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The neurobiology of individual differences in grammar learning

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Curriculum vitae

Olga Kepinska was born in Wrocław, Poland in 1986. After graduating from secondary school (XIV L.O. in Wrocław), she started her Bachelor's degree in Dutch Philology at Wrocław University. On the third year of the programme she spent a semester in the department of Dutch Studies at Leiden University. She came back to Leiden in September 2009 to pursue a Master's degree (completed *cum laude*) in Dutch Studies, which was made possible thanks to a grant from the HSP Huygens Scholarship Programme. In 2011, she completed a postgraduate study programme in English Translation at Wrocław University, Poland. In the academic year 2011-2012, she continued her education in Belgium, where she pursued a Master of Arts in Advanced Studies in Linguistics thanks to a specialisation scholarship from the Education and Training Department of the Flemish Government. She graduated (with the greatest distinction) from the Vrije Universiteit Brussel in September 2012. From September 2012 to April 2017 she was employed at the Leiden University Centre for Linguistics as a PhD candidate, followed by an appointment as a post-doctoral researcher.

This thesis aims at providing insights in the neural mechanisms and brain structures underlying individual differences in second language acquisition. It reports on a series of experiments investigating neural correlates of novel grammar learning and of the analytical component of language aptitude, using a variety of neuroimaging methods: functional magnetic resonance imaging, diffusion tensor imaging and electroencephalography.



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