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**EDUCATION**

- 2003 PhD, Institute for Neuro- and Behavioural Biology (INVB), University of Münster; Department of Developmental and Comparative Psychology, Max Planck Institute for Evolutionary Anthropology (MPI EVA). Germany (Supervisor: Prof. M. Tomasello; Prof. N. Sachser).
- 1999 Diploma Biology (1<sup>st</sup> class, honors), INVB, Westfälische Wilhelms-University. Germany (Supervisor: Prof. N. Sachser, Dr. G. Anzenberger, Prof. B. Martin).

**CURRENT POSITION**

- 2018 – pres. Full Professor, Comparative BioCognition (CBC), Institute of Cognitive Science (IKW), Osnabrück University, Osnabrück, Germany.
- 2017 – pres. Vice-president of the Ozouga Chimpanzee Project, Loango National Park, Gabon.

**PREVIOUS POSITIONS**

- 2017 – 2018 Senior Scientist, Max Planck Institute for Evolutionary Anthropology (MPI EVA), Germany.
- 2010 – 2017 Research Group Leader, Max Planck Institute for Ornithology (MPIO), Germany.
- 2007 – 2010 Lecturer, School of Psychological Sciences, University of Manchester, UK.
- 2005 – 2007 Postdoctoral Fellow, School of Psychology, University of St. Andrews, UK.
- 2003 – 2005 Postdoctoral Fellow, Department of Psychology, University of Alberta, Canada.

**FELLOWSHIPS**

- 2010 – 2011 British Academy Small Research Grant, School of Psychological Sciences, University of Manchester, UK.
- 2008 – 2011 Supervision-Fellowship, School of Psychological Sciences, University of Manchester, UK.
- 2008 – 2009 Royal Society Seed Corn fund, School of Psychological Sciences, University of Manchester, UK.
- 2007 – 2008 Postdoctoral Fellowship of the EU 6th Framework Nest Pathfinder Initiative, School of Psychology, University of St. Andrews, Scotland.
- 2005 – 2007 DFG Postdoctoral Fellowship, School of Psychology, University of St. Andrews, Scotland.

**MAJOR RESEARCH GRANTS HELD AS PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR**

- 2017 – 2025 ERC-Consolidator Grant, “The evolution of turn-taking”, European Commission, Brussels, Belgium. 2.00 MM €, as PI.
- 2010 – 2017 Sofja Kovalevskaja-Award of the Alexander von Humboldt-Foundation, MPIO, Germany. 1.65 MM €, as PI.

**TEACHING ACTIVITIES AND MODULES**

- 2026 – pres. “Eating like a pig, Biological or Cultural Evolution?”, (Study project, MSc module), Osnabrück University, Germany.
- 2024 – pres. “Introduction to Animal Cognition”, lecture series, IKW, Osnabrück University (≈ 150 participants), Germany.
- 2022 – 2024 “The mentality of great apes by Wolfgang Köhler. One century later”, (Study project, MSc module), Osnabrück University, Germany.

- 2020 – 2022 “Machine learning meets animal communication”,  
(Study project, MSc module), Osnabrück University, Germany.
- 2020 – 2022 “What can cognitive scientists do to save chimpanzees?”  
(Study project, MSc module), Osnabrück University, Germany.
- 2021 – pres. “Foundations of Cognitive Science”, lecture series, IKW,  
Osnabrück University (≈ 150 participants), Germany.
- 2019 – 2020 “What is Waza thinking?” Developing a new book format to foster children’s  
cognitive development  
(Study project, MSc module), Osnabrück University, Germany.
- 2018 – pres. Primate Communications Seminar  
(PhD- and MSc module), Osnabrück University, Germany.
- 2018 – pres. Language, Communication & Interaction Seminar  
(PhD- and MSc module), Osnabrück University, Germany.

#### INSTITUTIONAL RESPONSIBILITIES AND ROLES

- 2026 – pres. Dean of the Faculty of Human Sciences, Osnabrück University.
- 2022 – 2026 Vice president of the IKW, Osnabrück University.
- Since 2020 Member of the work group CRC “Developing Knowledge”, Osnabrück University.
- Since 2020 Member of the work group University of Excellence, Osnabrück University.
- Since 2020 Elected member of the Board of the IKW, Osnabrück University.
- 2010 – 2020 Member of the International Max Planck Research School (IMPRS) for  
Organismal Biology, MPIO and University of Konstanz, Germany.

#### PUBLICATIONS

##### *List of publications (in chronological order)*

- [104] da Cunha Melo, V., Abreu, F., **Pika, S.**, Souto, A., & Schiel, N. (2026). The role of intentional communication in monkeys: evidence from gestural signalling in common marmosets in the wild. *Animal Behaviour*, 237, 123601.
- [103] Tibesar, P., Crockford, C., Le Floch, A. & **Pika, S.** (2026). Turn-taking in grooming interactions of wild sooty mangabeys (*Cercocebus atys*). *Animal Behaviour*, 29.1: 40
- [102] Southern, L. M., Deschner, T., & **Pika, S.** (2025). Inquiring pant-hoots in wild chimpanzees and the role of social bonds and group cohesion. *American Journal of Primatology*, 87(12), e70092.
- [101] van Boekholt, B., Bosshard, A. B. & **Pika, S.** (2025). Sequence organisation of mother-infant interactions in chimpanzees (*Pan troglodytes schweinfurthii*) in the wild. *Proceedings of the Royal Society B*, 292.2059.
- [100] Kolff, K., Acosta Flórez, D., Mascaró, A., & **Pika, S.** (2025). Insect applications to open wounds by chimpanzees in the wild: First insights from East African chimpanzees. *Scientific Reports*, 15(1), 31242.
- [99] Kolff, K., **Pika, S.** (2025). Turn-Taking in grooming interactions of chimpanzees (*Pan troglodytes schweinfurthii*) in the wild: the role of demographic and social factors. *Animal Cognition*, 28(26).
- [98] van Boekholt, B., **Pika, S.** (2025). Infrastructure of mother-infant interactions across development in chimpanzees (*Pan troglodytes*) in the wild. *Evolution and Human Behavior*, 46 (2), 106671.
- [97] van Boekholt, B., Kolff, K., Vlaeyen, J., Abreu, F., Southern, L.M., Tibesar, P., and **Pika, S.** (2025). Turn-Taking Beyond Humans: Insights from Nonhuman Animals. In *Reference Module in Social Sciences*, Elsevier, 2025.

- [96] **Pika, S.** & Wilkinson, R. (2025). Evolutionary roots of human cooperative communication: Using the CA-assisted comparative approach for quantitative and qualitative analyses. In *The Oxford Handbook of Approaches to Language Evolution* (eds. L. Raviv and C. Boeckx), pp 487-502. Oxford, Oxford University Press 2025.
- [95] Brima, Y., Krumnack, U., **Pika, S.**, Heidemann, G. (2024). Learning disentangled Audio Representations Through Controlled Synthesis. *Tiny Papers at ICLR 2024*.
- [94] Prieur, J., Liebal, K., & **Pika, S.** (2024). Social negotiation and ‘accents’ in Western lowland gorillas’ gestural communication. *Scientific Reports*, 14(1), 25699.
- [93] van Boekholt, B., Clark, I., Lahiff, N. J., Lee, K. C., Slocombe, K. E., Wilke, C., & **Pika, S.** (2024). Idiosyncratic gesture use in a mother-infant dyad in chimpanzees (*Pan troglodytes schweinfurthii*) in the wild. *Animal Cognition*, 27(1), 64.
- [92] Friederici A.D., et al. (2024). Brain structure and function: a multi-disciplinary pipeline to study hominoid brain evolution. *Frontiers in Integrative Neuroscience*, January 2024.
- [91] Brima, Y., Krumnack, U., **Pika, S.**, Heidemann, G. (2024). Understanding Self-Supervised Learning of Speech Representation via Invariance and Redundancy Reduction. *Information* 2024, 15, 114.
- [90] van Boekholt, B., Wilkinson, R., **Pika, S.** (2024). Bodies at play: the role of intercorporeality and bodily affordances in coordinating social play in chimpanzees in the wild. *Frontiers in Psychology*, Vol. 14.
- [89] Gräßle, T., Crockford, C., Eichner, C., **Pika, S.**, et al. (2023). Sourcing high tissue quality brains from deceased wild primates with known socio-ecology. *Methods in Ecology and Evolution*, 00, 1– 19.
- [88] Newen, A., Griem, M. and **Pika, S.** (2022). A conceptual framework for empathy in humans and nonhuman animals. In *Wittgenstein and Beyond* (eds. Pfisterer C. C., Rathgeb N. & Schmidt, E.), pp 203-224. Routledge.
- [87] Abreu, F. and **Pika, S.** (2022). Turn-taking skills in mammals: A systematic review into development and acquisition. *Frontiers in Ecology and Evolution*, 10.
- [86] Wilke, C., Lahiff, N. J., Badihi, G., **Pika, S.**, et al. (2022). Referential gestures are not ubiquitous in wild chimpanzees: alternative functions for exaggerated loud scratch gestures. *Animal Behaviour*, 189, 23-45.
- [85] Schel, A. M., Bono, A., Aychet, J., **Pika, S.** and Lemasson, A. (2022). Intentional gestural communication amongst red-capped mangabey (*Cercocebus torquatus*). *Animal Cognition*, 25, 1313-1330.
- [84] Mascaró, A., Southern, L. M., Deschner, T. and **Pika, S.** (2022). Application of insects to wounds of self and others by chimpanzees in the wild. *Current Biology*, 32, R97-R115.
- [83] Southern, L. M., Deschner, T. and **Pika, S.** (2021). Lethal coalitionary attacks of chimpanzees (*Pan troglodytes troglodytes*) on gorillas (*Gorilla gorilla gorilla*) in the wild. *Scientific Reports*, 11, 1-10.
- [82] Martínez-Íñigo, L., Baas, P., Klein, H., **Pika, S.** and Deschner, T. (2021). Home range size in central chimpanzees (*Pan troglodytes troglodytes*) from Loango National Park, Gabon, *Primates*, 62, 723-734.
- [81] Martínez-Íñigo, L., Baas, P., Klein, H., **Pika, S.** and Deschner, T. (2021). Intercommunity interactions and killings in central chimpanzees (*Pan troglodytes troglodytes*) at the Loango National Park, Gabon. *Primates*, 62, 709-722
- [80] Klein, H., Bocksberger, G., Baas, P., Bunel, S., Théleste, E., **Pika, S.** and Deschner, T. (2021). Hunting of mammals by central chimpanzees (*Pan troglodytes troglodytes*) in the Loango National Park, Gabon. *Primates* 62, 267-278.
- [79] **Pika, S.**, Sima, M. J., Blum, C. R., Herrmann, E. and Mundry, R. (2020). Ravens parallel great apes in physical and social cognitive skills. *Scientific Reports* 10, 1-19.

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- [77] Boesch, C., Kalan, A.K., Mundry, R., **Pika, S., et al.** Chimpanzee ethnography reveals unexpected cultural diversity. *Nature Human Behavior* (2020).
- [76] Bräuer, J., Hanus, D., **Pika, S.,** Gray, R. & Uomini, N. Old and new approaches to animal cognition: There is not “one cognition”. *Journal of Intelligence* 8, 25 (2020).
- [75] Fröhlich, M., Müller, G., Zeiträg, C., Wittig, R.M., & **Pika, S.** (2020). Begging and social tolerance: Food solicitation tactics in young chimpanzees (*Pan troglodytes*) in the wild. *Evolution and Human Behavior*, 41(2), 126-135.
- [74] Prieur, J. and **Pika, S.** (2020). Gorillas' (*Gorilla g. gorilla*) knowledge of conspecifics' affordances: Intraspecific social tool use for food acquisition. *Primates* 61, 583-591.
- [73] **Pika, S.,** and Deschner, T. (2019). A new window onto animal culture: The case of chimpanzee gesturing. *Gesture*, 18, 237-258 (2019).
- [72] Luef, E.M., Ter Maat, A., Jäger, M., and **Pika, S.** (2019). The ‘culture of two’: Communication accommodation in ravens' (*Corvus corax*) nonvocal signaling. *Journal of Language Evolution*, 11, 1-17.
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- [70] Ben Mocha, Y., Mundry, R., & **Pika, S.** (2019). Joint attention skills in wild Arabian babblers (*Turdoides squamiceps*): a consequence of cooperative breeding? *Proceedings of the Royal Society B*, 286(1900), 20190147.
- [69] Ben Mocha, Y., and **Pika, S.** (2019). Intentional presentation of objects in cooperatively breeding Arabian babblers (*Turdoides squamiceps*). *Frontiers in Ecology and Evolution*, 7.
- [68] Fröhlich, M., Wittig, R. M. and **Pika, S.** (2019). The ontogeny of intentional communication in chimpanzees in the wild. *Developmental Science*, 22(1): e12716.
- [67] Ben Mocha, Y., Mundry, R., and **Pika, S.** (2018). Why hide? Concealed sex in dominant Arabian babblers (*Turdoides squamiceps*) in the wild. *Evolution and Human Behavior*, 39(6), 575-582.
- [66] Nicoladis, E., Marentette, P., **Pika, S.,** and Barbosa, P. G. (2018). Young children show little sensitivity to the iconicity in number Gestures. *Language Learning and Development*, 14, 297-319.
- [65] **Pika S.,** Wilkinson R., Kendrick K. H., & Vernes S. C. (2018). Taking turns: Bridging the gap between human and animal communication. *Proceedings of the Royal Society B: Biological Science*, 285, 9.
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- [63] **Pika, S.,** and Fröhlich, M. (2018). Gestural acquisition in great apes: The Social Negotiation Hypothesis. *Animal Cognition*, 1-15.
- [62] Prieur, J., **Pika, S.,** Barbu, S., and Blois-Heulin, C. (2018). A multifactorial investigation of captive gorillas' intraspecific gestural laterality. *Laterality: Asymmetries of Body, Brain and Cognition*, 23, 538-575.
- [61] Luef, E. M. & **Pika, S.** (2018). The evolution of cooperative communication: Analogies and homologies. In: *Landscapes of Collectivity in The Life Sciences*, eds. by Gissis, S., Lamm, E. & A. Shavit 133-168.
- [60] Sima, M. J., Matzinger, T., Bugnyar, T., & **Pika, S.** (2017). Reconciliation and third-party affiliation in carrion crows. *Ethology*, 124, 33-44.

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- [58] **Pika, S.** (2017). Unpeeling the layers of communicative complexity. *Animal Behaviour* 134, 223-227.
- [57] Fröhlich, M., Müller, G., Zeitrüg, C., Wittig, R.M., & **Pika, S.** (2017). Gestural development of chimpanzees in the wild: The impact of interactional experience. *Animal Behaviour*, 134, 271-282.
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- [55] Luef, E. M., & **Pika, S.** (2017). Reciprocal greeting in chimpanzees (*Pan troglodytes*) at the Ngogo community. *Journal of Neurolinguistics*, 43, 263-273.
- [54] **Pika, S.** (2016). Response to: Commentary: The use of referential gestures in ravens (*Corvus corax*) in the wild. *Frontiers in Ecology and Evolution*, 4, 4.
- [53] Fröhlich, M., Wittig, R. M. & **Pika, S.** (2016). Play-solicitation gestures in chimpanzees in the wild: Flexible adjustment to social circumstances and individual matrices. *Royal Society Open Science*, 3, 160278.
- [52] Prieur, J., **Pika, S.**, Barbu, S & Blois-Heulin, C. (2016). Gorillas are right-handed for their most frequent intraspecific gestures. *Animal Behaviour*, 118, 165-170.
- [51] Fröhlich, M., Kuchenbuch, P., Müller, G., Fruth, B., Furuichi, T., Wittig, R. M. & **Pika, S.** (2016). Unpeeling the layers of language: Bonobos and chimpanzees engage in cooperative turn-taking sequences. *Scientific Reports*, 6, 25887.
- [50] Prieur, J., **Pika, S.**, Barbu, S. & Blois-Heulin, C. (2016). A multifactorial investigation of captive chimpanzees' intraspecific gestural laterality. *Animal Behaviour* ,116, 31-43.
- [49] Fröhlich, M., Wittig, R. M. & **Pika, S.** (2016). 'Should I stay or should I go?' Initiation of joint travel in mother-infant dyads of two chimpanzee communities in the wild. *Animal Cognition*, 19, 483-500.
- [48] Luef, E. M., Breuer, T. & **Pika, S.** (2016). Food-associated calling in gorillas (*Gorilla g. gorilla*) in the wild. *PlosOne* 11, e0144197.
- [47] Sima, M. J., **Pika, S.** & Bugnyar, T. (2016). Experimental manipulation of food accessibility affects conflict behaviour in ravens. *Ethology*, 2, 114-126.
- [46] Fröhlich, M., Kuchenbuch, P., Hohmann, G., Furuichi, T., Wittig, R. M. & **Pika, S.** (2015). The development of social and spatial independence: Do bonobos (*Pan paniscus*) and chimpanzees (*Pan troglodytes*) differ? *Folia Primatologica*, 86, 284.
- [45] **Pika, S.** (2015). Gestural communication in nonhuman species. *Emerging Trends in the Social and Behavioral Sciences: An Interdisciplinary, Searchable, and Linkable Resource*, eds. Scott R., Kosslyn S. & Pinkerton N. (Wiley Online Library, New York, NY), pp 1-11.
- [44] Luef, E. M. & **Pika, S.** (2014). Acoustical variation and contextual specificity of a gorilla vocalization: A case study. *Psychology and Behaviour*, 3, 192-196.
- [43] Child, S. F. J., Theakston, A. & **Pika, S.** (2014). How do modelled gestures influence Preschool children's spontaneous gesture production? Social versus semantic influence. *Gesture*, 14, 1-25.
- [42] Luef, E. M. & **Pika, S.** (2013). Gorilla mothers also matter! New insights on social transmission in gorillas (*Gorilla gorilla gorilla*) in captivity. *PLoS ONE*, 8, e79600.
- [41] Wilkinson, R., Leudar, I. & **Pika, S.** (2012). Requesting behaviours within episodes of Active sharing. In *Developments in Primate Gesture Research* (eds. S. Pika & K. Liebal), pp. 199-221. Amsterdam, The Netherlands John Benjamins Publishing Company.

- [40] Scott, N. & **Pika, S.** (2012). A call for conformity. *Gesture studies in human and non-Human primates*. In *Developments in Primate Gesture Research* (eds. S. Pika & K. Liebal), pp. 141-163. Amsterdam, The Netherlands, John Benjamins Publishing Company.
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- [38] **Pika, S.** & Liebal, K. (2012). *Developments in Primate Gesture Research*, p. 256. Amsterdam, The Netherlands, John Benjamins Publishing Company.
- [37] **Pika, S.** (2012). The case of referential gestural signaling. Where next? *Communicative & Integrative Biology*, 5, 578-582.
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- [35] Hopkins, W. D., **Pika, S.**, Liebal, K., Bania, A., Meguerditchian, A., Gardner, M. & Schapiro, S. J. (2012). Handedness for manual gestures in great apes. A meta-analysis. In *Current Developments in Primate Gesture Research* (eds. S. Pika & K. Liebal), pp. 93-111. Amsterdam, The Netherlands, John Benjamins Publishing Company.
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- [32] Nicoladis, E., **Pika, S.** & Marentette, P. (2010). Are number gestures easier than number words for preschoolers? *Cognitive Development*, 25, 247-261.
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- [30] **Pika, S.** & Mitani, J. (2009). The directed scratch: Evidence for a referential gesture in chimpanzees? In *The Prehistory of Language* (eds. R. Botha & C. Knight), pp. 166-180. Oxford, Oxford University Press.
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- [27] Nicoladis, E., **Pika, S.** & Marentette, P. (2009). Do French-English bilingual children gesture more than monolingual children? *Journal of Psycholinguistic Research*, 38, 573-585.
- [26] **Pika, S.** & Zuberbühler, K. (2008). Social games between bonobos and humans: Evidence for shared intentionality? *American Journal of Primatology*, 70, 207-210.
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- American Journal of Primatology*, 60, 95-111.
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#### RESEARCH EXPEDITIONS LEAD BY THE APPLICANT PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR

- 2021 – 2025 Project leader: Turn-taking in bonobos in the wild, Kokolopori Bonobo Reserve, *LuiKotale Bonobo Project*, Salonga National Park, DRC.
- 2018 – 2024 Project leader: Turn-taking in chimpanzees in the wild, *Ngogo Chimpanzee Project*, Kibale National Park, Uganda.
- 2018 – Proto-tool use and medical behaviors in central chimpanzees, *Ozouga Chimpanzee Project*, Loango National Park, Gabon.
- 2013 – 2014 Project leader: Greeting signals in chimpanzees in the wild, *Ngogo Chimpanzee Project*, Kibale National Park, Uganda.
- 2012 – 2014 Project leader: Gestural development and complexity in chimpanzees in the wild, *Tai Chimpanzee Project*, National Park, Ivory Coast; Kibale National Park, Uganda.
- 2012 – 2014 Project leader: Gestural development and complexity in bonobos in the wild, *Lui Kotale Project*, Salonga National Park, DRC; *Wamba Project*, Luo Scientific Reserve, DRC.
- 2012 Project leader: Vocal communication in gorillas in the wild, Djéké Triangle, Republic of Congo.
- 2006 – Project leader: Gestural complexity in chimpanzees in the wild, *Ngogo Chimpanzee Project*, Kibale National Park, Uganda.



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Simone Pika