

Dr. Michael Gaebler

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Education

- Oct 2013 Dr. rer. nat. (PhD), **Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin**
“Physiology of emotional & self-related processing in social anxiety disorder”
Grade: *magna cum laude* | Dept. of Psychology
- Nov 2008 Master of Science (with distinction), **University College London**
Grade: 1.0 | Field of study: Dual Masters Brain and Mind Sciences
- Sept 2007 Diplôme Interuniversitaire, **École Normale Supérieure & Université Paris VI**
Grade: *mention bien* | Field of study: Dual Masters Brain and Mind Sciences
- Sept 2006 Bachelor of Science, **Universität Osnabrück**
Grade: *excellent* | Field of study: Cognitive Science
- July 2005 Exchange year, **McGill University**, Montreal
GPA: 3.61/4.0 | Field of study: Cognitive and Neuroscience
- July 2000 A-levels (Abitur), **Scheffold Gymnasium**, Schwäbisch Gmünd

Appointments

- since 2024 | **International Max Planck Research School on Cognitive Neuroimaging**
[Faculty member](#)
- since 2024 | **COST-Action “An evolutionary view to understanding affective states across species (AFFECT-EVO)”**
[Member of the management committee](#)
- since 2020 | **Innovationsfond of the Gemeinsamer Bundesausschuss (G-BA)**
[Member of the expert pool](#)
- since 2018 | **Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin, Dept. of Psychology**
[Member of the ethics committee](#)

Experience

since 03/2018	Max Planck Institute for Cognitive & Brain Sciences, Leipzig <i>Group Leader, Mind-Body-Emotion Group, Dept. of Neurology</i>
	01/2021-08/2022: 3 months full- & 16 months part-time paternal leave 03/2018-02/2019: 12 months part-time paternal leave
07/2015-02/2018	Universität Leipzig <i>Postdoc, Leipzig Research Centre for Civilization Diseases</i>
	08/2017-02/2018: 3 months full- & 4 months part-time paternal leave
03/2014-06/2015	Max Planck Institute for Cognitive & Brain Sciences, Leipzig <i>Postdoctoral Researcher, Dept. of Neurology</i>
11/2013-12/2013	Korea University, Seoul <i>Visiting Researcher, Dept. of Brain & Cognitive Engineering</i>
03/2010-09/2013	Charité - Universitätsmedizin Berlin <i>Doctoral Researcher, Dept. of Psychiatry & Psychotherapy</i>
03/2009-12/2009	Volunteering and travelling around the world
02/2009	Roland Berger Strategy Consultants , Berlin & Copenhagen
10/2001-07/2002	Studium Generale, Leibniz Kolleg Tübingen
08/2000-07/2001	Civilian Community Service, Hospital Diakonissenanstalt Flensburg

Scholarships and prizes

2024	Award for excellent teaching 2024, Dept. of Education & Psychology, Freie Universität Berlin
2019	"Best demo" award for project VReha at the International Conference on Virtual Rehabilitation (ICVR) , Tel Aviv.
2013/14	Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin - Postdoc Scholarship
2013	Poster prize at Emotions: Nature, Recognition, Culture , Bochum.
2010-14	Travel grants (e.g., Barbara Wengeler or GSK Foundation)
2006-8	University College London - Tuition Fee Scholarship
2007/8	German Academic Exchange Service - Graduate Scholarship
2004/5	CREPUQ - Tuition Fee Scholarship for McGill University

Grants as (co-)PI

- 2025-2028 DFG-funded project “Examining the mechanisms that integrate cardiorespiratory interoception with active sensing (INTACT)”
- 2023-2026 DFG-funded project “Increasing eyewitness identification accuracy in lineups using 3D interactive virtual reality (3DIL)”
- 2023-2026 BMBF-funded project “Technology-assisted motor rehabilitation for patients with Rett Syndrome (TeMoRett)”
- 2023-2026 BMBF-funded project “Objective & hybrid assessment of cognitive & fatigue-associated Post-COVID symptoms with multimodal tools (EPSILON)”
- 2021-2025 Project “Neurocognitively-guided modelling of virtual humans for enhanced realism in immersive media (NEUROHUM)”, funded by the Max Planck Society-Fraunhofer-Gesellschaft collaboration
- 2021-2022 BMBF-funded project “Mobile immersive virtual reality for a sensitive digital diagnostics of spatial neglect (3DIA)”
- 2020 EU-funded project, (XR4ALL initiative). “Exite-O-Meter: A Unity plugin to include bodily signals in XR development & evaluation”
- 2017-2021 BMBF-funded project “Virtual worlds for digital diagnostics & cognitive rehabilitation (VReha)”

Grants as collaborator

- 2024-28 COST-Action “An evolutionary view to understanding affective states across species (AFFECT-EVO)” (Main proposer: T. Smulders, Newcastle University)
- 2022-24 BBSRC International Partnership: “ManyFaces - int. network of face researchers” (PI: L. DeBruine, University of Glasgow)
- 2023-28 ANII - MPG Research Group at Universidad de la República, Montevideo, Uruguay: “Brain-body basis of social conflict approach-avoidance in depression & health” (PI: V. Gradin)
- 2023 Internationalization grant at Università di Torino, Italy: “Minimally invasive & continuous rating of affective experience in immersive VR” (PI: S. Carletto)

Didactic and leadership training

- March 2024 **Max Planck Society - IMPRS on Cognitive NeuroImaging**
2-day seminar *Doctoral Supervision: Methods & Tools* [Certificate]
- May 2019 **Max Planck Society**
1-day seminar *Leadership in Science* at the LeadNet Symposium
- March 2015 **Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin**
3-day didactics course *Lehre lernen (Learning how to teach)* [Certificate]

Service to the profession

Reviewer or selection committee

Journals (selection)

Trends in Cognitive Sciences, Psychophysiology, Psychological Medicine, Trends in Neurosciences, NeuroImage, Translational Psychiatry, BMC Psychology, Anxiety, Stress & Coping, Learning & Memory, Frontiers in Human Neuroscience, PLOS ONE, Consciousness & Cognition, Psychopathology, Current Trends in Psychological Science, Annals of the New York Academy of Sciences

Conferences

Organization for Human Brain Mapping, MindBrainBody Symposium, Jahrestagung der Deutschen Gesellschaft für Neurorehabilitation (DGNR), International Conference on Disability, Virtual Reality & Associated Technologies (ICDVRAT)

Prizes

XR Research Awards 2021

Graduate schools

Berlin School of Mind and Brain, Einstein Center for Neurosciences Berlin, International Max Planck Research School on Neuroscience of Communication, Max Planck School of Cognition

Dissertations reviewer & thesis advisory committee

Dr. Madis Vasser (University of Tartu, Estonia; 12/2020), Dr. Nicolai Wolpert (Ecole Normale Supérieure Paris, France; 06/2021), Dr. Tim Möller (Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin; 11/2024), Dr. Suvi Karjalainen (Jyväskylä University, Finland; 01/2025), Maria Azanova (University of Leipzig; ongoing); Tydings McClary (International Max Planck Research School LIFE; ongoing)

Grants and grant agencies

Swiss National Science Foundation, Biotechnology and Biological Sciences Research Council (BBSRC), National Science Center Poland, BioTechMed Graz, European Research Council, Austrian Science Fund

Membership

Academic societies

Deutsche Gesellschaft für Psychologie (DGPs) - Fachgruppe Biologische Psychologie & Neuropsychologie and Interest Group Open & Reproducible Research, Deutsche Gesellschaft für Psychophysiologie & ihre Anwendung (DGPA), Organization for Human Brain Mapping (OHBM), Society for Psychophysiological Research (SPR)

(Co-)Supervision - doctoral and postdoctoral researchers

- ongoing Dr. Aleksandra Piejka (Postdoc): *Loneliness and interpersonal distance perception*
- ongoing Alexandros Kastrinogiannis (Postdoc): *Face identification in 3D interactive lineups*
- ongoing Mia Neubauer (MD): *Differentiation of neuropsychological Post-COVID symptoms using heart rate variability*
- ongoing Agata Patyczek (PhD): *Arousal, stress, and other affective states over the lifespan*
- ongoing Elias Reinwarth (PhD): *Psychophysiology of affective states during motor learning*
- ongoing Anthony Ciston (PhD): *Videobased assessment of cardiorespiratory activity*
- ongoing Antonin Fourcade (PhD): *Multi-modal affective computing in naturalistic settings*
- ongoing Felix Klotzsche (PhD): *Assessing human cognition in immersive setups*
- ongoing Marta Gerosa (PhD): *The influence of heart-brain interactions on the sense of agency*
- 2023-25 Dr. Sam Verschooren (Postdoc): *External, internal, interoceptive attention*
- 2025 Simon Hofmann (PhD): *Explainable deep learning models for human neuroimaging*
- 2025 Marie Uhlig (PhD): *Brain changes after psychosocial stress and their relation to other stress markers*
- 2021 Janis Reinelt (MD): *Mind-brain-body interactions after acute psychosocial stress*
- 2021 Stella Kunzendorf (MD): *The psychophysiology of heart-brain-interactions: how active information sampling is modulated across the cardiac cycle*
- 2021 Deniz Kumral (PhD): *Variability in heart and brain activity across the adult lifespan*
- 2019 Johanna Grosse Rueschkamp (PhD): *Short-term changes in positive affective experiences and their relation to interindividual differences in subjective well-being*
- 2017-19 Dr. Johanne Tromp (Postdoc): *Immersive virtual reality for cognitive testing & training*
- 2018 Anne Rohner (MD): *Consequences of chronic and acute stress on the heart rate variability of men and postmenopausal women of the same age.*
- 2017 Anne Schrimpf (PhD): *Weight-related stigmatization & its impact on behavioral adaptations, affect, & parasympathetic activity during social information processing – a cross-cultural comparison*

(Co-)Supervision - students

- ongoing Can Bolat (MSc Cognitive Neuroscience, Freie Universität Berlin)
- 2025 Marta Vardzieli (MSc Mind and Brain, Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin)
- 2024 Emilia Hildebrand (BSc Medical Engineering, Ernst-Abbe-Hochschule Jena)
- 2024 Lucy Roellecke (MSc Cognitive Neuroscience, Free University Berlin)
- 2024 Benjamin Dupré (MSc Mind and Brain, Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin)
- 2023 Agata Patyczek (MSc Cognitive Science, University of Vienna)
- 2023 Elias Reinwarth (MSc Cognitive Science, University of Vienna)
- 2020 Alex Masurovsky (MSc Mind and Brain, Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin)
- 2019 Annemarie Scholz (BSc Psychology, Universität Potsdam)
- 2018 Simon Hofmann (MSc Cognitive Science, Universiteit van Amsterdam)
- 2017 Felix Klotzsche (MSc Mind and Brain, Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin)
- 2017 Alberto Mariola (MSc Mind and Brain, Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin)
- 2016 Rebecca Jost (BSc Psychology, Fernuniversität Hagen)
- ongoing 17 lab rotations or internships and 12 student assistantships

Talks (selection)

- 10/2025 *Towards a naturalistic affective neuroscience using immersive technologies*
Keynote at the 2nd "Wüirtual" XR-Meeting, Würzburg.
- 06/2025 *How we use immersive virtual reality in affective neuroscience and cognitive neurology*
Keynote at the [MindXR Meeting](#), Berlin.
- 06/2025 *Investigating and enhancing the neurocognitive realism of 2D and 3D faces*
Talk at the 50th Psychologie und Gehirn, Würzburg.
- 10/2024 *Brain-heart dynamics and their link to naturalistic affective experience*
talk and symposium; Society for Psychophysiological Research (SPR), Prague.
- 09/2024 *Investigating and enhancing the neurocognitive realism of 2D and 3D faces;*
53rd Congress of the German Psychological Society (DGPs), online.
- 07/2024 *Heart-brain interactions and their link to (socio-)emotional processing.*
Invited talk at SFB1528-Cognition of Interaction, Georg-August-Universität Göttingen.
- 11/2023 *Towards naturalistic affective neuroscience using immersive virtual reality.*
Invited talk at LMU München (CVBE Research Lab and Crowd Cognition Group)
- 09/2023 *Heart-brain coupling and its role for perception, action, and emotion.*
Invited talk at Università di Torino. [\[slides\]](#)
- 06/2023 *Advancing the study of mental states with (mobile) ECG: challenges, advantages, and practical approaches.* Talk at the [48. Psychologie und Gehirn](#). [\[slides\]](#)
- 10/2022 *Neuroscience beyond the brain: Linking heart-brain interactions to perception, action, and emotion.* Invited talk, Center for Cognitive Neuroscience Berlin, FU Berlin. [\[Video\]](#)
- 09/2022 *Linking heart-brain interactions to perception, action, and emotion.*
(Virtual) talk at the Department of Decision Neuroscience and Nutrition, Institute of Nutrition, Potsdam-Rehbrücke. [\[slides\]](#)
- 04/2022 *Using immersive virtual reality in affective neuroscience & cognitive neurology*
invited to the Center for Advanced Technologies in Rehabilitation at Sheba Medical Center, Tel Aviv (virtual). [\[slides\]](#)
- 06/2021 *Somatosensory perception & active visual sampling vary across the cardiac cycle*
Talk at the (virtual) [46. Psychologie und Gehirn](#) [\[slides\]](#)
- 03/2021 *How to analyze heart-brain interactions and their link to behavior.* Workshop at the (virtual) [MindBrainBody Symposium 2021](#) [\[slides\]](#)
- 12/2020 *Virtual worlds for digital diagnostics & cognitive rehabilitation; Stereopsia 2020* [\[video\]](#)
- 09/2020 *The immersive Virtual Memory Task to assess spatial memory capacities using VR*
at 35. Jahrestagung der Gesellschaft für Neuropsychologie [\[slides\]](#)
- 01/2020 *Heart rate variability: physiology, practice, & psychology*
invited to the Technische Universität Dresden [\[slides\]](#)
- 06/2019 *Linking heart rate variability to emotions, acute stress, and the brain*
at the 45. Psychologie und Gehirn, Dresden [\[slides\]](#)
- 06/2019 *Neuroscience of Emotions*, invited to the Geneva Centre for Security Policy [\[slides\]](#)
- 03/2019 *Linking subjective affect and neurophysiology in 3D movies and immersive VR*
at the Meeting of the Video Quality Experts Group (VQEG), Berlin [\[slides\]](#)
- 01/2019 *What do the cognitive & brain sciences know about how we perceive (virtual) reality?*
invited to Hochschule für Bildende Künste Hamburg [\[slides\]](#)
- 10/2018 *Immersion from the viewpoint of the cognitive and brain sciences*
at 5th Kurt-Schwitters-Symposium für Designtheorie, Hannover
- 06/2018 *VR and the brain – what do we know about how we perceive virtual reality?*
invited to the Hochschule Hannover
- 09/2016 *Mind-body-emotion interactions in healthy aging*
symposium at 50. Kongress der Deutschen Gesellschaft für Psychologie, Leipzig
- 07/2015 *A psychophysiological investigation of existential feelings in depersonalization disorder*
at 23rd Annual Meeting of the European Society for Philosophy & Psychology, Tartu
- 09/2014 *Emotionsverarbeitung & -regulation im zentralen und autonomen Nervensystem*
at 49. Kongress der Deutschen Gesellschaft für Psychologie, Bochum
- 03/2014 *Physiology of emotion & self-relatedness in depersonalization disorder*
at Deutscher Kongress für Psychosomatische Medizin & Psychotherapie, Berlin

Science communication (selection)

Public appearance

- since 2014 social media scicomm (Twitter: [@michagaebler](#), bsky: [mgblr.bsky.social](#))
- 10/2024 Anniversary lecture "Heart & Brain"; 20 Jahre Kinderuni, Heilbronn. [Insta reel](#)
- 01/2024 Session for high-school students (St.-Ursula-Gymnasium Düsseldorf, online), "What can the neurosciences contribute to epistemology?"
- 10/2022 TV feature (incl. interview snippets) in [3sat NANO \(Oct 4, 2022; starting at 15 min\)](#)
- 02/2022 Interview with the podcast [SIGGRAPH Spotlight: Episode 52 - Emotions in VR](#).
- 08/2020 Talk *What you think and what you feel* for children at [Kinder College](#) (online) [[slides](#)]
- 05/2020 Production of an image film on *Virtual realities for digital diagnostics & cognitive rehabilitation*. [[video link](#)]
- 07/2019 Public discussion at [Leonardo LASER Talks Nomad](#) at [Factory Berlin](#)
- 09/2018 Panelist *Your brain and VR: Feeling is believing* at [DIGILITY, Köln](#) [[video recording](#)]
- 11/2018 Public discussion *VR and the brain* during the [Berlin Science Week](#) [[TV snippet](#)]
- 07/2018 [Curator for one week](#) of the SciComm Twitter account [Real Scientists DE](#)
- 07/2018 Public discussion *The neurophysiology of feelings* at the [Silbersalz Festival Halle](#)
- 04/2018 Public talk *VR und das Gehirn* at the [Zeppelin Museum Friedrichshafen](#)
- 02/2018 Public talk *VR in Neurowissenschaften und Psychologie* at the [3IT Berlin](#)
- 11/2016 Public discussion *Digitaler Salon: Internet der Sinne* at the [HIIG Berlin](#) [[DRadio Wissen feature](#)] [[video recording](#)]
- 05/2016 Public talk *Wie das Hirn mit Stress umgeht* at [Urania Berlin](#)
- 06/2015 Public talk & experiment "Vom Reflex zur Reflexion - Wozu das Gehirn?" at [Lange Nacht der Wissenschaften Berlin](#)
- 09/2014 Interview with [Deutschlandradio Kultur](#) on our fMRI study with 3D movies
- 2010 Scientific advisor for the documentary movie [Die Falten des Königs](#) (Matthias van Baaren, Österreich 2010)

Scientific collaborations (selection)

HU Berlin	Peter Eisert, Marcel Brass, Sven Ohl
Charité Berlin	Carsten Finke
TU Berlin	Klaus-Robert Müller, Sebastian Möller
Fraunhofer HHI	Anna Hilsmann, Sebastian Bosse, Paul Chojecki
BHT Berlin	Felix Biessmann, Kristian Hildebrand
PHB Berlin	Guido Hesselmann
U Birmingham (UK)	Heather Flowe, Melissa Colloff
U Stirling (UK)	Anna Bobak
U Victoria (CA)	Stephen Lindsay
U Torino (IT)	Sara Carletto, Francesca Malandrone
U Balearic Islands (ES)	Alex Galvez Pol
U Frankfurt	Christian A. Kell
U Köln	Julian König
U Montevideo (UY)	Victoria Gradin

Publications

Full list on [google scholar](#)