



## HIGHER EDUCATION

**PhD Behavioural Biology**

Anglia Ruskin University Cambridge, Behavioural Ecology Research Group

10/2016 – 11/2021

Thesis: *Benefits of Social Bonds in Horses. The Effect of Social Context on Heart Rate and Behaviour.*

Funded by a Life Science Studentship, Anglia Ruskin University

Completion with Minor Corrections

**MSc Behavioural Biology**

University of Vienna, Department of Ethology & Neurobiology

10/2005 – 11/2013

Thesis: *Behavioural and Physiological Effects of Horse-Assisted Therapy for Mother-Child Pairs with Insecure Attachment.*

Evaluation study, randomised control trial

Graduated with Distinction

**MPhil Educational Science**

University of Vienna, Department of Special Education

10/2004 – 07/2012

Thesis: *Psychoanalytic-Pedagogic Educational Counselling for Families with Children Diagnosed with ADHD. ADHD between Medicine and Psychoanalytical Pedagogy.*

Evaluation study

Graduated with Distinction

**Study Entry Phase Media & Communication Science**

University of Vienna

10/2004 – 06/2005



## RESEARCH

**Scientific Staff**

Centre for Evaluation, Department for Evidence-based Medicine and Evaluation

University for Continuing Education, Krems

09/2024 – ongoing

- Evaluating the EU-funded Joint Action Programme in Cancer Screening: EUCan-Screen.
- Evaluating local, Austrian health promotion initiatives.
- Scientific support of the research project REMOVE: De-Implementation of low-value care for patients from a system perspective.

**Research, Evaluation, and Learning Manager**

RED NOSES International, Vienna

12/2022 – 05/2024

- Professionalising research, monitoring, and evaluation of Healthcare Clowning projects as form of arts for mental health and wellbeing.
- Planning research and M&E activities for Healthcare Clowning in the context of hospitalisation and migration.

- Developing a homogenised M&E system for projects in Jordan and Palestine.
- Supervision and review of research and evaluation projects including reporting.
- Planning annual strategy and key initiatives for the research & learning department.
- Compilation and dissemination of research findings for different stakeholder groups.
- Support of grant applications.
- Conceptualising and carrying out stakeholder workshops on research and evaluation.
- International collaboration with donors, evaluators, researchers, and stakeholders.

## Postdoc: Welfare of Companion and Farm Animals

University of Veterinary Medicine, Institute of Animal Welfare Science, Vienna

11/2021 – 03/2023

- Teaching qualitative and quantitative research methods & animal welfare.
- (Co-)Supervision of research students (MSc /PhD).
- Research activities: survey data collection, statistical analysis, reporting.
- Authoring & co-authoring publications.

## Research Volunteer E-Governance Survey

United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UNDESA)

08/2021 – 01/2022

- Data collection for the E-Government Survey 2022 across selected UN member states evaluating their online service provision.
- International collaboration to validate data.

## EU Research Project Manager

Academy for Research on Ageing at the “Haus der Barmherzigkeit”, Vienna

04/2014 – 05/2017

- Lead researcher in EU-funded projects on ambient assisted living and artificial intelligence applications (STRANDS, HOBBIT).
- Establishing frameworks for requirement analysis and service evaluations.
- Data collection & analysis (quantitative, qualitative, and mixed methods).
- Dissemination of findings on a scientific and non-scientific level.
- International and interdisciplinary collaboration with researchers, stakeholders, and system and service end-users.

## Research Associate: Effects of Animal-Assisted Activities on Stress Coping in Children

University of Vienna & University of Rostock

06/2009

- Preparation of the research setting, applying the Trier Stress Test, collection of saliva samples, support of participants.
- Evaluation of a therapeutic intervention.

## Research Associate: Neuro-Feedback-Training and Learning

Medical University Vienna, University Hospital for Neurology

08/2008 – 10/2008

- Set EEG's, data collection, support of participants.
- Evaluation of innovative learning approaches.

## Research Associate: Attachment between the Mother and her Baby

University of Vienna, Institute for Educational Science

10/2007 – 10/2008

- Digitalisation of video material.

## Research Intern: ADHD Prevention & Psychotherapy Research focusing on Depression

Sigmund-Freud-Institute Frankfurt/Main

09/2007

- Supporting the implementation of randomized control trials.
- Evaluation of prevention programs and therapeutic offers.



## TEACHING IN HIGHER EDUCATION

### External Lecturer of Quantitative Research Methods and Animal Welfare

University of Veterinary Medicine, Institute of Animal Welfare Science, Vienna

03/2023 – ongoing

- Planning and conceptualization of a course on quantitative research methods for Master students
- Focus on survey design and survey data analysis.

### External Lecturer of Statistical Foundations and Data Analysis

University of Vienna, Institute for Educational Science

03/2022 – 08/2023

- Planning and conceptualization of a course on quantitative research methods and statistical analysis for Bachelor students.
- Teaching and students' assessments.

### University Assistant Lecturer

Anglia Ruskin University, Department of Biology, Cambridge

10/2017 – 01/2020

- Supporting the teaching of Bachelor and Master students in classroom-, laboratory-, and IT-based settings as well as field courses.
- Topics: research methods, statistics, and behavioural ecology.

### University Lecturing Tutor

University of Vienna, Institute for Educational Science

03/2008 – 02/2010

- Author and support of e-learning platforms, development and execution of tests, lecture activities, administration, student support.



## ADDITIONAL QUALIFICATIONS

### IT & Statistical Skills

Very good command of office applications and analysis software **R, SPSS, NVivo**.

### Languages

German	First language
English	Proficient (Working language)
Arabic (MSA)	B1 and still learning

**Advanced Education**

10/2023-	<b>Online Monitoring &amp; Evaluation Certification Programme:</b> International Training
11/2023	Centre of the International Labour Organisation (ITC ILO), Turin, Italy
03/2023	<b>Facilitation Training:</b> Red Noses International, Vienna, Austria
10/2019-	<b>Fellowship of the Higher Education Academy:</b> training and teaching practice
06/2020	in higher education with a focus on multi-modal, inclusive, and active learning, Anglia Ruskin University, Cambridge
02/2019	<b>Fundamentals of Animal Emotions:</b> PhD training, Wageningen University, Netherlands
11/2018	<b>Trends in Stress Biology:</b> PhD training, Aarhus University, Denmark
10/2014	<b>Medical Statistic:</b> Danube University Krems, Austria

**PEDAGOGICAL AND HUMANITARIAN WORK****Volunteer in Refugee Aid Vienna (face2face, online)**

08/2015 – 12/2022

- Organising and collecting basic supply donations for incoming refugees.
- Aiding with language acquisition.
- Translations, assistance with doctoral visits, and administrative processes.

**Equine-Assisted Therapist & Centered Riding Instructor**

Mit Pferde(n) Stärken, Kaltenleutgeben

01/2012 – 12/2015

**Equine-Assisted Therapist & Centered Riding Instructor**

Schottenhof - Center for Animal-Assisted Pedagogy, Vienna

09/2012 – 08/2013

**Intern Equine-Assisted Therapy**

Verein Emotion, Vienna

08/2007 &amp; 10/2011-01/2012

**Management Assistant for Youth Work**

Wiener Familienbund, Vienna

01/2011 – 01/2012

**German Language & Teaching Aid for Pupils with Migration Background**

INTERFACE, Vienna

10/2010 – 06/2011

**Youth Worker for Children & Youths in Public Areas of Conflict**

Wiener Familienbund, Vienna

05 – 09 2010 &amp; 2011

2006 – 2016



## JOURNAL PAPERS

- Kuduzović J., DeFaveri S., Roessler M., & **Hebesberger D.V.**, 2025: The effect of healthcare clowning in a paediatric allergology ward: perspectives of children, their parents, medical staff, and clowns themselves. *Arts & Health*, under review.
- Gillhofer E.M., **Hebesberger D.V.**, Waiblinger S., Künzel F., Rouha-Mülleder C., Mariti Ch., & Windschnurer I., 2024: Husbandry Conditions and Welfare State of Pet Chinchillas (*Chinchilla lanigera*) and Caretakers' Perception of Stress and Emotional Closeness to Their Animals. *Animals*. 14(21), 3155.
- Moser-Siegmeth V., **Hebesberger D.V.**, Weninger M., Gambal M., Jelovacak M., Prytek B., Swietalsky I., Würzl D., Mühlegger V., & Fida C., 2019: Anpassungsfähigkeit von Bewohnern eines Pflegekrankenhauses am Beispiel einer Veränderung der Essenszeit – ein Mixed-methods-Design. Adaptability in nursing hospital residents exemplified by a change in mealtimes – a mixed-methods design. *HeilberufeScience*, 10(2).
- Safryghin A., **Hebesberger D.V.**, & Wascher C.A.F., 2019: Testing for Behavioral and Physiological Responses of Domestic Horses (*Equus caballus*) Across Different Contexts – Consistency Over Time and Effects of Context. *Frontiers in Psychology*, 10, Article 849
- Hebesberger D.**, Beetz A., Winkler N., Julius H., Unväs-Moberg K., & Kotrschal K., 2019: Behavioral and Physiological Effects of Horse-assisted Therapy for Mother-Child Pairs with Insecure Attachment. *Human-Animal Interaction Bulletin*, 7(1), pp.24-37.
- Hebesberger D.**, Koertner T., Gisinger Ch., & Pripfl J., 2017: A long-term autonomous robot at a care hospital: A mixed-methods study on acceptance and user experience. *International Journal of Social Robotics*, pp.417-29.
- Hawes N., Burbridge Ch., Jovan F., Kunze L., Mudrova L., Young J., Wyatt J., **Hebesberger D.**, Kortner T., Ambrus R., Bore N., Folkesson J., Jensfelt P., Beyer L., Hermans A., Leibe B., Aldoma A., Faulhammer T., Zillich M., Vincze M., Chinellato E., Al-Omari M., Duckworth P., Gatsoulis Y., Hogg D.C., Cohn A.G., Dondrup Ch., Fentanes J.P., Krajnik T., Santos J.M., Duckett T., & Hanheide M., 2017: The STRANDS Project: Long-Term Autonomy in Everyday Environments. *IEEE Robotics & Automation Magazine*, 24(3), pp.146-56.
- Gerling K.\*, **Hebesberger D.\***, Dondrup Ch., Körtner T., & Hanheide M., 2016: Robot deployment in long-term care. Case study of a mobile robot to support physiotherapy. *Zeitschrift für Gerontologie und Geriatrie*, 49(4), pp.288-97.
- \*equal contributions**
- Pripfl J., Körtner T., Batko-Klein D., **Hebesberger D.**, Weninger M., & Gisinger Ch., 2016: Social service robots to support independent living: Experiences from a field trial. *Zeitschrift für Gerontologie und Geriatrie*, 49(4), pp.282-87.



## CONFERENCE CONTRIBUTIONS

- Waiblinger, S., Weixlbaum, A., **Hebesberger, D.V.**, 2025: Will you trust me? Behaviour of calves towards their caretakers and vice versa in cow-calf contact rearing systems with pasture. ISAE 2025, 58<sup>th</sup> *Congress of the International Society for Applied Ethology*. Utrecht, Netherlands, oral presentation.
- Waiblinger, S., Weixlbaum, A., **Hebesberger, D.V.**, & Licka, T., 2024: Back health of horses used for animal-assisted interventions is associated with housing, equipment and use. ECAWBM 2024, *Congress of the European College for Behavioural Medicine and Animal Welfare*, oral presentation.
- Waiblinger S. & **Hebesberger D.V.**, 2023: Cow-calf contact rearing in pasture-based dairy production – Farmer’s motivations and experiences. ISAE 2023, 56<sup>th</sup> *Congress of the International Society for Applied Ethology*. Tallinn, Estonia, oral presentation.
- Schützing M., **Hebesberger D.V.**, Wess L., Böhm A., Riemer S., Yee J.R., Affenzeller N., & Arhant Ch., 2022: Cooperative care training as a means to prepare dogs (*Canis lupus familiaris*) for a veterinary examination an evaluation of owner-perception and the training process. EVCBMAW 2022, *European Congress of Behavioural Medicine and Animal Welfare*, oral presentation.
- Hebesberger D.V.**, Dunn C.J., Hawkins D., & Wascher C.A.F., 2022: Friends with benefits? Assessment of bond-related social buffering effects in domestic horses (*Equus caballus*). ECBB 2022, *European Conference on Behavioural Biology*. Groningen, Netherlands, oral presentation.
- Hebesberger D.V.**, Gilhofer E.M., Waiblinger S., Rouha-Mülleder C., Mariti Ch., Künzel F., & Windschnurer I., 2022: Social Housing Conditions, Social and Repetitive Behaviour in Pet-Chinchillas (*Chinchilla lanigera*) – a Questionnaire Based Pilot Study. ECBB 2022, *European Conference on Behavioural Biology*. Groningen, Netherlands, poster presentation.
- Hebesberger D.V.**, Dunn C.J., Hawkins D., & Wascher C.A.F., 2021: Group housing in horses: the effect of social interactions on horses' heart rate. ISES 2021 Advancing Equestrian Practice, *International Society for Equitation Science*. Online conference, poster presentation.
- Hebesberger D.V.**, Dunn C.J., Hawkins D., & Wascher C.A.F., 2021: A source of stress or well-being? The effects of social interactions on the heart rate of group-housed domestic horses. *Animal Welfare Research Network Annual Meeting 2021*. Bristol, England, oral presentation.
- Hebesberger D.V.**, Dunn C.J., Hawkins D., & Wascher C.A.F., 2021: The effects of social interactions on heart rates of group-housed domestic horses. ISAE 2021, *International Conference of Applied Ethology*. Bangalore, India, oral presentation.

**Hebesberger D.V.**, Dunn C.J., Hawkins D., & Wascher C.A.F., 2021: Group-housing of domestic horses – a potential source of social stress? HETI 2021, *The Federation of Horses in Education & Therapy International 17<sup>th</sup> Congress*. Seoul, Korea, oral presentation.

Hanheide M., **Hebesberger D.**, & Krajnik T., 2016: The When; Where; and How: An Adaptive Robotic Info-Terminal for Care Home Residents – A long-term Study. HRI 2017, *ACE/IEEE International Conference on Human-Robot Interaction*.

\*Nominated for Best Paper Award, HRI 2017

**Hebesberger D.**, Hanheide M., Koertner T., Gisinger Ch., & Hawes N., 2016: Houston, we have a Problem! Challenges of Studying Robots in Real-World Trials. RO-MAN 2016, *IEEE International Symposium on Robot and Human Interactive Communication*.

Koertner T., **Hebesberger D.**, & Gisinger Ch., 2016: The Ethics of Deploying a Robot – Examples from a Mobile Service Robot. RO-MAN 2016, *IEEE International Symposium on Robot and Human Interactive Communication*.

**Hebesberger D.**, Dondrup C., Koertner T., Gisinger Ch., & Pripfl J., 2015: Lessons learned from the deployment of a long-term autonomous robot as a companion in physical therapy for older adults with dementia. A Mixed Methods Study. HRI 2016, *ACE/IEEE International Conference on Human-Robot Interaction*.

\*Best Study Award, HRI 2016

**Hebesberger D.**, Dondrup C., Gisinger Ch., & Hanheide M., 2017: Patterns of Use: How Older Adults with Progressed Dementia Interact with a Robot. Late-Breaking Report HRI 2017, *ACE/IEEE International Conference on Human-Robot Interaction*.

Pripfl J., Körtner T., Batko-Klein D., **Hebesberger D.**, Weninger M., Gisinger Ch., Frennert S., Efring H., Antona M., Adami I., Weiss A., Bajones M., & Vincze M., 2016: Results of a Real World Trial with a Mobile Social Service Robot for Older Adults. Late Breaking Report HRI 2016, *International Conference on Human-Robot Interaction*.

**Hebesberger D.**, Koertner T., Hanheide M., Pripfl J., & Gisinger Ch., 2015: What do staff in eldercare want a robot for? An assessment of potential tasks and user requirements for a long-term deployment. IROS 2015, *IEEE/RSJ International Conference on Intelligent Robots and Systems*.

**Hebesberger D.**, Beetz, A., & Kotrschal K., 2014: Behavioural and Physiological Effects of Horse-assisted Therapy for Mother-Child Pairs with Insecure Attachment. ISAZ 2014, *International Society for Anthrozoology – Animals and Humans Together: Integration in Society*.



## RESEARCH INSIGHTS

- Hebesberger D.V.,** DeFaveri S., Roessler M., 2025: *Clowning for Older Adults*. Research Nugget. RED NOSES International. Online under URL: [https://www.rednoses.org/fileadmin/international/4\\_What\\_we\\_do/3\\_Scientific\\_Research/The\\_Elderly/Research\\_Nugget\\_3\\_-\\_Clowning\\_for\\_Older\\_Adults.pdf](https://www.rednoses.org/fileadmin/international/4_What_we_do/3_Scientific_Research/The_Elderly/Research_Nugget_3_-_Clowning_for_Older_Adults.pdf)
- Hebesberger D.V.,** DeFaveri S., Roessler M., 2023: *Clowning in hospitals. How arts and humour can support the mental health of hospitalised children and their parents*. Research Nugget. RED NOSES International. Online under URL: [https://www.rednoses.org/fileadmin/international/4\\_What\\_we\\_do/3\\_Scientific\\_Research/Research\\_Nugget\\_Mental\\_health\\_of\\_hospitalised\\_children\\_and\\_their\\_parents.pdf](https://www.rednoses.org/fileadmin/international/4_What_we_do/3_Scientific_Research/Research_Nugget_Mental_health_of_hospitalised_children_and_their_parents.pdf)
- Hebesberger D.V.,** DeFaveri S., 2023: *Healthcare Clowning positively impacts children with autism spectrum disorder*. Research at a Glance. RED NOSES International. Online under URL: <https://www.rednoses.org/what-we-do/research-insights/#image-1>
- Hebesberger D.V.,** DeFaveri S., 2023: *Older adults living with dementia benefit from clown visits*. Research at a Glance. RED NOSES International. Online under URL: <https://www.rednoses.org/what-we-do/research-insights/#image-2>
- Hebesberger D.V.,** DeFaveri S., 2023: *Children benefit from clown support before going into surgery*. Research at a Glance. RED NOSES International. Online under URL: <https://www.rednoses.org/what-we-do/research-insights/#image-3>
- Hebesberger D.V.,** DeFaveri S., 2023: *Multiple studies show the benefits of healthcare clowning in children undergoing invasive medical procedures*. Research at a Glance. RED NOSES International. Online under URL: <https://www.rednoses.org/what-we-do/research-insights/#image-4>