

AVA KIAI

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EXPERIENCE

Ernst Strüngmann Institute of the Max Planck Society <i>Brain and Behavior Group Postdoc</i> Supervisors: Dr. Julio Hechavarría	7/2025 - 6/2026 Frankfurt
Ernst Strüngmann Institute of the Max Planck Society <i>Brain and Behavior Group/Poeppel Lab Doctoral Candidate</i> Supervisors: Dr. Julio Hechavarría, Dr. David Poeppel	4/2024 - 6/2025 Frankfurt
Institute for Cell Biology & Neuroscience, Goethe University Frankfurt <i>Auditory Computations Group Doctoral Candidate</i> Supervisors: Dr. Julio Hechavarría, Dr. Manfred Kössl, Dr. David Poeppel	12/2020 - present Frankfurt
Max Planck Institute for Empirical Aesthetics <i>Neuroscience Department Scientific Researcher</i> Supervisor: Dr. Lucia Melloni	02/2018 - 12/2021 Frankfurt
NeuroSpin, INSERM/CEA-Saclay <i>Brain Dynamics Group Student Researcher</i> Supervisor: Dr. Virginie van Wassenhove	05/2017 - 01/2018 Gif-sur-Yvette
Conceptual Development & Social Cognition Lab, NYU <i>Undergraduate Research Assistant</i> Supervisor: Dr. Marjorie Rhodes	07 - 09/2014 New York
Davachi Lab, NYU <i>Undergraduate Research Assistant</i> Supervisor: Dr. Lila Davachi	03 - 05/2013 New York

EDUCATION

Goethe University Frankfurt Faculty of Biological Sciences Dr. rer. nat., magna cum laude	12/2020 - 6/2025 Frankfurt
École des hautes études en sciences sociales/École normale supérieure Department of Cognitive Science Master of Science, with honors	2017 - 2018 Paris
Université de Paris 1: Pantheon-Sorbonne Department of Philosophy Master 1 (1st year Masters)	2016 - 2017 Paris
New York University College of Arts and Science Bachelor of Arts, with honors	2011 - 2015 New York
John L. Miller Great Neck North High School High School Diploma	2007 - 2011 Great Neck

METHODS & SKILLS

Experimental	<i>In vivo</i> electrophysiology, behavior, psychophysics
Computational	Statistical and probabilistic modelling, signal processing, spike sorting, bioacoustics
Certifications	Felasa A, D & C (Rodent, Surgery)
Programming	Python, R, Matlab, PsychoPy/PsychJS

SELECTED PUBLICATIONS

1. Susanne Babl*, **Ava Kiai***, Julio Hechavarría. (2025) The neural basis of vocal production in bats. *Annals of the New York Academy of Sciences*, Special Issue on Bat Biology and Ecology 1550(1).
2. **Ava Kiai**, Jan Clemens, Manfred Kössl, David Poeppel, Julio C. Hechavarría. (2023) Flexible control of vocal timing in bats enables escape from acoustic interference. *Communications Biology* 6, 1153.
3. Francisco García-Rosales, Luciana López-Jury, Eugenia González-Palomares, Johannes Wetekam, Yuranny Cabral-Calderín, **Ava Kiai**, Manfred Kössl, Julio C. Hechavarría. (2022) Echolocation-related reversal of information flow in a cortical vocalization network. *Nature Communications* 13(1).
4. **Ava Kiai**, Lucia Melloni. (2021) What canonical online and offline measures of statistical learning can and cannot tell us. *bioRxiv*

*denotes equal contribution

INVITED TALKS

1. “Probing the role of the bat frontal cortex in vocal production.”
15th International Congress of Neuroethology, Berlin, July 2024
Neural Mechanisms of Acoustic Communication Gordon Research Conference, Sunday River, Maine, May 2024
2. “Behavioral & neural mechanisms of vocal control in the bat brain.” MPI for Biological Intelligence, Seewiesen, December 2023
3. “The reverse cocktail party problem.” Treffen der Deutschen Fledermausforschenden (German Bat Research Meeting), October 2022 (Award for Best Student Talk, 3rd Place)
4. “The Neustadt and the Grande-Ile: The Urban Transformation of Strasbourg at the Crossroads of France and Germany.” NYU Undergraduate Research Conference, May 2015 *Inquiry*, Vol. XIX.

POSTER PRESENTATIONS

1. Society for Neuroscience Annual Meeting, Washington D.C., November 2023
2. Interdisciplinary Center for Neuroscience Frankfurt Mini-Symposium, Frankfurt, September 2023
3. Brain Rhythms and Cortical Computations, Paris, April 2023
4. 15th Göttingen Meeting of the German Neuroscience Society, March 2023
5. Neural Mechanisms of Acoustic Communication Gordon Research Conference, Mount Holyoke College, August 2022
6. 14th International Congress of Neuroethology, Lisbon, July 2022
7. 14th Göttingen Meeting of the German Neuroscience Society, Virtual, March 2021

SERVICE

Symposium Organization

- Co-chair, Invited Symposium on “Neural and behavioral principles structuring vocal interactions,” 15th International Congress of Neuroethology, Berlin, July 2024 (Invited Speakers: Drs. Arkarup Banerjee, Alison Barker, Jonathan Benichov, & Daniel Takahashi)

Reviewing

- eLife, JOSS

TEACHING

1. Lecturer, Experimental Psychology Practical Course (8 CP), Department of Psychology, Goethe University Frankfurt (Winter 2021-2022, 2023-2024)

SUPERVISING

Elif Ertas (Bachelor thesis), Faculty of Biology, Goethe University Frankfurt (Summer 2022)

SCHOLARSHIPS & AWARDS

Main-Campus-doctus PhD Scholarship, Stiftung Polytechnische Gesellschaft	2020-2024
Hermann-Willkomm-Stiftung Travel Grant	2022, 2024
Bat Award (Travel Grant), 15th International Congress of Neuroethology	2024
GRADE Research Assistantship	2022
GRADE Brain Travel Grant	2022
Dean’s Undergraduate Research Fund, NYU College of Arts & Science	2015
French Department Book Award, NYU College of Arts & Science	2014

SCIENTIFIC OUTREACH

- “Die schnatternde Menagerie: eine ethologische und musikalische Einführung in die Tiersprache.” Interdisziplinäres Kolloquium der Main-Campus-Stipendiatenwerk, April 2022
- “The Secret Lives of Bats.” Max Planck Institute for Brain Research, Frankfurt, October 2021
- [Skype a Scientist](#), 2021

OTHER PUBLICATIONS

1. [Kiai, A. \(2019\)](#) To protect credibility in science, banish “publish or perish.” *Nature Human Behavior*, 3, 1017-1018.