

## Dr. Kateřina Chládková, MA

*I am a scientist passionate about speech and language acquisition throughout lifetime. I research auditory, audio-visual, and visual language learning in typically developing as well as atypical populations, using neuroimaging, behavioural, and computational methods. I aim at answering fundamental questions and testing theories on language development, such as whether humans can learn language through the same mechanisms across adulthood and childhood. Besides doing the actual science, my passion is for it to be societally responsible which is why I am continuously exploring ways to communicate science to the public and to make links between fundamental research and its application.*

My lab website is [www.speakinlab.cz](http://www.speakinlab.cz), IG @speakinlab, and my researcher ID: K-2039-2015.

### EDUCATION

- 2014 *PhD*, Faculty of Humanities, University of Amsterdam, The Netherlands  
supervisor: prof. Paul Boersma, co-supervisors: dr. S. Hamann, prof. P. Escudero
- 2009 *Master of Arts*, General Linguistics, Faculty of Humanities, University of Amsterdam, NL

### CURRENT POSITIONS

- 2024 – *Scientist*, Department of Medical Biophysics, Faculty of Medicine in Hradec Králové, Charles University (in an ERDF-funded project Brain Dynamics)
- 2018 – *Senior Scientist* (until 2022 *Scientist*), Institute of Psychology, Czech Academy of Sciences
- 2018 – *Assistant professor* (until 2020 *Researcher*), Institute of Czech Language and Theory of Communication, Faculty of Arts, Charles University, Czech Republic

### PREVIOUS POSITIONS

- 2018 – 2023 *Visiting researcher*, Max-Planck Institute for Human Cognitive and Brain Sciences, Leipzig
- 2016 – 2017 *Researcher*, post-doc with individual fellowship funded by Dutch Science Foundation, Faculty of Life Sciences, Leipzig University, Germany
- 2013 – 2014 *Postdoc*, Faculty of Humanities, University of Amsterdam, The Netherlands
- 2009 – 2013 *PhD candidate*, Faculty of Humanities, University of Amsterdam, The Netherlands

**CAREER BREAKS** Maternity leave, 3 children: 11/2020–06/2021, 11/2017–06/2018, 10/2014–03/2016

### GRANTS

- 2023 – 2028 *Beyond Security: Role of Conflict in Resilience-Building*, ERDF-funded consortium project, PI in one of the 9 research intents: RI 3: *Multilingualism and Psycholinguistics*, at Faculty of Arts, Charles University
- 2021 – 2023 *Learning to recognize words: a developmental cross-dialectal perspective*, Czech Science Foundation, Standard project, realized at the Czech Academy of Sciences [PI]
- 2021 – 2023 *Diagnostic tool for assessment of communicative development in Czech children from 8 to 30 months*, Technology Agency of the Czech Republic [team member]
- 2018 – 2022 *Acquiring a quantity language: infants' input and perceptual processing of vowel length*, Primus grant, Faculty of Arts & Fac. of Medicine, Hradec Králové, Charles University [PI]
- 2018 – 2020 *The effect of talker accent on speech sound learning in infants*, Czech Science Foundation, Standard project, realized at the Czech Academy of Sciences [PI]
- 2016 – 2018 *Piecing auditory cues together*, Rubicon grant, Dutch Science Foundation, realized at University of Leipzig [individual fellowship]

### BRIDGING ACADEMIA AND BUSINESS

- 2023 – to date *Development of a mobile language learning app (a new version inspired by naturalistic native language acquisition in children)*, in collaboration with Mooveez Company a.s.
- 2023 Selected amongst the *Top 23 Czech women scientists*, Forbes magazine, Czech edition

### FELLOWSHIPS AND AWARDS

- 2023 *Lumina Quaeruntur* fellowship for outstanding scientists, funding to develop a new 5-year research programme, from the Czech Academy of Sciences
- 2022 *Otto Wichterle Award* for excellent young scientists, from the Czech Academy of Sciences
- 2013 *Endeavour Research Fellowship*, from the Australian government, fellowship for a 6-month stay at Western Sydney University (not realized due to family commitments)

## INVITED TALKS & LECTURES: ACADEMIC

- 2025 upcoming: *Early and late acquisition of temporal speech patterns* @ Dahlem Lectures in Linguistics, Free University Berlin, Germany
- 2023 *Segmental and suprasegmental speech acquisition in Czech-learning infants* @ the Typical and Atypical Language Acquisition Colloquium, University of Potsdam, Germany  
*Newborns' processing of native speech*, LangVIEW seminar series, world-wide virtual  
*Nalad'te si přijímače* [The synchronization of brain & body rhythms and speech] @ Biologické čtvrtky [Biology Thursdays] series, organised by Faculty of Science, Charles Uni  
*Language learning beginnings*, keynote @ intl. conference Olomouc Linguistic Colloquium  
*Auditory language, Visual language, Language in the Brain and Body*, three invited lectures at the international Summer School of Linguistics, České Budějovice
- 2022 *The beginnings of spoken and sign language development*, Invited talk at the lecture series "Problematika hluchoty" [Deafness lecture series], faculty of Arts, Charles Uni.  
*Jazyková variabilita a její přínos pro pochopení jazyka jako takového a.k.a. Proč je fajn zkoumat osvojování češtiny* [How language diversity helps us understand language better a.k.a. Why it's good to study the acquisition of Czech] Plenary @ the 42<sup>nd</sup> student workshop Žďárek, Kutná Hora  
*Tuning in to the native language* Guest lecture at Musicology at the Crossroads of Humanities, organized by Faculty of Arts, Charles University
- 2019 *Language-specific vowel perception in newborns?* Invited talk (jointly with J. Urbanec) in the Language and Cognition Group seminar, Leiden University, The Netherlands  
*Born with their mother tongue? Language and speech acquisition in the fetus and the newborn*, Kognitivní škola, Malá Skála (Annual Winter School of Cognitive Science), Czech Republic
- 2013 *Tracing phonological vowel length across languages through pre-attentive auditory responses to vowel duration differences: an ERP study*, Language and Cognition Group, Leiden University, The Netherlands
- 2011 *Investigating the perceptual basis of phonological features*, Phonology Seminar, University of California Los Angeles, USA

## INVITED TALKS & LECTURES: SCIENTIFIC COMMUNITY

- 2025 upcoming: Plenary talk at the *Meeting of Czech scientists in the Netherlands*, Den Haag, organised by Czexpats  
upcoming: Discussant at Academia Film Olomouc *Jak funguje věda* [How science works], by Zeptej se vědce
- 2024 co-moderating the PI Forum workshop at the *Konference pod stromeček*, Christmas conference organised by Czexpats  
Invited discussant @ the conference *Through Academic Culture to Scientific Excellence*, Prague, organised by Czexpats
- 2023 *Being a Humanities and Social Sciences Researcher in Czechia*, talk at the Czech-Ukrainian scientific society meeting, Prague  
*I got a grant. Now what?* Invited discussant for the Young PI Forum, Czexpats, Prague

## SELECTED ACADEMIC PUBLICATIONS

(for a full list of publications, please see [my google scholar profile](#))

- Chládková, K., Podlipský, V. J., Jarůšková, L., & Šimáčková, Š. (2025). Tuning in to the prosody of a novel language is easier without orthography. *Bilingualism: Language and Cognition* First View, pp. 1-10. <https://doi.org/10.1017/S1366728925000082> (This paper's attention score is in the 98<sup>th</sup> percentile of all publications ever tracked by Altmetric, see publisher's site.)
- Dvořáková, M., Kikořová, N., Urbanec, J., Goetz, A., & Chládková, K. (2025, preprint). Detecting foreign rhythm in native-language speech at birth. [https://osf.io/preprints/psyarxiv/jrm32\\_v3](https://osf.io/preprints/psyarxiv/jrm32_v3)

- Urbanec, J., Chládková, K., & Kremláček, J. (2024). Neural processing of speech sounds at premature and term birth: ERPs and MMR between 32 and 42 weeks of gestation. *Developmental Cognitive Neuroscience* 70, 101444. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.dcn.2024.101444>
- Jarůšková, L., & Chládková, K. (2023). Preference for native-accented peers in monolingual and bilingual children acquiring Czech. *Journal of Multilingual and Multicultural Development*, 1-12. <https://doi.org/10.1080/01434632.2023.2257189>
- Chládková, K., Boersma, P., & Escudero, P. (2022). Unattended distributional training can shift phoneme boundaries. *Bilingualism: Language and Cognition* 25 (5), 827-840. <https://doi.org/10.1017/S1366728922000086>
- Chládková, K., Urbanec, J., Skálová, S., & Kremláček, J. (2021). Newborns' neural processing of native vowels reveals directional asymmetries. *Developmental Cognitive Neuroscience*, 52:101023. DOI: [10.1016/j.dcn.2021.101023](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.dcn.2021.101023)
- Chládková, K., Podlipský, V. J., Nudga, N., & Šimáčková, Š. (2021). The McGurk effect in the time of pandemic: age-dependent adaptation to an environmental loss of visual speech cues. *Psychonomic Bulletin & Review*, 28, 992–1002. DOI: [10.3758/s13423-020-01852-2](https://doi.org/10.3758/s13423-020-01852-2)
- Paillereau, N., Podlipský, V.J., Smolík, F., Šimáčková, Š., & Chládková, K. (2021). The Development of infants' sensitivity to native and non-native rhythm. *Infancy*, 26, 423–444. DOI: [10.1111/inf.12395](https://doi.org/10.1111/inf.12395)
- Chládková, K., Nudga, N., & Boersma, P. (2020). A model of prenatal acquisition of vowels. *Proceedings of the Cognitive Science Society*, 599–604. <https://cogsci.mindmodeling.org/2020/papers/0107/0107.pdf>
- Chládková, K., & Paillereau, N. (2020). The what and when of universal perception: a review of early speech sound acquisition. *Language Learning*, 70 (4), 1136-1182. DOI: [10.1111/lang.12422](https://doi.org/10.1111/lang.12422) (This paper was amongst the most read papers on the journal's website in year 2021.)

## SELECTED SCI-COMM PUBLICATIONS AND ACTIVITIES

- Chládková, K., Šimáčková, Š., & Podlipský, V. J. (2025). [How to learn a language like a baby](#). *The Conversation: Europe*, March 12, 2025. (In the week of publication, this article was the first most read piece on *The Conversation's Europe* as well as *Spain* editions.)
- Chládková, K., Šimáčková, Š., & Podlipský, V. J. (2025). [¿Pueden los adultos aprender idiomas como los bebés?](#). *The Conversation: España*, March 16, 2025.
- Chládková, K., Jarůšková, L., Svoboda, M. (2024). [Děti a bilingvismus](#) [Children and bilingualism]. Edition Věda kolem nás [Science around us], Prague: Academia.
- Since 2024 regularly participating in debates and answering questions from public in collaboration with *Zepřej se vědce* ([one debate here](#))

## SELECTED SCIENCE COMMUNICATION AND EDUCATION IN MEDIA SINCE 2020

### 2025

- [One-minute video explaining my research](#) in the series *Věda na UK*, Science at Charels University.
- Guest in the first episode of education podcast [Před tabulí, Druhý jazyk už od první třídy - výhoda nebo výzva?](#) Fraus-Klett.
- Talk at the Brain Awareness Week, *Noty pro jazyk v našem mozku* [The brain's sheet music for speech] and several related interviews in Czech Radio and Czech TV.

### 2024

- Interview in Seznam Zprávy on foreign language education [Jak na angličtinu ve školce? Neučte slovíčka a zahodte učebnice](#).
- Interview in Deník N on child bilingualism [Druhý jazyk malému dítěti neuškodí](#).
- Guest in the Inbox podcast, [episode on language education](#).
- Guest in the podcast [Na Pokec, episode on cognitive neuroscience and language learning](#).

[Jazyk umí klamat naše smysly](#) [Language can fool our senses], an article in the pop-sci journal *Vesmír*.

Talk at the Brain Awareness Week, *Jazyk nemluvnát: naladění mozku novorozence na mateřskou řeč* [Baby language: brain's attunement to native speech in newborns].

## 2023

Talk and workshops on language learning at the European day of languages & interviews on the Czech TV.

Talk at the Brain Awareness Week, *Rhythms of Brain, Body, and Language* and a related interview in evening news commentaries (Události, komentáře, 17.3.2023).

## 2022

Talk @ European Day of Languages on *How we always learn language without even knowing about it*.

Guest in a podcast series, *Věda na dosah* ("Science within reach"), Czech Academy of Sciences.

Interview about speech research with newborns in the science program *Věda 24*, on the Czech TV.

News report about speech research with newborns in primetime news *Události*, on the Czech TV.

## 2021

Talk at the European Day of Languages on *How we listen to speech with eyes & how face masks affect it*.

Collaboration on a children's [TV series about brain and cognition, Zvěd](#), Czech TV: Children's channel.

Interview in Czech Radio: Radio Wave, on first- and second-language learning and teaching.

Virtual talk at the Brain Awareness Week festival, *Hearing speech through eyes* (with V. Jonáš Podlipský).

## 2020

Script & collaboration on a [youtube series on cognitive development in infants \(channel Zvěd](#), Czech Academy of Sciences), 5 episodes.

Interviews on first language acquisition, face-masks & speech, national newspaper, *Hospodářské noviny*.

## SUPERVISION OF PHD STUDENTS AND POSTDOCS

- 2024 – PhD co-supervisor (daily supervisor) of *Kateřina Kynčlová*, Dyslexia and bilingualism in early language development, Charles University (CU) [KK received a Charles Uni. GAUK grant with KC as mentor]
- 2024 – supervision of a post-doc *Maroš Filip*, Institute of Psychology, Czech Acad. of Sciences
- 2023 – PhD co-supervisor (daily supervisor) of *Lucie Jarůšková*, Language-based social biases in children and adults, Charles University (CU) [LJ received a Charles Uni. GAUK grant with KC as mentor, the awardee later declined the funding]
- 2022 – PhD co-supervisor (daily supervisor) of *Michaela Svoboda*, Language assessment and therapy in hearing-impaired children, CU [MS received a Charles Uni. GAUK grant on Bimodal bilingualism, KC is mentor in that project]
- 2021 – PhD supervisor of *Martina Dvořáková*, Newborns' neural preparedness for language, CU [MD received a Charles Uni. GAUK grant, KC is a mentor in that project]
- 2020 – PhD supervisor of *Natalia Nudga*, Learning of second-language speech, Charles Uni (CU)
- 2019 – PhD consultant of *Gisela Govaart*, International Max Planck Research School, Leipzig
- 2018 – 2022 Supervision of a post-doc *Nikola Paillereau*, Faculty of Arts, Charles University

## TEACHING ACTIVITIES

- 2020 – (co-)teaching undergraduate and graduate courses: *Empirical methods in linguistics, Applied linguistics, The acquisition of L1 and L2 speech, Bridging adult and child language acquisition, Current approaches in linguistics*, Faculty of Arts, Charles University
- 2020–2023 mentoring 3 high-school interns per year, program *Open Science*, Czech Academy of Sciences, in 2020 the group won the 1st prize at the annual student conference, Czech Republic, topic: psycho- and sociolinguistics
- 2013, 2014 teaching in the MA course *Second Language Acquisition: The Acquisition of Phonetics and Phonology*, University of Amsterdam, The Netherlands

- 2011 *Optimality Theory in Phonology*, lectures in a PhD seminar, Palacký University  
2010 *Introduction to linguistics*, BA course, University of Amsterdam, The Netherlands

### ORGANISATION OF SCIENTIFIC MEETINGS

- 2025 co-organiser of the *Architectures and Methods in Language*, Prague, Czech Republic + organiser of the satellite event: Multilingualism in the individual and society  
2024 co-organiser of the *Biennial of Czech Linguistics*, Prague, Czech Republic + organiser of the Biennial's popularization panel: Multilingualism in the Czech society  
co-organiser of the *International Conference on the Study of Child Language (IASCL)*, Prague, Czech Republic  
2023 scientific programme committee and co-organiser of the upcoming *20<sup>th</sup> International Congress of Phonetic Sciences (ICPhS)*, Prague, Czech Republic  
2020 – to date co-organiser of the annual Winter school on Cognitive science, Malá Skála, Czech Republic  
2017 sole organiser of the symposium *Models of category formation and adaptation: distributional learning of speech and language* at the 13<sup>th</sup> International Conference for Cognitive Neuroscience, Amsterdam, The Netherlands, ~30 participants  
2014 organizer of a one-day international symposium: *Reality of Phonological Representation*, University of Amsterdam, The Netherlands  
2009 – 2014 co-organizer of workshops at the University of Amsterdam, The Netherlands: *Eye-Tracking and ERP in linguistics and cognitive science*, *Technical methods in phonetics*

### EXAMINATION BOARDS AND INSTITUTIONAL RESPONSIBILITIES

- 2024 PhD thesis examiner of Eylem Altuntas, Western Sydney University, Australia  
2023 – to date Member of the Committee for Ethics in Research, Charles University  
2018 – to date graduate student advisor, Faculty of Arts, Charles University, Czech Republic  
2021 PhD examiner of Monika Klučková, Masaryk University, Czech Republic  
2020 PhD examining committee of Cesko Voeten; Leiden University, The Netherlands  
2013 – 2018 external evaluator of BA Hons theses at Western Sydney University, Australia

### REVIEWING ACTIVITIES

- 2023 – to date Reviewer of grant proposals, National Science Centre, Poland  
2019 – to date Member of the Expert Board of Evaluators; Research, Development and Innovation Council of the Czech government  
2010 – to date Reviewing for over 15 journals in the field, such as *Cognitive Science*; *Second Language Research*; *Language, Cognition and Neuroscience*  
Reviewing for international conferences: *New Sounds*, *International Congress of Phonetic Sciences*, *Olomouc Linguistic Colloquium*, Czech Republic

### MAJOR INTERNATIONAL COLLABORATIONS

- Member of the international *Many Babies consortium*, in 3 projects, which investigate cross-language preferences for infant-directed speech (MB1), rule learning in infants (MB3), and rule learning in infants using fNIRS (MB3-NIRS)  
*Claudia Maennel* and *Gisela Govaart*: infant EEG research of language acquisition, Charité Berlin & Max Planck Institute for Human Cognitive and Brain Sciences, Leipzig, Germany  
*Antonia Goetz*: neural processing of speech in infants (fNIRS), MARCS Institute for Brain, Behaviour and Development, Western Sydney University, Australia  
*Burkhard Maess*: EEG and MEG studies of speech and auditory learning, brain and body rhythms, Max Planck Institute for Human Cognitive and Brain Sciences, Leipzig, Germany  
*Titia Benders* and *Paul Boersma*: computational modelling of speech learning, Faculty of Humanities, University of Amsterdam, The Netherlands