our research to have implications for a wide range of existing commercial applications beyond criminal justice including human resources (HR) analytics, online dating recommendation systems, privacy-protecting digital avatars, etc.

Closing thoughts

Across all the research I have presented, I find myself most motivated by the prospect of helping people, whether this happens to be by keeping their information safe, reducing their likelihood of being influenced by unscrupulous advertisements, or finding ways to identify and alleviate sources of bias. Having an interdisciplinary background has been a boon to all of this research, and as such, I highly encourage new LIFE fellows to take advantage of the wide range of disciplines represented within the program across both students and faculty (see <https://www.imprs-life.mpg.de/life-program/represented-disciplines>).

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Impressions of Colorado photographed by David.





The Misperception of Randomness

Andreas Wilke

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The world is statistical in nature. It is full of statistical patterns, including distributions of objects and events in space and time generated by underlying processes that are partly ordered, partly stochastic. Just as sequences of coin tosses show elements of order as well as randomness—no sequence is exactly predictable, but certain aggregate properties, such as the expected proportion of heads and tails, are—so do natural processes such as the weather, the distributions of plants and animals in space and time, and human social behavior. A large and growing literature in psychology has examined how humans and other animals grasp this statistical nature of the world and use it in their judgments and decisions (e.g., Anderson & Schooler, 1991; Gigerenzer & Murray, 1987; Cosmides & Tooby, 1996; Wilke et al., 2018). This literature explores ourselves as “intuitive statisticians”, revealing ways in which our intuitions conform to, and sometimes depart from, principles of sound statistical inference and decision making (e.g., Haselton et al., 2009).

This statistical thinking in adults is not a consistent, uniform entity generated by a single, underlying process. Instead, human adults bring to bear both data-driven processes, such as, for instance, statistical learning and Bayesian inference (e.g., Gopnik & Tenenbaum, 2007), as well as a variety of heuristics that embody assumptions about the statistical structure of the world (e.g., Gigerenzer & Goldstein, 1996). Importantly, many of these heuristics appear to be “ecologically rational”: they embody assumptions about statistical distributions that allow for rapid and efficient decision making in environments where those assumptions hold true (e.g., Wilke & Todd, 2012). Many of these heuristics can be expected to have been selected and tuned over the course of human evolution to take advantage of robust statistical patterns that are widespread over space and time. They are thus not only ecologically but also evolutionary rational, operating adaptively when used in appropriate environments (e.g., Fawcett et al., 2014). A downside of this, however, is that

when these statistical assumptions are violated, using heuristics that rely on them may produce judgments and behavior that appear “irrational,” maladaptive, or incorrect (see Wilke et al., 2014, 2015; Gaissmaier et al., 2016).

A case that we and others have explored at length is judgments about randomness, and randomness of a particular kind. A key distinction in formal statistics is the distinction between independent and non-independent events. Many statistical techniques assume the statistical independence of events being sampled, meaning that any given event has no connection to, and hence no predictive information regarding any other event; this is a basic staple of introductory statistics courses, with coin tosses often used as a canonical example. One can expect sets of coin tosses, for example, to conform in the aggregate to binomial (Poisson) distributions precisely because of the independence of each toss, which does not affect or predict the outcome of the next. A large literature, however—to which we have contributed—suggests that adult humans and animals rarely assume this independence is the case. Instead, we much more frequently suppose that events in the world exhibit some mutual dependence, e.g., autocorrelation, either positive or negative (e.g., Falk & Konold, 1997). From an ecological rationality perspective, this makes perfect sense if we evolved in a world where events tend not to be completely independent (at least the events that have impacted our fitness). For example, if we catch a fish in a pond we might cast our line again, assuming there will be more; if we find a pool of water at the base of some rocks in the desert we might search for other pools nearby; and if the first person we encounter in a village speaks our language we might assume that others will too.

However, in a world where events are completely independent, these intuitions will lead to mistakes. The intuitions we have just described all reflect an assumption of positive autocorrelation of events. This assumption will fail—indeed, it is

“irrational”—in some situations, including where events are statistically independent. In such cases, our hunches should instead rely only on the overall base rates of events and should not be biased by any prior observation. For example, if the occurrence of water in a particular location in the desert is an independent event, then observing a pool should not cause us to increase our estimate of the probability of another pool nearby above the base rate of pools.

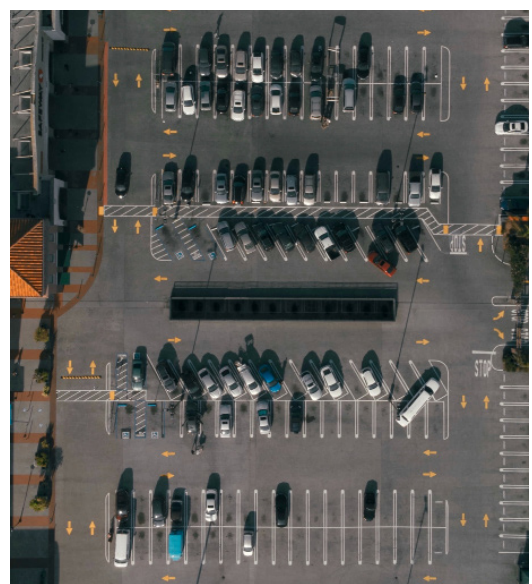
Recent research on the ultimate function of the hot hand phenomenon—and misperception of randomness in general—suggests that we may be dealing with an adaptive human universal, tied to an evolutionary history of foraging for clumpy resources rather than an erroneous cognitive fallacy that only occurs in sports or financial settings (Wilke & Barrett, 2009; cf. Reifman, 2011). In a cross-cultural study, Wilke and Barrett (2009) found that the hot hand phenomenon occurs in both Western cultures and traditional foraging cultures (i.e., the Shuar, in the Amazonian jungle), and that it seems to be a kind of psychological default which is only partly erased by experience with true randomizing mechanisms like coin tosses. In computerized tasks, Wilke and Barrett (2009) had participants predict hits and misses when foraging for various kinds of natural resources (e.g., fruits) and man-made artificial ones (e.g., parking spots). Although all resource distributions were generated randomly, participants in both cultures exhibited the hot hand phenomenon across all the resource types with the strongest effects occurring for resource types that relate to natural resources.

These findings in randomness research are less puzzling when one considers that aggregation in space and time, rather than a random distribution, is likely to have been the norm for most of the natural resources humans encountered over evolutionary time. Natural resources that primates forage for, such as specific plants and animals, rarely distribute themselves in a purely random manner in their natural environment because individual organisms are not independent of one another (Taylor, 1961; Taylor et al., 1978; cf. Hutchinson et al., 2008). Although these deviations can be in the direction of greater dispersal, most often, these deviations from randomness are in the direction of aggregation, because aggregation offers considerable benefits such as a common habitat, mating and parenting, or the benefits of group foraging (Bell, 1991; Krause & Ruxton, 2002). Since humans have been hunters and gatherers for a very long part of our history, it could well be that our evolved psychology is adapted to assume such aggregated resource distributions as the default (Tooby & DeVore, 1987). Recently, Wilke et al. (2018) found empirical support for this (mostly) theoretical claim when investigating the exact ecological spatial patterns of different classes of resources in the environment. After observing and coding 15 different resources from both developed and natural domains—such as seats taken at a café and in a restaurant, occupied parking spots, group members of geese and cow groupings (Fig. 1), and patterns of wilderness, wild forest, and water—the results showed that natural resource domains (e.g., animal distributions, habitat structures) indeed show more aggregated distribution patterns



Source: Stephen Krasemann / NHPA / Photo-shot / Universal Images Group

Figure 1. Canada geese (*Branta canadensis*) in Horicon National Wildlife Reserve, Wisconsin, and a car park somewhere in the US.



Source: Hamza Erbay on Unsplash

than those from human-developed resource domains and that many human-developed resource domains often contain aggregation. Random distributions occurred much less frequently than aggregated ones, dispersed distributions were very rare.

Thus, randomness misperception might be adaptive in contexts where clumps exist but dispersal is rare, as in foraging. When trying to predict the best foraging site, using a strong prior expectation for clumped resources is likely to provide better guesses than a random prior (cf. error management theory; Haselton et al., 2009). At the same time, when faced with sequences of independent and equiprobable events, specific “cognitive biases” like hot hand do not decrease accuracy, because all strategies produce chance-level performance (see Scheibehenne et al., 2011). This means, what has been seen as a systematic error in our decision-making apparatus may actually be a design feature of our cognitive system to help us estimate the locations of forageable resources in physical environments. This explanation highlights the role of ecological (and evolutionary) rationality as introduced above—the principle that there is a match between the statistical structure of objects and information of current (and past) environments and the judgment and decision-making strategies of humans and other organisms (cf. Gigerenzer et al., 1999).

While the misperception of randomness is a widely-studied phenomenon in adults, little is known, however, about the misperception of randomness in human infants or children. The assumption of clumpy resource distributions could be part of a developmental program that only comes online later in adolescence or adulthood or it might already be present in the early years

of life. Some early work tried linking children’s reasoning about randomness producing physical devices to distinct stages of cognitive development (see Piaget & Inhelder, 1975), but these studies neither involved sequential foraging tasks nor reflected on the statistical distributions of the natural environment

Last year, I returned to the Max Planck Institute for Human Development (MPIB). I had partnered up with LIFE faculty Annie Wertz—leader of the Max Planck Research Group “Naturalistic Social Cognition”—to investigate the development of the cognitive mechanisms underlying children’s perception of randomness and their susceptibility to such hot hand judgments. With our international team, we developed three novel statistical decision-making paradigms to assess how 3- to 10-year-old children decide that sequential events will continue in a streak or not, what their understanding of randomness is, and how their ability to reason in spatially dependent terms develops. With funding support from the National Science Foundation, I am visiting the MPIB this summer along with four of my undergraduate lab students (see Fig. 2). My research students, who manage the US data collection at local day-care centers and museums in NY, helped train the student team over here in Germany so they can start collecting a second, cross-cultural sample of children completing our iPad-based tasks. The results of our study are forthcoming.

Where people see predictable patterns versus randomness determines how they will interact with the world, including how they search for resources in stochastic environments. Understanding the development of such perceptions has applications in numerous important daily domains. The techniques we are creating to study the de-



Figure 2. Visiting group from Clarkson University and their MPIB host. From left to right: Yadhira Garcia, Hannah Spilman, Annie Wertz, Andreas Wilke, Gracie DeLaBruere, & Nia Brown

velopment of perceptions of patterns will be useful for research in other fields, and our results will inform better methods of science education for helping children and students to more accurately recognize what are likely patterns and what is random. A sound understanding of randomness is central to teaching statistics, informs our decision-making processes, and provides guidance when facing judgements under risk and uncertainty.

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Virtual Spring Academy 2022: Fellows' Abstracts

Talks and posters in alphabetical order by author respectively

Contact information available at <https://www.imprs-life.mpg.de/people>

Talks

Couples' tend-and-befriend responses to stress

Esra Ascigil, Kristi Chin, Lester Sim, & Robin Edelstein, UM

The Tend and Befriend theory suggests that, when experiencing stress, women are more likely to care for children ("tend") and support close others ("befriend"), whereas men are less likely to do so. However, it is unclear how one's own stress, partner stress, and shared stress are associated with these tend-and-befriend responses in a dyadic caregiving situation. In this talk, I will present preliminary findings from an ongoing study on couples' tend-and-befriend responses to stress. I examine couples' affiliative behaviors during a dyadic caregiving task using an infant simulator following a manipulation in which (1) neither partner is stressed, (2) the female partner is stressed, (3) the male partner is stressed, and (4) both partners are stressed. Infant simulators are lifelike dolls that can be programmed to cry at certain intervals and can be soothed by responsive care. These simulators help us examine caregiving behaviors in couples while keeping the infant's temperament, age, and other characteristics constant. We also examine how supportive partners are towards each other during this task. In line with the Tend and Befriend theory, our preliminary results ($N = 52$ couples) suggest that female participants were most supportive when only they were stressed, and male participants were least supportive when only they were stressed. However, female participants felt closest to and had the most positive feelings towards the infant simulator when only their partner or both of them were stressed, whereas male participants felt closest to and had the most positive feelings towards the infant simulator when both or neither one of them were stressed. Results from the current study will help us understand how different types of dyadic stress experiences (i.e., one's own stress, one's partner's stress, and shared stress) may affect tending and befriending in couples.

Examining associations between testosterone, relationship quality, and prosocial behavior in romantic couples

Kristi Chin, UM

Advisor: Robin Edelstein

Testosterone is a steroid hormone that is important for close relationship processes (Edelstein & Chin, 2018). For instance, both men and women who have lower testosterone generally report higher romantic relationship quality; these associations also extend to partners, such that people report higher romantic relationship quality when their partners have lower testosterone (Edelstein et al., 2014). Although the mechanisms underlying these associations remain largely unknown, theory suggests that testosterone should decrease in social contexts that involve nurturance and caregiving (van Anders et al., 2011; Wingfield et al., 1990). Thus, the proposed study will redress an important gap in the literature by examining caregiving as a potential mechanism underlying links between testosterone and romantic relationship quality. I will analyze data from 595 heterosexual couples drawn from three samples that include measures of salivary testosterone, self-reported romantic relationship quality, and caregiving during partner interactions. I expect that relationship quality will be negatively associated with one's own testosterone and one's partner's testosterone. I also expect that more nurturant caregiving (e.g., responsiveness) during the partner interactions will contribute to (i.e., mediate) negative associations between testosterone and relationship quality for both couple members. This proposed study will advance previous work by assessing the extent to which previous findings replicate in larger samples, among both men and women, and within dyads. This work will also contribute important new information about the mechanisms underlying testosterone-relationship links.

Motives for sharing misinformation on Twitter across the lifespan

Michael Geers, Stefan Herzog, Anastasia Kozyreva, Ralph Hertwig, Philipp Lorenz-Spreen, & Briony Swire-Thompson, MPIB

American adults over 65 years share “fake news” and dubious links seven times more often than younger adults do. The general assumption that users only share information because they believe it to be accurate has been refuted by recent studies, suggesting that older (vs. younger) adults may have different motives for sharing (mis)information online. However, these motives for sharing, and how they might differ across age groups, are poorly understood and often rely on laboratory (rather than field) studies. In a hybrid lab-field study on Twitter, we will collect the URLs shared by participants in the past 5 years and elicit their motives for sharing. We will also collect demographics and psychological factors and link them to the quality of the URLs shared. Together, this study will allow us to better understand age differences in misinformation sharing online.

Secrets of sickness: The who, when, and why of concealing infectious disease

Wilson Merrell, UM

Advisor: Josh Ackerman

Cues of infection typically elicit negative emotional responses like disgust, and people suffering from these illnesses often face exclusion from social life. We may therefore expect that in some cases people will take steps to conceal their illness from others—by modifying their physical appearance, lying about their symptoms, etc.—to avoid these negative outcomes. The present work explores how widespread this concealment behavior is, the social contexts in which it is most common, and psychological predictors of disease concealment. Even during the height of the pandemic when concealment behavior would be particularly costly to public health, we found that 85% of students and 61% of healthcare employees reported concealing their infectious illness from others at least once (Study 1, $N = 989$). Concealment also seems to be more common in some social contexts: 50% of participants reported concealing illness from strangers, but only 25% of participants reported concealing illness from family members (Study 2, $N = 192$). Healthy people believe that they will conceal less when their illness is more harmful to others (Study 3,

$N = 120$), suggesting an other-oriented decision process. However, illness harm had no influence on concealment behavior amongst sick participants (Study 4, $N = 158$; Study 5, $N = 510$). That is, when people are actually sick, the harm they could cause others is not a factor in concealment decisions. Together, our results suggest disease concealment is a ubiquitous behavioral strategy tailored to specific social contexts with unique sets of psychological predictors depending on illness status.

Adolescent psychological well-being in the context of discrimination: Examining the benefits of racial socialization within multiracial families

Shannon Savell & Melvin Wilson

Given the long history of racial discrimination in the US, parents of color will often equip their children for discrimination by using racial socialization. Racial socialization is characterized by parents passing on their values, beliefs, and cultural attitudes tied to their race/ethnicity to their children (Hughes et al., 2006) and is used to prepare children with the skills and confidence to navigate inevitable experiences in the racialized world. Research indicates that parents of color begin racial socialization of their children in early childhood (Blanchard et al., 2019) and continue through adolescence (McHale et al., 2006), which has been shown to buffer the negative effects of experiencing discrimination (Neblett et al., 2006). However, less is known about specific racial socialization practices within multiracial families (Chong, 2013) and its impact on multiracial adolescent psychological well-being (Villegas-Gold & Tran, 2018). Utilizing a sample of multiracial families ($N = 209$) participating in a large multi-site, longitudinal project following low-income families from age 2 to 16, we investigated whether receiving more racial socialization messages from parents in an observed family discussion task buffered the negative effects of experiencing discrimination and indirectly supported multiracial adolescents’ self-reported psychological well-being. We found that in the context of high levels of self-reported discrimination at ages 14 to 16, adolescents who received high levels of racial socialization messages in the observed family discussion task at age 14 self-reported lower levels of depressive symptoms at age 16. The findings provide support for the benefits of racial

socialization in buffering the negative effects of discrimination on multiracial adolescent psychological well-being. Systems of oppression that allow discrimination to continue to be prevalent should be dismantled; additionally, simultaneous efforts to support family systems in the context of discrimination experiences are critically needed. Supporting parents in providing racial socialization messages may be one means by which to intervene upon the adverse effects of discrimination on multiracial adolescent mental health and foster positive youth development.

Recovery of physical size in twins across childhood: Genetic and environmental correlates

Sean R. Womack

Advisor: Eric Turkheimer

Twins are exposed to a variety of stressors prenatally as a result of sharing a womb including competition for nutrition and elevated rates of premature birth. Consequently, twins are on average a standard deviation below population norms in terms of height, weight, and head circumference at birth. Observational studies of twins indicate that they are average physically by early childhood, suggesting that considerable catch-up growth occurs across infancy and toddlerhood. However, the process of physical recovery in twins is not well understood. This study fills gaps in the literature by fitting nonlinear asymptotic growth models to age-standardized measurements of height, weight, and head circumference using prospective data from a large community sample of twins ($n = 1,215$). Results from the growth models suggest that twins recover rapidly across infancy before plateauing around the population mean in toddlerhood. Biometric analyses were conducted to decompose the variance of the growth parameters into additive genetic, shared environmental, and nonshared environmental components. Shared environmental factors explained the majority of the variance in the intercepts of height, weight, and head circumference whereas additive genetics accounted for the majority of the variance in the upper asymptote. Length of gestation and family socioeconomic status emerged as important measured environmental correlates of physical recovery. Findings suggest that environmental factors are important in early physical recovery whereas genetics become increasingly important in later develop-

mental stages. As twins can serve as a model for singleton development, findings inform our understanding of physical development in children exposed to early bioenvironmental adversity.

Posters

Role of learning in the development of individuality

Warsha Barde, Jonas Renner, Alexander Garthe, & Gerd Kempermann, CRTD

We used the IntelliCage apparatus which is a computer-based, fully-automated home-cage system to analyze the exploratory, learning and social behaviour of mice. When subjected to a series of learning tasks, genetically identical mice showed individualized behavioral trajectories, increased variance of behavioral scores and a significant increase in adult hippocampal neurogenesis (AHN). In the absence of genetic and environmental variance, this emergence of individuality is attributed to such environmental enrichment (ENR) that facilitates a differential experience of the 'non-shared' environment, augmenting small initial differences and setting animals on individual life paths. We hypothesize that the feedback loop between behavior and experience-dependent plasticity is a driving mechanism for the individualization of the brain and consequently behavioral patterns. Using IntelliCage as a reductionist version of ENR, the present study aims to study the role and relative contribution of learning and educational experiences in inducing the ENR effects, chiefly individualization of behavioral patterns (as indicated by learning trajectories), brain plasticity (measured by the level of AHN), and functional connectome (reflected by changes in network-level connectivity measured using ex-vivo electrophysiology).

Growing into parenting together: Similarities and differences in parenting practices among first-time parents

Sabrina Beck, UZH

Advisor: Moritz Daum

Numerous studies have shown the importance of co-parenting in promoting healthy child development. In the present study, we aim to expand on the current literature by investigating factors that contribute to similarities and differences in parenting behavior between mothers and fathers within the same family. We will be recruiting Swiss-German first-time parents that live together.

er and have an only child at 12, 24, or 36 months (+/- 6 weeks). Parents must have shared custody of the child and have different genders. An online survey on parenting via Soscisurvey.de will be conducted. Data collection will be continued until the target sample size of 180 parent couples (with a similar number of girls and boys) has been reached. Parents will be asked to complete a questionnaire on parenting practices (ProSoQT; Schuhmacher et al., 2017; German adaptation of the Alabama Parenting questionnaire by Frick, 1991) both as a self-assessment and an assessment of their partner's parenting practices. In addition, demographic variables such as education levels, age, etc., as well as relationship satisfaction will be assessed by a single-item measurement (Fülöp et al., 2022). After successful data collection, we will run an Actor Partner Interdependence (APIM) model for all four scales on parenting practices (positive parenting, responsible parenting, authoritarian parenting, inconsistent discipline). We will conduct multigroup APIM analyses, comparing the respective parameters between different groups of parents (i.e., parents of children aged 12 months vs. 24 months vs. 36 months, parents of boys vs. parents of girls, parents with similar vs. with different level of education, parents with similar vs. dissimilar age, parents with shorter vs. longer relationship duration). We expect the data collection to be completed in August 2022.

User-centered development of an internet-based cognitive behavioral therapy intervention for the treatment of loneliness in older individuals

Christine Dworschak, UZH

Advisors: Andreas Maercker & Eva Heim

Loneliness has been described as one of the main risk factors for both physical and mental illness. Although loneliness is evident across the lifespan, it is more likely in populations who are at risk for social isolation, such as older individuals. Interestingly, a recently published meta-analysis revealed that the most effective intervention strategy to reduce loneliness is cognitive restructuring (which is a core element of cognitive behavioral therapy). However, although effective interventions exist, only a small number of older individuals seek face-to-face treatment. Internet-based interventions have the potential to bridge

this treatment gap. Therefore, the aim of this project is to develop the first internet-based cognitive behavioral therapy intervention for the treatment of loneliness in older individuals. As it has been shown that the involvement of end users in the development of an intervention increases usability, uptake, and user satisfaction, we applied a user-centered approach during the development process. In this poster presentation, I would like to elaborate on the study design and discuss content as well as features of the planned intervention.

Modeling social sampling from social networks: Are there differences between online and offline contacts?

Marlene Hecht, Thorsten Pachur, & Christin Schulze, MPIB

Personal social networks can serve as an informative sampling space for decisions under uncertainty. Specifically, decision makers can infer unavailable social statistics (e.g., the relative frequency of health risks or consumer preferences in the population) by drawing samples from among the people they personally know. In light of the growing use of the Internet, much of our social interaction occurs online (e.g., on social media) rather than offline (e.g., personal contact). Here, we examine to what extent the usual mode of interaction (offline vs. online) with a network member affects people's social sampling. In an online study ($N = 138$), participants judged the popularity of holiday destinations, and recalled people in their personal (online and offline) social networks who had visited each destination. Additionally, participants indicated the respective interaction mode (offline, mixed, or online) and social category (self, friend, family member, or acquaintance) of each contact. We used a Bayesian hierarchical modeling approach to compare a limited search strategy based on interaction mode (online vs. offline) to a limited search strategy based on social category, an exhaustive sampling strategy, and random guessing. More than a third of participants (36.23%) were best described by an inference strategy that conducts a sequential and limited search based on interaction mode. Interestingly, those who followed such a search strategy also showed more egocentric search (i.e., they relied more strongly on their own experiences) than participants following a limited

search strategy based on social category. Overall, these results provide the first evidence that interaction mode affects social sampling.

Decision-making and reasoning about own and foreign culture norms in childhood

Natascha Helbling, UZH

Advisor: Moritz Daum

Norms play an essential role in everyday interaction, because they provide guidelines on how to behave in a society. Cultural differences in norms and normative cognition can lead to conflict and not much is known about how monocultural children from different backgrounds but also bicultural children reason about own and other country norms and react to their violations. In a first study, we assessed and evaluated norms from different countries by letting people rate them according to their importance for them and the society in which they live. In a second study, we are currently investigating reactions to a selection of these norms and their violations with mono- and bicultural children aged 4 to 12. The children are given a choice between two options of how a character behaves and are then confronted with the character's actual choice. We then ask them to judge the character's behavior and to justify why a behavior is okay or not. I will present the study design as well as the initial results from a subsample of children who have already been tested.

A computer-assisted speechreading training improves audiovisual speech perception in noise

Raffael Schmitt & Nathalie Giroud, UZH

Seeing a speaker's face can aid speech perception tremendously—especially in the presence of interfering background noise. As people age, the reliance on visual cues becomes even more relevant due to the highly prevalent hearing loss.

The present study investigates whether three weeks of computer-assisted speechreading training improves the use of visual information under difficult listening conditions. For this purpose, a sample of 60 participants of different ages (50–80 years) with varying degrees of hearing loss (15–60 dB HL) are examined, with 30 participants doing a speechreading training (Experimental group, EG) and 30 participants learning a foreign language (Active control group, AG). Participants

are instructed to practice for 20 minutes on 5 days a week. Before and after the training phase, participants perform an (audio-) visual speech-in-noise task where they answer a female speaker's questions concerning everyday life. The signal-to-noise ratio (SNR) is determined individually by setting it to the 50%-speech-in-noise perception threshold in an established German matrix sentence test. By using an SNR individualization approach we aimed to prevent ceiling effects in the audiovisual condition as it would make detection of possible training effects impossible.

Using generalized linear mixed effects models, preliminary results with a subgroup of 36 participants suggest that the EG benefits from training while the AG shows no change. Since data collection is still ongoing and results are only preliminary, we are cautious about drawing conclusions. Finding effects would, however, be promising, as it would underscore the benefits of computer-based training even into old age.



Source: Markus Spiske on Unsplash

Announcement of LIFE Outstanding Alumni Award 2022

The LIFE Steering Committee is pleased to announce the 2020 LIFE Outstanding Alumni Award competition. This annual award for LIFE alumni recognizing continued excellence in interdisciplinary developmental science post PhD was established to make use of the prize money LIFE received in connection with the APA Board of Educational Affairs Award to Advance Interdisciplinary Education and Training in Psychology. The LIFE Outstanding Alumni Award is focused specifically on the continued realization of the objectives of LIFE in the awardee's independent research career. The award winner will be invited to join the LIFE Spring Academy 2023 and to deliver an award lecture based on her/his research.

Eligibility Requirements

Applicants should have received their PhDs no earlier than three years ago and should not be more than 10 years beyond graduation. Criteria for selection will be the quality of publications, overall productivity, overall impact of research program, evidence of larger relevance of research, funding success, evidence of lifespan perspective, as well as quality, quantity, and outreach in mentoring.

Guidelines for Application

To apply please send Silke Schäfer <sschaefer@mpib-berlin.mpg.de> a PDF file containing the following materials by *September 15, 2022*:

- One-page synopsis of your relevant research program;
- Your CV;
- 2–3 representative publications;
- A statement about how your on-going research program, mentoring goals, and overall scholarship have been shaped by LIFE and continue to embody the goals of LIFE.

Those alumni who applied last year and continue to be eligible are encouraged to update their information and stay in the nomination pool.

For information on previous awardees, see <https://www.imprs-life.mpg.de/en/life-program/outstanding-alumni-award>



10 Questions

Nathalie Giroud, Head of the Computational Neuroscience of Speech & Hearing Research Group & SNF-PRIMA Assistant Professor at the University of Zurich

nathalie.giroud@uzh.ch

How did you get involved in the computational neuroscience of speech and hearing?

I was inspired by a lecture on aphasia and other types of language pathology during my undergrad studies in neuropsychology. Until that point, I did not really understand how easily one can lose something as basic as the ability to use spoken language. Also, it was extremely impressive how losing this ability could impact your whole life—first and foremost your social life, but also your cognitive abilities and general health. The only problem was that the professor had a really bad day, and I was really scared to ask him whether I could work with him (hint: he is also a LIFE faculty member 😊). But luckily, I did, and he turned out to be the best mentor I could have wished for. I soon got the opportunity to develop my own research stream independently—namely investigating neural and cognitive underpinnings of speech and language in people with speech and language dysfunctions (e.g., due to age, hearing impairment, cognitive decline, etc.) and how we can diagnose and improve those functions as early as possible.

Could you name books or articles that have profoundly influenced your own thinking about the field?

I was mostly influenced by neural theories of how speech is represented in the brain because I felt that we know extremely little about how the brain works, but at the same time this field offered a really nice hypothesis developed from an interdisciplinary and neurophysiological perspective on how speech (i.e., the acoustic signal) may have evolved and how speech is built up to suit the brain (and not the other way around). Many other fields (e.g., how cognition is represented in the brain) were not yet convincing and focused more on *where* in the brain certain functions are located, but not enough on *how* they are supported by neurophysiology. For me personally, reading about research by David Poeppel and Anne-Lise Giraud (e.g., Giraud & Poeppel, 2012; Poeppel, 2012, 2014) has influenced my thinking most.

Having such theories at hand provided us with a foundation to work on diagnostic and therapeutic instruments for people with disorders in speech that are based on neurophysiology rather than isolated behavioral symptoms.

Which do you consider the main current debate within the field?

In the field, there is a major conflict of interest between researchers and clinicians/health care providers. For example, we know that age-related hearing impairment has a huge impact on people's lives, and that it is a strong risk factor for dementia. However, there is currently not enough evidence that would suggest that treating hearing impairment (e.g., by prescribing the use of hearing aids) can really delay or alleviate symptoms of dementia. In science communication such a difference between correlation and causation cannot be stressed enough. Unfortunately, when this knowledge reaches patients, it is often not differentiated enough. Thus, we, as scientists, really need to do a better job and connect with clinicians and health care providers and make sure that our research is translated into clinics and daily life in a responsible way.

What research topics have been neglected or have not received enough attention so far?

Particularly at this intersection between fundamental and clinical research, it is a huge challenge not to forget that the long-term goal is to help an individual in a specific situation. This individuality and context specificity often gets lost, and we are too fast in trying to apply research that is only based on population averages and blind to the particular environment and context of a specific person.

One of your foci is on the association between hearing loss/speech processing difficulties and dementia/cognitive decline in aging. Can you tell us more about this?

We have different pillars of research that have different degrees of fundamental, clinical, and applied elements. We are conducting fundamental

research trying to understand the neurophysiological correlates of speech dysfunctions in different populations, for example in healthy older adults (e.g., in a study conducted by LIFE fellow Raffael Schmitt; Schmitt et al., 2022), but also in clinical populations such as older adults with cognitive impairment due to Alzheimer's disease (e.g., Giroud et al., 2021). The goal is to use the gained knowledge to find diagnostic and treatment possibilities that improve the neurophysiological process, e.g., using behavioral interventions on mobile phone apps (Schmitt et al., in prep.) or brain stimulation.

How can your research be applied to everyday life?

As mentioned above, we are trying to bridge the gap between fundamental neurological and neuropsychological research and clinical/applied research with a focus also on innovations. For example, our group is embedded in an innovation hub on healthy longevity, initiated and led by LIFE faculty Mike Martin at the University of Zurich, and I am co-directing the competence center "Language & Medicine," which wants to bring researchers from humanities and social sciences together with colleagues from medical and clinical fields to make sure (1) that research is inspired by real-world problems emerging in individuals, patients, and in clinics and (2) that the research findings are translated back into the clinical setting.

What are you currently working on?

We are currently setting up a collaboration with an industrial partner that wants to gain insights into how best to design and evaluate an auditory-cognitive training app for older adults with hearing impairments. Our joint goal is to develop methods to test whether the app has benefits not only for hearing and cognition as traditionally tested in the lab, but also to find out to what degree there are (subjective and objective) benefits in the daily life of the participants. We also want to ask questions about who benefits and in what situation, and find out about the neurophysiological, environmental, and personal predictors of training and transfer success in different contexts.

What did you get out of LIFE as a PhD student and what do you get out of it now, as a faculty member?

I value LIFE as a fantastic network of researchers who have largely similar interests. I think when you start out as a PhD student it is extremely important to be exposed to ideas from a wider range of research topics than you are exposed to in your own research group. And the benefit of that may only become evident much later in your career when you are building up a whole line of research that can go into different directions.

What is the added value of LIFE's internationality?

LIFE offers not only international connections, but also interdisciplinarity and different views and opinions on similar research questions. I think such diversity is extremely valuable to grow your research and also your view on the world. Thus, go to LIFE and let yourself be challenged by discussions, questions, and arguments from other people.

Has the COVID pandemic changed the way you work?

It is amazing how COVID has been eliminated from our minds soon after all restrictions were lifted in Switzerland a few months ago. Not only do we forget about people with long COVID, but also about some positive outcomes of the pandemic such as more efficient organization of work (e.g., organizing online meetings instead of in-person meetings where people have to commute from many different sites to one place solely for administrative meetings).

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Schmitt, R., Meyer, M., & Giroud, N. (in prep.). *Computer-based speechreading training improves audiovisual speech perception in noise in older adults*.

New LIFE Faculty in Berlin

Laurel Raffington is the research group leader of the independent Max Planck Research Group “Biosocial – Biology, Social Disparities, and Development” that started its work in May 2022 at the Max Planck Institute for Human Development. Laurel is a German-American developmental psychologist, who trained with LIFE alumnae Yee Lee Shing, Kathryn Paige Harden, and Elliot Tucker-Drob.



The group applies a biosocial perspective to study the intergenerational transmission of social inequality. Biosocial research provides an important avenue of inquiry for understanding how the social environment intersects with biological processes to shape differential outcomes of education, health, and well-being across the lifespan. Gene-environment interplay can be seen as the primary mechanism by which social inequality affects child and adolescent development, reproducing inequality over generations.

Thematically, the group focuses on biosocial dynamics of socioeconomic and racialized inequality in child and adolescent mental health and educationally-relevant skills and outcomes. Methodologically, the group leverages recent innovations from human genomics, including polygenic and epigenetic “omics” methods, in longitudinal cohorts, family designs, and randomized

trials. They apply an anti-racist, feminist lens to genetically informed developmental science as well as their day-to-day work style. For more information, see <https://www.mpib-berlin.mpg.de/research/research-groups/mpib-biosocial> and <https://twitter.com/laraffington>.

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Key publications

Raffington, L., Tanksley, P. T., Sabhlok, A., Vinnik, L., Mallard, T., King, L. S., Goosby, B., Harden, K. P., & Tucker-Drob, E. M. (in press). Socially stratified epigenetic profiles are associated with cognitive functioning in children and adolescents. *Psychological Science*. Preprint: <https://doi.org/10.1101/2021.08.19.456979>

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New LIFE Fellow in Zurich

Jasmin Brummer. I am a doctoral student at the University of Zurich, supervised by Sebastian S. Horn and Alexandra M. Freund (chair "Developmental Psychology: Adulthood"). I am interested in the interplay between motivation and memory across adulthood. Specifically, my research is concerned with the effect of gain and loss incentives on memory.



For my master's degree at the Università Vita Salute San Raffaele in Milan, I investigated inter-temporal choice behavior in rodents. Previously, during the work on my bachelor's thesis at Glasgow Caledonian University, I examined working memory processes for music. My current research at the University of Zurich is concerned with declarative memory, such as prospective memory and how motivational influences manifest in selective remembering or time monitoring in younger and older adults.

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Source: Wesley Tingey on Unsplash

LIFE-Related Publications

These include all recent articles reported by *LIFE fellows* as well as selected work by *LIFE alumni*. See also <https://www.imprs-life.mpg.de/publications>. If your work is missing, please let us know!

Allen, J. P., Loeb, E. L., **Kansky, J.**, & Davis, A. A. (2022). Beyond susceptibility: Openness to peer influence is predicted by adaptive social relationships. *International Journal of Behavioral Development*, 46(3), 180–189. <https://doi.org/10.1177/0165025420922616>

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LIFE News

- The *Fall Academy 2022* will take place in person from October 13 to 16 in Berlin.
- The *Spring Academy 2023* is in planning at UM from May 18 to 20.

Exchanges

- UVA Fellow *Katie Daniel* is coming to Berlin to work with HU faculty Manuel Voelkle in September/October.
- UM alumna *Pia Lalwani*, meanwhile postdoc at the University of California, Irvine, will be revisiting the Lifespan Neural Dynamics Group headed by MPIB faculty Doug Garrett from August until October as an exchange delayed by COVID.

LIFE Berlin

- *Laurel Raffington*, head of the new Max Planck Research Group Biosocial at MPIB, has joined the faculty of LIFE Berlin (see p. 20 for more information).
- MPIB fellow *Connair Russell* has submitted his dissertation entitled „Error Management in Learning and Generalisation: The Domain of Food“ to the FU. He is now a Research Fellow on the Explaining Atheism project at the Institute of Cognition and Culture at Queen’s University Belfast, which looks to examine the causal origins of individual and societal non-belief. His role in this project will be in designing, administering and analyzing large-scale cross-cultural surveys testing a number of individual and social factors that have been argued to influence non-belief.
- DIW alumna *Julia Sander* successfully defended her dissertation entitled „Development Throughout the Adult Life Span: Stability and Change in Personality Traits and Social Participation“ at the FU Berlin in April.
- MPIB alumna *Anna Karlsson* successfully defended her dissertation entitled “Neural Oscillations Shape the Quality and Content of Episodic Memories in Young Adulthood and Older Age” at HU Berlin in May. She will continue her postdoc working with Roberto Cabeza at HU Berlin.
- MPIB alumna *Verena Sommer* completed an intensive Python Machine Learning course

before joining LBD Beratungsgesellschaft, a consultancy in Berlin advising cities, companies, etc. on becoming fossil-free and climate-neutral, as a data scientist. She is working on data-driven software tools for planning the expansion of wind and solar energy, teleheating, broadband, etc.

- MPIB alumnus *Andreas Wilke* (first-cohort fellow!), meanwhile Professor of Psychology at Clarkson University, has returned to MPIB with four students to collaborate with LIFE faculty *Annie Wertz* (for more information, see pp. 7ff.).
- The LIFE seminar this semester was an open lecture series on lifespan theory, including talks by Gesa Hartwigsen, MPI for Human Cognitive and Brain Sciences, Leipzig, Robert Kumsta, Université de Luxembourg, Catherine Hartley, New York University, and UZH LIFE faculty *Wiebke Bleidorn*. In addition to the virtual LIFE Theory Lab lectures that were open to a larger group of viewers, there were small-scale consultations with the Berlin fellows.

LIFE Michigan

- Fellow *Rita Hu* is taking over from *Esra Ascigil* and *Kristi Chin* as UM Fellow Speaker. Special thanks to them for their service!
- Faculty *Adriene Beltz* was promoted to Associate Professor with tenure and has received a SUCCEED (Supporting Careers and Cultivating Excellence, Engagement, and Diversity) Grant from UM.
- Fellow *Esra Ascigil* successfully defended her dissertation entitled “Affiliative Responses to External Stress in Couples” in July. She is taking up a two-year postdoctoral researcher position at Sabanci University, Istanbul, Turkey. She will be examining cross-cultural differences in minimal social interactions (i.e., everyday social interactions with people outside our close social circle, such as a barista while getting coffee) and their links with well-being.
- Fellow *Kristi Chin* successfully defended her dissertation entitled “Relationships Are More Than Skin Deep: Associations Between

Testosterone, Relationship Quality, and Prosocial Behavior” in June. She will be taking a combined postdoc at University of Michigan at the Institute of Social Research with Toni Antonucci and Department of Nursing with Lynae Darbes to continue studying close relationships and health and well-being.

- Fellow *Blake Ebright* won the 2022 Carol Weinstein Outstanding Paper Award from AERA’s Classroom Management SIG. His co-authors are LIFE faculty *Kai Cortina* and *Kevin Miller*. The paper title was “Scrutiny and Opportunity: Mobile Eye Tracking Demonstrates Differential Attention Paid to Black Students by Teachers.”
- Faculty *Pamela Davis-Kean* has started a two-year term position as a Program Officer for Developmental Science at the National Science Foundation. She will return to UM in Fall 2024.
- Fellow *Dominic Kelly* successfully defended his dissertation entitled “Using Intensive Longitudinal Data to Model Person-Oriented Relations Between Cognition and Personality to Inform Development” in June. He is starting his postdoc as Research Fellow at the Centre for Education Policy and Equalising Opportunities at University College London.
- Alumnus *Neil Lewis, Jr.*, meanwhile Assistant Professor at Cornell University, has won the President and Provost’s Faculty Award for Excellence in Research, Teaching, and Service through Diversity.
- Faculty *Luke Hyde*, *Chris Monk*, and colleagues were awarded funds (~\$3.8 million) by the NIMH/NIH for their project “Structural Racism and Black American Mental Health: Neurophysiological Mechanisms and Sociocultural Processes Promoting Resilience During the Transition to Adulthood.”
- Faculty *Patricia Reuter-Lorenz* will step down as UM Psychology Department Chair at the end of August after successfully leading the department through numerous challenges over the last seven years.
- Faculty *Abby Stewart* has won the APA Division 5 Distinguished Contributions in Qualitative Inquiry Award, which honors an individual who has a long and distinguished history

of scientific contributions within the field of qualitative research methods.

- Alumnus *Alvin Thomas*, meanwhile Assistant Professor at the University of Wisconsin, has received the Federation of Behavioral and Brain Sciences (FABBS) 2022 Early Career Impact Award upon nomination by the Society for the Psychological Study of Social Issues.
- Faculty *Henry Wellman* retired in July after 45 years at UM. Thank you for being part of LIFE!

LIFE Virginia

- Three new LIFE fellows are currently being recruited at UVA. The funding for the next 2 years of LIFE at UVA was provided by Jim Ryan, the President of UVA.
- Alumna *Miranda Beltzer* successfully defended her dissertation entitled “Examining Social Reinforcement Learning Biases in Social Anxiety” in September last year. After an internship at New York Presbyterian Hospital/Weill Cornell Medical Center, she has joined the Multidisciplinary Training Program in Digital Mental Health at Northwestern University’s Center for Behavioral Intervention Technologies as a postdoctoral fellow. She will continue to provide evidence-based treatment as a postdoctoral fellow at New York Anxiety Treatment.
- Fellow *Katie Daniel* received the P.E.O. Scholar Award 2022–2023, the UVA Dean’s Dissertation Completion Fellowship, and a Huskey Research Exhibition Honorarium
- Alumnus *David Dobolyi* has taken up a new position as assistant professor at the Organizational Leadership and Information Analytics (OLIA) division of the Leeds School of Business, University of Colorado Boulder (see pp. 3ff. for information on his research).
- Alumna *Sierra Eisen* has started a new position as a Research Associate for WestEd (in San Francisco). WestEd is a nonpartisan, nonprofit research, development, and service agency that works with education and other communities throughout the US and abroad to promote excellence, achieve equity, and improve learning for children, youth, and adults. Sierra is working on pre-kindergarten

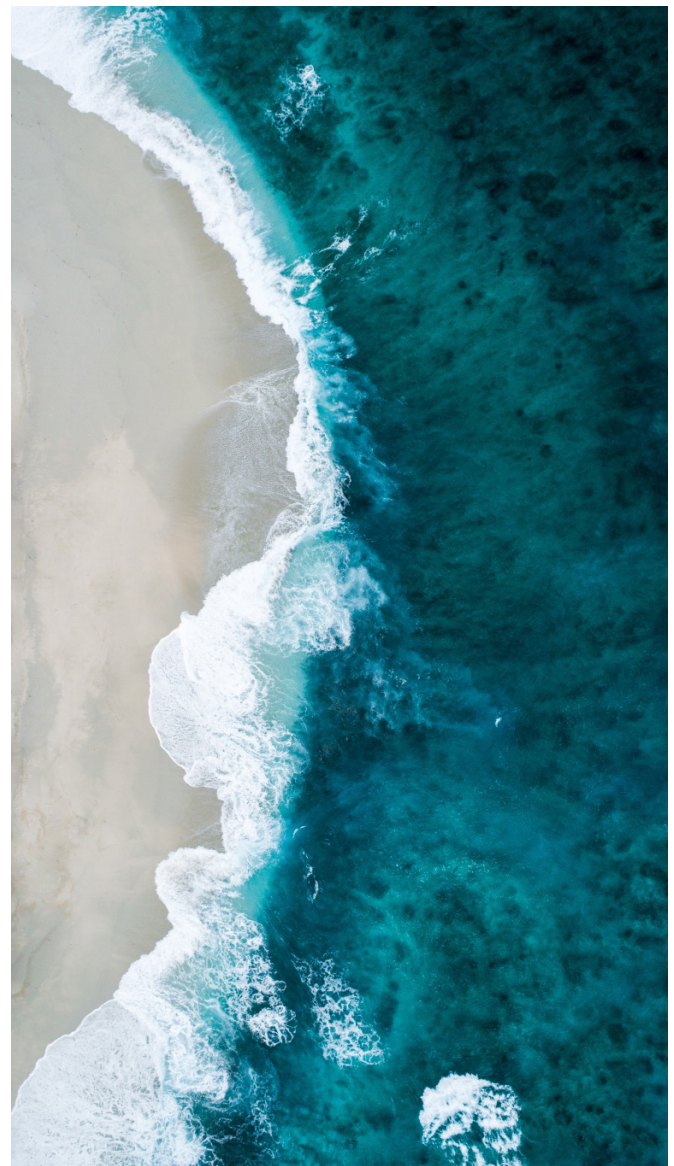
mathematics interventions that support economically disadvantaged students.

- Alumnus *Josh Magee* has returned to Charlottesville and started a psychotherapy practice providing online therapy to clients in Ohio and Virginia. He specializes in helping adults experiencing anxiety, depression, stress, insomnia, and related problems.
- Fellow *Shannon Savell* was awarded the UVA Dean's Dissertation Completion Fellowship and a Huskey Graduate Research Exhibition Invited Speaker Honorarium.

LIFE Zurich

- Fellow *Sabrina Beck* is taking over from *Zita Mayer* and joining *Plamina Dimanova* as UZH Fellow Speaker. Special thanks to Zita for all her contributions!
- Faculty *Wiebke Bleidorn* received funding (~CHF 430,000) from the Swiss National Science Foundation (SNSF) for the project "Personality Traits and Civic Engagement across the Lifespan."
- Faculty *Moritz Daum* was granted funding (~CHF 900,000) for the SNSF project "Developmental Diary App."
- Together with Faculty *Alexandra Freund*, *Moritz Daum* also received UZH funding (~140,00 CHF) for the Developmental Science Network Zurich.
- *Alexandra Freund* has been elected for a four-year term as Deputy Obperson and Senator of the Leopoldina National Academy of Sciences, Germany, and President of the Society for the Science of Motivation (SSM).
- Faculty *Mike Martin* has been awarded funds (~CHF 3.2 million) to continue the "Competence Center Citizen Science" (CC-CS), for the term 2022–2025 by Stiftung Mercator Schweiz.
- *Mike Martin* has also received funds (~CHF 3 million) to establish a "Healthy Longevity Innovation Center" from the Velux Foundation for the duration of 5 years.
- Faculty *Nora Raschle* and others' flagship project of Hochschulmedizin Zürich "STRESS" was approved by Hochschulmedizin Zürich and funded with CHF 1 million. The project is led by Isabelle Mansuy and Birgit Kleim.

- *Nora Raschle* was also granted funding (~CHF 700,000) for the SNSF project "Socioemotional Brain Development – an Intergenerational Perspective."



Source: Shifaaz Shamoan on Unsplash

Frequently used acronyms in LIFE

CRTD: Center for Regenerative Therapies Dresden

DIW: Deutsches Institut für Wirtschaftsforschung [German Institute for Economic Research]

DZA: Deutsches Zentrum für Altersfragen [German Centre of Gerontology]

DZNE: Deutsches Zentrum für Neurodegenerative Erkrankungen Dresden [German Center for Neurodegenerative Diseases]

FU: Freie Universität Berlin

HU: Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin

LIFE: International Max Planck Research School on the Life Course

MPiB: Max-Planck-Institut für Bildungsforschung [Max Planck Institute for Human Development]

UM: University of Michigan

UVA: University of Virginia

UZH: University of Zurich

LIFE Newsletter

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Aim of the newsletter

The LIFE newsletter encourages collaboration and interaction among people within the LIFE program. It provides an information platform where fellows, alumni, and faculty members can learn more about each other's research, and identify colleagues with similar interests and possible projects for collaboration.

Contributions

Please send contributions, suggestions, and input to the editor.

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