

# Annika Tjuka

## Curriculum Vitæ

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## Academic Education

- 2019 – 2024 **Doktor philosophiae in Linguistics**, *Friedrich-Schiller-Universität Jena*.  
Dissertation Thesis: *Language variation in word meanings – Cross-linguistic patterns and causes of colexifications*.  
Reviewers: Johann-Mattis List, Stephen C. Levinson, and Asifa Majid  
Mentor: Mary Walworth  
Grade: *summa cum laude* (“with distinction”)
- 2016 – 2019 **Master of Arts in Linguistics**, *Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin*.  
Final Grade: 1.2 (“very good”)  
MA Thesis: *Body-part metaphors as a window to cognition – A cross-linguistic study of object and landscape terms*.  
Reviewers: Elisabeth Verhoeven and Kilu von Prince  
Grade: 1.3 (“very good”)
- 2013 – 2016 **Bachelor of Arts in German Linguistics and Scandinavian Studies**, *Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin*.  
Final Grade: 1.7 (“good”)  
BA Thesis: *Emotionalisation through texts – A contrastive analysis of donation letters and stock market letters with the help of the Berlin Affective Word List Reloaded*.  
Reviewers: Katharina Spalek and Manfred Krifka  
Grade: 1.5 (“very good”)
- 2012 – 2013 **Bachelor of Arts in Culture & Technology – Language and Communication**, *Technische Universität Berlin*.

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## Grants and Awards

- 2025 **Otto Hahn Medal**, for outstanding scientific achievements in connection with doctoral research, Max Planck Society, Munich.
- 2019 – 2023 **Fellowship**, *International Max Planck Research Schools (IMPRS)*, Max Planck Institute for the Science of Human History, Jena.
- 2021 **Farzad Sharifian PhD Student Award**, for my presentation on “The face of the moon – Body part extensions in Vietnamese”, at 3<sup>rd</sup> Cultural Linguistics International Conference (CLIC-2021), Budapest.
- 2019 **Nomination for Humboldt-Price**, for best Master’s thesis at *Sprach- und literaturwissenschaftlichen Fakultät*, Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin.
- 2019 **Humboldt-Universität’s Equal Opportunities Fund**, for participation in a linguistics conference, Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin.

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## Work Experience

- 2023 – present **Postdoctoral Researcher**, *Max Planck Institute for Evolutionary Anthropology*, Leipzig, Department of Linguistic and Cultural Evolution.  
Project: Exploring Diversity in Language and Cognition (EDLC)
- 2019 – 2023 **Doctoral Researcher**, *International Max Planck Research School (IMPRS)*, Max Planck Institute for the Science of Human History, Jena.  
Project: Cross-Linguistic Strategies of Denotation – Advancing Data and Methods in Lexical Typology

- 2019 – 2019 **Research Associate**, *FAHMRRR project*, Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin, funded by European Research Council (ERC).  
An investigation of how humans process meaning in utterances, concentrating on focus alternatives.  
Principal Investigator: Katharina Spalek
- 2017 – 2019 **Student Research Assistant**, *MelaTAMP project*, Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin, funded by German Research Foundation (DFG).  
A corpus-based research on TAM and polarity expressions in Oceanic languages of Melanesia.  
Principal Investigators: Kilu von Prince and Manfred Krifka
- 2016 – 2019 **Student Research Assistant**, *FAHMRRR project*, Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin, funded by European Research Council (ERC).  
Principal Investigator: Katharina Spalek
- 2018 – 2018 **Internship and Student Research Assistant**, *Modulation of Language Networks Group*, Max Planck Institute for Human Cognitive and Brain Sciences, Leipzig.  
Group Head: Gesa Hartwigsen
- 2013 – 2016 **Assistant**, *World Wide Fund for Nature*, Berlin, Department of Dialog Marketing.

## Publications

- Journal Articles **Tjuka, Annika** & Johann-Mattis List. 2024. Partial Colexifications Reveal Directional Tendencies in Object Naming. *Yearbook of the German Cognitive Linguistics Association* 12(1). 95–114
- Tjuka, Annika**, Huong Thi Thu Nguyen, Ruben van de Vijver, & Katharina Spalek. 2024. Investigating the variation of intonation contours in Northern Vietnamese tones. *Frontiers in Education* 9. 1–9.
- Tjuka, Annika**, Robert Forkel & Johann-Mattis List. 2024. Universal and cultural factors shape body part vocabularies. *Scientific Reports* 14(1). 1–12.
- Tjuka, Annika**, 2024. Objects as human bodies: Cross-linguistic colexifications between words for body parts and objects. *Linguistic Typology* 28(3). 379–418.
- Kim, Yoolim & **Annika Tjuka** (shared authorship). 2024. Cognitive Science from the Perspective of Linguistic Diversity. *Cognitive Science* 48(2). 1–7
- Nomura, Keiko, Simon Rella, Haily Merritt, Mathieu Baltussen, Darcy Bird, **Annika Tjuka** & Dan Falk. 2024. Tipping Points of Space Debris in Low Earth Orbit. *International Journal of the Commons (Special Issue on Commons in Space)* 18(1). 17–31
- Tjuka, Annika**, Robert Forkel & Johann-Mattis List. 2023. Curating and Extending Data for Language Comparison in Concepticon and NoRaRe. *Open Research Europe* 2(141). 1–13.
- Tjuka, Annika**, Robert Forkel & Johann-Mattis List. 2022. Linking Norms, Ratings, and Relations of Words and Concepts Across Multiple Language Varieties. *Behavior Research Methods* 54. 864–884.
- Tjuka, Annika**, Huong Thi Thu Nguyen & Katharina Spalek. 2020. *Foxes, Deer, and Hedgehogs: The Recall of Focus Alternatives in Vietnamese. Laboratory Phonology (Special Issue on Prosody and Speech Processing across Languages and Varieties)* 11(1). 1–29.
- Edited Volume **Tjuka, Annika**, 2025. The Representation of Foot/Leg Polysemy in the Mind – Insights from Vietnamese Body Part Extensions with *Chân*. In Mateus Cruz Maciel de Carvalho, Angel Humberto Corbera Mori & Iwona Kraska-Szlenk (eds.), *Embodiment in Cross-Linguistic Studies: The 'Foot/Leg,'* 173–192. Leiden: Brill.
- Tjuka, Annika**, 2023. Body Part Extensions with *Mặt* 'Face' in Vietnamese. In Kelsie E. Pattillo & Małgorzata Waśniewska (eds.), *Embodiment in Cross-Linguistic Studies: The 'Face,'* 237–255. Leiden: Brill.

Conference Proceedings **Tjuka, Annika**, 2025. Advancing the Database of Cross-Linguistic Colexifications with New Workflows and Data. In Kilian Evang, Laura Kallmeyer & Sylvain Pogodalla (eds.), *Proceedings of the 16th International Conference on Computational Semantics*, 1-15. Düsseldorf, Germany: Association for Computational Linguistics.

**Tjuka, Annika**, 2020. General Patterns and Language Variation: Word Frequencies Across English, German, and Chinese. In Michael Zock, Emmanuele Chersoni, Alessandro Lenci & Enrico Santus (eds.), *Proceedings of the Workshop on the Cognitive Aspects of the Lexicon*, 23–32. Online and Barcelona, Spain: Association for Computational Linguistics.

**Tjuka, Annika**, Lena Weißmann & Kilu von Prince. 2019. Tagging Modality in Oceanic Languages of Melanesia. In Annemarie Friedrich, Deniz Zeyrek & Jet Hoek (eds.), *Proceedings of the 13<sup>th</sup> Linguistic Annotation Workshop*, 65–70. Florence, Italy: Association for Computational Linguistics.

**Tjuka, Annika**, Lena Weißmann & Kilu von Prince. 2019. Habitual Aspect as a Property of Text Spans. In Zygmunt Vetulani & Patrick Paroubek (eds.), *Human language technologies as a challenge for computer science and linguistics. Proceedings of 9<sup>th</sup> Language & Technology Conference*, 195–199. Poznań, Poland: Wydawnictwo Nauka i Innowacje.

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## Invited Talks

- 2025 **Keynote**, *Lexical typology at scale – How databases transform the study of colexifications*, Emerging Topics in Typology (ETT) Conference, Max Planck Institute for Evolutionary Anthropology.  
Leipzig, Germany
- 2023 **Research Colloquium**, *If a car had feet, where would they be? Using the body as an analogy to name object parts*, Current Topics in General Linguistics, Heinrich Heine University.  
Düsseldorf, Germany

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## Summer School Participation

- 2022 **Complex Systems Summer School**, *A Study of Complex Behavior in Systems*, Santa Fe Institute, Santa Fe, United States.  
An intensive four-week introduction to complex behavior in mathematical, physical, living, and social systems to transcend disciplinary boundaries, take intellectual risks, and ask big questions. Including lectures, workshops, and a group research project.
- 2022 **Semantic Shifts Summer School**, *From Lexicon to Grammar: Diachronic and Typological Perspectives*, Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique (CNRS), Fréjus, France.  
A two-week introduction exploring the crossover between two focal areas of research in semantics – grammaticalization and lexical semantics – from a range of interdisciplinary perspectives. Including courses, workshops, and a round table discussion.
- 2019 **Neurolinguistics Summer School**, *Experimental Linguistics in Less-studied Languages*, Center for Language and Brain at National Research University Higher School of Economics (HSE), Moscow, Russia.  
A three days event of invited talks discussing psycho- and neurolinguistics findings from less-studied languages. Including a poster session with contributions from participants.

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## Teaching

- September 2025 **Guest lecture**, *Intro to Open Science*, for Master's and PhD students as part of the Workshop – Bridging Minds: Interdisciplinary Approaches in Anthropology, Evolution and Culture.  
University of Ghana, Accra, Ghana (online).
- June 2025 **Teaching material**, *The Evolution of Language*, for High-School students as part of the OpenEvo – Educational Innovation Research for Understanding Human.  
Max Planck Institute for Evolutionary Anthropology, Leipzig, Germany.

- April 2024 **Guest lecture**, *Body part vocabularies across languages*, for Bachelor's students as part of the seminar on Psychology of Language by Yoolim Kim, Wellesley College. Massachusetts, USA (online).
- November 2024 **Guest lecture**, *Cognitive Science from the Perspective of Linguistic Diversity*, for PhD students as part of the International Max Planck Research School Core Seminar Week. Max Planck Institute for Evolutionary Anthropology, Leipzig, Germany.
- Winter term 2023-24 **Seminar**, *Sprachdiversität und Mehrsprachigkeit (Language Diversity and Multilingualism)*, for Bachelor's students, Lehrstuhl für Multilinguale Computerlinguistik. Universität Passau, Germany.
- Winter term 2022-23 **Grundkurs (Undergraduate Course)**, *Sprachwissenschaftliche Fragestellungen und Methoden (Questions and methods in linguistics)*, for Bachelor's students, Institut für Deutsche und Niederländische Philologie. Freie Universität Berlin, Germany.
- September 2022 **Lecture**, *Computer-Assisted Approaches to Lexical Typology*, for Master's and PhD students, co-teacher Johann-Mattis List, Centre national de la recherche scientifique (CNRS). SemanticShifts Summer School, Frejús, France.
- Winter term 2021-22 **Seminar**, *Same same but different: Semantic relations in language and thought*, for Bachelor's students, Department of English Studies. Friedrich Schiller University, Jena, Germany (online).
- August 2021 **Lecture**, *Introduction to Linguistic & Cultural Evolution*, for Master's and PhD students, Max Planck Institute for the Science of Human History. SHH Summer School - A doorway to human history, Jena, Germany (online).
- August 2021 **Class**, *Bayesian Phylogenetic Linguistics*, for Master's and PhD students, co-teachers Nataliia Hübler and Olena Shcherbakova, Max Planck Institute for the Science of Human History. SHH Summer School - A doorway to human history, Jena, Germany (online).
- Summer term 2021 **Seminar**, *Words and their meanings across languages*, for Bachelor's students, Department of English Studies. Friedrich Schiller University, Jena, Germany (online).
- Winter term 2020-21 **Seminar**, *The mental lexicon from a cross-linguistic perspective*, for Bachelor's students, Department of English Studies. Friedrich Schiller University, Jena, Germany (online).

## Supervision and Advisory Services

- 2025 – present **Open Science Ambassador**, Max Planck Institute for Evolutionary Anthropology, Leipzig.
- 2024 – present **Supervisor**, *Department of Linguistic and Cultural Evolution*, Max Planck Institute for Evolutionary Anthropology, Leipzig.  
Supervisee: Mira Ahmedovic (Student Research Assistant)
- 2024 – 2025 **Deputy Open Science Ambassador**, Max Planck Institute for Evolutionary Anthropology, Leipzig.
- 2024 – 2025 **Mentor**, *Emerging Topics in Typology (ETT) Conference*, organized by and for PhD students.
- 2022–2023 **Mentor**, *African Research Talents Experiencing Mentoring In Science (ARTEMIS) programme*, Max Planck Society, Germany.  
Mentee: Mike Ofori Antwi (Master's Student at University of Ghana)
- 2022–2024 **Supervisor**, *Department of Linguistic and Cultural Evolution*, Max Planck Institute for Evolutionary Anthropology, Leipzig.  
Supervisee: Mathilda van Zantwijk (Student Research Assistant)

- 2020 – 2021 **PhD Representative**, *Department of Linguistic and Cultural Evolution*, Max Planck Institute for the Science of Human History, Jena.
- 2017 – 2018 **Women's Representative**, *Institute of Romance Studies*, Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin.

## Professional Services

- 2024 – present **Exhibition Curator**, *Department of Linguistic and Cultural Evolution*, Max Planck Institute for Evolutionary Anthropology, Leipzig.  
Representation of the department in matters relating to the design, curation and communication of the foyer exhibition.
- 2023 – present **Advisory Committee Member**, *How languages show what speakers know*, Vici Grant.  
Principal Investigator: G. Jenneke van der Wal
- 2021 – 2024 **Co-Editor**, *Computer-Assisted Language Comparison in Practice*, Blog.  
calc.hypotheses.org
- 2020 – present **Ad hoc Reviewer**.
- Journals
    - Nature Human Behaviour
    - Scientific Data
    - Behavior Research Methods
    - Scientific Reports
    - Quarterly Journal of Experimental Psychology
    - Journal of Language Evolution
    - Frontiers in Psychology
    - Journal of Portuguese Linguistics
    - SKASE Journal of Theoretical Linguistics
  - Conferences
    - CogSci Conference
    - Emerging Topics in Typology (ETT)

## Event Organization

- 2024 **Workshop**, *Linguistic and Cognitive Science meet Diversity*, Max Planck Institute for Evolutionary Anthropology, Leipzig, Germany.  
A 3-day workshop with 18 invited talks and 2 round table discussions organized together with Yoolim Kim and Yağmur Deniz Kisa.  
Main Organizer
- 2023 **Workshop**, *Cross-Linguistic Data Formats – Graphs and Texts*, Max Planck Institute for Evolutionary Anthropology, Leipzig, Germany.  
A 2-day workshop with invited talks and two practice sessions organized together with Johann-Mattis List and Robert Forkel.  
Co-Organizer
- Theme Session**, *Cross-Linguistic Colexifications across Research Fields*, 16<sup>th</sup> International Cognitive Linguistics Conference, Düsseldorf, Germany.  
A 1-day theme session with invited talks organized together with Johann-Mattis List.  
Co-Organizer
- 2022 **Group Session**, *Science communication*, Max Planck Institute for Evolutionary Anthropology, Leipzig, Germany.  
A 1-day workshop discussing science communication and a poster presentation.  
Group leader

- 2021 **SHH Summer School**, *A doorway to human history*, Max Planck Institute for the Science of Human History, Jena, online.  
A 2-week lecture and workshop series introducing the main aspects of archaeology, archaeogenetics, as well as linguistic and cultural evolution.  
Organizing committee
- 2020 – 2021 **Journal Club**, *Department of Linguistic and Cultural Evolution*, Max Planck Institute for the Science of Human History, Jena.  
Main Coordinator

## Outreach Activities

- 2025 **Long Night of Science**, *Der Schatz der Sprachen – Warum wir Wortschätze in Datenbanken sammeln* (*The treasure of languages – Why we collect vocabularies in databases*), Max Planck Institute for Evolutionary Anthropology, Leipzig, Germany.  
Speaker
- 2025 **School Event organised by Soapbox Science and NeuroCure**, *Anatomie der Sprache: Eine Reise von Kopf bis Fuß* (*Anatomy of language: A journey from head to toe*), Peter-Ustinov-Schule, Berlin, Germany.  
Speaker
- 2025 **Soapbox Science**, *Anatomie der Sprache: Eine Reise von Kopf bis Fuß* (*Anatomy of language: A journey from head to toe*), Holzmarkt, Berlin, Germany.  
Speaker
- 2024 **Three Minute Thesis competition ('3MT)**, *One body, many words: Linguistic diversity as a window into the mind*, Friedrich-Schiller-Universität, Jena, Germany.  
Speaker
- 2023 **Quantum Entanglement – Science and Music Festival**, *Was wäre, wenn Du jede Sprache auf der Welt sprechen könntest?*, Heiter bis Wolkig Café at Bürgerbahnhof Plagwitz, Leipzig, Germany.  
Speaker
- 2022 **Tea with Teachers**, *The role of a lifetime – Portrayal of female scientists in today's movies and TV series*, Friedrich Schiller University, Department of English Studies, Jena, online.  
Speaker, together with Olena Tykhostup
- 2021 **Tea with Teachers**, *Four ways to PhD*, Friedrich Schiller University, Department of English Studies, Jena, online.  
Speaker, together with Olena Shcherbakova, Olena Tykhostup, and Barthe Bloom
- 2019 **Long Night of Science**, *Game: "Try to get food in the same way as the crows of New Caledonia"*, Max Planck Institute for the Science of Human History, Jena.  
Volunteer, together with Clemens Schmid

## Languages

German	First language
English	Professional
Vietnamese	Good passive knowledge

## Computer Skills

Scripting & Mark-up	R, Python, Bash Shell, MATLAB, L <sup>A</sup> T <sub>E</sub> X
Software	PRAAT, Presentation, ELAN, EXMARaLDA, Cytoscape, Inkscape, NetLogo