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CURRICULUM VITAE

Profile
Date of birth  18-07-1987
Place of birth  Voorburg, Netherlands
Scientific interests  Animal cognition, Auditory production & perception, Comparative cognition

Education
1999-2005  VWO, St. Gregorius College, Utrecht

2006-2009  BSc Biology, Leiden University

Internship at Behavioural Biology, Leiden University.
Under supervision of dr. Katharina Riebel I studied the social learning strategies of zebra finches from different brood sizes. This work resulted in a publication in Animal Behaviour.

2009-2011  MSc Neuroscience and Cognition, Utrecht University

Internship at Behavioural Biology, Utrecht University
Under supervision of dr. Simon Reader I studied whether guppies could learn different foraging strategies dependent on the context.

Internship at Experimental Psychology, Cambridge University
During this internship I studied theory of mind in rooks, a corvid species under supervision of prof. Nicola Clayton.

Honours track in entrepreneurship
During this honours track we learned to set up innovative projects and how to develop as an entrepreneur.

2012-2016  PhD, Behavioural Biology, IBL, Leiden University

Under supervision of prof. dr. Carel ten Cate I studied cognitive abilities related to language perception in two bird species, zebra finches and budgerigars. This work was conducted as part of an interdisciplinary project group with developmental linguists and
computational linguists. All zebra finch and budgerigar studies were conducted at Leiden University. Four months of the project were spent at the University of Trento to work together with prof. Giorgio Vallortigara and dr. Elisabetta Versace on perception of chicks. During my PhD I supervised several BSc and MSc students during their internships and I presented my worked at several national and international conferences. Furthermore, I was closely involved in the designing, realization and implementation of new skinnerboxes and a new software program. This PhD project was funded by NWO-GW grant 360.70.452.

**Grants and Awards**

*Hurford prize, Evolang, New Orleans, 2016*
Best presentation at Evolang, an international conference on the evolution of language.

*Famelab National Final, 2015*
Famelab is an international science communication competition, in which young scientists explain their research to a laymen’s audience in just three minutes.

*Presentation award at the NVG conference, Netherlands, 2015*
Best presentation at NVG, a national conference on animal behaviour.

*LUF Travel Grant*
Leiden University travel grant to visit the Behaviour conference in Cairns, Australia, 2015

**Outreach**

During my PhD I have presented my work on several public events in and outside of the Netherlands. Furthermore, I have explained my work on national television, national and international radio stations and in several newspapers.
PUBLICATIONS


Spierings, M.J., Hubert, J. & ten Cate, C. (under review) Selective auditory grouping by zebra finches: testing the Iambic-Trochaic law.


**Conference proceedings**


