

Dr. Kayla W. T. Kolff

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SKILLS:

Research Design | Data Collection (captive and free-ranging primates) | Data Analysis (behavioural coding and statistics) | Project Management | Scientific Communication | Collaborations and Networking | Mentoring (supervision) and Teaching | Grant Writing | Graphic Design

ACADEMIC AND RESEARCH POSITIONS:

2025 – pres. Postdoctoral researcher, Institute for Cognitive Science, Osnabrück University
2020 – 2025 PhD candidate, Institute for Cognitive Science, Osnabrück University
2019 – 2020 Research Assistant, Tai Chimpanzee Project and Max Planck Institute for Evolutionary Anthropology

EDUCATION:

2025 Doctor of Philosophy, Osnabrück University, Germany
Cognitive Science
2019 Master Degree, Utrecht University, Netherlands
Environmental Biology – track: Behavioural Ecology
2017 Bachelor Degree (Honours), Maastricht University, Netherlands
Liberal Arts and Sciences

PUBLICATIONS:

Kolff, K., Acosta Flórez, D., Mascaró, A., & Pika, S. (2025). Insect applications to open wounds by chimpanzees in the wild: first insights from East African chimpanzees. *Scientific Reports*, 15(1), 31242.

Kolff, K., & Pika, S. (2025). Turn-taking in grooming interactions of chimpanzees (*Pan troglodytes schweinfurthii*) in the wild: the role of demographic and social factors. *Animal Cognition*, 28(1), 26.

Ozaki, Y., Tierney, A., Pfordresher, P. Q., McBride, J. M., Benetos, E., ... **Kolff, K.**, ... & Savage, P. E. (2024). Globally, songs and instrumental melodies are slower and higher and use more stable pitches than speech: A Registered Report. *Science advances*, 10(20), eadm9797.

Webb, C. E., **Kolff, K.**, Du, X., & de Waal, F. (2020). Jealous Behavior in Chimpanzees Elicited by Social Intruders. *Affective Science*, 1(4), 199-207. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s42761-020-00019-5>

Goldsborough, Z., van Leeuwen, E. J. C., **Kolff, K. W. T.**, de Waal, F. B. M., & Webb, C. E. (2019). Do chimpanzees (*Pan troglodytes*) console a bereaved mother? *Springer*. <https://link.springer.com/article/10.1007/s10329-019-00752-x>

van Boekholt, B., **Kolff, K***, Vlaeyen, J. M., Abreu, F., Southern, L. M., Tibesar, P., & Pika, S. (in press). Turn-taking beyond humans: Insights from nonhuman animals. In International encyclopedia of language and linguistics. Elsevier.

Kolff, K., & Pika, S. (in revision). When grooming stalls: Assessing communicative repair, negotiation and progressivity.

Kolff, K., & Pika, S. (under review). Interactional infrastructure: The organisation of turn-taking during grooming interactions of chimpanzees in the wild.

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS:

Communicative repair in grooming interactions of wild-living chimpanzees (2025). Talk presented in symposium “*The rise and fall of the a chimpanzee community at Ngogo, Uganda*” (organised by Dr. A. Sandel, Dr. R. Reddy, Dr. J. Negrey and Dr. D. Watts) at the American Association of Biological Anthropologists, Denver, North America.

Unearthing the roots of medicinal behaviour and cognition in Pan species (2024). Talk presented in symposium “*Medical cognition in non-human primates: Prospects and challenges*” (organised by Prof. S. Pika and Dr. T. Deschner) at the 10th European Federation of Primatology, Lausanne, Zurich.

Insights into communicative repair in non-human primates: The case of chimpanzee grooming (2023). Talk presented in symposium “*Communicative repair: What is it, how did it evolve, and how can it be studied across species?*” (organised by Dr. R. Heesen and D. M. Fröhlich), at the Protolang 8 Conference Series, Rome, Italy.

Interactional success: The role of repair mechanisms in coordinating grooming interactions of chimpanzees (2023). Talk presented in symposium “*Coordinated interactions across nonhuman primates*” (organised by K.Kolff, Dr. F. Abreu and B. van Boekholt) at the 29th International Primatological Society Congress, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

Communicative repair in nonhuman primates: the role of multimodality. Poster presented at the 1st International MultiModal Communication Symposium, Barcelona, Spain.

The Evolutionary Roots of Human Communicative Repair: The Case of Chimpanzee Grooming (2022). Flash talk and poster presented at the Proceedings of Joint Conference on Language Evolution, Kanazawa, Japan.

AWARDS AND GRANTS:

2024	Conference travel grant from Gesellschaft für Primatologie and European Federation of Primatology
2023	Conference travel grant from Gesellschaft für Primatologie
2021	Doctoral fellowship - Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft (DFG) Research Training Group Situated Cognition