

ISOLDE GOTTWALD, MSc MA BSc

Curriculum Vitæ

Education

- 2025-2028** **PhD Candidate in Environmental Psychology, University of Vienna, Austria**
Project title: New directions for climate change communication through entertainment media: Towards an integration of psychological theories and mechanisms
Funding: DOC-Fellowship (Austrian Academy of Sciences)
- 2021-2024** **MSc. (cum laude), Department of Psychology, University of Vienna, Austria**
Focus: Environmental Psychology, Cognitive - & Neuroscience. Thesis: "A new climate narrative: The potential of fictional storytelling in climate change communication", Supervisor: Univ.-Prof. Dr. Sabine Pahl
- 2023-2026** **MA., Department of Communication, University of Vienna, Austria**
Focus: Climate Communication, Political Communication, Film Studies. Thesis: "How climate communication shapes what people think, feel, and do: A systematic review of experimental studies", Supervisors: Univ.-Prof. Dr. Hajo Boomgaarden, Dr. Fabienne Lind
- 2022** **Exchange Semester (First Class Honors), University of Melbourne, Australia**
Focus: Environmental Studies, Science Communication
- 2017-2021** **BSc., Department of Psychology, University of Vienna, Austria.**

Employment & Relevant Experience

- 2023-2025** **Project Associate, Horizon Europe, Natural History Museum Vienna, Austria**
Stakeholder Engagement: Coordinated efforts to engage industry, policymakers, and organisations in collaborative initiatives addressing biodiversity loss.
Science-Policy Alignment: Supported collaboration between scientific and policy communities to promote evidence-informed policymaking and open science skills.
Citizen Science: Co-organised a citizen science research project studying *Drosophila melanogaster* (fruit fly) and motivation behind and impact of civic engagement.
- 2021-2022** **Project Assistant, Wissenschaft im Dialog, Berlin, Germany**
Public Participation Initiative: Managed the participation initiative *IdeenLauf* as part of the Science Year *Nachgefragt! 2022* in cooperation with the German Federal Ministry of Education and Research, facilitating collaboration between 60 scientists and 30 citizens in a participatory science engagement process.
Science Communication and Public Engagement: Contributed to science journalism activities to *Die Debatte*, conducted science communication workshops at research institutions, facilitated public engagement in science as a moderator for the *I'm a Scientist!* Project, and served as a juror for the *University Competition*, evaluating and providing feedback on science communication projects.
- 2020** **Research Assistant, Centre for Chronobiology, Basel, Switzerland**
Multidisciplinary Research Collaboration: Participated in an interdisciplinary research team investigating the relationship between sleep and health.
Study Design and Data Analysis: Supported the design and development of a study examining the effects of sleepwear on sleep quality and conducted data analysis to support ongoing studies.
- 2019-2021** **Research & Teaching Assistant, Faculty of Psychology, University of Vienna**
Course Design and Instruction: Taught seminars for bachelor's and master's students, including a 30-student bachelor's research seminar on empirical research methods.

Statistical Consulting: Provided guidance on empirical data analysis, supporting students with statistical techniques and interpretation.

- 2019** **Research Assistant, SCAN-Unit, University of Vienna**
fMRI Study Conduction: Collected data for an fMRI study investigating the relationship between stress, pro-social behaviour and neuropsychological responses.
Study Planning: Designed a study focused on examining empathy toward refugees, including the development of research stimuli.

Honors and Awards

- 2025** **DOC-Fellowship (153.204,00€)**
 PhD project funding (full funding: 3 years) by the Austrian Academy of Sciences (ÖAW)
- 2024** **Award for Master's Thesis: "Pitch Your Thesis" (200€)**
 Recognised excellent Master Thesis within sustainability research by the Environment and Climate Research Hub, an initiative of the Vice-Rector for Teaching, University of Vienna
- 2023** **Merit-Based Scholarship for Academic Excellence (750€)**
 Awarded for top academic performance, University of Vienna
- 2022** **OeAD Scholarship for International Study (2700€)**
 Awarded for a semester abroad, Austria's Agency for Education & Internationalisation (OeAD)
- 2021** **Merit-Based Scholarship for Academic Excellence (803€)**
 Awarded for top academic performance, University of Vienna
- 2021** **Erasmus+ Scholarship for International Internship (1660€)**
 Awarded for an internship with Wissenschaft im Dialog, centred on public involvement in science policy development in collaboration with the Ministry for Education and Research Germany

Teaching & Supervision (University of Vienna)

- 2024** **Guest Lecturer** (Research Seminar, Master's of Psychology, Department of Environmental Psychology), Topic: The Relevance of Science Communication for Conservation Psychology
- 2020-21** **Bachelor's Thesis Supervision (Teaching & Research Assistant)**
 Supervised Bachelor's Theses in Psychology providing additional statistical consulting
- 2019-21** **Bachelor's & Master's Courses (Teaching & Research Assistant)**
 Psychological Research Methods, Psychological Communication Skills, Clinical Psychology, Health Psychology, Clinical Psychology of Childhood and Adolescence, Developmental Psychology

Technical Skills & Languages

- German (native), English (C2), French (B1)
- SPSS, MS Office, Qualtrics (advanced)
- R, MATLAB (basics)

References

- Univ.-Prof. Dr. Sabine Pahl, Master's Thesis & PhD supervisor
 sabine.pahl@univie.ac.at, +43 1 4277 47150
- Mag. Ines Méhu-Blantar, supervisor at the Natural History Museum Vienna
 ines.mehu-blantar@ist.ac.at

Peer-reviewed publications

- Gottwald, I., Steindl, S., Strasser, F., Kiesel, M., Rainer, H., Haring, E. & Kapun, M. (2025).** How to catch flies in the city (fast): Citizen Science on *Drosophila* ecology helps to raise awareness for biodiversity in urban environments. **Preprint** bioRxiv. <https://doi.org/10.1101/2025.10.10.681315>
 (currently working on the revisions from *Ecology & Society*, to be finally submitted in April 2026)