

# MAGDALENA MATYJEK

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I am a cognitive neuropsychologist focused on autism and neurodiversity. Using EEG and behavioural paradigms, together with physiological and social measures, I study how the brain encodes social signals and reward across neurotypes, and how multisensory cues shape interaction and learning. My work is grounded in open, reproducible practices and participatory approaches with autistic collaborators, aiming to produce findings that are both methodologically robust and useful for improving everyday communication and inclusion.

## WORK EXPERIENCE

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| <b>Junior Leader</b><br>Sep. 2025 - Oct. 2028            | Center for Brain and Cognition, <b>Universitat Pompeu Fabra</b> , Barcelona, Spain                              |
| <b>Postdoctoral Fellow</b><br>Oct. 2023 - Mar. 2025      | Clinical Psychology of Social Interaction, <b>Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin</b> , Germany                      |
| <b>Visiting Research Fellow</b><br>Jan. - Sep. 2024      | Social Cognition Lab, ICN, <b>University College London</b> , UK                                                |
| <b>Visiting Research Fellow</b><br>Oct. - Dec. 2023      | Department of Psychological and Brain Sciences, <b>Dartmouth College</b> , US                                   |
| <b>Postdoctoral Fellow</b><br>Oct. 2021 - Sep. 2023      | Multisensory Research Group, Center for Brain and Cognition, <b>Universitat Pompeu Fabra</b> , Barcelona, Spain |
| <b>Visiting Research Fellow</b><br>Dec. 2022 - Jul. 2023 | Department of Psychology, <b>University of Warwick</b> , Coventry, UK                                           |
| <b>Research assistant</b><br>2015 – 2017                 | Neurocognitive Processes Lab, <b>Jagiellonian University</b> , Krakow, Poland                                   |
| <b>Research assistant</b><br>2015 – 2016                 | <b>University of Social Sciences and Humanities</b> , Warsaw, Poland                                            |
| <b>Research assistant</b><br>2014 – 2015                 | ScanUnit lab, <b>University of Vienna</b> , Austria                                                             |

## EDUCATION

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| <b>Ph.D.</b><br>Oct. 2016 – Feb. 2022            | Clinical Psychology of Social Interaction group, Berlin School of Mind and Brain at <b>Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin</b> , Germany |
| <b>Student exchange</b><br>Sep. 2014 – Feb. 2015 | Mei:CogSci - Middle European Interdisciplinary Master Programme in Cognitive Science at <b>University of Vienna</b> , Austria       |
| <b>M.Sc.</b><br>Oct. 2013 – Jun. 2015            | Magister (equivalent of M.Sc.) in Cognitive Science, <b>Jagiellonian University</b> , Krakow, Poland                                |
| <b>Student exchange</b><br>Jul. 2014 – Dec. 2013 | Australian-European Network semester abroad in Clinical Neuropsychology at <b>University of Wollongong</b> , Australia              |
| <b>B.Sc.</b><br>Oct. 2010 – Jun. 2013            | Licencjat (equivalent of B.Sc.) in Cognitive Science, <b>Jagiellonian University</b> , Krakow, Poland                               |

- Preprints / in review / in press:*

## SCIENTIFIC PRESENTATIONS

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### *Conference talks:*

- Matyjek, M.** (2025, July). "Responsiveness to social and non-social rewards in autism and autistic traits." World Congress of Psychophysiology (IOP), Krakow, Poland. Part of "Individual differences in cognitive control: A neurophysiological perspective" symposium (dr M. Senderecka).
- Matyjek, M., Kita, S., Torralba Cuello, M., Soto Faraco, S.,** (2024, May). "Multisensory integration of naturalistic speech stimuli in autistic and non-autistic adults." ESCAN 2024, Ghent, Belgium.
- Matyjek M** (2022, July). "Responsiveness to social and non-social rewards in autism and autistic traits." ESCAN 2022, Vienna, Austria.
- Matyjek M, Bayer, M., Gawronska S., Dziobek, I.** (2021, March). "Brain Responses to Rewards Across the Autism Spectrum." 1st Digital Scientific Conference Autism Spectrum (WTAS), Germany.
- Matyjek M** (2019, November). "Reward Responsiveness in Autistic Traits." The First official European Congress on Clinical Psychology and Psychological Treatment of EACLIP, Dresden, Germany (by invitation).
- Matyjek M** (2019, May). "Early and Late Anticipation of Rewards Across Autistic Traits." Hengstberger Symposium: Social Interaction, Heidelberg, Germany.
- Matyjek M** (2018, October). "How Does the Brain Like Rewards?" Science Polish Perspectives 2018 Berlin.
- Matyjek M, Bayer, M., Dziobek, I.** (2018, April). "The Role of Autistic Traits in Reward Anticipation". NEURONUS 2018 IBRO Neuroscience Forum, Krakow, Poland.
- Matyjek, M.** (2015, April). "The Roles and Reciprocal Influences of Visual Fixations and Emotional Cues in Social Settings." Talk at XLIV International Seminar of Students' Associations, Olsztyn, Poland.

### *Invited talks:*

- Matyjek, M.** (2025, April). "Neuroscience and neurodiversity of Autism Spectrum Disorder". The World of Autism conference in Tirana, Albania (organised by the Albanian Children Foundation and the Knights of Malta).
- Matyjek, M.** (2024, July). "Multisensory integration of naturalistic speech in autism". University of College London, Institute of Cognitive Neuroscience, London.
- Matyjek, M.** (2024, April). "How do the brains of autistic and non-autistic adults integrate audio and visual information in speech?" University of Balearic Islands.
- Matyjek M** (2023, June). "Autism and reward processing". Porto Affective Neuroscience Seminars 2023 at the Universidade de Porto, Portugal, online (by invitation of Prof. Fernando Ferreira-Santos).
- Matyjek M** (2021, April). "Affect in face processing: so fast, so complex, so fundamental". Group seminar at the Universitat de les Illes Balears, Spain online (by invitation of Dr. Alejandro Galvez Pol).

### *Selected conference posters:*

- Matyjek M, Dziobek, I., Hamilton, A., Wheatley, T.** (2025, June). "Smiling synchrony predicts rapport in autistic and neurotypical interactions". Reading Emotions 2025, Reading, UK.
- Matyjek M, Dziobek, I., Hamilton, A., Wheatley, T.** (2024, Sep). "What makes a good interaction for autistic and neurotypical adults". Autism Research Showcase (ARCH), London, UK.
- Matyjek M, Bast N, Soto Faraco S** (2024, March). "Is there a social motion preference in autistic adults?". WTAS 2024, Frankfurt, Germany.
- Matyjek M, Bast N, Soto Faraco S** (2024, January). "Is there a social motion preference in autistic adults?". Experimental Psychology Society Meeting, London, UK.
- Matyjek M, Kita S, Soto Faraco S** (2023, September). "Multisensory integration of speech in social context". 11th IBRO World Congress of Neuroscience, Granada, Spain.
- Matyjek M** (2023, May). " 'It takes two': facilitating social interactions in autism – non- autism dyads. A concept poster". CO-ALIGN Conference at Leiden University, the Netherlands.
- Matyjek M, Bayer, M., Gawronska S., Dziobek, I.** (2021, March). "Differential Impact of Autistic Traits and Social Anxiety on Reward Responsiveness Across the Autism Spectrum." WTAS, online , Germany.

- Matyjek M**, Bayer, M., Dziobek, I. (2019, March). "Brain and Pupil Responses to Social and Monetary Rewards Across Autistic Traits." MindBrainBody Symposium 2019, Berlin, Germany.
- Matyjek M**, Bayer, M., Dziobek, I. (2018, May). "The Role of Autistic Traits in Reward Anticipation." The Social and Affective Neuroscience Society Annual Meeting, New York, USA.
- Matyjek M** (2017, April). "Explicit vs. Implicit Theory of Mind: A Critical Evaluation. Evidence from Autism Research." IX Krakow Cognitive Science Conference: Consciousness, Krakow, Poland.
- Matyjek, M.**, Kroczeck, B., Senderecka, M. (2016, April). "Prior Socio-affective Experiences Modulate the Perception of Otherwise Neutral Faces." NEURONUS 2016 IBRO & IRUN Neuroscience Forum, Krakow, Poland.
- Matyjek, M.**, Kroczeck, B., Senderecka, M. (2015, June). "Induced Emotions Influence the Utilisation of Gaze Direction Cues in a Modified Posner Task." MEi:CogSci Conference 2015, Ljubljana, Slovenia.

## FUNDING AND AWARDS

- **La Caixa Junior Leader Fellowship** (Sep. 2025 - Oct. 2028). Project "Sync-in-id: synchrony in neurodiverse interpersonal dynamics" at University Pompeu Fabra, Barcelona, Spain.
- **DAAD PRIME (Postdoctoral Researchers International Mobility Experience) Fellowship** (Oct. 2023 - Mar. 2025). Project "*It takes two*: facilitating social interactions in autism – non-autism dyads" at Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin, Germany, Dartmouth College, US, and University College London, UK.
- **Juan de la Cierva Fellowship** (2023; declined). Project "Multisensory integration of speech in autism" at University Pompeu Fabra, Barcelona.
- **Grant for activities to increase the social impact of research** at Universitat Pompeu Fabra (Mar. - Dec. 2022). Project "Building bridges for autism: closing the gap between the autism community, society and research".
- **Marie Skłodowska-Curie EUTOPIA-SIF Postdoctoral Fellowship** (945380); Project "Multisensory Integration of Dynamic and Relevant Social Information in Autism Spectrum Disorders" at Universitat Pompeu Fabra, Barcelona (Oct. 2021 – Oct. 2023).
- **The German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD) PhD funding: Research Grants - Doctoral Programmes in Germany** (Oct. 2017 – Oct. 2019, Oct. 2019 – Oct. 2020, Oct. 2020 – March 2021, March 2021 – Oct. 2021)
- **Rector's scholarship for the best students at Jagiellonian University**, Krakow, Poland (Oct. 2011 – June 2012 and in Oct. 2012 – June 2013).
- **Erasmus + scholarship** for semester abroad at Mei:CogSci - Middle European Interdisciplinary Master Programme in Cognitive Science at University of Vienna, Austria (Sept. 2014 – Feb. 2015);
- **Australian-European Network full tuition scholarship** for semester abroad in Clinical neuropsychology at University of Wollongong, Australia (July 2013 – Dec. 2013);
- **Travel grants for conferences:** IK 2015 (Nov. 2025), SIPS 2019 pre-conference workshop (Jan. 2019), 11th Wissenschaftliche Tagung Autismus-Spektrum (Mar. 2018), EPS Grindley Grant (May 2024; 450 GBP), Reading Emotions (Jun. 2025; 500 GBP).
- **Best talk awards** at: 1) Science Polish Perspectives 2018 Berlin (Oct. 2018), 2) NEURONUS 2018 IBRO Neuroscience Forum (Apr. 2018), 3) XLIV Int. Seminar of Students' Scientific Associations (Apr. 2015);
- **Best poster awards** at: 1) Annual Poster Presentations of the Berlin School of Mind and Brain (Dec. 2018), 2) NEURONUS 2016 IBRO & IRUN Neuroscience Forum (Apr. 2016), 3) WTAS 2024 (March 2024), 4) Autism Research Showcase (ARCH) (Sep 2024).
- **Distinction** for the Master's thesis: "In My Mind's Eye": Game-Induced Emotions Influence Face Processing in a Gaze-Cueing Task: an ERP Study.

## SUPERVISION

- **Master's thesis:** R. Flechtner (2024-2025; HU), Y. Nitsch (2024-2025; HU), J. Kaisers (2024-2025; HU), Z. Rahman (2024-2025; UCL), Y. Zhang (2024-2025; UCL), H. Leibner (2025; HU)
- **Bachelor thesis:** S. Zheng (2024-2025; UCL), B. O'Brien (2024-2025; UCL), D. Kennedy (2024-2025; UCL), R. Safieddine (2025-2026; UCL), A. Ho (2025-2026; UCL), S. Radice (2025-2026; UCL).
- **Lab rotations: Master students:** R. Flechtner (2017), I. Patronnikov (2018-2019), S. Gawronska (2018-2020), T. Wacławek (2019-2020), R. Ozgur (2019-2020), F. Taheri (2020-2021). **Doctoral students:** J. Sander (2021).
- **RAs:** P. Ten Ventura (2022), K. Ibanez (2022), P. Sanz Giner (2024), E. Atherton (2024).

## TEACHING

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### *Semester courses:*

- **Social Cognition and Interaction**, Cognitive Science undergraduate programme, Jagiellonian University (Poland) - 15h lectures + 10h tutorials; experiential learning design; author course (2026).
- **Empirical research training**, Berlin School of Mind and Brain master program (2017)

### *Guest teaching:*

- Seminar: **autism and social motivation**, Psychology master, Humboldt-Universitaet zu Berlin (Nov. 2024)
- Lecture: **neurodiversity**, Digital Arts and Creative Technologies master, La Salle Ramon Llull University (Nov. 2024)
- Lecture: **social neuroscience**, Cognitive Neuroscience master, Universitat de Barcelona (Nov. 2022/2023/2024/2025)
- Lectures and tutorials: **eye tracking**, Berlin School of Mind and Brain master program (Jan. 2020/2021)
- Lectures: **social interactions and autism**, SCAN master program, Freie Univesitaet (Feb. 2020/2021)
- Tutorial: **EEG data preprocessing**, Berlin School of Mind and Brain master program (Jun. 2020)
- Lecture: **event-related brain potentials**, Psychology master program at SWPS (Dec. 2015)

## SOCIAL COMMITMENT

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- **Scholar Minds Berlin - a mental health initiative for ECRs**. A co-founder. [scholar-minds.net](https://scholar-minds.net). Activities: organisation of a mental health conference (2021, 2022), psychoeducation (talks, workshops), lead on investigating the status quo via an online survey.
- **Cognitive Science Students Association**. A co-founder and member (2010-2017). Activities: organisation of conferences (Krakow's Cognitive Science Conference in 2014, 2015, and 2016, and Mei:CogSci Conference 2014), promotion of science (project "Visualisation of selected issues of Cognitive Science", and a promo video of the Course), coordination of Scientific Projects' section, leading workshops on scientific methods and behavioural and psychophysiological experimental design.
- **Science communication**: Lay summaries of published research and popular science articles: [lenamatyjek.com](https://lenamatyjek.com), visual dissemination ([see example](#)).
- **Social engagement**: Panelist at "Doctoral opportunities in Germany" (German Ministry of Education and Research; Feb 2021), "Digital credentials in academia" (DAAD, 2021), "Career Perspectives with a PhD in Natural & Life Sciences" (jointly organised by Berlin academic institutions, Jul 2024)
- **Summer Schools**: "Berlin - Oxford Summer School on Open, Transparent, And Reproducible Research in The Life Sciences", Germany (2018), "The Social Brain: embodiment and culture", Greece (2017) & Interdisciplinary College "From Neuron to Person: Assembling Behavior and Cognition", Germany (2015)
- **Membership**: The European Society for Cognitive and Affective Neuroscience (ESCAN; from 2020); The European Society of Social and Affective Neuroscience (ESSAN; from 2020); Society for Psychophysiological Research (SPR; from 2021); Experimental Psychology Society (from 2023).

## COMMUNITY SERVICE

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- **Peer review for Journals**: Behavior Research Methods, Cognitive Processing, Frontiers in Psychiatry, Journal of Cognitive Neuroscience, Journal of Experimental Psychology General, Journal of Psychiatric Research, Learning and Motivation, PLOS ONE, Psychophysiology, Scientific Reports, Social Neuroscience. Also: PCI RR.
- **Peer review for Grants**: ERC Starting Grant 2025; ANR AAPG 2025; CY Initiative of Excellence (INEX) - CY Generations 2023.
- **Representative** of Cohort 1 MSCA EUTOPIA-SIF Postdoctoral Fellowship
- **Examination committee member**: Master of Brain and Cognition at UPF - defences (July 2022);
- **Examination reviewer**: Psychology Master's at University College London (Nov 2024);

## SKILLS

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- **Programming skills:** R, R Markdown, Matlab, L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X, jspsych (other: ELAN, Brain Vision Analyzer)
- **Language skills:** native Polish, fluent English, intermediate Spanish
- **Certified academic soft-skill courses:** Scientific Writing (HU, Germany, 2017), Speaking with Confidence and Impact (HU, Germany, 2017), Data Publishing (HU, Germany, 2017), Scientific Presenting (HU, Germany, 2018), Research Data Management (HU, Germany, 2018), Grant application writing (HU, Germany, 2019), Career Booster (HU, Germany, 2021), Human Subject Research (UPF, Spain, 2022), Social Impact of Research (UPF, Spain, 2022), Building Supportive Communities/ Clery Act and Title IX (Dartmouth College, US, 2023), Data Protection and Freedom of Information (UCL, UK, 2024), Equality, Diversity, and Inclusion (UCL, UK, 2024), NHS Data Security Awareness level 1 (NHS, UK, 2024)
- **Non-academic work experience:** IT and HR support at Consus Carbon Engineering Sp. z o.o. (2011-2014)
- **IT technician degree,** Profesja Centrum Kształcenia Kadr, Krakow, Poland (2011-2013)