



MASTER THESIS:

Early Interactions - Exploring the Role of Infant's Bodily Signals

Background: Infants are born with limited abilities to regulate their internal bodily signals, such as hunger. To survive, they need to learn to communicate their internal bodily signals to their primary caregiver, who in turn needs to identify them and react adequately (Fotopoulou & Tsakiris, 2017, <u>doi.org/10.1080/15294145.2017.1294031</u>).

Our project: However, we are lacking empirical studies investigating this relationship. Here, we will validate a recent measure targeting the primary caregiver's ability to identify the infant's bodily signals.

Why does it matter: Identifying and interpreting internal bodily signals has been proposed to play a crucial role in early social development, such as for the formation of a minimal self-concept. Further, we know from adult research that deficits in identifying internal bodily signals are related to negative mental health outcomes. Thus, it is crucial to understand how this ability evolves in early childhood.

Join us in the laboratory of the Wiener Kinderstudien at the University of Vienna to write your **Master thesis** (start: SS 2024 or later) with us!

We offer:

- Gain experience in modern cognitive neuroscientific research and methods (e.g., ECG, eyetracking)
- Training and supervision

Requirements:

- Experience/interest in neuroscientific methods (desirable)
- Experience working with infants (desirable)
- Proactive, organized, active, and responsible working style, alone and within a team

In case you are interested or have questions please contact **<u>markus.tuente@univie.ac.at</u>** (in English or German) until **31.01.2024** with a short letter of motivation and your CV!