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Speech across species : on the mechanistic fundamentals of vocal production and perception

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Citation

Ohms, V. R. (2011, May 3). *Speech across species : on the mechanistic fundamentals of vocal production and perception*. Retrieved from <https://hdl.handle.net/1887/17608>

Version: Not Applicable (or Unknown)

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**Curriculum vitae, conference contributions &
publications**

Curriculum vitae

- 1983 Born on April 9 in Viersen, Germany.
- 2002 Graduation from high school (Albertus-Magnus-Gymnasium Viersen-Dülken, Germany): Abitur
- 2002-2007 MSc Biology, Heinrich-Heine-University Düsseldorf, Germany.
- Specialisation: Cell biology, plant physiology and behavioural biology.
- MSc thesis:
‘Comparative investigations on the functional neuroanatomy of different breeds of domestic duck (*Anas platyrhynchos* f.d.)’
Supervisors: Prof. Dr. Hartmut Greven (Institute of Zoology, Heinrich-Heine-University Düsseldorf), Prof. Dr. Gerd Rehkämper, Dr. Julia Cnotka (Institute for Brain Research, Heinrich-Heine-University Düsseldorf).
- 2007-2011 PhD research project, Department of Behavioural Biology, Institute of Biology Leiden, Leiden University, The Netherlands.
- Project title: Speech across Species: On the mechanistic fundamentals of vocal production and perception.
- Supervisors: Prof. Dr. Carel ten Cate (Institute of Biology Leiden, Leiden University) and Dr. Gabriël J. L. Beckers (Max-Planck-Institute for Ornithology, Seewiesen, Germany).
- During my PhD research project I spent three months (May-July 2010) in the lab of Prof. Dr. Roderick A. Suthers at Indiana University in Bloomington to collect cineradiographic data on vocalizing monk parakeets and speech-imitating African grey parrots. I supervised several BSc and MSc student projects and was involved in both theoretical and practical courses on behavioural biology.

Conference contributions

- 2010 Annual meeting of the Dutch Society for Behavioural Biology (NVG) in Soesterberg, The Netherlands. *Oral presentation.*
- 2010 Annual meeting of the Animal Behavior Society (ABS) in Williamsburg, Virginia. *Oral presentation.*
- 2010 8th International Conference on the Evolution of Language (Evolang 8) in Utrecht, The Netherlands. *Oral presentation.*
- 2010 Workshop 'Birdsong/animal communication and the evolution of speech', preceding Evolang 8. *Oral presentation.*
- 2009 Annual meeting of the Dutch Society for Behavioural Biology (NVG) in Dalfsen, The Netherlands. *Oral presentation.*
- 2009 IBL Symposium, Leiden University, The Netherlands. *Oral presentation.*
- 2009 31st International Ethological Conference (IEC) in Rennes, France. *Oral presentation.*
- 2008 Annual meeting of the Dutch Society for Behavioural Biology (NVG) in Dalfsen, The Netherlands. *Oral and poster presentation.*
- 2008 Vocal Communication in Birds and Mammals Conference in St. Andrews, Scotland. *Poster presentation.*
- 2007 Graduate meeting of the study group behavioural biology of the Ethological Association (Ethologische Gesellschaft e.V.) in cooperation with the German Zoological Association (Deutsche Zoologische Gesellschaft e.V.) in Göttingen, Germany. *Oral presentation.*

Publications

Published

- Ohms, V. R.**, Snelderwaard, P. C., ten Cate, C. and Beckers, G. J. L. (2010). Vocal tract articulation in zebra finches. *PLoS ONE* 5: e11923.
- Verzijden, M. N., Ripmeester, E. A. P., **Ohms, V. R.**, Snelderwaard, P. and Slabbekoorn, H. (2010). Immediate spectral flexibility in singing chiffchaffs during experimental exposure to highway noise. *Journal of Experimental Biology* 213: 2575-2581.
- Ohms, V. R.**, Gill, A., van Heijningen, C. A. A., Beckers, G. J. L. and ten Cate, C. (2010). Zebra finches exhibit speaker-independent phonetic perception of human speech. *Proceedings of the Royal Society of London Series B- Biological Sciences* 277: 1003-1009.

Manuscripts

- Ohms, V. R.**, Beckers, G. J. L., ten Cate, C. and Suthers, R. A. Vocal tract articulation revisited: the case of the monk parakeet.
- Ohms, V. R.**, Escudero, P., Lammers, K. and ten Cate, C. Zebra finches and Dutch adults exhibit the same cue weighting bias in vowel perception.