

**Dr. Kateřina Chládková, MA**

*I am a scientist passionate about speech and language acquisition throughout lifetime. I research auditory, audio-visual, and visual language learning in typically developing as well as atypical populations, using neuroimaging, behavioural, and computational methods. I aim at answering fundamental questions and testing theories on language development, such as whether humans can learn language through the same mechanisms across adulthood and childhood. Besides doing the actual science, my passion is for it to be societally responsible which is why I am continuously exploring ways to communicate science to the public and to make links between fundamental research and its application.*

My lab website is [speakinlab.cz](https://speakinlab.cz), IG @speakinlab, and my researcher ID: K-2039-2015.

**EDUCATION**

- 2014 PhD, Faculty of Humanities, University of Amsterdam, The Netherlands  
supervisor: prof. Paul Boersma, co-supervisors: dr. Silke Hamann, prof. Paola Escudero
- 2009 Master of Arts, General Linguistics, Faculty of Humanities, University of Amsterdam, NL

**EMPLOYMENT**

- 2024 – Scientist, Department of Medical Biophysics, Faculty of Medicine in Hradec Králové, Charles University (in an ERDF-funded project Brain Dynamics)
- 2018 – Senior Scientist (until 2022 Scientist), Institute of Psychology, Czech Academy of Sciences
- 2018 – Assistant professor (until 2020 Researcher), Institute of Czech Language and Theory of Communication, Faculty of Arts, Charles University, Czech Republic
- 2018 – 2023 Visiting researcher, Max-Planck Institute for Human Cognitive and Brain Sciences, Leipzig
- 2016 – 2017 Researcher, post-doc with individual fellowship funded by Dutch Science Foundation, Faculty of Life Sciences, Leipzig University, Germany
- 2013 – 2014 Postdoc, Faculty of Humanities, University of Amsterdam, The Netherlands
- 2009 – 2013 PhD candidate, Faculty of Humanities, University of Amsterdam, The Netherlands

**CAREER BREAKS** Maternity leave, 3 children: 11/2020–06/2021, 11/2017–06/2018, 10/2014–03/2016

**GRANTS**

- 2023 – 2028 *Beyond Security: Role of Conflict in Resilience-Building*, ERDF-funded [consortium project](#), PI in one of the 9 research intents: RI 3: *Multilingualism and Psycholinguistics*, at Faculty of Arts, Charles University ([podcast about our work](#) in the project)
- 2021 – 2023 *Learning to recognize words: a developmental cross-dialectal perspective*, GAČR [PI]
- 2021 – 2023 *Diagnostic tool for assessment of communicative development in Czech children from 8 to 30 months*, TAČR [team member]
- 2018 – 2022 *Acquiring a quantity language: infants' input and perceptual processing of vowel length*, Primus grant, Faculty of Arts & Fac. of Medicine, Hradec Králové, Charles University [PI]
- 2018 – 2020 *The effect of talker accent on speech sound learning in infants*, GAČR [PI]
- 2016 – 2018 *Piecing auditory cues together*, Rubicon grant, Dutch Science Foundation, realized at University of Leipzig [individual postdoc fellowship]

**BRIDGING ACADEMIA AND BUSINESS**

- 2023 – Development of a mobile language learning app (a new version inspired by naturalistic native language acquisition in children), in collaboration with [Mooveez](#) Company a.s.
- 2023 Selected amongst the [Top 23 Czech women scientists](#), Forbes magazine, Czech edition

**FELLOWSHIPS AND AWARDS**

- 2023 *Lumina Quaeruntur* fellowship for outstanding scientists, funding to develop a 5-year research programme, from the Czech Academy of Sciences
- 2022 *Otto Wichterle Award* for excellent young scientists, from the Czech Academy of Sciences
- 2013 *Endeavour Research Fellowship*, from the Australian government, fellowship for a 6-month stay at Western Sydney University (not realized due to family commitments)

**INVITED TALKS & LECTURES: ACADEMIC**

- Dahlem Lectures in Linguistics, Free University Berlin, Germany (2025)
- Typical and Atypical Language Acquisition Colloquium, University of Potsdam, Germany (2023)
- LangVIEW seminar series, world-wide virtual (2023)

Biologické čtvrtky [Biology Thursdays] series, organised by Faculty of Science, Charles Uni (2023)  
 International conference Olomouc Linguistic Colloquium (2023)  
 Three invited lectures at the international Summer School of Linguistics, České Budějovice (2023)  
 Lecture series Problematika hluchoty [Deafness issues], Faculty of Arts, Charles Uni. (2022)  
 Plenary talk at the 42<sup>nd</sup> student workshop Žďárek, Kutná Hora (2022)  
 Musicology at the Crossroads of Humanities, organized by Faculty of Arts, Charles University (2022)  
 Language and Cognition Group seminar, Leiden University, The Netherlands (2019)  
 Kognitivní škola, Malá Skála (Annual Winter School of Cognitive Science), Czech Republic (2019)  
 Language and Cognition Group, Leiden University, The Netherlands (2013)  
 Phonology Seminar, University of California Los Angeles, USA (2011)

#### INVITED TALKS & LECTURES: SCIENTIFIC COMMUNITY

Meeting of Czech scientists in the Netherlands, Czexpats and the Czech Embassy in the Hague (2025)  
 Academia Film Olomouc *Jak funguje věda* [How science works], by Zeptej se vědce (2025)  
 PI Forum workshop at the *Konference pod stromečkem*, Christmas conference by Czexpats (2024)  
*Through Academic Culture to Scientific Excellence*, Prague, by Czexpats (2024)  
 Czech-Ukrainian scientific society meeting, Prague (2023); Young PI Forum, Czexpats, Prague (2023)

#### SELECTED ACADEMIC PUBLICATIONS (full list: [google scholar profile](#))

Chládková, K., Podlipský, V. J., Jarůšková, L., & Šimáčková, Š. (2025). Tuning in to the prosody of a novel language is easier without orthography. *Bilingualism: Language and Cognition* First View, pp. 1-10. (This paper's attention score is in the 98<sup>th</sup> percentile of all publications ever tracked by Altmetric.)  
 Dvořáková, M., Kikoťová, N., Urbanec, J., Goetz, A., & Chládková, K. (2025, preprint). Detecting foreign rhythm in native-language speech at birth. [https://osf.io/preprints/psyarxiv/jrm32\\_v3](https://osf.io/preprints/psyarxiv/jrm32_v3)  
 Urbanec, J., Chládková, K., & Kremláček, J. (2024). Neural processing of speech sounds at premature and term birth: ERPs and MMR between 32 and 42 weeks of gestation. *Developmental Cognitive Neuroscience* 70, 101444.  
 Jarůšková, L., & Chládková, K. (2023). Preference for native-accented peers in monolingual and bilingual children acquiring Czech. *Journal of Multilingual and Multicultural Development*, 1-12. DOI: 10.1080/01434632.2023.2257189  
 Chládková, K., Boersma, P., & Escudero, P. (2022). Unattended distributional training can shift phoneme boundaries. *Bilingualism: Language and Cognition* 25 (5), 827-840.  
 Chládková, K., Urbanec, J., Skálová, S., & Kremláček, J. (2021). Newborns' neural processing of native vowels reveals directional asymmetries. *Developmental Cognitive Neuroscience*, 52:101023.  
 Chládková, K., Podlipský, V. J., Nudga, N., & Šimáčková, Š. (2021). The McGurk effect in the time of pandemic: age-dependent adaptation to an environmental loss of visual speech cues. *Psychonomic Bulletin & Review*, 28, 992-1002.  
 Paillereau, N., Podlipský, V.J., Smolík, F., Šimáčková, Š., & Chládková, K. (2021). The Development of infants' sensitivity to native and non-native rhythm. *Infancy*, 26, 423-444.  
 Chládková, K., Nudga, N., & Boersma, P. (2020). A model of prenatal acquisition of vowels. *Proceedings of the Cognitive Science Society*, 42, 599-604.  
 Chládková, K., & Paillereau, N. (2020). The what and when of universal perception: a review of early speech sound acquisition. *Language Learning*, 70 (4), 1136-1182. (Ranked amongst most read papers in 2021.)  
 Chládková, K. (2014). *Finding Phonological Features in Perception*. University of Amsterdam. 141 pp. ISBN 978-94-6259-047-2.

#### BOOKS AND JOURNALISTIC SCIENCE ARTICLES

Chládková, K. & Pešta, M. (2025). *Učte se jazyky jako děti, bez námahy*. Praha: Mooveez Company. 159 pp. ISBN 978-80-11-06749-6.  
 Chládková, K., Šimáčková, Š., & Podlipský, V. J. (2025). [How to learn a language like a baby/: Pueden los adultos aprender idiomas como los bebés?](#). *The Conversation: Europe/Spain*, March 12, 2025.  
 Chládková, K., Jarůšková, L., Svoboda, M. (2024). *Děti a bilingvismus* [Children and bilingualism]. Edition Věda kolem nás [Science around us], Prague: Academia.  
 Chládková, K. (2024). Jazyk umí klamat naše smysly. *Vesmír* 103, 94, [2024/2](#).

#### SELECTED SCI-COMM ACTIVITIES AND MEDIA APPEARANCE

Public debates *Zeptej se vědce* ([one debate here](#)); Guest in the *SciLux podcast*; Featured in the series *Věda na UK*; Education podcast *Před tabulí, Druhý jazyk už od první třídy - výhoda nebo výzva?* Fraus-Klett;

Interview in Seznam Zprávy [Jak na angličtinu ve školce? Neučte slovíčka a zahod'te učebnice](#); Interview in Deník N [Druhý jazyk malému dítěti neuškodí](#); Inbox podcast, [episode on language education](#); Podcast [Na Pokec, on cognitive neuroscience](#), *European day of languages* & interviews on the Czech TV; Talks at the *Brain Awareness Week* and related interviews in the Czech TV evening news and Czech Radio; Interview in the science program *Věda 24*, on the Czech TV; Interview in primetime news *Události*, on the Czech TV; Collaboration on a children's [TV series about brain and cognition, Zvěd](#), Czech TV: Children's channel; Interview in Czech Radio: Radio Wave, on first- and second-language learning and teaching; [Youtube series on infant development](#).

## SUPERVISION OF PHD STUDENTS AND POSTDOCS

PhD student *Kateřina Kynčlová*, Dyslexia and bilingualism in early language development, Charles University + mentor of GAUK grant (2024–)  
 post-doc *Maroš Filip*, Institute of Psychology, Czech Acad. of Sciences (2024–)  
 PhD student *Lucie Jarůšková*, Language-based social biases in children and adults, Charles University (CU) + mentor of GAUK grant (2023–)  
 PhD student *Michaela Svoboda*, Language assessment and therapy in hearing-impaired children, Charles University + mentor of GAUK grant (2022–)  
 PhD student *Martina Dvořáková*, Newborns' neural preparedness for language, Charles University + mentor of GAUK grant (2021–)  
 PhD student *Natalia Nudga*, Learning of second-language speech, Charles University (2020–)  
 PhD consultant of *Gisela Govaart*, International Max Planck Research School, Leipzig (2019–)  
 Post-doc *Nikola Paillereau*, Faculty of Arts, Charles University, & Inst. Psychology, CAS (2018 – 2022)

## EXAMINATION BOARDS AND INSTITUTIONAL RESPONSIBILITIES

2024 PhD thesis examiner of Eylem Altuntas, Western Sydney University, Australia  
 2023 – to date Member of the Committee for Ethics in Research, Charles University  
 2018 – to date graduate student advisor, Faculty of Arts, Charles University, Czech Republic  
 2021 PhD examiner of Monika Klučková, Masaryk University, Czech Republic  
 2020 PhD examining committee of Cesko Voeten; Leiden University, The Netherlands  
 2013 – 2018 external evaluator of BA Hons theses at Western Sydney University, Australia

## TEACHING

Faculty of Arts, Charles University: *Empirical methods in linguistics*, *Applied linguistics*, *The acquisition of L1 and L2 speech*, *Bridging adult and child language acquisition*, *Current approaches in linguistics*.  
 Open Science, Czech Academy of Sciences: total of 9 high-school interns, award-winning 2020-group.  
 University of Amsterdam: *Second Language Acquisition: The Acquisition of Phonetics and Phonology*, *Introduction to linguistics* (in Dutch).  
 Palacký University: *Optimality Theory in Phonology*.

## (CO-)ORGANISATION OF SCIENTIFIC MEETINGS

*Architectures and Methods in Language* (Prague, 2025), *Biennial of Czech Linguistics* (Prague, 2024), *International Conference on the Study of Child Language* (Prague, 2025), *20<sup>th</sup> International Congress of Phonetic Sciences* (Prague, 2023), *Winter school on Cognitive science* (Malá Skála, 2019–to date), *Symposium at the 13<sup>th</sup> International Conference for Cognitive Neuroscience* (Amsterdam, 2017), *Reality of Phonological Representation* (Amsterdam, 2014)

## REVIEWING ACTIVITIES

National Science Centre, Poland; Research, Development and Innovation Council of the Czech government; for 15+ journals such as *Cognitive Science*; *Second Language Research*; *Language, Cognition & Neuroscience*

## MAJOR INTERNATIONAL COLLABORATIONS

*Many Babies consortium*, in 3 projects on cross-language preferences for infant-directed speech (MB1), rule learning in infants (MB3), and rule learning in infants using fNIRS (MB3-NIRS)  
*Claudia Maennel* and *Gisela Govaart*: infant EEG research of language acquisition, Charité Berlin & Max Planck Institute for Human Cognitive and Brain Sciences, Leipzig, Germany  
*Antonia Goetz*: neural processing of speech in infants (fNIRS), MARCS Institute for Brain, Behaviour and Development, Western Sydney University, Australia  
*Paul Boersma* and *Silke Hamann*: experiments and models of L2 speech learning, Faculty of Humanities, University of Amsterdam, The Netherlands  
*Burkhard Maess*: EEG and MEG studies of speech and auditory learning, brain and body rhythms, Max Planck Institute for Human Cognitive and Brain Sciences, Leipzig, Germany