

CURRICULUM VITAE

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RESEARCH INTERESTS

Key words: Prosody / Intonation / Processing / Acquisition / Prosody & Meaning

Current projects:

- **Processing of stress and intonation in infants and adults.** In my dissertation project, I investigate how different pitch accent types which differ in the alignment of the f0 peak in regard to the stressed syllable, affect stress-based segmentation in German infants and lexical activation in German adults. To this end, different Head-Turn Preference Experiments with infants and Visual-World Eye-Tracking experiments with adults were conducted. Recently, I have started to look at the processing of intonation and stress in Australian English.
- **Prosody & Meaning.** As part of a project on the prosody of rhetorical questions (PI: Braun/Dehé), I have started to look at the phonetic and phonological cues for rhetorical questions in German, as well as the automatic classification of rhetorical questions. For more information on the research unit on non-canonical questions, see (FOR2111: <https://typo.uni-konstanz.de/questionsInterfaces/>)
- **Cross-linguistic/variational differences in the perception and production of prosody.** Within a collaboration between *SpeechNet BaWü* and Prof. Anne Cutler's group at the MARCS Institute, Western Sydney University, I am also working on cross-linguistic/cross-variational differences regarding intonational compensation strategies when voiced material is limited. We also study how these prosodic differences are perceived by native and non-native listeners. The languages/varieties of interest are Australian English and Southern German.

EDUCATION

- 03/2014 – current** PhD Student at the *University of Konstanz, Department of Linguistics*
(expected 11/2018) *Project title:* “Pitch accent type affects stress perception in German: Evidence from adult and infant speech processing”
Supervisors: Prof. Dr. Bettina Braun (University of Konstanz), Prof. Dr. Janet Grijzenhout (Leiden University)
- 10/2008 – 11/2013:** State Exam (=MA; grade: 1.1) in English and German (Literature/Linguistics) at the *University of Konstanz, Germany*

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- 01/2011 – 06/2011:** ERASMUS exchange at the *University College Cork, Ireland*
- 09/2010 – 12/2010:** Internship (teaching assistant) at *Gymnasium Balingen, Germany*
- 09/1999 – 06/2008:** Abitur (=High School Graduation Certificate; grade: 1.2)
at *Gymnasium Meßstetten, Germany*

SCIENTIFIC EXPERIENCE

Research

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- 07/2016 – 12/2017** Academic staff in the project 6 (p6) of the Forschergruppe *Questions at the Interface* at the University of Konstanz; Konstanz, Germany; PIs: Prof. Dr. Bettina Braun, Prof. Dr. Nicole Dehé (July 2016 to April 2017, 65% position; April 2017 to end of December 2017, 25% position)
- 10/2017 – 12/2017** Visiting research fellow at MARCS Institute, Western Sydney University; Sydney, Australia; mentor: Prof. Anne Cutler (funded by MEiN programme); project: Processing prosody across languages, varieties and nativeness
- 10/2016 – 12/2016** Visiting research fellow at MARCS Institute, Western Sydney University; Sydney, Australia; mentor: Prof. Anne Cutler (funded by DAAD research grant awarded to Prof. Anne Cutler & SpeechNet BaWü); project: Processing prosody across languages, varieties and nativeness
- 02/2014 – 07/2014** Academic staff (65% position) at the University of Konstanz, (Project: *LingVisAnn*, reaserch initiative; excellence funding)
- 10/2013 – 02/2014** Internship at the University of Konstanz with Prof. Dr. Bettina Braun (Babyspeechlab and the Phonlab)

Teaching

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- Winter Term 18/19** *Statistics for Linguists* (MA level, with Prof. Dr. Bettina Braun)
- Summer Term 18** *Phonetics II* (BA level)
- Summer Term 17** *Praat Scripting* (postgraduate level)
- Summer Term 15** *Phonetics II* (BA level)
- Summer Term 14** *Phonetics III* (MA level, with Prof. Dr. Bettina Braun)
- Winter Term 17/18** *An Introduction to Methods in Linguistics* (assistance, BA course taught by Prof. Dr. Bettina Braun)
- Winter Term 14/15** *An Introduction to Methods in Linguistics* (assistance, BA course taught by Prof. Dr. Bettina Braun)

PUBLICATIONS AND TALKS

Publications

Peer-reviewed journal articles

- ManyBabies Consortium (accepted pending data collection). Quantifying sources of variability in infancy research using the infant-directed speech preference. *Advances in Methods and Practices in Psychological Science*.
- Zahner, K., Egger, E. & Braun, B. (Submitted). Alignment of f0 peak in different pitch accent types affects perception of metrical prominence. (Paper resubmitted June 2018)
- Braun, B., Dehé, N., Neitsch, J., Wochner, D. & Zahner, K. (Submitted). The prosody of rhetorical and information-seeking questions in German. (Paper resubmitted September, 2018)
- Zahner, K., Pohl, M., & Braun, B. (2016). The limits of metrical segmentation: intonation modulates infants' extraction of embedded trochees. *Journal of Child Language* 43(6), 1338-1364. DOI: 10.1017/S0305000915000744.

Peer-reviewed proceedings papers

- Zahner, K. & Braun, B. (Accepted). F0 peaks are a necessary condition for German infants' perception of stress in metrical segmentation. Proc. of the 17th Speech Science and Technology Conference (SST 2018), Sydney, Australia. (upcoming: 6-7 December 2018)
- Braun, B., Wochner, D., Zahner, K. & Dehé, N. (Accepted). Classification of interrogatives as information-seeking or rhetorical questions. Proc. of the 17th Speech Science and Technology Conference (SST 2018), Sydney, Australia. (upcoming: 6-7 December 2018)
- Yu, J. & Zahner, K. (2018). Truncation and compression in Southern German and Australian English. Proc. of Interspeech 2018, Hyderabad, India.
- Braun, B. & Zahner, K. (2018). The Distribution and Prosodic Realization of Verb Forms in German Infant-Directed Speech. Proc. of the 11th International Conference on Language Resources and Evaluation (LREC 2018), Miyazaki, Japan.
- Kember, H., Grohe, A.-K., Zahner, K., Braun, B., Weber, A. & Cutler, A. (2017). Similar prosodic structure perceived differently in German and English. Proc. of Interspeech 2017, Stockholm, Sweden.
- Zahner, K., Kember, H. & Braun, B. (2017). Mind the peak: When museum is temporarily understood as musical in Australian English. Proc. of Interspeech 2017, Stockholm, Sweden.
- Zahner, K., Schönhuber, M., Grijzenhout, J. & Braun, B. (2016). Pitch accent type affects lexical activation in German: Evidence from eye tracking. *Proc. Speech Science Technology* (SST 2016), Sydney, Australia.
- Zahner, K., Schönhuber, M., Grijzenhout, J. & Braun, B. (2016). Konstanz prosodically annotated infant-directed speech corpus (KIDS corpus). *Proc. Speech Prosody* (SP8), Boston, USA.
- Zahner, K., Pohl, M. & Braun, B. (2015). Pitch accent distribution in German infant-directed speech. *Proc. Interspeech*, Dresden, Germany.
- Braun, B., Pohl, M. & Zahner, K. (2014). Speech segmentation is modulated by peak alignment: Evidence from German 10-month-olds. *Proc. Speech Prosody* (SP7), Dublin.

Talks and presentations

- Zahner, K. & Braun, B. (Accepted). F0 is not enough - when *museum* does not activate *musical* in Australian English. Poster at *ProsLang - Workshop on the Processing of Prosody across Languages and Varieties* (upcoming: 29-30 November 2018, School of Languages and Applied Language Studies, Victoria University of Wellington (VUW), New Zealand).
- Zahner, K. (2018). Pitch accent type affects stress perception in German: Evidence from infant and adult speech processing. Poster at the workshop on *Prosodic variation across languages: The state-of-the-art in comparative prosodic research*, Leiden, the Netherlands.
- Yu, J. & Zahner, K. (2018). Compression and truncation in Australian English and Southern German. Poster at the workshop on *Prosodic variation across languages: The state-of-the-art in comparative prosodic research*, Leiden, the Netherlands.
- Braun, B. & Zahner, K. (2018). The Distribution and Prosodic Realization of Verb Forms in German Infant-Directed Speech. Poster at *the 11th International Conference on Language Resources and Evaluation (LREC 2018)*, Miyazaki, Japan.
- Kember, H., Grohe, A.-K., Zahner, K., Braun, B., Weber, A. & Cutler, A. (2017). Similar prosodic structure perceived differently in German and English. Talk at Interspeech 2017 Stockholm, Sweden.
- Zahner, K., Kember, H. & Braun, B. (2017). Mind the peak: When museum is temporarily understood as musical in Australian English. Talk at Interspeech 2017 Stockholm, Sweden.
- Zahner, K., Schönhuber, M., Grijzenhout, J. & Braun, B. (2017). How pitch accent type affects stress perception in German infants. Talk in Symposium on "Prosody in Early Language Acquisition" IASCL 2017 (International Congress for the Study of Child Language) Lyon, France.
- Zahner, K., Kember, H., Cutler, A. & Braun, B. (2017). Museum or musical? – Pitch accent type affects word recognition in Australian English. Poster at PaPE (Phonetics and Phonology in Europe) Cologne, Germany.
- Zahner, K., Schönhuber, M., Grijzenhout, J. & Braun, B. (2016). Pitch accent type affects lexical activation in German: Evidence from eye tracking. Talk at *Speech Science Technology (SST 2016)* Sydney, Australia.
- Zahner, K., Schönhuber, M., Grijzenhout, J. & Braun, B. (2016). When high pitch matters most - Stress perception in German infants. Talk at the MARCS Institute (Speech and Language Meeting), Sydney Australia (November, 7th).
- Zahner, K., Schönhuber, M., Grijzenhout, J. & Braun, B. (2016). High pitch signals word onsets for German 9-month-olds: Evidence for a pitch-based segmentation strategy. Talk at *TIE (Tone and Intonation)* Kent, UK.
- Zahner, K., Pohl, M. (2015). Are all low-pitched syllables perceived equally? - Evidence from German 9-month-olds. Poster at *PaPe (Phonetics and Phonology in Europe)* Cambridge, UK.
- Zahner, K., Pohl, M. (2015). Only high-pitched stressed syllables are good (prominent?) word onsets for German 9-month-olds: intonation modulates the extraction of embedded words. Talk at *ICPL (International Conference "Prominence in Language")* Cologne, Germany.

- Zahner, K., Pohl, M. & Braun, B. (2015). Only high-pitched stressed syllables are good word onsets for German infants. Talk at *WILD (Workshop on Infant Language Development)* Stockholm, Sweden.
- Zahner, K., Braun, B. & Pohl, M. (2014). How high pitch affects lexical processing in German adults - evidence from eye-tracking. Poster at *Pe&P10* Konstanz, Germany.
- Zahner, K., Pohl, M. & Braun, B. (2014). Pitch accent type and metrical stress in infant speech segmentation. Poster at *AMLaP* Edinburgh, UK.
- Zahner, K. (2014). The Role of Intonation in Infants' Speech Segmentation. Poster at *Experimental Methods in Language Acquisition (X. EMLAR)*, Utrecht, The Netherlands.
- Zahner, K. (2014). Die Rolle der Intonation bei der kindlichen Wortsegmentierung - Macht der Ton hier die Musik? Talk at the *Sprachwissenschaftliche Tagung für Promotionsstudierende (5. STaPs)*, Mainz, Germany.

RESOURCES

KIDS Corpus (Konstanz Prosodically Annotated Infant Directed Speech Corpus)

The KIDS corpus is the first prosodically annotated infant-directed speech corpus in German – a tool for formulating hypotheses and modelling acquisition processes in the prosodic domain and at the prosody-syntax interface. This multi-layered corpus consists of 524 intonation phrases (IPs) directed to infants younger than one year (196 IPs extracted from the CHILDES database; 328 IPs from our own recordings). The TextGrid-files are publically available, sound files available on request. For more information: <http://ling.uni-konstanz.de/pages/home/braun/KIDS.html>

WORKSHOPS

Scientific Meetings and Schools (Attendance)

- Workshop "DIMA-V-II" (Annotation Guidelines for German Intonation, University of Potsdam, Germany (March, 18-20, 2015), University of Stuttgart, Germany (March, 21, 2016), and the University of Cologne, Germany (March, 29-30, 2017).
- Autumn School "Methods in Language Comprehension – New methods for studying comprehension in Cognitive Science, Behavioral Science and Neuroscience", University of Trento, Italy (November, 13-16, 2014).
- Workshop "Experimental Methods in Language Acquisition (X. EMLAR)", University of Utrecht, The Netherlands (April, 14-16, 2014).

Organized Workshops

- Co-organizer: Workshop at DGfS on "Variable Perception and Production Correlates for Word Stress in First Language Acquisition and Child Second Language Learning" in Stuttgart (March, 7 - 9, 2018)
- Co-organizer: "Prosody and Meaning" in Konstanz (October, 4 - 7, 2017)
- Co-organizer: "Processing prosody across languages, varieties, and nativeness" in Tübingen (August, 31 - September, 1, 2017)
- Co-organizer: 10. Tagung für Phonetik und Phonologie im deutschsprachigen Raum in Konstanz (October, 9-10, 2014)

GRANTS, AWARDS AND MEMBERSHIPS

Grants

- PhD Scholarship, *Cusanuswerk - Bischöfliche Studienförderung* (09/2014 – 07/2018)
- Mentoring Programme, MEiN 2017/2018 (Mentoring with Experts and International Networking) mentor: Prof. Anne Cutler (MARCS Institute, Western Sydney University); amount for research visit at mentor's lab: €3200
- Full travel grant to *Speech Prosody 8*, Boston, US by the *DAAD* (05/2016)
- Full travel grant to *PaPE*, Cambridge, UK by the *Cusanuswerk* (07/2015)
- Full travel grant to *WILD*, Stockholm, Sweden by the *Cusanuswerk* (06/2015)
- Full travel grant to *AMLAP*, Edinburgh, UK by the *Cusanuswerk* (09/2014)
- Full travel grant to *Speech Prosody 7*, Dublin, Ireland by the *FAZIT Stiftung* (05/2014)

Awards

- Shortlisted for best student paper at *Interspeech 2017* in Stockholm, Sweden (08/2017)
- LabPhon Award for best student paper at *Tone and Intonation (TIE)* in Kent, UK (09/2016)
- CoEDL Student Award for attendance of *Speech and Science Technology* in Sydney, Australia (12/2016)

Memberships

- LabPhon, ISCA
- Member of *SpeechNet BaWii*, a research network of (female) experimental linguists working on speech. (Cooperation between Prof. Dr. Andrea Weber, Prof. Dr. Bettina Braun, Prof. Dr. Sabine Zerbian, JProf. Dr. Adriana Hanulíková (on the German side) and Prof. Anne Cutler (on the Australian side)), more information: https://www.ifla.uni-stuttgart.de/forschung/projekte/spechnet_bawue/

Communities

- ManyBaby 1 (<http://manybabies.stanford.edu/>)

LANGUAGE PROFICIENCIES AND SKILLS

Language Proficiencies

- German (mother tongue), English (fluent), French (fluent), Swedish (basic)

Skills

Scientific Skills

- Head Turn Preference Procedure, Switch Procedure, EyeLink II, EyeLink1000 Plus, Experiment Builder, Presentation, File Manager Pro (Database)
- Statistics with R/R-Studio (ANOVA, LMER, GAMM), also Markdown, Praat scripting, Perl (beginner)

Personal Interests

- Tennis (competitive and coaching), skiing, reading, traveling

References

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