
Curriculum Vitae

Dr Aleksandra Ćwiek

born on 25 July 1991 in Głowno, Poland



Address:

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Academic professional experience

- 12.25 – ongoing **Assistant Professor**
Department of Experimental Linguistics, Institute of Linguistics
Faculty of Humanities, Nicolaus Copernicus University in Toruń
- 09.25 – 11.25 **Visiting Researcher**
Centre for Language Evolution Studies, University of Toruń, Poland (3 months)
- 05.25 **Visiting Researcher**
Department of Linguistics, Goethe-University Frankfurt, Germany (2 weeks)
- 09.23 – 10.23 **Visiting Researcher**
Department of Translation and Language Sciences, Universitat Pompeu Fabra, Barcelona, Spain (1 month)
- 06.23 – 06.23 **Visiting Researcher**
Donders Institute for Brain, Cognition, and Behaviour, Radboud Universiteit, Nijmegen, Netherlands (1 month)
- 09.22 – present **Principal Investigator**
Leibniz-Centre General Linguistics (ZAS), 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 Working Group of Prof Petra Wagner

Education

- 2018 – 2022 **Doctor of Philosophy, General Linguistics**
Humboldt University of Berlin, Faculty of Languages and Literature
Title: *Iconicity in Language and Speech* (summa cum laude)

- Supervisors: Prof Manfred Krifka, Susanne Fuchs, PhD, Marcus Perlman, PhD (University of Birmingham, United Kingdom)
- 2016 – 2018 **Master of Arts, Linguistics: Communication, Cognition and Language Technology**
Bielefeld University, Faculty of Linguistics and Literature
Title: *The Acoustic Realisation of Prosodic Prominence in Polish: Word Stress and Sentence Accent*
(Grade: 1,3)
Supervisors: Prof Petra Wagner, Dr Zofia Malisz
- 2013 – 2016 **Bachelor of Arts, Linguistics (major) / Teaching German as a Foreign and Second Language (minor)**
Bielefeld University, Faculty of Linguistics and Literature
Title: *Acoustics and discourse functions of two types of breathing signals* (Grade: 1,0)
Supervisors: Prof Petra Wagner, Prof Mattias Heldner (Stockholms universitet, Sweden)

Funding and awards

- 2026 “Grants for European Grants,” Nicolaus Copernicus University (**60 000 PLN**)
- 2025 Nomination for the Heinz Maier-Leibnitz-Preis 2026 put forward by the former President of the Leibniz Association, Prof. Dr. Martina Brockmeier
- 2024 ViCom short-term collaboration (**€1500** for conducting a research project with Prof Frank Kügler [Goethe University Frankfurt] and Prof Pilar Prieto [Universitat Pompeu Fabra, Barcelona, Spain])
- 2024 Wilhelm von Humboldt Prize for early-career researchers (shared with Semra Kizilkaya, **€1000** each)
- 2023 ViCom short-term collaboration (**€3000** for conducting a research project with Prof Frank Kügler [Goethe University Frankfurt] and Prof Pilar Prieto [Universitat Pompeu Fabra, Barcelona, Spain])
- 2022 Funding for own position (*eigene Stelle*) by the German Research Foundation (DFG) within the SPP “Visual Communication” (Project together with Susanne Fuchs, PhD, and Wim Pouw, PhD): “On the FLExibility and Stability of Gesture-speech Coordination: Evidence from Multimodal Production, Comprehension, and Imitation (FLESH)” (individual funding within the project: **€319,439**)
Radboud Excellence Initiative Fellowship (**€166,000**) – declined to accept the DFG grant
- 2021 Scholarship at the Hasso Plattner Institute (50% for three months, total **€2700**)
- 2021 Jury Award for the best presentation during Tabula Rasa, a kick-off event for the Berlin Science Week (**€500** for participation in Berlin Science Week events)
- 2019 Young Entrepreneurs in Science Workshop, Falling Walls Foundation (**€2500** for participation in a workshop for young founders from academia)
- 2016 Young Female Researchers in Speech Science & Technology, travel grant funded by ISCA (**US \$1700**)
- 2016 Helmut-Skowronek Scholarship, Westfälisch-Lippische Universitätsgesellschaft, Bielefeld University (**€3750**)
- 2015 Helmut-Skowronek Scholarship, Westfälisch-Lippische Universitätsgesellschaft, Bielefeld University (**€3750**)

Shortlists

- 2024 Ranked second for an assistant professorship for phonetics with tenure track (W1/W2), University of Cologne, Germany

Publications

Peer-reviewed journal articles (supervised students underlined)

- Bauer*, A., Trettenbrein*, P. C., Amici, F., Ćwiek, A., Fuchs, S., Krause, L.-M., Kuder, A., Ladewig, S., Schulder, M., Schumacher, P., Spruijt, D., Zулberti, C., & Schulte-Rüther, M. (accepted). *Data Collection in Multimodal Language and Communication Research: A Flexible Decision Framework*. OSF. https://doi.org/10.31234/osf.io/42tud_v4 (* joint first authorship)

- Kuleshova, S., Ćwiek, A., Hartmann, S., Pleyer, M., Sibierska, M., Placiński, M., Blomberg, J., Żywicznyński, P., & Waciewicz, S. (2026). Exploring the Guessing-Game Experimental Paradigm: Inferences From Closed-Versus Open-Ended Semantic Space. *Cognitive Science*, 50(3), e70199. <https://doi.org/10.1111/cogs.70199>
- Ćwiek, A., & Fuchs, S. (2025). The Scope and Limits of Iconic Prosody: Head Angle Predicts f0 Changes While Object Size Effects Are Absent. *Open Mind*, 9, 1959–1981. <https://doi.org/10.1162/OPMI.a.251>
- Ćwiek, A., Kreiman, J., & Fuchs, S. (2025). Introduction to the Special Issue on Iconicity and Sound Symbolism. *The Journal of the Acoustical Society of America*, 157(5), 3806–3813. <https://doi.org/10.1121/10.0036662>
- Ćwiek, A. (2025). A dataset of ideophone-like marked words from German children's books. *Linguistische Berichte (LB)*, (282), 83–99. https://doi.org/10.46771/9783967699470_3
- Ćwiek, A., Anselme, R., Dediu, D., Fuchs, S., Kawahara, S., Oh, G. E., Paul, J., Perlman, M., Petrone, C., Reiter, S., Ridouane, R., Zeller, J., & Winter, B. (2024). The alveolar trill is perceived as jagged/rough by speakers of different languages. *The Journal of the Acoustical Society of America*, 156(5), 3468–3479. <https://doi.org/10.1121/10.0034416>
- Ngai, C. H. (graduate student), Kilpatrick, A. J., & Ćwiek, A. (2024). Sound symbolism in Japanese names: Machine learning approaches to gender classification. *PLOS ONE*, 19(3), e0297440. <https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0297440>
- Kilpatrick, A. J., & Ćwiek, A. (2024). Using artificial intelligence to explore sound symbolic expressions of gender in American English. *PeerJ Computer Science*, 10, e1811. <https://doi.org/10.7717/peerj-cs.1811>
- Kilpatrick, A. J.*, Ćwiek, A.*, & Kawahara, S. (2023). Random forests, sound symbolism and Pokémon evolution. *PLOS One*, 18(1), e0279350. DOI: [10.1371/journal.pone.0279350](https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0279350) (* joint 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. DOI: [10.3389/fpsyg.2023.1113143](https://doi.org/10.3389/fpsyg.2023.1113143)
- Fuchs, S., & Ćwiek, A. (2022). Sounds Full of Meaning and the Evolution of Language. *Acoustics Today* 18(2), 43–51. DOI: [10.1121/at.2022.18.2.43](https://doi.org/10.1121/at.2022.18.2.43)
- Ćwiek, A., Fuchs, S., Draxler, C., Asu, E. L., Dediu, D., Hiovain, K., Kawahara, S., Koutalidis, S., Krifka, M., Lippus, P., Lupyan, G., Oh, G. E., Paul, J., Petrone, C., Ridouane, R., Reiter, S., Schümchen, N., Szalontai, Á., Ūnal-Logacev, Ō., Zeller, J., Perlman, M. & Winter, B. (2022). Bouba/kiki across cultures and writing systems. *Philosophical Transactions of the Royal Society B: Biological Sciences*, 377, 1841. DOI: [10.1098/rstb.2020.0390](https://doi.org/10.1098/rstb.2020.0390)
- Ćwiek, A., Fuchs, S., Draxler, C., Asu, E. L., Dediu, D., Hiovain, K., Kawahara, S., Koutalidis, S., Krifka, M., Lippus, P., Lupyan, G., Oh, G. E., Paul, J., Petrone, C., Ridouane, R., Reiter, S., Schümchen, N., Szalontai, Á., Ūnal-Logacev, Ō., Zeller, J., Winter, B. & Perlman, M. (2021). Novel vocalizations are understood across cultures. *Scientific Reports*, 11(1), 10108. DOI: [10.1038/s41598-021-89445-4](https://doi.org/10.1038/s41598-021-89445-4)
- 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. DOI: [10.1016/j.wocn.2019.07.001](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.wocn.2019.07.001)

Peer-reviewed journal articles in preparation

- Faytak, M.*, Kadavá, Š.* (PhD candidate), Xu, C.*, Ōzsoy, O.*, Akumbu, P.*, Cardoso, A.*, Amengual, M., Arvaniti, A., Belz, M., Bevivino, D., Casillas, J. V., Caudrelier, T., Ćwiek, A., Dokovova, M., Dutta, I., Egurtzegi, A., Forst, H., Foulkes, P., Garcia, R., Grice, M., Hanulřková, A., Hellmuth, S., Kaźmierski, K., Li, X., Lorenzen, J., Mori, M., Nycz, J., Punnoose, R., Quesada Vázquez, L., Rebernik, T., Sawicka-Stępińska, B., Sehyr, Z., Setter, J., Spaniol, M., Urrestarazu-Porta, I., Vella, A., Zhang, C., Zygis, M., Buchanan, E. M., Roettger, T. (accepted). Big Team Science for Language Science: Opportunities and Challenges. (* joint first

authorship)

Ćwiek, A., Fuchs, S., Pouw, W., & Kadavá, Š. (PhD candidate) (under review). Self-reported expressibility predicts communicative success: Open dataset, validation, and simulation.

Ćwiek, A., Gregori, A., Sánchez-Ramón, P. G., Prieto, P., & Kügler, F. (under review). Acoustic correlates of perceived phrase-level prosodic prominence in Catalan and German.

Ćwiek, A., Pouw, W., Kadavá, Š. (PhD candidate), & Fuchs, S. (in preparation). Natural statistics of uni- and multimodal utterances.

Ćwiek, A., & Barnes, K. (in preparation). The search for ideophones in ideophonically impoverished languages.

Ćwiek, A., Barnes, K., & Ebert, C. (in preparation). Skibidi semantics: Internet 'brainrot' vocabulary as a use-conditional lexical innovation.

Ebert, M. (student), Kilpatrick, A. J., & Ćwiek, A. (in preparation). Sound symbolism in adjective dimensions across languages.

Other publications

Kadavá, Š. (PhD candidate), Ćwiek, A., & Fuchs, S. (to appear in 2026). Communicating from head to toe: The physiological processes in multimodal language. In J. A. Bateman & C.-I. Tseng (Eds.), *The Handbook of Linguistics and Multimodality*. Wiley/Blackwell. ([Preprint](#))

Ćwiek, A. (2026). Index; Konvention; Semiotik; Signifikant; Signifikat; Symbol; Zeichen. In: Gutzmann, Daniel & Katharina Turgay & Thomas Ede Zimmermann (eds.) *Wörterbücher zur Sprach- und Kommunikationswissenschaft. Band 10: Semantik und Pragmatik. (WSK 10)*. Berlin: de Gruyter Brill. (Total of 7 entries)

Ćwiek, A. (2025). Arbitrarität; Ideophon; Ikon; Ikonizität; Onomatopoietik. In: Gutzmann, Daniel & Katharina Turgay & Thomas Ede Zimmermann (eds.) *Wörterbücher zur Sprach- und Kommunikationswissenschaft. Band 10: Semantik und Pragmatik. (WSK 10)*. Berlin: de Gruyter Brill. (Total of 5 entries)

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 contributions (* peer-reviewed)

Henlein, A., Bauer, A., Bhattacharjee, R., Ćwiek, A., Gregori, A., Kügler, F., Lemanski, J., Lücking, A., Mehler, A., Prieto, P., Sánchez-Ramón, P. G., Schepens, J., Schulte-Rüther, M., Schweinberger, S. R., & von Eiff, C. I. (2024). An Outlook for AI Innovation in Multimodal Communication Research. In V. G. Duffy (Ed.), *Digital Human Modeling and Applications in Health, Safety, Ergonomics and Risk Management* (pp. 182–234). Springer Nature Switzerland. https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-031-61066-0_13 (*)

Kadavá, Š., Ćwiek, A., Fuchs, S., & Pouw, W. (2024). What do we mean when we say gestures are more expressive than vocalizations? An experimental and simulation study. *Proceedings of the Annual Meeting of the Cognitive Science Society*, 46, 2308–2315. <https://escholarship.org/uc/item/2mp1v3v5> (*)

Fuchs, S., Kadavá, Š., Pouw, W., Walker, B., Fay, N., Winter, B., & Ćwiek, A. (2024). Exploring the sound structure of novel vocalizations. *Proceedings of EVOLANG 2024*. EVOLANG XV, Madison, Wisconsin, USA. <https://evolang2024.github.io/proceedings/paper.html?nr=113> (*)

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, Netherlands. [URL](#) (*)

Kadavá, Š. (PhD candidate), 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, Prag, Tschechien. DOI: [10.31219/osf.io/67fzc](https://doi.org/10.31219/osf.io/67fzc) (*)

Żygis, M., Błaszczak, J., **Ćwiek, A.**, Saint-Pettersen, M., Wesolek, 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, Prag, Tschechien. [URL](#) (*)

Gregori, A., Amici, F., Brilmayer, I., **Ćwiek, A.**, Fritzsche, L., Fuchs, S., Henlein, A., Herbort, O., Kügler, F., Lemanski, J., Liebal, K., Lücking, A., Mehler, A., Nguyen, K. T., Pouw, W., Prieto, P., Rohrer, P. L., Sánchez-Ramón, P. G., Schulte-Rüther, M., Schumacher, P., Schweinberger, S., Struckmeier, V., Trettenbein, P., & 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*. *HCI 2023*. Lecture Notes in Computer Science, vol 14029, 402-438. Springer, Cham. DOI: [10.1007/978-3-031-35748-0_30](https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-031-35748-0_30) (*)

Christoph, N., (PhD candidate) & **Ćwiek, A.** (2022). Lautsymbolische Größencodierung bei der Benennung von Hunden. Abstract in *Tagungsband der 18. Tagung Phonetik und Phonologie im Deutschsprachigen Raum*, 27–29, Bielefeld, Germany. DOI: [10.11576/pundp2022-1032](https://doi.org/10.11576/pundp2022-1032)

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. [URL](#) (*)

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, Montreal, Canada. [URL](#) (*)

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. DOI: [10.21437/speechprosody.2018-186](https://doi.org/10.21437/speechprosody.2018-186) (*)

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. [URL](#) (*)

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, München, Germany. [URL](#)

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, München, Germany. [URL](#)

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.

Presentations

Invited presentations

Ćwiek, A. (03.2026). *Bouba-kiki... I co dalej?* Komitet Językoznawstwa Polskiej Akademii Nauk [Linguistic Committee of the Polish Academy of Sciences], Pałac Staszica, Warsaw, Poland.

Ćwiek, A. (12.2025). *Rethinking transparency in multimodal communication*. Max Planck Institute for Psycholinguistics, Nijmegen, Netherlands.

Ćwiek, A. (11.2025). *Bouba-kiki... I co dalej?* Naukowe środy u psychologów [Scientific Wednesdays at the Psychologists’], Institute for Psychology, Nicolaus Copernicus University in Toruń, Poland.

- Ćwiek, A. (04.2025). *The RISE of a PhD: Navigating Chaos, Crisis, and Success in Academia*. CRC1646 + Friends, Bielefeld University, Germany.
- Ćwiek, A. (01.2025). *Vocal iconicity and... what beats the bouba-kiki effect?* Colloquium of the CRC1646 “Linguistic Creativity in Communication,” Bielefeld University, Germany.
- Ćwiek, A. (11.2024). *The RISE of a PhD: Navigating Chaos, Crisis, and Success in Academia*. Joint IDS and ZAS PhD Workshop at ZAS, Berlin, Germany.
- Ćwiek, A. (11.2024). *What beats the bouba-kiki effect?* CLES Kolloquium, UMK Toruń, Poland.
- Ćwiek, A. (11.2024). *Some preliminary ideas on the natural statistics of uni- and multimodal novel utterances*. CLES Colloquium, UMK Toruń, Poland.
- Ćwiek, A. (09.2024). *The RISE of a PhD: Navigating Chaos, Crisis, and Success in Academia*. LinPin 2024, Aachen University, Germany.
- Ćwiek, A., & Fuchs, S. (01.2024). *The Coordination of Dynamic Multimodal Signals in Novel Communication*. Roundtable – Multimodal Speech Data. Data – Annotation – Strategies of Analysis, Goethe-University Frankfurt, Germany.
- Ćwiek, A. (01.2024). *Exploring Gesture-Speech Dynamics*. Colloquium of the Phonetics Working Group, Bielefeld University, Germany.
- Ćwiek, A. (09.2023). *Exploring the Dynamic Interplay of Gestures and Prosody in Polish Counting-Out Rhymes*. Seminar of the Prosodic and Gestural Studies Group (GrEP-G), Universitat Pompeu Fabra, Barcelona, Spain.
- Ćwiek, A. (01.2023). *Lautsymbolik um uns herum (Sound Symbolism Around Us)*. Seminar “Language Production and Perception,” Humboldt University of Berlin, Germany.
- Ćwiek, A. (10.2022). *Language and motion*. Workshop on Laboratory Methods in Linguistics, ZAS, Berlin, Germany.
- Ćwiek, A. (07.2022). *Komm und schnapp sie dir!: Sound Symbolism in German Pokémon Names*. Seminar “Ideophones and Iconicity,” Goethe University Frankfurt, Germany (online).
- Ćwiek, A., & Perlman, M. (04.2022). *Making meaning with sound*. PSYCHE-Ausstellung, Science Gallery Bengaluru, Bangalore, India (online).
- Ćwiek, A. (11.2021). *Sorting through the Mischmasch of German Ideophones*. Semantics Colloquium, Goethe University Frankfurt, Germany.
- Ćwiek, A. (04.2021). *Komm und schnapp sie dir!: Sound Symbolism in German Pokémon Names*. Seminar “Why does Orkish sound evil? On the Phonology and Language Aesthetics of so-called Constructed Languages”, Humboldt University of Berlin, Germany (online).
- Ćwiek, A. (03.2021). *Iconicity in Everyday Communication*. Brown Bag Lunch, ZAS, Berlin, Germany (online).
- Ćwiek, A. (02.2021). *The Iconic Bits in Language*. GULP Lab Lunch, University of Glasgow, United Kingdom (online).
- 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, France (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, Germany.
- 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? (Why should one follow the language instinct?)*. Colloquium on Phonetics and Phonology Work Group, Bielefeld University, Germany.

Conference presentations (supervised students underlined¹)

Ćwiek, A. (09.2025). *Expressibility ratings as a predictor of communicative success in referential games*. Presentation, PTNCE, Wrocław, Poland.

Ćwiek, A., Fuchs, S., Pouw, W., & Kadavá, Š. (09.2025). *Beyond Vision and Sound: The Forgotten Senses in Multimodal Communication*. Presentation, Protolang 9, Vienna, Austria.

Ebert, M., Kilpatrick, A., Ćwiek, A. (10.2024). *Exploring the Sound Symbolism of Size in American English with the XGBoost Algorithm using Phonemes and Phonological Features*. Poster presented by AK at the English Linguistic Society of Japan 18th International Spring Forum, Tokyo, Japan.

Ćwiek, A., Kadavá, Š., Stoltmann, K., Pouw, W., & Fuchs, S. (10.2024). *The plasticity of Polish prominence under the influence of rhythmic gestures*. Presentation, Phonetik und Phonologie im deutschsprachigen Raum, Halle an der Saale, Germany.

Stender, T., Mooshammer, C., & Ćwiek, A. (10.2024). *Lautsymbolik in den Sprachen J. R. R. Tolkiens: Ein Vergleich zwischen Sindarin und Black Speech*. Poster presented by TS (B.A. student), Phonetik und Phonologie im deutschsprachigen Raum, Halle an der Saale, Germany.

Ćwiek, A., Kadavá, Š., Pouw, W., & Fuchs, S. (09.2024). *The Communicative Consequences of Multimodal Coordination*. Poster, 2nd MMSYM, Frankfurt, Germany.

Ebert, M., Kilpatrick, A., & Ćwiek, A. (09.2024). *Which Phonological Features Express Size Sound Symbolism? – A Cross-Linguistic Analysis with Extreme Gradient Machine Learning*. Presented by ME (M.A. student), 21st ICL 2024, Poznań, Poland.

Kadavá, Š., Ćwiek, A., Fuchs, S., & Pouw, W. (08.2024). *Regulating the body in times of crises. Experimental study under kinematic-acoustic analysis*. Presented by ŠK (PhD candidate), IACS-5, Lund, Sweden.

Kadavá, Š., Ćwiek, A., Fuchs, S., & Pouw, W. (07.2024). *What do we mean when we say gestures are more expressive than vocalizations? An experimental and simulation study*. Poster presented by ŠK (PhD candidate), CogSci 2024, Rotterdam, Netherlands.

Kadavá, Š., Ćwiek, A., Fuchs, S., & Pouw, W. (07.2024). *Repair kinematics of silent gesture*. Presented by ŠK (PhD candidate), CogSci 2024, Rotterdam, Netherlands.

Fuchs, S.*, Kadavá, Š.*, Pouw, W., Walker, B., Fay, N., Winter, B., & Ćwiek, A. (05.2024). *Exploring the sound structure of novel vocalizations*. Presentation, EVOLANG, UW Madison, United States. (* joint first authorship)

Ćwiek, A., Gregori, A., Sánchez-Ramón, P.G., Kügler, F., & Prieto, P. (02.2024). *Bridging the Gap: Exploring a Middle-Way Approach for Prosodic Annotation*. Presentation, 46. Annual Meeting of the German Linguistic Society, AG10, Bochum, Germany.

Ćwiek, A., Kadavá, Š., Stoltmann, K., Pouw, W., & Fuchs, S. (09.2023). *When Gestures Enter the Game, Prosody Breaks the Rules*. Presentation, GeSpIn 2023, Nijmegen, 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 ŠK (PhD candidate), 20th ICPhS, Prague, Czechia.

¹ I am actively committed to the academic advancement of students.

- Żygis, M., Błaszczak, J., **Ćwiek, A.**, Saint-Pettersen, M., Wesolek, S., & Gulowski, P. (08.2023). *Attitudes in the German-Polish Context Based on Perceptual Evidence*. Poster presented with MŻ and SW, 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 ME (M.A. student), 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, 65th TeaP, Trier, Germany.
- Christoph, N. & **Ćwiek, A.** (10.2022). *Lautsymbolische Größencodierung bei der Benennung von Hunden*. Poster presented by NC (M.A. student), Phonetik und Phonologie im deutschsprachigen Raum, Bielefeld, Germany.
- Ćwiek, A.** (09.2021). *Are German Pokémon Names Sound-Symbolic?* Presentation, 54th Annual Meeting of the Societas Linguistica Europaea (online).
- Ćwiek, A.**, & Fuchs, S. (12.2020). *Hand-Mouth Coordination in a Pointing Task Requiring Manual Precision*. Poster, 12th International Seminar on Speech Production (online).
- Ćwiek, A.**, Draxler, C., Fuchs, S., Kawahara, S., Winter, B., & Perlman, M. (08.2019). *Comprehension of Non-Linguistic Vocalizations across Cultures*. Presentation, 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, 41st Annual Meeting of the Cognitive Science Society, Montreal, Kanada.
- Ćwiek, A.**, Draxler, C., Fuchs, S., Winter, B., & Perlman, M. (03.2019). *Comprehension of Non-Linguistic Vocalizations across Cultures*. Presentation, 41. Annual Meeting of the German Linguistic Society, AG11, Bremen, Germany.
- Ćwiek, A.**, Fuchs, S., Savin, E., Ebert C., & Krifka, M. (05.2018). *A tiny tiny abstract on a biiiiig topic: An analysis of adjective re(du)plications in a social media corpus*. Presentation, Iconicity Workshop, ZAS, Berlin, Germany.
- Ćwiek, A.**, & Wagner, P. (06.2018). *The Acoustic Realization of Prosodic Prominence in Polish: Word Stress and Sentence Accent*. Poster, 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, 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, Phonetik und Phonologie im deutschsprachigen Raum, Munich, Germany.
- Wagner, P., **Ćwiek, A.**, & Samlowski, B. (10.2016). *Beat it! – Gesture-based Prominence Annotation as a Window to Individual Prosody Processing Strategies*. Poster, Phonetik und Phonologie im deutschsprachigen Raum, Munich, Germany.
- Ćwiek, A.** (09.2016). *Acoustics and Discourse Function of Two Types of Breathing Signals*. Poster, Workshop for Young Female Researchers in Speech Science & Technology, a satellite event of INTERSPEECH 2016, San Francisco, United States.
- Ćwiek, A.**, Włodarczak, M., Heldner, M., & Wagner, P. (08.2016). *Acoustics and discourse function of two types of breathing signals*. Presentation, Nordic Prosody XII, Trondheim, Norway.

Teaching

5-day summer school 2026	Introduction to Bayesian statistics <i>German Linguistic Society summer school, Bielefeld University</i>
winter 2024/25	Introduction to Linguistics (with Ludger Paschen) <i>Humboldt University of Berlin, Faculty of Languages and Literature</i>
5-day summer school 2024	Iconicity in Communication <i>German Linguistic Society summer school, University of Göttingen</i>
winter 2023/24	Introduction to Linguistics (with Jordan Chark, <u>PhD candidate</u>) <i>Humboldt University of Berlin, Faculty of Languages and Literature</i>
summer 2022	Sound Symbolism <i>Humboldt University of Berlin, Faculty of Languages and Literature</i>
winter 2020/21	Iconicity in Language <i>Humboldt University of Berlin, Faculty of Languages and Literature</i>
winter 2018/19	Iconicity in Language (with Susanne Fuchs) <i>Humboldt University of Berlin, Faculty of Languages and Literature</i>
winter 2016/17	Tutorial in Phonetics and Phonology <i>Bielefeld University, Faculty of Linguistics and Literature</i>
summer 2015 – summer 2017	Tutorial Introduction to Linguistics (for students of German as a Foreign/Second Language; every semester) <i>Bielefeld University, Faculty of Linguistics and Literature</i>

Thesis supervision (PhD, M.A., B.A.)

2022 – present	Šárka Kadavá (with Prof Markus Steinbach, Prof Judith Holler, Susanne Fuchs, PhD, & Wim Pouw, PhD) <i>Ph.D. Linguistics, Georg-August University Göttingen & Radboud University, Nijmegen Netherlands (cotutelle)</i>
2025 – present	Marta Herget (with Prof Stavros Skopeteas and Prof Guido Mensching) <i>Ph.D. Linguistics, Georg-August University Göttingen</i>
2021 – 2024	Narjes Eskandarnia (with Prof Cornelia Ebert): “Ideophones and Reduplication in Persian: An Exploration of the Dingemanse Hierarchy and Linguistic Creativity” <i>M.A. Linguistics, Goethe-Universität Frankfurt</i>
2023 – 2025	Melissa Ebert (with Prof Christine Mooshammer): “Do phonological features carry size sound symbolic information? An analysis of dimensional antonym adjective pairs” <i>M.A. Linguistics, Humboldt University of Berlin</i>
2024 – present	Alexandra Schmidt (with Prof Petra Wagner) <i>M.A. Linguistics, Bielefeld University</i>
2022 – 2023	Theresa Stender (with Prof Christine Mooshammer): “Lautsymbolik in den Sprachen J.R.R. Tolkiens: Ein Vergleich zwischen Sindarin und Black Speech” (Sound symbolism in the languages of J.R.R. Tolkien: A comparison between Sindarin and Black Speech) <i>B.A. Germanic Linguistics, Humboldt University of Berlin</i>
2022 – present	Alexandra Fosså (with Dr Katja Maquate): “What makes a concept expressible? An analysis of imagined expressibility in the vocal, gestural and multimodal modalities” <i>B.A. Germanic Linguistics, Humboldt University of Berlin</i>

Service to the profession

2024 – present	Deputy Equal Opportunities Officer, ZAS, Berlin
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- 2023 – present **Guest Editor** (with Susanne Fuchs and Jody Kreiman), Special Issue on Iconicity and Sound Symbolism, The Journal of the Acoustical Society of America
- 2023 – present [envisionBOX](#) co-founder
- 2023 – present **Co-organizer** of the **ZAS Mentoring Program**, ZAS, Berlin
- 2022 – present **Coordinator** of the [ViCom Data Network](#)
- 2022 **PostDoc representative** at the evaluation of ZAS, Berlin
- 2017 **Student representative**, Appointment committee for a W1/W2 professorship Bielefeld University, Faculty of Linguistics and Literature
- 2016 **Student representative**, Appointment committee for a W3 professorship Bielefeld University, Faculty of Linguistics and Literature
- 2016 – 2018 **Co-founder of the Linguistics Student Council** Bielefeld University, Faculty of Linguistics and Literature
- 2016 – 2017 **Representative for Student Assistants** Bielefeld University, Faculty of Linguistics and Literature
- 2016 – 2017 **Student Representative**, Faculty Conference Bielefeld University, Faculty of Linguistics and Literature
- 2016 – 2017 Member of the Student Advisory Committee, International Speech Communication Association

Ad-hoc reviewer

- 2025 DFG Walter-Benjamin Grant (1), CogSci (2), Open Mind (1)
- 2024 JASA (4, as **Guest Editor**), JASA Express Letters (1), Cognitive Linguistics (1), Language and Linguistics Compass (1), Language Sciences (1), Glossa Psycholinguistics (1), MMSYM (3), CogSci 2024 (1)
- 2023 Cognitive Science (2), 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), JIPA (1), PLOS ONE (1), JASA (3, 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)

Organization of academic events

- 09.2024 The 21st International Congress of Linguists (ICL), Workshop “All Shades of Iconicity: Ideophones, Onomatopoeia, and Sound Symbolism” (with Maria Flaksman and Kathryn Barnes), Poznań, Poland
- 04.2024 Invited talk by Bob Ladd (joint visit in Cologne and Berlin), ZAS, Berlin, Germany
- 11.2023 Workshop “The practical application of decision tree-based AI models” by Alexander J. Kilpatrick, ZAS, Berlin, Germany
- 03.2023 45. Annual Meeting of the German Linguistic Society, AG15: *Ideophones and lexicalized iconicity in language* (with Kathryn Barnes), Cologne, Germany
- 12.2021 [Envision Bootcamp](#) (with Babajide Owoyele, Wim Pouw, and James Trujillo), Hasso-Plattner-Institute, Potsdam, Germany

- 12.20 – 03.21 Online seminar of the Laboratory Phonology at the ZAS (with invited talks from international guests)
- 03.2019 41. Annual Meeting of the German Linguistic Society, AG11: *Iconicity in Language* (with Cornelia Ebert and Susanne Fuchs), Bremen, Germany
- 05.2018 Workshop “Iconicity in speech and gesture” (with Susanne Fuchs, Cornelia Ebert, and Manfred Krifka), ZAS, Berlin, Germany

In the media (selected)

- [‘Mind-blowing’ baby chick study challenges a theory of how humans evolved language](#) (interview), *Scientific American*, February 19, 2026.
- [Ikoniczne słowa. O podobieństwie dźwięku do tego, co oznacza](#) (interview), *Radio Tok FM*, August 21, 2025.
- [Podcast “Z innej planety”](#) (eng. From another planet; interview), *Radio RDC*, July 29, 2025
- [Językoznawczyni: Niezależnie od kultury większość ludzi intuicyjnie łączy obłe kształty ze słowem „bouba”, a kanciaste - z „kiki”](#) (interview), *Gazeta Wyborcza*, July 3, 2025
- [DGfS macht Schule #13: Ikonizität und Multimodalität. Mit Aleksandra Ćwiek](#), February 2025. This format is aimed at high school students.
- [Wie fühlt sich das R an?](#) (live radio interview in the show “Die Profis”), *radioeins*, January 18, 2025.
- [Rrrrrrrrrrr: Warum wir weltweit dasselbe bei diesem Laut fühlen](#) (interview), *Tagesspiegel*, January 9, 2025.
- [Eight Fascinating Things We Learned about Language in 2024](#), *Scientific American*, December 18, 2024.
- [Ouch! Linguists Find Universal Language for Pain](#) (interview), *Scientific American*, November 27, 2024.
- [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 French news agency 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 as “Sounds about Right”, *Scientific American* 325, 3, 19)
- Radio interview for a student assignment, *Imperial College Radio*, August 20, 2021.
- [Berliner Forscher: Sprache ist auch aus Lautmalereien entstanden](#) (interview), *Berliner Zeitung*, June 15, 2021. (in print as “Am Anfang war die Lautmalerei“ [At the Beginning Was Onomatopoeia])
- [Prägten Lautmalereien die Sprachrevolution?](#), *wissenschaft.de*, May 17, 2021.
- [No shared language? No problem! People across cultures understand clues from ‘vocal charades’](#) (interview), *Science Magazine*, May 14, 2021.
- [Sprachforschung: Universelle Geräusche sagen mehr als Worte – Interview](#) (live radio interview), *Deutschlandfunk*, May 12, 2021.
- [Verstehen ohne Worte: Der Ursprung der Sprache](#) (radio interview), *MDR Kultur*, May 12, 2021.
- [‘Iconic’ Sounds May Be Missing Link to Language](#), *Language Magazine*, Mai 12, 2021.
- [Interview mit unserer Doktorandin Aleksandra Ćwiek](#), In: *Bericht über das Forschungsjahr 2019: ZAS* (Report on the Research Year 2019: ZAS), 2020, Berlin: ZAS.
- Das FlicFlac-Problem (radio interview), *Radio NRW*, August 23, 2019.

Outreach

- Presentation on vocal iconicity (title TBA), *Long Night of the Sciences Berlin*, June 28, 2025.
- Stille Post mit Gesten (Telephone game with gestures), *Long Night of the Sciences Berlin*, June 22, 2024.
- Book-a-Scientist (one-on-one calls with four people), *Leibniz Gemeinschaft*, June 1, 2021.
- Book-a-Scientist (one-on-one calls with four people), *Leibniz Gemeinschaft*, November 10, 2020.
- Der Ton macht die Musik: Eine Reise in die Abgründe der Sprache (The sound makes the music: a journey into the abysses of language), *Long Night of the Sciences Berlin*, June 15, 2019.
- Von der Form zum Wort (From form to word), *Long Night of the Sciences Berlin*, June 9, 2018.

Further education

- 09.2024 – Mentee in Leibniz Mentoring 2024/25
present
- 11.2023 Appreciative Communication with the Inner Team
Free University of Berlin
- 05.2023 Time Management
Free University of Berlin

Membership in associations

Junge Sprachwissenschaft e.V. (since 2016)

Languages

Polish (native), English (fluent), German (fluent, near-native), Spanish (basic knowledge), Russian (basic knowledge)

Software & skills

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

Other professional experience

- 03.20 – 05.24 **Private tutor of German as a foreign language**
Online and in-person classes; A1 to C2 levels, including academic German
- 09.14 – 10.14 **Teaching internship**
Part of the Teaching German as a Foreign/Second Language study program
- 01.13 – 01.15 **Assistant in Accounting**
Brinkmann Pflegevermittlung GmbH, Oerlinghausen, Germany
- 10.13 – 01.15 **Caregiving/nursing staff**
Fachkrankenhaus Kana (Bethel.Regional), Eckartsheim, Bielefeld, Germany
- 08.12 – 09.13 **Intern in caregiving/nursing**
Fachkrankenhaus Kana (Bethel.Regional), Eckartsheim, Bielefeld, Germany