

PROF. DR. BEN EPPINGER

HOLDER OF CHAIR
DEVELOPMENTAL AND
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UNIVERSITY OF GREIFSWALD

CONTACT INFORMATION

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RESEARCH INTERESTS

I study developmental differences in learning and decision behavior as well as the underlying neurobiological processes across the human lifespan (from childhood to old age).

My current research focuses on three areas:

- (1) Lifespan development of adaptive behavior
- (2) Lifespan development of learning and decision strategies
- (3) Lifespan development of social learning and decision-making

The overarching goal of my research program is develop normative, neurobiologically plausible theories of developmental changes in learning and decision behavior using combinations of experimental, computational and neuroscience methods. The longer term mission is to use these theories to inform evidence-based interventions in the educational and health sector.

CURRICULUM VITAE

education:

- 2008
Dr. phil. (PhD-equivalent) in Psychology, Saarland University
- 2004
Diploma in Psychology at Saarland University
- 1999-2004
Studies of Psychology at Saarland University

professional experience:

- since May 2022
full professor (W3) for Developmental and Educational Psychology Department of Psychology, University of Greifswald
- 2021-2022
Guest-professor, Department of Psychology, Freie Universität Berlin
- 2019-2022
Associate Professor of Psychology, Concordia University, Montreal, CA (tenured)
- 2013-2015
research assistant, Freie Universität Berlin, Department of education and psychology, research project "PALQUALSUM" (Prof. Uwe Flick)
- 2017-2022
Tier 2 Canada Research Chair (CRC) in cognitive neuroscience of decision making in healthy aging
- 2016-2019
Associate Professor of Psychology, Concordia University, Montreal, CA
- 2013 - 2016
Assistant professor of neurocognitive development of motivational mechanisms, TU Dresden
- 2010-2012
Research Scientist, Max Planck Institute of Human Development, Berlin (supervision: Prof. Shu-Chen Li, Prof. H.R. Heekeren)
- 2007-2010
Postdoctoral Research Associate at the Princeton Neuroscience Institute, Princeton University (supervision: Prof. J.D. Cohen)
- 2005-2007
PhD student Saarland University (supervision: Prof. J. Kray and Prof. A.Mecklinger)

SELECTED PUBLICATIONS

- Devine, S., Neuman, C., Levari, D.E., & Eppinger, B. (2022) Human ageing is associated with more rigid concept spaces, *Psychonomic Bulletin & Review*.
- Devine, S., Germain, N., Ehrlich, S., Eppinger, B. (2022). Changes in the prevalence of thin bodies biases young woman's judgements about body size. *Psychological Science*, 33, 1212-1225
- Bolenz, F., Kool, W., Reiter, A.M.F., Eppinger, B. (2019) Meta-control of learning strategies in human aging. *eLife*, 8:e49154
- Reiter, A.M.F., Suzuki, S., O'Doherty, J.P., Li, S.-C., & Eppinger, B. (2019). Risk contagion by peers affects learning and decision-making in adolescents. *JEP: General*, 148(9):1494-1504.
- Nassar, M.R., Bruckner, R., Gold, J.I., Li, S.-C., Heekeren, H.R., & Eppinger, B. (2016a). Age differences in learning emerge from an insufficient representation of uncertainty in older adults. *Nature Communications*, 7, 1-13.