

Philipp Wicke | CV

Senior AI Lead, Zander Labs (Cottbus) – Lecturer, BTU Cottbus – Germany

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Profile

Research: Multimodal, generative artificial intelligence for language, robotics and societal use, extending to neuroadaptive systems that couple language models with brain and behavioural signals.

Teaching: Project-based programming and AI courses, from introductory programming to generative AI, taught to highly international cohorts.

Education & Positions



B.Sc. Cognitive Science University of Osnabrück (UOS), GER

Thesis: *Emoji in Computational Linguistic Creativity*

Advisor: Prof. Kai-Uwe Kühnberger, passed with distinction

- **2013–2017:** Focus on Machine Learning, Computer Science, Artificial Intelligence & Cognition



DAAD Research Intern Nanyang Technological University (NTU), SGP

Project: *Prediction of optimal brain surgery in epileptic patients*

Advisor: Prof. Justin Dauwels

- **2016:** Computational models for neurological (EEG) data analysis & deep learning training



Ph.D. Artificial Intelligence University College Dublin (UCD), IRL

Project: *Embodied Storytelling using Spatial Metaphor and Gesture*

Advisor: Prof. Tony Veale, passed without corrections

- **2017–2021:** Development and analysis of generative AI systems in the context of robotic storytelling



Assistant Professor (Akademischer Rat) Ludwig-Maximilian-University (LMU), GER

Center for Information and Language Processing (CIS) & Munich Center for Machine Learning (MCML)

- **2021–2025:** Permanent post (Akademischer Rat), tenured 2024; led an LLM and multimodal research line, taught and supervised.



Founding Member, AI Research Lead & VP AI AURYAL, GER

Neuroadaptive AI venture (SPRIND-funded)

Built and led the AI research and foundation-model work

- **2025–2026 :** Founding team of a SPRIND-funded neuro-technology venture; led AI research



Senior AI Lead Zander Labs, Cottbus, GER

Project lead on LLM and Brain-Computer Interface integration

Coupling generative reasoning models with passive brain-signal decoding

- **2026 (May)–present:** Lead the LLM/BCI integration project at the neuro-technology company

Lecturer (teaching assignment) Brandenburg University of Technology (BTU) Cottbus, GER

Course: *Language Models: ML Basics to Modern AI*

Designed and lectured; oversubscribed beyond its 100-student cap

- **2026–present:** Lecturer for the Large Language Models course (BSc/MSc)

Teaching Experience

2021–present: 👤 1 PhD co-supervision, supervised 5 Master's theses and 4 Bachelor's theses.

2026–present: 📖 Language Models: ML Basics to Modern AI, Lecturer. BTU Cottbus.

2022–2026: 📖 Applications of Comp. Linguistics & Cognitive Linguistics (Lecturer). LMU.

2021–2026: 📖 Introduction to Programming & Computational Creativity (Lecturer). LMU.

2020: 📺 Public Coding Class (Lecturer). Free online course for beginners. *AI For People*.

2018–2020: 📖 Tutor, Computer Science Support Center. Dept. of Computer Science, UCD.

2017–2020: 📖 Tutor / TA: Data Structures & Algorithms I, Programming I, Computer Programming I, Software Engineering, Computational Creativity. Dept. of Computer Science, UCD.

2016: 📖 Tutor, Introduction to Algorithms & Data Structures. Dept. of Computer Science, UOS.

2015–2016: 📖 Tutor, Software Development. Dept. of Computer Science, UOS.

Selected Publications

The works below span large-scale societal data analysis, multimodal generative models, a benchmark for language-conditioned robotics, and narrative generation. Most are first-author, and all have open releases:

1. Exploring Spatial Schema Intuitions in Large Language and Vision Models.

P. Wicke, L. Wachowiak. *Findings of ACL*, 2024. 🔗

✂️ *Contribution:* conceived the study, built the multimodal diagnostic data-set, implemented experiments, presented the work at ACL.

🌐 *Impact:* an early systematic probe of spatial schematic reasoning in multimodal generators; cited across subsequent LLM-cognition research.

2. Framing COVID-19: How We Conceptualise and Discuss the Pandemic on Twitter.

P. Wicke, M.M. Bolognesi. *PLOS ONE*, 2020. 🔗

✂️ *Contribution:* designed the +1-million-tweet pipeline, carried out the machine learning topic modelling, led the analysis.

🌐 *Impact:* >510 citations (June 28, 2026); covered by 10 news outlets 🔗.

3. LMs Stand Their Ground: Investigating the Effect of Embodiment in Figurative-Language Interpretation by Language Models.

P. Wicke. *Findings of ACL*, 2023. 🔗

✂️ *Contribution:* single-author work introducing a novel prompting technique for metaphor/embodiment transfer.

🌐 *Impact:* introduced an embodiment-probing method later extended at the Workshop on Analogical Abstraction in Cognition, Perception, and Language.

4. LoHoRavens: A Long-Horizon Language-Conditioned Benchmark for Robotic Table-Top Manipulation.

S. Zhang, P. Wicke, L.K. Senel *et al.* *Robot Learning Workshop @ NeurIPS*, 2023. 🔗

✂ *Contribution:* supervision of the generative task grammar, postdoctoral lead on the robotics contribution.

🌐 *Impact:* benchmark bridges language generation and real-world robotics; adopted as an evaluation benchmark by external groups (PERIA, NeurIPS 2024; RoboAnnotatorX, ICCV 2025).

5. A Cross-lingual Investigation of Conceptualization in 1335 Languages.

Y. Liu, H. Ye, L. Weissweiler, P. Wicke *et al.* *Proceedings of ACL* (main conference), 2023. [🔗](#)

✂ *Contribution:* co-author (4th of 7) on this main-track ACL study; contributed to the cross-lingual conceptualization analysis and evaluation.

🌐 *Impact:* one of the largest cross-lingual conceptualization studies to date (1335 languages); ACL main-track, ~20 citations.

Grants & Awards

2025: Contributor to a SPRIND-funded proposal (1M euro) that established AURYAL (neuro-tech).

2025: Center for Advanced Studies (CAS), LMU. Junior Researcher in Residence, SS 2025.

2017: UCD School of Computer Science Ph.D. Scholarship. 93.500 euro.

2018: Interdisciplinary College (IK'18). 3rd Best Poster Award.

2016: RISE Scholarship, Research Internships in Science and Engineering.

Academic Service (selected)

2026: **Chair, Lecturer & Organiser**, *Interdisciplinary College (IK) 2026: Bridging Realities of Brains, Language, and Technology*

2024–2026: **(Co-)Organiser**, *Cognitive Modeling and Computational Linguistics (CMCL)*, at ACL 2024 and LREC 2026

2023: **Area Chair**, *EMNLP 2023, Empirical Methods in Natural Language Processing*

2023: **Editorial Board & Senior Reviewer**, *CAIP 2023, Int. Conference on AI for People*

2020: **Proceedings Chair**, *ICCC 2020, Int. Conference on Computational Creativity*

2020: **Technical Programme Committee**, *EAI GoodTechs 2020, Track "AI for People"*

2024–2026: Reviewer: *IJCAI, ACL, NAACL, HRI, ICCV*

2023: Reviewer: *ICRA 2023, IROS 2023, ICCV 2023*

2021–2023: Reviewer (journals): *Language, Cognition & Neuroscience; Lingua; Frontiers in Computer Science; PLOS ONE (3x); AI & Society; Metaphor & Symbol; International Journal of Communication*

Invited Talks (selected)

2026: **Keynote Speaker**, *International Conference on Neuroadaptive Technology (NAT'26)*

2023–2025: Invited talks at Bielefeld (SFB 1646), Tübingen, Bologna, VU Amsterdam, RWTH Aachen, Radboud Nijmegen

Non-Academic, Relevant Experience



Head of AI Applications AI For People (*discontinued*)

Reference: Dr. Marta Ziosi (Founder)

✉ mziosi@adalovelaceinstitute.org

○ 2019–2024: Consultant turning research code into public-service tools; free coding education

List of Publications

2026

- CONFERENCE L. Mihić Zidar, P. Bhatia, **P. Wicke**, *From Interlocutor to Cognitive Extension: Brain-Computer Interface as a Step Beyond Dialogue in Conversational AI*, [ACM Conversational User Interfaces (CUI'26), Bremen, to appear], 2026.
- CONFERENCE L. Mihić Zidar, **P. Wicke**, P. Bhatia, R. Lutz, M. Klug, T.O. Zander, *Decoding Workload and Agreement from EEG during Spoken Dialogue with Conversational AI*, [14th Int. Winter Conference on Brain-Computer Interface], 2026. [🔗](#)

2025

- JOURNAL **P. Wicke**, M. M. Bolognesi, *Red and Blue Language: Word Choices in the Trump & Harris 2024 Presidential Debate*, [PLOS ONE, forthcoming], 2025. [🔗](#)
- CONFERENCE **P. Wicke**, *Exploring LLM's Interpretation of Gestures within Textual Contexts for Neuroadaptive Technologies*, [Neuroadaptive Technologies 2025], 2025. [🔗](#)
- CONFERENCE A. D. Hakimi, A. Modarressi, **P. Wicke**, H. Schütze, *Time Course MechInterp: Analyzing the Evolution of Components and Knowledge in Large Language Models*, [Findings of the ACL], 2025. [🔗](#)

2024

- CONFERENCE **P. Wicke**, L. Wachowiak, *Exploring Spatial Schema Intuitions in Large Language and Vision Models*, [Findings of the ACL], 2024. [🔗](#)
- CONFERENCE L. Hirlimann, S. Zhang, H. Schütze, **P. Wicke**, *Robustness Testing of Multi-Modal Models in Varied Home Environments for Assistive Robots*, [Geriatrics Summit], 2024. [🔗](#)
- ORGANISER T. Kuribayashi, G. Rambelli, E. Takmaz, **P. Wicke**, Y. Oseki (editors), *Proceedings of the Workshop on Cognitive Modeling and Computational Linguistics*, [CMCL 2024], 2024.
- ORGANISER M. Ziosi, G. Sartor, J. M. Cunha, A. Trotta, **P. Wicke** (editors), *Proceedings of the 2nd Conference on AI for People: Democratizing AI*, [CAIP 2023], 2024. [🔗](#)
- WORKSHOP **P. Wicke**, L. Hirlimann, J. M. Cunha, *Using Analogical Reasoning to Prompt LLMs for their Intuitions of Abstract Spatial Schemas*, [IJCAI Workshop on Analogical Abstraction], 2024. [🔗](#)

2023

- WORKSHOP S. Zhang, **P. Wicke**, L. K. Şenel, L. Figueredo, A. Naceri, S. Haddadin, B. Plank, *LoHoRavens: A Long-Horizon Language-Conditioned Benchmark for Robotic Table-Top Manipulation*, [NeurIPS, 6th Robot Learning Workshop], 2023. [🔗](#)
- CONFERENCE **P. Wicke**, *LMs Stand Their Ground: Investigating the Effect of Embodiment in Figurative-Language Interpretation by Language Models*, [Findings of the ACL], 2023. [🔗](#)
- CONFERENCE **P. Wicke**, L. K. Şenel, S. Zhang, L. Figueredo, A. Naceri, S. Haddadin, *Towards Language-Based Modulation of Assistive Robots through Multimodal Models*, [Geriatrics Summit], 2023. [🔗](#)
- CONFERENCE Y. Liu, H. Ye, L. Weissweiler, **P. Wicke**, R. Pei, R. Zangenfeind, H. Schütze, A *Cross-lingual Investigation of Conceptualization in 1335 Languages*, [ACL Main], 2023. [🔗](#)

2022

- WORKSHOP P. Wicke, *The Role of Gestures and Movement in Computational, Embodied Storytelling*, [ICCC'22 Workshop: TREPAC], 2022. [🔗](#)
- WORKSHOP P. Wicke, T. Veale, *Storytelling with Alexa and Nao*, [Dagstuhl Seminar 19172], 2022.
- JOURNAL R. Ramanayake, P. Wicke, V. Nallur, *Immune Moral Models? Pro-social Rule Breaking as a Moral-Enhancement Approach for Ethical AI*, [AI & Society 38(2)], 2022. [🔗](#)

2021

- JOURNAL P. Wicke, T. Veale, *Creative Action at a Distance: A Conceptual Framework for Embodied Performance with Robotic Actors*, [Frontiers in Robotics and AI 8], 2021. [🔗](#)
- JOURNAL P. Wicke, M. M. Bolognesi, *Covid-19 Discourse on Twitter*, [Frontiers in Communication 6], 2021. [🔗](#)
- CONFERENCE P. Wicke, T. Veale, *Are You Not Entertained? Computational Storytelling with Non-Verbal Interaction*, [ACM/IEEE HRI Companion], 2021. [🔗](#)
- CONFERENCE P. Wicke, T. Veale, *Walk the Line: Digital Storytelling as Embodied Spatial Performance*, [AISB 2021 (CC2021)], 2021.
- THESIS P. Wicke, *Computational Storytelling as an Embodied Robot Performance with Gesture and Spatial Metaphor*, [PhD Thesis, UCD], 2021. [🔗](#)

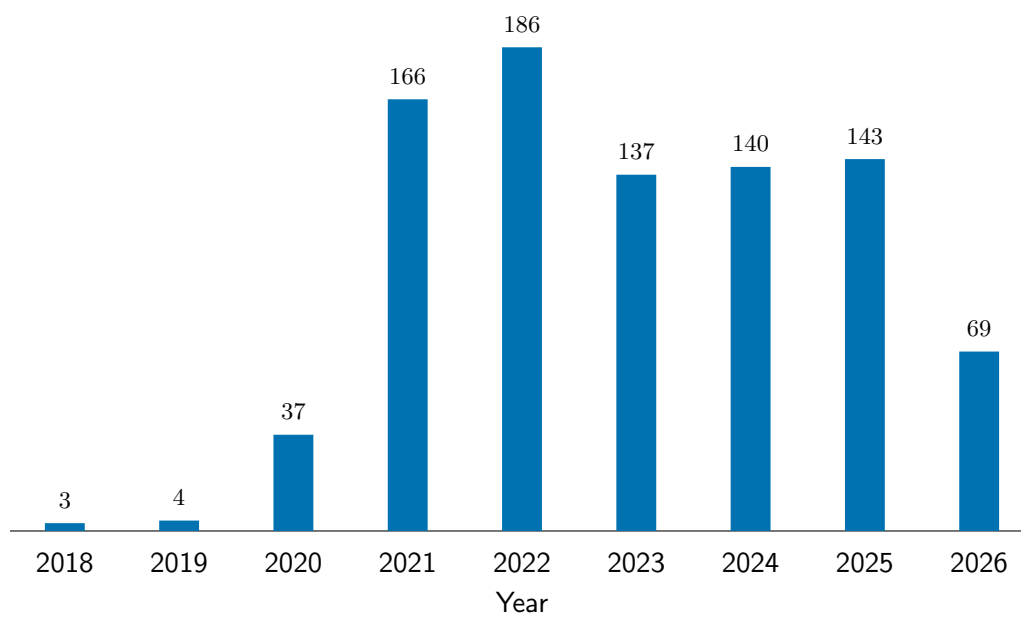
2020


- JOURNAL P. Wicke, M.M. Bolognesi, *Framing COVID-19: How We Conceptualize and Discuss the Pandemic on Twitter*, [PLOS ONE 15(9)], 2020. [🔗](#)
- JOURNAL P. Wicke, T. Veale, *The Show Must Go On: On the Use of Embodiment, Space and Gesture in Computational Storytelling*, [New Generation Computing 38(4)], 2020. [🔗](#)
- JOURNAL P. Wicke, M. Bolognesi, *Emoji-Based Semantic Representations for Abstract and Concrete Concepts*, [Cognitive Processing 21(4)], 2020. [🔗](#)
- CONFERENCE P. Wicke, T. Veale, *Show, Don't (Just) Tell: Embodiment and Spatial Metaphor in Computational Storytelling*, [ICCC 2020], 2020. [🔗](#)
- CONFERENCE P. Wicke, J.M. Cunha, *An Approach for Text-to-Emoji Translation*, [ICCC 2020], 2020. [🔗](#)

2017–2019

- CONFERENCE T. Veale, P. Wicke, T. Mildner, *Duets Ex Machina: On the Performative Aspects of "Double Acts" in Computational Creativity*, [ICCC 2019], 2019. [🔗](#)
- CONFERENCE P. Wicke, T. Veale, *Interview with the Robot: Question-Guided Collaboration in a Storytelling System*, [ICCC 2018], 2018. [🔗](#)
- CONFERENCE P. Wicke, T. Veale, *Storytelling by a Show of Hands: A Framework for Interactive Embodied Storytelling in Robotic Agents*, [AISB 2018], 2018.
- THESIS P. Wicke, *Ideograms as Semantic Primes: Emoji in Computational Linguistic Creativity*, [B.Sc. Dissertation, UOS], 2017. [🔗](#)

Citation Overview



Google Scholar (June 2026)  | Citations: 907 (all-time; bars 2018–2026) | h-index: 12