NATÁLIE KIKOŤOVÁ

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EDUCATION

10/2024 – Now **M.Sc. in Neural and Behavioral Sciences** at the Graduate Training Centre of Neuroscience (GTC), Faculty of Medicine, University of Tübingen | Tübingen, Germany

- Master thesis: The role of the corticofugal loop in sensory gating in mice (Advisor: Prof. Cornelius Schwarz)
- Current average: 1.22

10/2021 – 6/2024 **B.A. in Psychology** at the Faculty of Arts, Charles University | Prague, Czechia

- Bachelor thesis "*The effect of negative emotion on neural speech tracking and lexical processing*" (Advisor: Kateřina Chládková, Ph.D.)
- Graduated summa cum laude

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

1/2026 – Now **Laboratory Rotation Student |** Prof. Olga Garaschuk, Chair of Neurophysiology, Institute of Physiology, University of Tübingen, Tübingen, Germany
Project: *"The role of inward rectifying and voltage-gated potassium channel for differentiation of adult-born granule cells in the olfactory bulb"*

8/2021 – Now **Research Assistant |** Czech Academy of Sciences, Institute of Psychology, Department of Cognitive Psychology, SPEAKin Lab (PI: Dr. Kateřina Chládková)

- Projects on speech and language processing across development
- Experimental design, data acquisition using EEG, fNIRS and eye-tracker, neural data processing, statistical analysis, science communication

10/2025 – 12/2025 **Laboratory Rotation Student |** AG Prof. Cornelius Schwarz, Center for Integrative Neuroscience, Systems Neurophysiology Lab, Tübingen, Germany
Project *"Methods for precise injection of viral tracer in the dorsal column nuclei"*

- Stereotaxic surgery to access the caudal brainstem, acute in vivo extracellular recordings, injection of AAV, perfusion, histology

4/2025 – 9/2025 **Student Assistant (HiWi)|** Hertie Institute for Clinical Brain Research, Brain Networks and Plasticity Lab, AG Prof. Ulf Ziemann

- Assisting with EEG-TMS experiments on motor plasticity, preparation of the EEG and EMG recordings, TMS coil navigation

10/2021 – 06/2024 **Student Assistant |** Department of Psychology, Faculty of Arts, Charles University

- Behavioral data analysis in a human emotional memory project (PI: Tereza Nekovářová, Ph.D.)
- Assisting in a project on cognitive rehabilitation of patients with a functional motor disorder using VR (PI: Tomáš Nikolai, Ph.D.)

2020–2021 **Student Internship Open Science |** Czech Academy of Sciences, Institute of Psychology, Department of Cognitive Psychology, SPEAKin Lab (PI: Kateřina Chládková, Ph.D.)
Project: *Language-based social preferences, the effect of dialect on friendship choices*

PUBLICATIONS

Kikoťová, N., & Chládková, K. (manuscript in preparation). When words hit harder: Neural speech tracking at the word rate is stronger for angry than for neutral speech.

Svoboda, M., Kikoťová, N., Kučerová, M., Držata, J., Krtičková, J., Chrobok, V., & Chládková, K. (under review). Cross-Modal Activation in Hearing-Impaired Preschoolers: An fNIRS Study of Speech and Sign Processing.

Dvorakova, M., Kikoťová, N., Götz, A., & Chladkova, K. (under review). Detecting foreign rhythm in native-language speech at birth. https://doi.org/10.31234/osf.io/jrm32

Kikoťová, N., & Chladkova, K. (2024). Neural oscillatory and ERP indices of prediction in emotional speech. In *Proceedings of the Annual Meeting of the Cognitive Science Society* (Vol. 46). https://escholarship.org/uc/item/65n2t2hz

Kikoťová N., Nudga N., Šimsová J., Maršíková Z., & Chládková K. (2023). Language-based social preferences: the effect of dialect on friendship choices. *Československá psychologie,* 67(3-4), 166-178. https://doi.org/10.51561/cspsych.67.3-4.166

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

2025 **Systems Neuroscience Symposium,** Tübingen, Germany, poster presentation "*When words hit harder: Neural speech tracking at the word rate is stronger for angry than for neutral speech"*

2025 **Annual Meeting of the Society for the Neurobiology of Language**, Washington, D.C., USA, poster presentation "*When words hit harder: Neural speech tracking at the word rate is stronger for angry than for neutral speech"*

2024 **Annual Meeting of the Cognitive Science Society,** Rotterdam, the Netherlands, poster presentation "*Neural oscillatory and ERP indices of prediction in emotional speech"*

2024 **The 5th workshop on cognitive neuroscience of auditory and cross-modal perception,** Košice, Slovakia, poster presentation "*Neural oscillatory and ERP indices of prediction in emotional speech"*

2024 **International Student Days of Psychology,** Prague, Czechia, talk "*Neural oscillatory and ERP indices of prediction in emotional speech"*

2024 **Winter School of Cognitive Psychology,** Malá Skála, Czechia, talk "*The effect of negative emotion on neural speech tracking and lexical processing"*

2023 **Young Linguists' Meeting,** Poznań, Poland, short talk "*Dialect and accent-based biases: how language affects social cognition"*

2023 **Winter School of Cognitive Psychology,** Malá Skála, Czechia, talk "*Dialect and accent-based biases: how language affects social cognition"*

2022 **International Student Days of Psychology,** Olomouc, Czechia, talk "*The effect of dialect on friendship choices in Czech children"*

AWARDS AND SCHOLARSHIPS

2024–2026 DAAD Study Scholarship for Master Programs

2024 1st place at the International Student Days of Psychology (project: "*Neural oscillatory and ERP indices of prediction in emotional speech")*

2021 3rd place in the competition České hlavičky (project *Long-term and short-term effects of film violence on the viewer*)

2021 2nd place at the national round of SOČ (Czech student research competition) in the Psychology and Pedagogy category (project *Long-term and short-term effects of film violence on the viewer*)

2020	1st place at the student conference of the Open Science programme in the Social Sciences & Humanities section (project *The effect of dialect on children's friendship choices*)

SCIENCE COMMUNICATION

2026	Part of the organizing team of Soapbox Science Tübingen
2021 – Now	Instagram account *@mozek.strucne* introducing neuroscientific research to the Czech public through posts and short videos
2022 – Now	Volunteered at public events such as Soapbox Science Tübingen, Researchers' night, Science Fair, European day of languages; news segment about research on language-based social preferences for Czech science TV show Věda24

ADDITIONAL TRAINING

2025	Neural Engineering Summer School, CEITEC BUT & MUNI, Brno, Czechia
2022	"Complex Structures in Language and Cognition" Summer School + fNIRS workshop, Heidelberg, Germany
2022	3day Winter School on EEG Data Analysis "CuttingEEG", Aix-en-Provence, France

SKILLS

Laboratory methods: stereotaxic surgery, injection of viral vectors, in vivo electrophysiology (under anesthesia), perfusion, vibratome slicing
Human research: EEG, fNIRS, EMG, behavioral designs
Data processing: intracellular and extracellular recordings, EEG, fNIRS, behavioral data
Statistical Analysis
Programming: R, Matlab
Languages: Czech (native speaker), English (C1), German (B2)

OTHER EXPERIENCE

2024	**Part of the organizing team of the Winter School of Cognitive Psychology** | Czechia
2020, 2021	**Helped with organization of the summer and winter school of behavioral economics |** CEBEX, Prague, Czechia
2017–2018	**Volunteer** in a retirement home Sue Ryder | Czechia
2019–2021	**Volunteer tutor in a non-profit organization |** Czechia