

Maximilian König

(he/him/his; né Scheuplein)

Leiden University, Institute of Education and Child Studies
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EDUCATION

Leiden University

PhD in Developmental Psychopathology

Advisor: Prof. Dr. Anne-Laura van Harmelen

Leiden, NL
expected: December 2024

University College London

MSc in Cognitive Neuroscience

Advisor: Prof. Dr. Sarah-Jayne Blakemore

Thesis: "Age-related differences in self-referential processing and perspective taking."

Grade: 72/100 (with distinction)

London, UK
September 2018

Goethe University Frankfurt

BSc in Psychology

Advisor: Prof. Dr. Melissa Lê-Hoa Võ

Thesis: "Memory in virtual environments: The effect of visual search and scene violation on memory performance."

Grade: 1.5/1.0 (very good)

Frankfurt am Main, DE
July 2017

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Leiden University, Institute of Education and Child Studies

Graduate Researcher, PI: Prof. Dr. Anne-Laura van Harmelen

Leiden, NL
October 2020 – Present

- Conceived, designed, and currently leading an interdisciplinary study to investigate neurobiological and mental health consequences of childhood adversity, which attained medical ethical approval.
- Programmed a neuroimaging stress task to study the stress-buffering role of friendships in young people with childhood adversity using Inquisit scripting (C-style) language.
- Analyzed longitudinal behavioral and neuroimaging data for my dissertation, utilizing R, MATLAB, and SPM.
- Presented my research (inter)nationally through 11 invited talks and 4 poster presentations to academic audiences and wrote 2 online blog posts for the general public.

New York University, Department of Psychology

Graduate Research Assistant & Lab Manager, PI: Dr. Catherine Hartley

New York, NY
August 2019 – September 2020

- Spearheaded strategic recruitment initiatives resulting in the enrollment of over 2000 prospective participants.
- Coordinated daily operations of the lab, including ethics applications and amendments, reimbursements, website and equipment maintenance, and new lab member onboarding procedures.
- Programmed an open access cognitive ability task for an online reinforcement learning study using HTML, CSS, and JavaScript, published as the second author in *Collabra: Psychology*.
- Delivered introductory lectures on cognitive neuroscience at two high schools and organized two science outreach events for local underserved communities.
- Co-authored a memo advocating for the cessation of arresting and prosecuting children under 12 as juvenile delinquents as part of the New York-based advocacy group ScAAN.

Oxford University, Department of Experimental Psychology

Graduate Research Assistant & Lab Manager, PI: Dr. MaryAnn Noonan

Oxford, UK
September 2018 – June 2019

- Assisted in establishing and managing a research lab infrastructure, overseeing finances, website development, equipment maintenance, outreach activities, and participant recruitment in-unit, online, and at local schools.
- Programmed an online learning task using jsPsych and HTML to study reward learning in adolescents and young adults, published as shared first-author in *PLoS Biology*.
- Co-mentored three undergraduate psychology students in data analyses and the writing of their final-year research project.

University College London, Institute of Cognitive Neuroscience
Graduate Researcher, PI: Prof. Dr. Sarah-Jayne Blakemore

London, UK
September 2018 – September 2019

- Conducted a comprehensive study on adolescent social cognitive development, encompassing conceptualization, task programming in E Prime and Gorilla, data collection from 75 participants, and data analysis in R.
- Achieved a distinction grade for the write-up of my study, published as first author in *Cognitive Development*.
- Administered schools-based mindfulness training to adolescents as a research assistant on the MYRIAD project.

Goethe University Frankfurt, Department of Psychology
Undergraduate Research Assistant, PI: Prof. Dr. Melissa Lê-Hoa Võ

Frankfurt am Main, DE
April 2015 – July 2017

- Conceived, programmed, conducted, and analyzed three virtual reality experiments exploring the impact of environmental rule predictions on memory recall and visual search strategies in 52 young adults.
- Administered studies on neurocognitive patterns in object-scene processing using EEG, eye-tracking, and virtual reality techniques, resulting in five published contributions.

King's College London, Institute of Psychiatry, Psychology, and Neuroscience
Undergraduate Visiting Scientist, PI: Prof. Dr. Eva Loth

London, UK
February 2015 – April 2015

- Assisted in data collection for the EU-AIMS Longitudinal European Autism Project, investigating risk factors related to brain development and social behavior using EEG, eye-tracking, blood tests, and neuroimaging.
- Conducted diagnostic interviews using the ADOS and ADI-R to evaluate communication skills, social interaction, and imaginative use of materials in autistic children and adolescents, while working closely with their guardians.
- Presented internship capstone project to the research group on the role of the gut microbiome in autism spectrum disorders.

LEADERSHIP EXPERIENCE

Leiden University, Institute of Education and Child Studies
Teaching Fellow

Leiden, NL
February 2021 – Present

- Taught weekly seminars on the neurobiological aspects of child maltreatment to 87 master students and graded bi-weekly response papers for three semesters, receiving excellent student evaluation scores.
- Delivered two guest lectures on child maltreatment and victimization to 311 master students from the faculties of law, philosophy, psychology, education, and government.

Thesis & Research Supervisor

February 2021 – Present

- Supervised 4 master's thesis students on developmental neuroscience and psychopathology topics and managed 11 research assistants for participant recruitment, science outreach, and data analysis.

Resilient Minds
Founder & Co-Director

Leiden, NL & Zürich, CH
October 2020 – Present

- Founded an international platform for early career researchers studying resilience and developmental psychopathology, providing networking opportunities and a forum to showcase current research.
- Organized and led 38 meetings featuring interdisciplinary researchers from the UK, US, Netherlands, Australia, Germany, Switzerland, and Norway.
- Built a following of 247 members within 3 years.

Flux Society for Developmental Cognitive Neuroscience
Co-Chair of Trainee Committee & LGBTQIA+ Affinity Group

Global
September 2020 – October 2022

- Co-led the trainee committee, overseeing 11 early career researchers in organizing mentoring opportunities, grant writing and fellowship workshops, career panels, and podcasts.
- Co-led the LGBTQIA+ affinity group, creating a safe and inclusive space for LGBTQIA+ members to connect, address pertinent issues, provide support, and promote awareness within the Flux community.

Mind the Brain, University College London
Conference Co-Organizer

London, UK
May 2018

- Co-organized a sold-out one-day public conference highlighting diverse cognitive neuroscience research, including 10 talks and a panel discussion, with recorded sessions available for on-demand viewing.
- Mind the Brain won the 2019 UCL public engagement award.

- Founded “Hidden Stories”, a local non-profit fostering community integration of refugees through culturally significant, handcrafted items sold at local markets, bridging economic empowerment and social engagement.
- Led a team of six student associate entrepreneurs of the Enactus Frankfurt chapter.
- Raised awareness of our initiative through coverage in two local newspapers.

GRANTS & AWARDS

Young Academy Leiden Outreach Grant (€970)	2022
Flux Student Travel Award (\$750)	2022
Deutschlandstipendium, merit-based German national scholarship (€1,800)	2015

PUBLICATIONS

* indicates joint first authorship | [Google Scholar](#) | [ORCID](#)

Journal Articles

7. Nussenbaum, K.*, Martin, R. E.*, Maulhardt, S., Yang, Y., Bizzell-Hatcher, G., Bhatt, N. S., **König, M.**, Rosenbaum, G. M., O'Doherty, J. P., Cockburn, J., Hartley, C. A. (2023). Novelty and uncertainty differentially drive exploration across development. *eLife*, 12:e84260. [Article](#)
6. González-García, N.*, Buimer, E. L.*, Moreno-López, L., Sallie, S. N., Váša, F., Lim, S., Romero-Garcia, R., **Scheuplein, M.**, Whitaker, K. J., Jones, P. B., Dolan, R. J., Fonagy, P., Goodyer, I., Bullmore, E. T., van Harmelen, A-L., NSPN consortium (2023). Resilient functioning is associated with altered structural brain network topology in adolescents exposed to childhood adversity. *Development and Psychopathology*, 1-11. [Article](#)
5. **Scheuplein, M.**, Ahmed, S., Foulkes, L., Griffin, C., Chierchia, G., & Blakemore, S. J. (2023). Perspective taking and memory for self- and town-related information in male adolescents and young adults. *Cognitive Development*, 67, 101356. [Article](#)
4. Wittmann, M. K.*, **Scheuplein, M.***, Gibbons, S. G., & Noonan, M. P. (2023). Dissociable mechanisms of reward learning co-mature during human adolescence as predicted by macaque lesion models. *PLoS Biology*, 21(3). [Article](#)
3. Saragosa-Harris, N.*, Chaku, N.*, MacSweeney, N.*, Williamson, V. G.*, **Scheuplein, M.**, Feola, B., ... & Mills, K. (2022). A practical guide for researchers and reviewers using the ABCD Study and other large longitudinal datasets. *Developmental Cognitive Neuroscience*, 55(6). [Article](#)
2. **Scheuplein, M.** & van Harmelen, A-L. (2022). The importance of friendships in reducing brain responses to stress in adolescents exposed to childhood adversity: a pre-registered systematic review. *Current Opinion in Psychology*, 45(6). [Article](#)
1. Nussenbaum, K., **Scheuplein, M.**, Phaneuf, C. V., Evans, M. D., & Hartley, C. A. (2020). Moving developmental research online: comparing in-lab and web-based studies of model-based reinforcement learning. *Collabra: Psychology*, 6(1). [Article](#)

Book Chapters

2. Vermeulen, S., **Scheuplein, M.**, van Harmelen, A-L., Alink, L. (2023). Kindermishandeling: Impact op slachtoffer en maatschappij. *Handboek Slachtoffers*.
1. **Scheuplein, M.**, Vermeulen, S., van Harmelen, A-L., Alink, L. (2023). Child maltreatment and victimization. *Handbook of Clinical Neurology: Brain and Crime (Volume 197)*. [Preprint](#)

Preprints

1. **König, M.**, Berhe, O., Ioannidis, K., Kaser, M., Raise Consortium, Moreno-Lopez, L., & van Harmelen, A-L. (2023). The stress-buffering role of friendships in young people with childhood threat experiences: a preliminary report. *PsyArXiv*. [Preprint](#)

PRESENTATIONS

Invited Talks

13. **Scheuplein, M.** (July 2022). The importance of friendships for resilience after childhood adversity. Talk presented at the Blakemore lab meeting, PI: Prof. Dr. Sarah-Jayne Blakemore, University of Cambridge, UK.
12. **Scheuplein, M.** (May 2022). The importance of friendships for resilience after childhood adversity. Talk presented at the Forensic Family and Youth Care Studies coffee meeting, Leiden University, NL.
11. **Scheuplein, M.** (May 2022). The importance of friendships for resilience after childhood adversity. Talk presented at SAND lab meeting, PI: Dr. Jennifer Silvers, University of California, Los Angeles, Virtual.
10. **Scheuplein, M.** (May 2022). The importance of friendships for resilience after childhood adversity. Talk presented at the Resilience Research Day, Leiden University, NL.
9. **Scheuplein, M.** (May 2022). The importance of friendships for resilience after childhood adversity. Talk presented at the Youth Studies Chair Group (LSG) meeting, Utrecht University, NL.
8. **Scheuplein, M.** (April 2022). The importance of friendships for resilience after childhood adversity. Talk presented at the CHANGE lab meeting, PI: Prof. Dr. Berna Güroğlu, Leiden University, NL.
7. **Scheuplein, M.** (April 2022). The importance of friendships for resilience after childhood adversity. Talk presented at the Resilience Meets Criminology Symposium, Organizers: Prof. Dr. Anne-Laura van Harmelen & Prof. Dr. Jean-Louis van Gelder, Leiden University, NL.
6. **Scheuplein, M.** (April 2022). Friendship stress buffering in young people with a history of childhood adversity. Talk presented at the CIRCLe Meeting, Leiden University, NL.
5. **Scheuplein, M.** (Dec 2021). Career Talk. Talk presented as part of the MSc/MRes Cognitive Neuroscience program, University College London, Virtual.
4. **Scheuplein, M.** (Jan 2021). The interplay between friendship support and resilience. Talk presented at the Resilient Minds meeting, Virtual.
3. Van Harmelen, A-L., & **Scheuplein, M.** (Oct 2020). Social Safety and Resilience. Talk presented at the Top Research Meeting, Leiden University, Virtual.
2. **Scheuplein, M.**, & Noonan, M. P. (May 2019). Contingency learning and value-guided decision-making in adolescents. Talk presented at Blakemore lab meeting, PI: Prof. Dr. Sarah-Jayne Blakemore, University College London, UK.
1. **Scheuplein, M.** (Nov 2018). Career Talk. Talk presented as part of the MSc/MRes Cognitive Neuroscience program, University College London, UK.

Conference Posters

11. **Scheuplein, M.**, & Van Harmelen, A-L. (Nov 2022). The importance of friendships in reducing brain responses to stress in adolescents exposed to childhood adversity: a preregistered systematic review. Poster presented at the VNOP & CAS Research Days, Utrecht, NL.
10. **Scheuplein, M.**, & Van Harmelen, A-L. (Sept 2022). The importance of friendships in reducing brain responses to stress in adolescents exposed to childhood adversity: a preregistered systematic review. Poster presented at the 8th International Symposium on Resilience Research, Mainz, DE.
9. **Scheuplein, M.**, & Van Harmelen, A-L. (Sept 2022). The importance of friendships in reducing brain responses to stress in adolescents exposed to childhood adversity: a preregistered systematic review. Poster presented at the Flux Annual Meeting, Paris, FR.
8. **Scheuplein, M.**, & Van Harmelen, A-L. (June 2022). The importance of friendships in reducing brain responses to stress in adolescents exposed to childhood adversity: a preregistered systematic review. Poster presented at the TOP Conference at Leiden University, Leiden, NL.
7. **Scheuplein, M.**, Chierchia, G., Ahmed, S., Foulkes, L., Griffin, C., & Blakemore, S-J. (Sept 2021). Adolescents display distinct self-referential biases in memory and perspective taking. Poster presented at the Flux Annual Meeting, Virtual.
6. **Scheuplein, M.**, Nussenbaum, K., Phaneuf C. V., Evans, M. D., Hartley, C. A. (Sept 2020). Developmental differences in model-based learning and abstract reasoning: an online replication study. Poster presented at the Flux Annual Meeting, Virtual. [Video](#)

5. **Scheuplein, M.**, Westbrook, J., Rickard, M., Chan, L., & Noonan, M. P. (Aug 2019). Contingency learning and value-guided decision-making in adolescents. Poster presented at the Flux Annual Meeting, New York, NY.
4. **Scheuplein, M.**, Westbrook, J., Rickard, M., Chan, L., & Noonan, M. P. (May 2019). Contingency learning and value guided decision-making in adolescents. Poster presented at the Ninth International Symposium on Biology of Decision Making (SBDM), Oxford, UK.
3. **Scheuplein, M.**, Westbrook, J., Rickard, M., Chan, L., & Noonan, M. P. (Mar 2019). The development of goal-directed behaviour across adolescence. Poster presented at the Developing Brain in Health and Disease Scientific Meeting, Oxford, UK.
2. **Scheuplein, M.**, Ahmed, S., Foulkes, L., Griffin, C., & Blakemore, S-J. (June 2018). Self-development during adolescence: Is mentalising associated with self-knowledge? Poster presented at the Experimental Psychology Society, Norwich, UK.
1. **Scheuplein, M.**, Ahmed, S., Foulkes, L., Griffin, C., & Blakemore, S-J. (May 2018). Self-development during adolescence: Is mentalising associated with self-knowledge? Poster presented at the Queen Square Symposium, London, UK.

TEACHING

Leiden University , Institute of Education and Child Studies	Leiden, NL
Child Abuse and Neglect: Neurobiological Aspects and Interventions, <i>Seminar Teacher</i>	Spring 2023
Resilience to Violence, <i>Guest Lecturer</i>	Fall 2022
Child Abuse and Neglect: Neurobiological Aspects and Interventions, <i>Seminar Teacher</i>	Spring 2022
Resilience to Violence, <i>Guest Lecturer</i>	Fall 2021
Child Abuse and Neglect: Neurobiological Aspects and Interventions, <i>Seminar Teacher</i>	Spring 2021

SUPERVISION

Leiden University , Institute of Education and Child Studies	Leiden, NL
Master Students	
Ruby Dunkes <i>MSc in Applied Neuroscience in Human Development</i>	2022
Axelle van Gaalen <i>MSc in Applied Neuroscience in Human Development</i>	2022
Saphire Dion <i>MSc in Applied Neuroscience in Human Development</i>	2022
Zita de Snoo <i>MRes in Developmental Psychopathology</i>	2022
Research Assistants	
Robin de Boer, Florencia Canessa, Marjolein Landheer, Zenna Liekens, Pauline Wessels	2023
Ruby Dunkes, Axelle van Gaalen, Aimee Nelen	2022
Saphire Dion, Alice Micale, Zita de Snoo	2021

SCIENCE ENGAGEMENT

EL CID – Introduction to Cognitive Neuroscience	Leiden, NL
<i>Volunteer Researcher</i>	August 2023
BrainTrain	South Holland, NL
<i>Workshops to Train Dutch High-School Students Media Literacy Skills</i>	Fall 2022
Introduction to Cognitive Neuroscience	New York, NY
<i>Virtual Lecture at NYU's College & Careers Lab</i>	July 2020
Introduction to Cognitive Neuroscience	New York, NY
<i>School Lecture at Grace Church School</i>	March 2020
BraiNY, World Science Festival	New York, NY
<i>Event Coordinator</i>	November 2019
Introduction to Cognitive Neuroscience	New York, NY
<i>School Lecture at LREI</i>	October 2019
How do we learn and make decisions?	Oxford, UK
<i>School Lecture at Oxford Spires Academy</i>	June 2019
if Oxford Science & Ideas Festival	Oxford, UK
<i>Volunteer Researcher</i>	March 2019

Family Fun Day
Volunteer Researcher at the Royal Institution London

London, UK
February 2018

Science Communication

Help your foster child be resilient, *BIJ ONS thuis in een gezin*. [Interview](#) September 2022
Dutch magazine for foster families

Building resilience in young people, *Leiden Psychology Blog*. [Article](#) April 2021

Memo advocating for the cessation of arresting and prosecuting children under 12 as juvenile delinquents, *ScAAN*. July 2020

Learning, decision-making, and the adolescent brain, *Oxford Medium*. [Article](#) February 2019

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

International Resilience Alliance (intresa) Global
Young Researchers Chapter December 2020 – Present

Neuroscience Outreach Group at NYU (NOGN) New York, NY
NYU Langone Health July 2020

Scientist Action and Advocacy Network (ScAAN) New York, NY
Project Member: Raise the Age NY, Miranda Rights November 2019

Mindfulness Instructor Heidelberg, DE
Heidelberg University April 2013

Conference Organizing

8th International Symposium on Resilience Research Mainz, DE
Organization Committee Member, Leibniz Institute for Resilience Research September 2022

Flux Society for Developmental Cognitive Neuroscience Paris, FR
Student Representative September 2022
Co-Chair Trainee Committee

Flux Society for Developmental Cognitive Neuroscience Virtual
Student Representative September 2021
Co-Chair Career Perspectives Panel
Co-Chair LGBTQIA+ Affinity Group

Mind the Brain London, UK
Co-Organizer, University College London March 2018

Psychology and the Brain Frankfurt am Main, DE
Logistics Committee Member, Goethe University Frankfurt June 2015

Ad-Hoc Reviewer

NeuroImage

TRAINING

Courses

MRI License Holder, *Leiden University* 2023

Introduction to Structural Equation Modeling, *CenterStat* 2021

Multilevel and Longitudinal Data Analysis, *Leiden University* 2021

Meta-Analysis, *Leiden University* 2021

BKO-Module Supervising Thesis Students, *Leiden University* 2021

Computational Cognitive Modeling, *New York University* 2020

Child Protection in Schools, *NSPCC Training* 2018

MSc in Cognitive Neuroscience, University College London 2017 – 2018
Elaborative and Adaptive Processes; Translational Research; Fundamental Processes; Neuroimaging;
Communication Skills in Cognitive Neuroscience; Structure and Function of the Brain; Lesion Approaches; Statistics;
MATLAB for Psychologists

Introduction to Psychology, History of Psychology, & Research Methods; Statistics; Biological Psychology; Individual Differences; Principles & Application of Psychological Assessment; Cognitive Psychology; Developmental Psychology; Social Psychology; Work & Organizational Psychology; Clinical Psychology; Educational Psychology; Sport Psychology

Workshops

Flux PreConference Workshop: Longitudinal Modelling, <i>Paris, FR</i>	2022
5th Early-Career Social Learning Researchers' Workshop, <i>University of Amsterdam, NL</i>	2022
Functional MRI Workshop, <i>Athinoula A. Martinos Center, MIT/Harvard Medical School, Virtual</i>	2022
Flux PreConference Workshop: Computational Modelling in Development, <i>Virtual</i>	2021
ABCD (5-week) Workshop on Brain Development and Mental Health, <i>Virtual</i>	2021
Integrating Salivary Bioscience, <i>New York University</i>	2019
Flux PreConference Workshop: Translating Developmental Neuroscience, <i>New York, NY</i>	2019
WIN Mood Disorders Focus Day, <i>University of Oxford</i>	2019
Autumn School in Neuroscience, <i>University of Oxford</i>	2018
Oxford Reproducibility School, St John's College, <i>University of Oxford</i>	2018
Queen Square Symposium, Institute of Neurology, <i>University College London</i>	2018
The Future of Social Cognition, Experimental Psychology Society, <i>University of East Anglia</i>	2018
Brain Dissection Workshop, <i>University College London</i>	2018
Positive Psychotherapy, <i>ADG International, Germany</i>	2016

RESEARCH SKILLS

Data Analysis

Regression (linear mixed-effects models), Mediation/moderation analysis, Factor analysis, Monte Carlo simulation for power analysis.

Software/Programming

Proficient in R, JavaScript (jsPsych), Qualtrics, and Microsoft Office Suite.
Working knowledge of MATLAB, SPM, G*Power, SPSS, HTML/CSS, E-Prime, Gorilla, JATOS.

Data Collection

Experienced in working with vulnerable developmental populations and in collecting behavioral, endocrine, and neural data using functional magnetic resonance imaging, electroencephalography, eye-tracking, virtual reality, Qualtrics, and Prolific. Also, trained in using neurofeedback as well as assessing cognitive ability (WAIS) and behaviors relevant to autism spectrum disorders (ADOS, ADI-R).

Clinical Training

Experienced in conducting clinical pre-assessments for medical and mental health history in developmental populations using the Mini International Neuropsychiatric Interview for Children & Adolescents.

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

Flux Society for Developmental Cognitive Neuroscience
International Resilience Alliance (intresa)
Open Science Community Leiden
Dutch Society for Developmental Psychology (VNOP)

REFERENCES

Upon request.