

NEWSLETTER
NOVEMBER 2013



This newsletter reports on the new composition of ERU Board Officers for the next biennial term 2013-2015. Besides the executive board, the ERU has a list of national representatives who serve as members of the General Council. Below we provide a brief presentation of each board member and national representative, preceded by the message from the president.

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear colleagues and friends,

I am writing to convey my very best wishes and sincere thanks for your contribution to the ERU elections. As we wrap up an eventful ERU biennial term and shift our calendar into the next two years, I would like to thank you and all colleagues across Europe and beyond for your support.

I feel truly honoured to continue serving such an inspiring and multicultural organization of our Association as the new President. In the next two years, we have the unique opportunity to build an even stronger ERU by capitalizing on our past accomplishments and maximizing our future opportunities.

I am sure that together we will be able to consolidate our union, create fruitful events for our members, encourage many more scholars to join, while also incorporating diverse cultural contexts, and providing an engaging venue for colleagues across Europe. I am particularly concerned with increasing visibility of ERU by extending our actions and opportunities for early career scholars in underrepresented regions in Europe. It is also my strong intention to work toward the strengthening of our relations and initiatives with other major organizations such as SRCD, SRA, EARA, ISSBD, IACCP, SSHD in a long term perspective to build up the ground for the next ERU generation.

I am confident that we will be able to accomplish these goals and to push ERU at much higher level than we did before. I am also happy for the opportunity to work with a cohesive team of colleagues who are strongly committed to accomplish our goals in the next two years.

Again, thank you for your support, encouragement and involvement in ERU. Your participation will make all our efforts worthwhile and the ERU a great success for developmental psychologists around Europe.

Radosveta Dimitrova
ERU President

The ERU Board is chaired by the President, the President-Elect, the Past-President, the Secretary, the Treasurer, the Officer for Internal Relations & Communication, and the Officer for External Relations & Valorization. In addition to the Board members, ERU consists of approximately 20 national representatives in their respective countries across Europe.

President - Radosveta Dimitrova



Radosveta has obtained her PhD in Developmental Psychology at Trieste University, Italy with a dissertation on immigrant families, awarded the Best Doctoral Thesis by the Italian Psychological Association in 2009. Currently, she completed her 2nd PhD in Cross-Cultural Psychology at Tilburg University, the Netherlands with a project on ethnic minority youth in Europe received the 2012 Student and Early Career Council (SECC) Dissertation Award of the Society for Research in Child Development (SRCD). She has research experience at the Brent Centre for Young People London (UK) and Brown University (USA). She is a representative of SECC, the Ethnic & Racial Issues Committee at SRCD, the Society for Research on Adolescence's (SRA) Study Group Committee, the Society for the Study of Human Development (SSHD) Emerging Scholars Committee and the Advisory Committee of the Global Human Development Intervention Research Network.

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Research interests: Developmental Psychology, Cross-Cultural Psychology, Acculturation, Migration, Identity, Positive Youth Development, Indigenous Ethnic Minority Groups (Roma).

President-Elect - Loes Keijsers



Loes Keijsers is assistant professor, who is interested in studying changes in the lives and relationships of teenagers. Together with three PhD-students and two research trainees, she examines how the intrapersonal and interpersonal developmental changes in the lives of adolescents relate to a normal or deviant developmental trajectory. Her articles are published in journals, such as *Developmental Psychology* (4x), *Child Development*, and *Pediatrics*. Her dissertation received two national honors/awards and the Young Scholar award of the European Association of Research on Adolescence.

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Research interests: Adolescents and their families; Peer influences; Delinquency, substance use, and externalizing problems; Academic achievement; Teaching; Advanced longitudinal methodology; Academic writing skills; Implement research into practice; Communicating science to policy makers, professionals, and the general public.

Past-President – Rens van de Schoot



Rens van de Schoot obtained his doctorate (cum laude) at Utrecht University, the Netherlands, with a dissertation on informative hypotheses and Bayesian statistics. Currently, he is working at the Methods and Statistics Department at Utrecht University.

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Research interests: identity development, immigrants and post traumatic stress, projects about the labour market for PhD students.

Secretary – Arzu Aydinli



Arzu Aydinli is a third year PhD student in Cross-Cultural Psychology at Tilburg University (the Netherlands) in collaboration with Koc University (Istanbul, Turkey). After she obtained her MA in Psychology at the University of Tuebingen (Germany), she worked as a psychologist with Turkish-German patients in the Intercultural Section of the Psychiatric Clinic in Stuttgart (Germany).

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Research interests: Culture, ethnic identity, acculturation and biculturalism, developmental and motivational pathways leading to volunteering in youth and young adults from a cross-cultural perspective.

Treasurer – Jia He



Jia He is a PhD researcher at the Department of Cross-Cultural Psychology in Tilburg University, the Netherlands. She obtained her MA degree in Intercultural Communication from Shanghai International Studies University, China.

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Research interests: Her current research includes the psychological meaning of survey response styles, values, social desirability, and other methodological aspects of cross-cultural studies. She is also interested in modern research methods such as structural equation modeling and multilevel analysis.

External Relations & Valorization Officer – Maja Schachner



Following her studies in the UK, Maja Schachner is now working towards a joint PhD at Friedrich Schiller University Jena (Germany), and Tilburg University (The Netherlands), where she is part of the teams of Educational and Cross-Cultural Psychology. As ERU Officer for External Relations and Valorisation and National Representative Germany, her main goal is to create stronger links and facilitate the exchange between researchers, practitioners and policy makers in Germany and Europe.

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Research interests: Acculturation, ethnic identity, school adjustment of immigrant youth, school climate and interethnic relations in ethnically heterogeneous schools.

Internal Relations & Communication Officer – Yael Ponizovsky



Yael (Julia) is a PhD candidate and a social worker (MSW) specializing in the study of immigrant children and adolescents' well-being and adjustment from a resilience perspective. Currently, she is completing her doctoral dissertation on filial responsibilities, resiliency and adjustment of young immigrants at the Paul Baerwald School of Social Work and Social Welfare, Hebrew University of Jerusalem, Israel. Yael is an assistant director and coordinator of NEVET- the greenhouse of context-informed research and training for children in need, as part of her participation in the Harry and Sylvia Hoffman leadership and responsibility program for excellent PhD students. She is a member of ERU since 2011.

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Research interests: Well-being and psychological adjustment of young immigrants, cross-cultural psychology and context informed research and practices.

ALBANIA- Oriola Hamzallari



Oriola is a PhD student in Child Development at Tirana State University, Albania with a thesis on how early preventive intervention with parents and daycare providers can impact parenting, interaction with children and the socio-emotional development of toddlers. She also works as a university lecturer in Durrës and Tirana State Universities. She is a member of ERU since 2011. Her main research interests are evidence-based parenting programs, self-regulation in toddlers and responsive curriculum in daycares.
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AUSTRIA – Takuya Yanagida

Takuya is a PhD candidate at the University of Vienna. Currently, he is a researcher at the University of Applied Sciences Upper Austria. His PhD thesis is focuses on statistical conclusion validity in the context of program evaluation. He is also a researcher at the Federal institute of Educational Research, Innovation and Development of the Austrian School System (BIFIE), where he is working with large-scale assessment data. Besides his research, he teaches courses on statistics and quantitative research methods at various universities in Austria.



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BULGARIA – Venzislav Jordanov



Venzislav has received his PhD in Sports Psychology at the Bulgarian National Sports Academy, Department of Psychology, Pedagogy and Sociology in 2012. Currently, he is a lecturer at the University of World and National Economy (UWNE) in Sofia, Bulgaria. His main research interests revolve around topics of sport psychology, basketball, cross-cultural psychology, identity, and well-being of youth and young adults in Bulgaria. As a national representative, he is willing to put efforts to build up strong relationships and network among Bulgarian and European researchers.

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CROATIA – Katja Borovac

Katja Borovac is a first year PhD student and external associate assistant of the Department of Psychology, Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences in Rijeka, Croatia. She is also teaching assistant for courses of *Developmental Psychology* and *Teaching Students with Special Needs* for graduate students enrolled in the study program for teachers. Her research interests are adolescent development, positive youth development, family, peers.

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CROATIA – Lorena Zec

Lorena Zec is a first year PhD student at University of Rijeka, Croatia. She works as a quality assurance associate at the Quality Assurance Centre (University of Rijeka). Her research interests are evolutionary developmental psychology, psychopath, callous-unemotional traits, attachment, and early development.

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FINLAND - Christian Hakulinen

Christian Hakulinen obtained his doctorate at the University of Helsinki, Finland with a dissertation on development of hostility and anger. He is currently working at the Personality and Well-being Working Research Group as post-doctoral researcher at University of Helsinki, Finland. His research concentrates on the development of psychosocial factors from a life course perspective.

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GERMANY - Maja Schachner also External Relations & Valorization Officer

GREECE – Stefanos Mastrotheodoros



Stefanos Mastrotheodoros is a PhD student in Clinical Psychology at the University of Athens, Greece. His thesis subject is *Attachment Type, Developmental Tasks and Adolescents' Goals for the Future: A Longitudinal Study*. He is particularly interested in the subjects of attachment and identity development. Stefanos is a member of the AStRA research group (see here) and has been actively involved in many longitudinal research projects concerning adolescents in Greece. Stefanos has taught undergraduate tutorial classes in the University of Athens as well as

college classes in public colleges. As a clinical psychologist, he has worked with both child and adult populations. Since December 2012 he runs his own private practice as a clinical psychologist.

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ISRAEL – Yael Ponizovsky also Internal Relations & Communication Officer

ITALY - Marianna Kosic

Marianna, representative of the Slovene minority in Italy, holds a degree in Social Psychology (University of Trieste, Italy) and a PhD in Transborder Policies for Daily Life (International University Institute for European Studies). Her primary research interests focus on patterns of in-group identification and out-group attitudes among minorities and majorities on the Italo-Slovene borderland, including implicit measures of prejudice, multiple discrimination, social inclusion, complex social identity. As a human rights education trainer (Council of Europe Programme) specialized in ethnic and national minorities, she is also active in the promotion of human rights education and education for active democratic citizenship in formal and non-formal educational settings.

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KOSOVO – Fitim Uka



Fitim is a PhD student in the University of Freiburg, Germany. He has studied Learning Sciences at Ludwig Maximilian University, which is an International Master Program in Psychology with focus on learning, instruction, cognition, emotion and development. Currently, he is dealing with his PhD study, under the supervision of Prof. Dr. Antje von Suchodoletz. He is aiming to find out the interplay of self regulation components, theory of mind, intelligence and their influence on school performance. He is also a lecturer at the University of Prishtina, Faculty of Education and Private University "Qeap Heimerer" in Kosovo. **E-mail:** fitim.u@gmail.com

MACEDONIA – Ognen Spasovski

Ognen Spasovski, PhD in Psychology, is an Assistant professor in Psychology at the Ss Cyril and Methodius University in Skopje, Republic of Macedonia. Recently, he had a post-doctoral research visit at the University of Pennsylvania, USA. His main interests are in the field of evolutionary psychology and positive psychology, as well as the interaction between emotion and cognition. He is also engaged in applied psychology in the sphere of inclusive education, as an approach aiming to provide appropriate educational and developmental conditions to all children to reach their maximum of potential. **E-mail:** ognen@fzf.ukim.edu.mk



NETHERLANDS - Natasja van Cittert

Natasja finished her master studies in Victimology & Criminal Justice and Work & Organizational Psychology at Tilburg University, the Netherlands. Her thesis explored collective identity and well-being in Dutch and Italian adolescents, and has been submitted for publication and presented at the International Colloquium on Social Sciences in Transylvania University of Brasov, Romania. She has five years research experience as an assistant at the Department Cross Cultural Psychology at Tilburg University working on identity, motivation, personality and psychological well-being of ethnic minority groups around Europe. She is a member of ERU since 2012 and she is proud to be a representative for the Netherlands and connect with European colleagues.

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POLAND - Justyna Michałek

Justyna Michałek obtained her doctorate at University of Gdańsk, Poland with a dissertation on family factors and personal identity in adolescents from transnational families. Currently, she is working at the Department of Psychology of Development and Education (University of Warmia and Mazury in Olsztyn, Poland). Her research focuses on the links between personal identity development and family context. She is also interested in transnational families functioning, from different perspectives: spouses, parents and children. Besides her major research interest, she takes part of different projects about factors affecting early child development.

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PORTUGAL - Diana Farcas



Diana Farcas was born in Romania and moved to Portugal in 2002, where she studied at the American International School of Lisbon obtaining a Bachelor's degree in Psychology. Her Master's thesis in Social and Organizational Psychology focused on the mediation effect of work-family conflict between parental demands and adjustment of expatriates in Portugal. She was a research intern at the Centre for Multicultural Mental Health Research – Harvard Medical School, USA in 2012. Currently she is a research assistant and lecturer at Lisbon University Institute (ISCTE-IUL), where she is also working on her PhD dissertation, exploring psychological adjustment strategies of the new wave of Portuguese citizens abroad (emigrants, assigned and self-initiated expatriates).

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ROMANIA – Delia Stefanel

Delia Stefanel obtained her doctorate at University of Bucharest, Romania with a dissertation on intercultural communication and acculturation. She worked as teaching assistant at the Department of Balkan Studies of the Western Macedonia University and at the Department of Languages, Philology and Culture of the Black Sea Countries of the Democritus University of Thrace, in Greece. She is as teaching assistant at the Department of Social and Human Sciences at Lucian Blaga University of Sibiu, Romania. She is also leading the workshop of Sociological Research of Contemporary Balkania in Athens, Greece.

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ROMANIA – Oana Mocan

Oana Mocan is a PhD student in Cognitive Psychology at the Babeş-Bolyai University, Romania with a thesis on the relationships between executive functions and internalizing symptoms in adolescence. She is also a member of the Developmental Psychology Lab, interested in Developmental Psychology research. Her PhD thesis is focused on cognitive flexibility in relation with trait anxiety in children and adolescents. She works as clinical psychologist and cognitive-behavioural therapist. She is ERU member since 2011.

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RUSSIA – Natalie Gorlova

Natalie Gorlova is the PhD student in Developmental Psychology at the Siberian Federal University, Russia)with a thesis on psychological readiness towards developmental conflict resolution in youth. She is also trained and works as psychological counselor with the incline of existential therapy. Natalie is a member of ERU since 2011. She attended ERU Writing-week in 2012 in Utrecht and in co-authorship with other members wrote an article on measurement invariance and cross-cultural comparisons.

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SERBIA - Dragan Žuljević

Dragan is a PhD student at the Department of Psychology, Faculty of Philosophy within the University of Novi Sad, Serbia. He obtained his bachelor and master degree at the same department, where he works as a research assistant. His dissertation focuses on common factors of change in psychotherapy. He is a clinical psychologist with a seven years of experience in counselling and transactional analysis. He is also working on a longitudinal study on students' and young adult's resilience and mental health indicators within the project Hereditary, Environmental and Psychological Factor of Mental Health, financed by the Serbian Ministry of Education, Science and Technological Development.

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SPAIN - Lucía Jiménez



Lucía Jiménez is a Professor at the Department of Developmental & Educational Psychology in Seville University, Spain in Educational Psychology, and Vice-dean for academic affairs of the Faculty of Psychology. With the supervision of Professor Victoria Hidalgo, she obtained her PhD in 2009 on psychosocial adjustment of children and adolescents who grow up in at-risk families for preservation reasons, awarded with the Extraordinary Award to the Best Thesis in Social Sciences by Seville University. She is interested in the design and evaluation of family education and support programs in at-risk situations and has experience in advising professionals and public institutions for programs' implementation and evaluation. As ERU

national representative, Lucía wants to get closer the association life to the Spanish PhD students interested in Developmental Psychology.

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SWITZERLAND – Raffaella Torrisi

Raffaella is a research psychologist and principal investigator of the pilot-project “Oxytocin and HPA axis: Pharmacological challenge versus social challenge tasks”, funded by the National Center of Competences in Research (NCCR), since October 2013. Since 2010, she is a PhD at the Faculty of Biology and Medicine, University Hospital Centre of Vaud (CHUV).

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SWITZERLAND – Christina Moses Passini

Christina is a postdoctoral fellow at the Centre for Family Research, University of Cambridge, UK. She completed her doctorate in Psychology at the University of Geneva, under the supervision of Professor Nicolas Favez and Dr. Sandrine Pihet. Her PhD research focused on mothers of toddlers' discipline practices in daily life, using a mixed-methods approach. Specifically, using ecological momentary assessment, Q-methodology, and lab observation, she studies mothers' cognitive, affective, and behavioural responses to their toddlers' misbehaviours in everyday life as well as their parenting beliefs and values.

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TURKEY – Arzu Aydinli also Secretary

UK – Lucy Markson



Lucy is interested in individual differences and risk and resilience processes in children of imprisoned fathers. Her PhD research investigates the moderating and mediating interactive influences of individual, family and contextual domains on developmental outcomes of children who experience the imprisonment of their father. This includes studying the additive effects of paternal imprisonment with other contextual risks to understand whether children's responses to paternal imprisonment vary by cumulative risk exposure. In addition, she researches whether dose-response risk relations are non-linear and subject to threshold effects, as well as stability of developmental outcomes over time. Professor Michael Lamb and Professor Friedrich Lösel are Lucy's supervisors. **Email:** lm473@cam.ac.uk

UKRAINE - Lyudmyla Romanyuk

Lyudmyla obtained her PhD at the Taras Shevchenko National University of Kyiv, Ukraine with the dissertation entitled “Psychological factors of development students' value orientations”. Currently, she is completing a second doctoral dissertation in developmental psychology. Her PhD research focuses on basic considerations in psychology on personality and values, and received the 2011 scholarship from Taras Shevchenko National University of Kyiv. Research interests: Developmental psychology, personality, values, meaning, and well-being.

Website: <http://www.lib.ua-ru.net/diss/cont/43897.html>

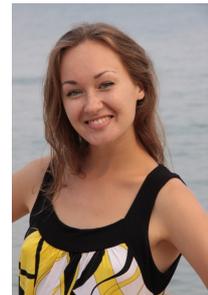
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UKRAINE -Mariia Takamakova

Maria graduated at the Karazin Kharkiv National University in 2012. She has specialized in general psychology and history of psychology. Currently, she is a PhD candidate at Taras Shevchenko National University of Kyiv, Ukraine. Her PhD thesis is focused on social and emotional development of institutionalized children. Maria is a psychotherapist in the areas of client-centered psychotherapy and dance therapy.

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ERU News and Updates

- Following the regular meeting with the national representatives in November, we will introduce a page in the newsletter entitled “National Representatives Page”, where each representative can write local events and provide a brief description of the developmental psychology from his/her country.
- We plan to propose several Webinars on topics interesting for ERU members. If you have an idea for a topic or you want to present it by yourself or invite senior scholar to give the talk, please contact Arzu at a.aydinli@tilburguniversity.edu; aaydinli@ku.edu.tr or Yael at yael.ponizovsky@mail.huji.ac.il

ERU MEMBERS AT THE CONFERENCE IN “LUCIAN BLAGA” UNIVERISTY OF SIBIU, ROMANIA

The University “Lucian Blaga” of Sibiu and the *Department of Journalism, Public Relations, Sociology and Psychology*, organized the 12th edition of the Conference in Sociology and Social Assistance between 11-12 October 2013. The event provided an excellent opportunity for national and international social scientists to attend plenary talks, present their papers and learn about cutting edge studies from different interdisciplinary perspectives. It was a great opportunity to create cross-national networks, also with several ERU national members who took part in the event (Radosveta Dimitrova, Natalie Gorlova, Lyudmyla Romanyuk, Marianna Kotic, Delia Stefanel). Afterwards, Radosveta Dimitrova, gave a lecture to graduate and master students on her extensive cross-cultural research as well as challenges and rewards of research career and involvement in the ERU activities (for details see http://www.ulbsibiu.ro/ro/evenimente/events.php?news_id=2053).

Delia Stefanel



Between 14th and 15th of November 2013, the 7th International Colloquium on Social Sciences and Communication (ACUM) took place at the Transylvania University of Brasov, Romania. The event offered workshops and presentations of papers by approximately 80 participants from Romania, Italy, Ukraine, Netherlands, Bulgaria, South Africa, Japan. Six ERU members presented their research on identity, values and well-being of different ethnic minority and mainstreams groups. The organizers offered us a visit to the lovely city of Brasov, the first Romanian School and the famous Dracula castle. We would like to thank the warm welcoming, care and generous support of Carmen Buzea - a member of ERU and of the local organizing committee of the event.

Natasja van Cittert

**Interview with Markus Paulus
Winner of the 2013 George Butterworth Young Scientist Award**



George Butterworth was one of the two founding fathers of the European Society for Developmental Psychology who was an internationally respected authority on infant development. In his honor, the European Association of Developmental Psychology established the George Butterworth Young Scientist Award given every two years, and has been presented for the third time at the 16th European Conference on Developmental Psychology, September 3-7, 2013, Lausanne, Switzerland. The 2013 winner is Markus Paulus who was so kind to answer our questions that we hope may be helpful to inspire other ERU members to compete for this significant achievement.

Can you briefly introduce yourself and your topic of research?

I am Markus Paulus and I am a professor for Developmental Psychology of Early Childhood at the Ludwig-Maximilians University Munich. My research interests comprise on the one hand early social and social-cognitive development: here I am very interested in the early origins of social understanding (e.g., how do young babies and toddlers come to understand other persons' actions and how do they develop the ability to interact with others), the early development of prosocial behavior (e.g., empathy, helping, sharing), and the origins of social learning (e.g., imitation). On the other hand, I am interested in cognitive development across early and middle childhood as well as adolescence, particularly in the development of action control and metacognition.

One of the reasons you were awarded the The George Butterworth Young Scientist Award is the enormous number of papers you have published during your PhD and Post-Doc. Can you reveal us your secret of writing and publishing a lot?

I think there are several factors that should be mentioned. First, I had the opportunity to work with a number of very engaging senior colleagues and mentors from whom I learned a lot. Also, the labs in which I worked were very efficiently organized – a very important point when you examine young children and need to make appointments with parents for testing sessions in the lab. Then, you need a lot of passion for your subject area. This is not only decisive when it comes to the general investment of time for work, but it is particularly helpful to deal with the lengthy (and probably for everybody sometimes annoying) review. I think passion arises from being deeply engaged with an idea/theory that you would like to prove or to refute. Finally, I simply like writing.

Can you tell us something more about the support from your mentor/s and your research group? What other kind of support did you get during your PhD project?

There were quite different kinds of support. First, I really appreciated the intellectual environment of the research groups in which I worked. They always supported me in my ambitions to try to answer the really big and fundamental questions of my discipline. Moreover, I profited from the regular exchanges and meetings with my colleagues in which we presented and critically discussed each other's research plans and ideas. This not only helps you to become self-critical with respect to your own work and to better evaluate the strengths and weaknesses of your research; it also broadens your horizon and expertise by learning in-depth about your colleagues' research areas. Moreover, the administrative support in the baby- and child-labs in which I worked was always great. You can surely imagine how difficult it is to attract families to come with their children to the university for an experimental session. A well-established and efficiently organized laboratory is an invaluable support.

How do you foresee the future of your research area? What are the next steps in your field of research and how will you continue to contribute in that regard?

Research in the last years has shown that already infants have some specific knowledge about other people's behavior – and that they conceive human agents differently than nonliving objects. Yet, we still lack a comprehensive theory of how exactly they understand others' actions; and how such a rudimentary understanding develops into the mature social understanding we have as adults, including theory-of-mind. Here, much more conceptual and empirical work is needed. The same holds for the early development of prosocial behavior. We see that already infants show empathic reactions, help, comfort, and share. Yet, I think that it is an open question why young children start to engage in these behaviors and how they connect to the variety of prosocial behaviors shown later in development.

Finally, can you give some practical tips and advice for other PhD students to be successful as you are and possibly win this award?

Try to find a research question that really fascinates you and that has the potential to keep this fascination for a number of years. This helps you to develop enough frustration tolerance to deal with the usual setbacks of working in science. Do not forget the big theoretical (or practical) question that you would like to answer with your research and relate all your studies back to this question.