Curriculum Vitae
Nicole Walasek

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born 18th February, 1992 in Nordhorn, Germany – nationality: German

EDUCATION

09/2022	**Doctorate of Philosophy (PhD)** *Radboud University, Nijmegen, Netherlands*

Subject: Mathematical Modeling of Evolution, Development & Behavior
link to dissertation

2017	**Master's of Science (MSc)** *Radboud University, Nijmegen, Netherlands*

Subject: Computing Science with specialization in Data Science (cum laude)

2015	**Bachelor's of Science (BSc)** *University of Osnabrück, Osnabrück, Germany*

Subject: Cognitive Science
Grade: 1,1 (excellent)
Main fields: Neuroinformatics, Computer Science, Mathematics, Artificial Intelligence, Cognitive Neuropsychology

ACADEMIC POSITIONS

04/2024 – 03/2026	**Postdoctoral Researcher** *University of Amsterdam, Evolutionary and Population Biology, Netherlands*

Advisor: dr. Willem Frankenhuis

04/2022 – 03/2024	**Postdoctoral Researcher** *Utrecht University, Developmental Psychology, Netherlands*

Advisor: dr. Willem Frankenhuis

09/2017– 02/2022	**PhD Candidate** *Radboud University, Behavioural Science Institute, Nijmegen, Netherlands*

PhD in Mathematical Modeling of Evolution, Development & Behavior

Topic: *Evolution and development of sensitive periods in varying environments*
Advisors: dr. Willem Frankenhuis, dr. Karthik Panchanathan, prof. dr. Toon Cillessen

CONFERENCES, WORKSHOPS & OTHER RESEARCH VISISTS

Workshops & summer schools

06/2024	**SICSS - ODISSEI Summer School 2024**

Summer Institutes in Computational Social Science, University of Rotterdam

Focus on analysis of administrative data (LISS panel and CBS data)

06/2019	**Summer Institute on Bounded Rationality**

Max Planck institute for Human Development, Berlin

Topic: Bounded Rationality in a Digital World

Presentations

08/2025	**European Society for Evolutionary Biology (ESEB)**

Barcelona, Spain

Title: The evolution of reversible plasticity in stable environments

05/2025	**Society for Research in Child Development (SRCD)**

Minneapolis, USA

Symposium chair and presenter
Title: Unpredictability unveiled: Recent advances in capturing environmental dynamics

05/2025	**Evolution, Science, and Society seminar**

Missouri, USA

Invited speaker at monthly colloquium series

10/2024	**CBEN conference**

Maastricht, Netherlands

The Cognition, Behavior & Evolution Network

10/2024	**Dissertation award presentation**

Chicago, USA

Meeting of the International Society for Developmental Psychobiology (ISDP)

07/2024	**Invited talk at the Max Planck Institute for Evolutionary Biology**

Plön, Germany

Invited by Dr. Anja Günther

04/2024	**Presentation at NVTB annual meeting**

Schoorl, Netherlands

Annual meeting of the Dutch Society for Theoretical Biology

04/2024   **Invited keynote at the annual individualization symposium**
ZIF (Centre for interdisciplinary research), Bielefeld, Germany

Invited by prof. dr. Barbara Caspers

11/2023   **CBEN conference**
Utrecht, Netherlands

The Cognition, Behavior & Evolution Network
Chair of the organizing committee
Theme: The interplay between evolution, behavior, and development

10/2023   **Invited talk at Hartley Lab, New York University**
Online

Invited by dr. Catherine Hartley

08/2023   **ECDP conference**
Turku, Finland

European Conference on Developmental Psychology
Individual talk on quantifying environmental statistics across development
Part of an accepted symposium on *Modeling Sensitive Periods of Development*

07/2023   **ISDP conference**
Utrecht, Netherlands

Meeting of the international society for developmental psychobiology
Presenter at and chair of symposium 'Plasticity across the lifespan – The *when*, *why*, and *how* of sensitive periods at later life stages'
This symposium was sponsored by the Columbia University Department of Psychiatry

05/2023   **Rita Vuyk Lecture – Developmental Psychology**
Amsterdam, Netherlands

Invited lecture for the University of Amsterdam (UvA)

05/2023   **Sungkyunkwan University (SKKU)**
Seoul, South Korea

Invited talk by dr. Daeun Park

03/2023   **Invited talk at CHANGE, Leiden University**
Leiden, Netherlands

Invited by dr. Ili Ma

07/2022   **Workshop at ESLR**
Amsterdam, Netherlands

Organized workshop on stochastic dynamic programming
Topic: Evolution and development of sensitive periods
[Link to materials](#)

07/2022	**Future of game theory workshop**
	Plön, Germany
	Organized by Prof. John McNamara

04/2022	**Brown bag (VU Amsterdam)**
	online
	Invited by Dr. Björn Lindström

04/2022	**EHBEA**
	online
	European Human Behaviour & Evolution Society

03/2022	**Institute of Child Development (University of Minnesota)**
	online
	Invited by Prof. Glenn Roisman

01/2022	**Behavior and Evolution Seminar (Bielefeld)**
	online
	Invited by Dr. Irene Godoy

11/2021	**DMCA**
	online
	Decision-making in the context of adversity meeting

06/2021	**HBES 2021**
	online
	Human Behavior and Evolution Society

03/2021	**Youth Development Institute**
	online
	Invited by Dr. Assaf Oshri

01/2021	**ASAB twitter conference**
	online
	Twitter conference of the Association of the Study of Animal Behaviour

12/2020	**ASAB winter meeting**
	online
	Winter conference of the Association of the Study of Animal Behaviour

11/2020	**CBEN conference**
	online

The Cognition, Behavior & Evolution Network

04/2020	**Theory Meeting at the University of Bristol** *online*
	Invited by dr. Sinead English

03/2020	**workshop: 'The mouse in the supermarket'** *Frauenchiemsee, Germany*
	Seminar on formal modeling of evolution and development funded by the workshop grant within the Kurswechsel program (Change of direction)

08/2019	**Max Planck Institute for Evolutionary Anthropology** *Leipzig, Germany*
	Invited by and presented for prof. dr. Richard McElreath's lab group

06/2019	**HBES 2019** *Boston, United States*
	Human Behavior and Evolution Society

12/2018	**Invited research meeting** *CRTD, TU Dresden, Germany*
	Invited by prof. dr. Gerd Kempermann from the Center for Regenerative Therapies at the TU Dresden to discuss the emergence of individual differences in genetically identical mice

02/2017	**CLIN 27** *Leuven, Belgium*
	Computational Linguistics in the Netherlands

HONORS & AWARDS

07/2025	**Veni grant (Dutch Science Foundation, NWO)** *From theory to test and back: Testing and advancing theory about sensitive periods beyond early ontogeny*
	320000€

05/2024	**Dissertation award** *International Society for Developmental Psychobiology*
	700$ cash prize

12/2023	**ODISSEI LISS Panel Grant (2023)** *Cognitive strengths and deficits in adverse conditions: A balanced view*
	Main applicant: Stefan Vermeent Co-applicants: Nicole Walasek & Willem. E. Frankenhuis

39500€

04/2023	**Columbia University Department of Psychiatry Sponsored Symposium at ISDP 2023**
	International Society for Developmental Psychobiology

3000$ to be distributed across the symposium speakers

01/2023	**NWO Scientific Meetings and Consultations grant**
	Dutch Science Foundation

3250€ to organize CBEN 2023

06/2021	**Nominated for young investigator award at HBES 2021**

06/2019	**Best poster award at the Summer Institute on Bounded Rationality**
	Max Planck institute for Human Development, Berlin

First prize (350€) for the best poster

04/2015 – 08/2015	**ERASMUS grant**

To visit the CVC in Barcelona for an internship

10/2014	**Deutschlandstipendium (Germany Scholarship)**

One-year scholarship for excellent grades

04/2014 – 08/2014	**Mobilitätszuschussstipendium University of Osnabrück**

Scholarship enhancing the mobility of outstanding students awarded by the University of Osnabrück

10/2013	**Deutschlandstipendium (Germany Scholarship)**

One-year scholarship for excellent grades

WORK EXPERIENCE

Teaching

2024,2025	**Co-coordinator of Evolutionary Psychobiology: Ecology, Behavior & Cognition**
	University of Amsterdam

This course is taught in two parts. Part one teaches students the theoretical underpinnings of the evolution of behavior and cognition. In part two the students apply this knowledge during a four-day pilot study in ARIS zoo.

2023-2024	**Teaching assistant Advanced Research Methods and Statistics for Psychology**
	Utrecht University

Involvement in two modules: *Using Bayesian statistics* and *Analyzing Categorical and Ordinal data*

2022-2024	**Bachelor and master theses supervision**
	Utrecht University

Supervision of eight psychology bachelor students and four clinical psychology master students

2016, 2018, 2019, 2020	**Teaching Assistant for advanced statistics at the BSI**
	Behavioral Science Institute, Radboud University (Research Master Behavioural Science)

The entire course spans one academic year and is divided into the following submodules:

*Statistics: Multivariate Analysis**
Course content included, but was not limited to linear and logistic regression, hierarchical loglinear analysis, repeated measures analyses of variance and covariance, and discriminant function analysis, principal component analysis, and exploratory factor analysis.

*Statistics: Analyzing in R**
Course content included, but was not limited to data management and issues associated with pre-processing of data. Specific attention is paid to the visualization of data, both in terms of descriptive and inferential results. Furthermore, the course expanded upon the concepts and analytic techniques described in the previous course.

Statistics: Mixed-effects Models
Course content included theoretical understanding and statistical implementation of linear mixed effects models in *R*.

Statistics: Structural Equation Modelling
Course content included the design, implementation, and interpretation of structural equation models, including path models, factor analyses, mediation, moderation, and crossed legged panels.

* In 2018 the two courses were merged into *Advanced Statistics in R.*
The new course uses the book Serious stats: A guide to advanced statistics for the behavioral sciences (Baguley, T.,2012) and covers the previous topics, as well as an introduction to Bayesian regression with brms.

2017, 2020	**General introduction to Psychology**
	Radboud University, Nijmegen

Course for Psychology Bachelor students
Workgroup teacher

2019	**Introduction to Artificial Intelligence (practical)**
	Radboud University, Nijmegen

Course for Artificial Intelligence Bachelor students
Teaching assistant: assistance in practical sessions to implement search algorithms within a game environment in Python

| 2019 | **Statistics I** |
| | *Radboud University, Nijmegen* |

Course for Psychology Bachelor students
Workgroup teacher: Introduction to statistics in behavioral research

| 2018 | **Development and Health** |
| | *Radboud University, Nijmegen* |

Course for Psychology Bachelor students
Workgroup teacher

| 2014 | **Teaching Assistant for Mathematics** |
| | *University of Osnabrück* |

Course for Cognitive Science Bachelor students
Preparing and giving a weekly math tutorial
Correcting homework
Preparing the students for the exam

| 2012, 2013, 2014 | **Teaching Assistant for Statistics** |
| | *University of Osnabrück* |

Course for Cognitive Science and Psychology Bachelor students
Supervision of the weekly practice sessions

Internships

| 09/2016 – 12/2016 | **Internship at TNO** |
| | *The Hague, Netherlands* |

Project on entity extraction in the medical domain

| 04/2015 – 08/2015 | **Internship at the CVC** |
| | *Universitat Autonoma de Barcelona* |

Learning and machine perception group (LAMP)

| 04/2014 – 08/2014 | **Internship at the Nicolelis Laboratory** |
| | *Duke University, Durham, USA* |

Decoding neural signals for Brain Computer Interfaces using Reservoir Computing (also thesis topic)

Reviewing

Evolution and Human Behavior
Royal Society Open Science
Peer Community in Evolutionary Biology
The Quarterly Review of Biology
Proceedings of the Royal Society B: Biological Sciences
Current Opinion in Behavioral Sciences
Animal Behaviour
Child Development
Functional Ecology

ACADEMIC SERVICE

11/2023	**Organized the Cognition, Behavior, and Evolution (CBEN) network meeting**
	Utrecht, Netherlands
09/2019 – 10/2021	**Colloquium Committee member**
	Behavioural Science Institute, Radboud University, Nijmegen

Selection of and support for colloquia, symposia & workshops organized at the BSI

PEER-REVIEWED ARTICLES

Walasek, N., Jovicic, M., & Guenther, A. (2025). Personality development in non-domesticated house mice: Evidence for a nutrition-dependent sensitive period early in life. *Proceedings of the Royal Society B: Biological Sciences*, *292*(2050), 20242689. https://doi.org/10.1098/rspb.2024.2689

Walasek, N., Panchanathan, K., & Frankenhuis, W. E. (2025). The evolution of reversible plasticity in stable environments. *Evolution Letters*, qraf015. https://doi.org/10.1093/evlett/qraf015

Walasek, N., Panchanathan, K., & Frankenhuis, W. E. (2024) The evolution of sensitive periods beyond early ontogeny: Bridging theory and data. *Functional Ecology, advance online publication.* https://doi.org/10.1111/1365-2435.14615

Van Dongen, N. N. et al. (2024) Practicing Theory Building in a Many Modelers Hackathon: A Proof of Concept. *Meta Psychology, 9.* https://doi.org/10.15626/MP.2023.3688

Walasek, N., Young, E. S., & Frankenhuis, W. E. (2024) A framework for studying environmental statistics in developmental science. *Psychological Methods, in press.* https://doi.org/10.31234/osf.io/fr87n

Walasek, N., Frankenhuis, W. E., & Panchanathan, K. (2022b) Sensitive periods, but not critical periods, evolve in a fluctuating environment: a model of incremental development. *Proceedings of the Royal Society B: Biological Sciences*, *289*, 20212623. https://doi.org/10.1098/rspb.2021.2623

Walasek, N., Frankenhuis, W. E., & Panchanathan, K. (2022a). An evolutionary model of sensitive periods when the reliability of cues varies across ontogeny. *Behavioral Ecology*, 33(1), 1–14. https://doi.org/10.1093/beheco/arab113

featured in: Gee, D. G. (2022). When do sensitive periods emerge later in development? *Trends in Cognitive Sciences*, *26*(2), 97–98. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.tics.2021.12.001

Frankenhuis, W. E., & **Walasek, N**. (2020). Modeling the evolution of sensitive periods. *Developmental Cognitive Neuroscience, 41*, 100715. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.dcn.2019.100715

Johannes, N., Meier, A., Reinecke, L., Ehlert, S., Setiawan, D. N., **Walasek, N.**, Dienlin, T., Buijzen, M., & Veling, H. (2020). The relationship between online vigilance and affective well-being in everyday life: Combining

smartphone logging with experience sampling. *Media Psychology,* 1–25. https://doi.org/10.1080/15213269.2020.1768122

Setio, A. A. A. et al. (2017). Validation, comparison, and combination of algorithms for automatic detection of pulmonary nodules in computed tomography images: the LUNA16 challenge. *Medical Image Analysis*, *42*, 1-13. https://repository.ubn.ru.nl/handle/2066/179531

van Oortmerssen, G., Raaijmakers, S., Sappelli, M., Boertjes, E., Verberne, S., **Walasek, N.**, & Kraaij, W. (2017). Analyzing cancer forum discussions with text mining. In: Riano D., Peleg M., Lenz R., Reichert M., Denecke K., Deng Y., Declerck T., Harmelen F. van (red.) *Proceedings of the International Joint Workshop KR4HC - ProHealth 2017 (in conjunction with AIME 2017),* 127-130*.*

Preprints

DeJoseph, M., **Walasek, N.**, Liu, S., Young, E. S., Raikes, A., Waldman, M. R., ... & Fisher, P. (2025). Hidden dynamics of economic hardship: Characterizing economic unpredictability and its role on self-regulation in early childhood. *PsyArXiv.* https://osf.io/preprints/psyarxiv/r5yfz_v1

ADDITIONAL QUALIFICATIONS

Languages

English	fluent
German	native
Dutch	basic knowledge (B1)

Programming languages and software

Python, R, Matlab, Java, Prolog, SPSS, LaTeX

Selected analysis techniques

Stochastic Dynamic Programming, Bayesian inference, Deep learning, Reinforcement Learning, Machine Learning