

DR. NADJA-MIRA YOLCU

Esslingen, January 2026

WORK ADDRESS

University of Mannheim
Department of Philosophy
68161 Mannheim, Germany
nadja-mira.yolcu@uni-mannheim.de
[Website](#)

BRIEF PROFILE

- Post-doctoral researcher at the University of Mannheim; from 02/2026 Heidelberg University
- Focus on philosophy of language and mind – mainly psychological expressivism and pragmatics

RESEARCH AREAS

AoS	Philosophy of Language and Mind (mainly psychological expressivism, pragmatics)
AoC	Epistemology, Philosophy of Fiction, Thought Experiments, Semantics of Proper names and Descriptions, Wittgenstein, History of Analytic Philosophy

ACADEMIC EMPLOYMENT

from 02/2026 (planned)	Post-Doctoral Researcher , Heidelberg University Chair of Theoretical Philosophy, principal: Prof. Dr. Jochen Briesen
05/2024–01/2026 (ongoing)	Post-Doctoral Researcher , University of Mannheim Chair of Theoretical Philosophy/Philosophy of Language, principal: Prof. Dr. Wolfgang Freitag
07/2018–04/2024	Academic Staff Member & Doctoral student , University of Mannheim Chair of Theoretical Philosophy/Philosophy of Language, principal: Prof. Dr. Wolfgang Freitag
04/2023–05/2023	Academic Staff Member , Goethe University Frankfurt Chair of Theoretical Philosophy, principal: Prof. Dr. Alexandra Zinke <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Short-time project work in the research project “Dimensions of Doubt”, PI: Alexandra Zinke
01/2021–09/2021	Research Assistant , University of Connecticut Department of Philosophy, principal: Prof. Dr. Dorit Bar-On <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Research assistance for the project “Expression and Self-Knowledge”
10/2013–12/2017	Student Research Assistant , University of Freiburg Chair in Epistemology and Theory of Science, UCF, principal: Prof. Dr. Wolfgang Freitag

EDUCATION

- 09/2018–04/2024 **Doctoral Studies in Philosophy**
Chair of Theoretical Philosophy/Philosophy of Language, University of Mannheim
- Dissertation “Expression and Negation: An Expressivist Account of Disavowals” (submitted 12/2022, defended 04/2024): *summa cum laude*
 - Examiners: Prof. Dr. Wolfgang Freitag (University of Mannheim), Prof. Dr. Dorit Bar-On (University of Connecticut)
- 10/2015–07/2017 **BPhil in Philosophy (Master’s Degree)**
University of Oxford, Trinity College
- 10/2012–05/2015 **Bachelor in Philosophy (75%), Psychology (25%)**
Heidelberg University (advisor: Prof. Dr. Andreas Kemmerling)

FUNDING AND RESEARCH ACTIVITIES

FUNDED GRANTS AND SCHOLARSHIPS (total ≈ 52,600 EUR)

- 05/2025 Stipend, Baden-Württemberg/Connecticut Faculty Mobility Program stipend for travel and accommodation costs (2,250 EUR) for a short research visit at the University of Connecticut in October 2025
- 11/2019 Women Go Abroad – Mobility Grants for Young Female Researchers, University of Mannheim (5,000 EUR) for research stay at the University of Connecticut (March 2–April 24, 2020)
- 07/2019 IDEUM grant, University of Mannheim (500 EUR) participation in “The Norwegian Summer Institute on Language and Mind”
- 09/2015–07/2017 Study abroad scholarship, Studienstiftung des deutschen Volkes (tuition fee contribution of 20,000 EUR; monthly maintenance grant of 350 EUR)
- 12/2012–07/2017 Scholar, Studienstiftung des deutschen Volkes (German National Academic Foundation, Germany’s largest and most prestigious scholarship foundation) (monthly maintenance grant of 300 EUR)

GRANT APPLICATIONS (PI)

- 12/2025 submitted *Expressing the Mind: Language, Attitudes, and Reasons* (Olympia-Morata Program, Heidelberg University), proposal submitted

SUPPORT FOR RESEARCH PROPOSALS AND GRANTS

- in preparation Support for the research proposal for the project “*Because We Give Reasons: An Expressivist Approach*”, PI: Wolfgang Freitag, DFG, 3 years, volume roughly 314,500 EUR
- Literature review and co-writing of the proposal, including work schedule and budget plan

- 2022 Support for the research proposal for Start-up Funding by the University of Mannheim for the project “Reason and Expression”, PI: Wolfgang Freitag, granted: 8,300 EUR
- Literature review and co-writing of the proposal
- 2020 Support for the research proposal for extension of the funding period for the project “Mind the Meaning: The Philosophy of Psychological Expressivism”, PI: Wolfgang Freitag, Fritz Thyssen Foundation, granted: 123,560 EUR
- Literature review and co-writing of the proposal, including work schedule and budget plan
- 2020 Support for the Funding Proposal for the Conference *Varieties of Philosophical Expressivism* (PI: W. Freitag)
Fritz Thyssen Foundation, granted: 9,000 EUR, GAP: 500 EUR
- 2019 Support for the Funding Proposal for the Conference *Perspectives on First-Person Thought* (PI: W. Freitag)
DFG, granted: 3,500 EUR, GAP: 500 EUR

RESEARCH VISITS AND AFFILIATIONS

- 07/2020–today **Affiliated Member**, Research group “Expression, Communication and the Origins of Meaning”
Director: Prof. Dr. Dorit Bar-On, University of Connecticut
- 10/2021–09/2024 **Member**, Network “Thinking About Suspension”
Coordinators: Prof. Dr. Verena Wagner (HU Berlin), Prof. Dr. Alexandra Zinke (University of Frankfurt)
- 04/2023–05/2023 **Member**, Project “Dimensions of Doubt”
PI: Prof. Dr. Alexandra Zinke, Goethe University Frankfurt
- 07/2018–06/2022 **Member**, Project “Mind the Meaning: The Philosophy of Psychological Expressivism,” PI: Prof. Dr. Wolfgang Freitag, University of Mannheim
- 03/2020–04/2020 **Visiting Researcher**, Department of Philosophy, University of Connecticut
Supervisor: Prof. Dr. Dorit Bar-On, research stay for 8 weeks (from March 18 onwards digitally from abroad due to the global outbreak of Covid-19)
- 07/2019–08/2019 **Participant**, The Norwegian Summer Institute on Language and Mind: Cognition, acquisition, and representation, University of Oslo (summer school, two weeks)

PROFICIENCIES

- 10/2024–today **Baden-Württemberg Certificate for Teaching and Learning at University Level**, University of Mannheim
- Module 1 & 2 completed, Module 3 ongoing

PUBLICATIONS (total 8, peer-reviewed 5 (*))

accepted*	“Expressing the Absence of Emotion” (for special issue “Expressive Acts” of <i>Review of Philosophy and Psychology</i>)
2026*	“Negative Avowals and Expressing Absence”, <i>Synthese</i> .
2025*	“Moore’s Paradox”. WSK Semantik & Pragmatik, Dictionary, in German (with W. Freitag).
2024	<i>Expression and Negation: An Expressivist Account of Disavowals</i> . Doctoral Dissertation, University of Mannheim Library.
2022*	“Vindicating Avowal Expressivism: A Note on Rosenthal’s Performance-Conditional Equivalence Thesis”, <i>Phenomenology and Mind</i> , 188–198.
2021*	“An expressivist solution to Moorean paradoxes”, together with Wolfgang Freitag, <i>Synthese</i> , https://doi.org/10.1007/s11229-020-03012-4 .
2019	<i>Edmund L. Gettier: Is Justified True Belief Knowledge? / Ist wahre, gerechtfertigte Überzeugung Wissen?</i> German translation and commentary, edited together with Marc Andree Weber, Reclam.
2015	“Eine kurze Einleitung in die Freiburger Philosophie”, with Katharina Kraus, Chinese translation in: Huang Yusheng (ed.), <i>Tsinghua Studies in Western Philosophy</i> vol. 1 no. 2, Tsinghua University Beijing, China.

WORK IN PROGRESS

(in preparation, submission planned: 02/26)	“Illocution and Expression: The Case of Assertion” (with W. Freitag)
(in preparation, submission planned: 03/2026)	“Expressing Suspension of Belief”
(in preparation, advanced)	“Expressing Epistemic Reasons”
(in preparation, advanced)	Several entries for WSK Semantik & Pragmatik, in German: Eigenname, Einstellungsbekundung (avowal), Expressivismus (with W. Freitag), Gattungsname, Kausalität (with W. Freitag), Kausaltheorie der Bezugnahme, Kausalkette,
(in preparation, submission planned: 03/2026)	Book Proposal for <i>Expression and Negation: An Expressivist Account of Disavowals</i> . Based on the Doctoral Dissertation.
(in preparation)	“The Status of Fictive Utterances: Plot Twists as an Argument for the Assertion View?”

PRESENTATIONS (total 45; invited 13 (°), peer reviewed 14 (*))

01/2026 (planned)	<i>Expressing Suspension of Belief</i> , Job Talk, HU Berlin
01/2026°	<i>Expressing Epistemic Reasons</i> , RMN Epistemology Workshop Heidelberg–Mannheim–Cologne, Heidelberg University
12/2025°	<i>The Reason-Giving ‘Because’</i> (joint work with Wolfgang Freitag), Bochum Language Colloquium, University of Bochum
12/2025°	<i>Negative Avowals: Expressing Absence and Expressing Suspension</i> , Goethe University Frankfurt, pre-read and talk in research seminar (Prof. Dr. Alexandra Zinke & Prof. Dr. Cornelia Ebert)
11/2025	<i>Ebenen des ‘Weil’</i> (with Wolfgang Freitag), Workshop on “Because” with Hans Rott, Eric Raidl and Werner Frey, University of Mannheim
10/2025°	<i>Expressing Suspension of Belief</i> , ECOM Speaker Series, University of Connecticut
10/2025°	<i>The Reason-Giving “Because”</i> (with Wolfgang Freitag), Departmental Brown Bag Talk, University of Connecticut
09/2025*	<i>The Reason-Giving “Because”</i> (with Wolfgang Freitag), Conference “GAP.12”, Heinrich Heine University Düsseldorf
07/2025	<i>Expression and Negation: An Expressivist Account of Negative Avowals</i> , Job Talk, University of Tübingen
06/2025	<i>The Status of Fictive Utterances: Plot Twists as an Argument for the Assertion View?</i> Job Talk, Heidelberg University
05/2025°	<i>The Reason-Giving “Because”</i> (with Wolfgang Freitag), Workshop “WiPP”, Saarland and Heidelberg University
05/2025*	<i>The Reason-Giving “Because”</i> (with Wolfgang Freitag), Conference “PhiLang 2025,” Łódź
05/2025°	<i>Expressing Suspension</i> , Colloquium of Theoretical Philosophy (Alexandra Zinke), Goethe University Frankfurt
01/2025°	<i>Ausdruck und Negation: Eine expressivistische Analyse negativer Selbstzuschreibungen mentaler Zustände</i> , Gastvortrag (Guest lecture in German), Saarland University
12/2024°	<i>Expressing Suspension</i> , Colloquium of Theoretical Philosophy (Jochen Briesen), Heidelberg University
12/2024	<i>The Reason-Giving “Because”</i> , Mannheim-Frankfurt Meeting, University of Mannheim

10/2024	<i>The Reason-Giving “Because”</i> , Workshop with Manfred Krifka, University of Mannheim
09/2024*	<i>Expressing Suspension with Disavowals</i> , XXVI. Kongress der Deutschen Gesellschaft für Philosophie (DKPhil 2024)
06/2024°	<i>Negative Avowals and Expressing Absence</i> , Workshop “WiPP”, Saarland University
03/2024*	<i>Précis of my dissertation “Expression and Negation: An Expressivist Account of Disavowals,”</i> book symposium at the G27 group meeting, University of Erlangen-Nuremberg
09/2023*	<i>Expressivism for Negative Avowals</i> , Conference “ECAP.11,” University of Vienna (talk withdrawn)
05/2023*	<i>The Expressive “Because”</i> (with Wolfgang Freitag), Conference “PhiLang 2023,” Łódź (talk withdrawn)
04/2023°	<i>Negative Selbstzuschreibungen mentaler Zustände: Eine expressivistische Analyse</i> , Guest lecture, Saarland University (talk withdrawn)
09/2022*	<i>Expressive Denegation: Presenting myself as not being in a mental state</i> , Conference “GAP.11: Philosophie & Öffentlichkeit”, HU Berlin
07/2022°	<i>Psychological Expressivism and Expressive Denegation</i> , Workshop “Rhineland Expressivism Workshop Event (REWE)”, University of Bonn (online)
05/2022	<i>Psychological Expressivism and Expressive Denegation</i> , Workshop “Varieties of Philosophical Expressivism”, Mannheim
04/2022°	<i>Psychological Expressivism</i> (together with Felix Bräuer) Workshop “Mind the Meaning: The Philosophy of Psychological Expressivism”, Tsinghua University of Beijing (online)
02/2022*	<i>Expressive Denegation</i> , ECOM Graduate Conference “Kinds of Expression”, University of Connecticut (online)
09/2021*	<i>Vindicating Avowal Expressivism: A Note on Rosenthal’s Performance-Conditional Equivalence Thesis</i> , 2021 San Raffaele School of Philosophy “Mind, Language, and the First-Person Perspective”, Milan (online)
09/2021*	<i>No Expressivism for Disavowals? I don’t think so.</i> XXV. Kongress der Deutschen Gesellschaft für Philosophie (DGPhil 2020/2021; online)
05/2021*	<i>Illocution and Expression</i> (with Wolfgang Freitag), PhiLang 2021, Łódź (online)
05/2021*	<i>The Dual Use of Avowals and its Methodological Relevance for Empirical Research</i> (together with Felix Bräuer), First-Person Science Consciousness, Witten/Herdecke University (online)

03/2021	<i>Disavowals: A Challenge for Expressivism?</i> ECOM Spotlight Series, University of Connecticut (online)
09/2020	<i>An Expressivist Solution to Moorean Paradoxes</i> (together with Wolfgang Freitag), Workshop “Mind the Meaning: The Philosophy of Psychological Expressivism”, Tsinghua University of Beijing (postponed to 2021/22 due to the Covid-19 outbreak)
09/2020*	<i>No Expressivism for Disavowals? I don't think so.</i> XXV. Kongress der Deutschen Gesellschaft für Philosophie (DGPhil 2020) (postponed to 2021/22 due to the Covid-19 outbreak)
05/2020	<i>TBA</i> (together with Wolfgang Freitag), Workshop “Varieties of Philosophical Expressivism”, Mannheim (postponed to 2021/22 due to the Covid-19 outbreak)
03/2020	<i>Solving Moore's Paradox: Going Expressivist</i> (joint work with Wolfgang Freitag), Expression, Meaning, and Self-Knowledge (graduate seminar, Instructor: Prof Dr Dorit Bar-On), University of Connecticut
10/2019*	<i>Wittgenstein's True Solution to Moore's Paradox</i> (joint work with Wolfgang Freitag), 130 years Ludwig Wittgenstein: 1889-2019, Sofia
09/2019	<i>An Expressivist Solution to Moorean Paradoxes</i> (together with Wolfgang Freitag), Mini Workshop with Dorit Bar-On, Mannheim
09/2019*	<i>Is there Expressive Denegation?</i> SOPhiA 2019, Salzburg
07/2019	<i>Disavowals and Expressive Denegation</i> (poster presentation), Summer School “The Norwegian Summer Institute on Language and Mind: Cognition, acquisition and representation”, Oslo
05/2019	<i>Is there Expressive Denegation?</i> Workshop “Perspectives on First-Person Thought”, Mannheim
05/2019*	<i>Is there Expressive Denegation?</i> PhiLang 2019, Łódź
09/2018*	<i>Explicit Cancellability of Conversational Implicatures</i> , SOPhiA 2018, Salzburg
11/2016	<i>A Reply to Stone's Unlucky Gettier Cases</i> , Ockham Society, Oxford

TEACHING

Summer term 2026 (planned)	<i>Life, Death and Freedom: The Philosophy of Suicide</i> , seminar, Heidelberg University, undergraduate level, in German <i>Philosophical Perspectives on Digital Communication</i> , seminar, Heidelberg University, undergraduate level, in German
Winter term 2025	<i>Introduction to Metaphysics</i> , seminar, University of Mannheim undergraduate level, in German <i>Philosophy of Fiction</i> , seminar, University of Mannheim undergraduate level, in German
Spring term 2025	<i>Introduction to Formal Logic</i> , Übung, University of Mannheim undergraduate level, in German <i>Philosophy of Language: Pragmatics</i> , seminar, University of Mannheim undergraduate level, in German
Winter term 2024	<i>Philosophy of Language: Semantics</i> , seminar, University of Mannheim undergraduate level, in German
Spring term 2024	<i>Thought Experiments</i> , seminar, University of Mannheim undergraduate level, in German
Spring term 2023	<i>The Philosophy of Fiction</i> , seminar, University of Mannheim undergraduate level, in English <i>Speech Act Theory and Political Philosophy</i> , seminar, University of Mannheim undergraduate level, in English
Winter term 2022	<i>Introduction to Analytic Philosophy</i> , seminar, University of Mannheim undergraduate level, in English
Spring term 2022	<i>Assertion: Insincerity, Lies and Bullshit</i> , seminar, University of Mannheim with Dr. Helge Rückert, graduate level, in English
Winter term 2021	<i>Introduction to Epistemology</i> , seminar, University of Mannheim undergraduate level, in English
Winter term 2019	<i>Analytic Philosophy: seminal papers</i> , seminar, University of Mannheim undergraduate level, in English
Spring term 2019	<i>Knowledge and Skepticism</i> , seminar, University of Mannheim with PD Dr. Marc Andree Weber, undergraduate level, in German
Spring term 2018	<i>Two-hour weekly tutorials</i> , accompanying Prof. W. Freitag's lecture "Perspectives on Science", University of Freiburg, in English (2x)
10/2013–09/2015	<i>Two-hour weekly tutorials</i> , accompanying the lecture "Introduction to formal logic", Heidelberg University, in German (3x, once for PD Dr. Marc Andree Weber, twice for Dr. Miriam Wildenauer)

ORGANIZED WORKSHOPS AND CONFERENCES

11/2025	<i>“Because”: Philosophy, Logic and Linguistics</i> , Workshop with Hans Rott, Eric Raidl and linguist Werner Frey, University of Mannheim (with Wolfgang Freitag)
03/2025	<i>Workshop with Wolfgang Spohn</i> , University of Mannheim (with Wolfgang Freitag and Alexandra Zinke)
10/2024	<i>Workshop with Manfred Krifka</i> , University of Mannheim (with W. Freitag)
05/2023	<i>Workshop with Mitchell Green</i> , University of Mannheim (with W. Freitag and F. Bräuer)
05/2022 (originally planned for 2020; postponed due to Covid-19)	<i>Varieties of Philosophical Expressivism</i> , International Conference, University of Mannheim (with Wolfgang Freitag & Felix Bräuer) External Speakers: Stephen Barker, Jochen Briesen, Matthew Chrisman, Katharina Felka, Stephen Finlay, Luca Incurvati, Christa Peterson, Benjamin Schnieder, Mark Schroeder, Michael Scott Acquired funding: FTS 9,000 EUR, GAP 500 EUR
09/2019	<i>Mini Workshop with Dorit Bar-On</i> , University of Mannheim (together with Wolfgang Freitag, Marc Andree Weber and Joachim Bromand)
05/2019	<i>Perspectives on First-Person Thought</i> , International Conference, University of Mannheim (together with Wolfgang Freitag, Katharina Kraus, Marc Andree Weber and Maik Niemeck) External Speakers: José Luis Bermúdez, Manuel García-Carpintero, Mitchell Green, Daniel Gutzmann, Tim Henning, Max Kölbel, Ursula Renz, Gianfranco Soldati, Eunike Wetzel Acquired funding: DFG 3,600 EUR, GAP 500 EUR

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

07/2024–today	Member, editorial board of journal <i>Zeitschrift für philosophische Literatur</i>
10/2023–today	Referee Work: <i>Theoria, Philosophia, Philosophical Quarterly, Oxford Handbook of Expressivity, Review of Philosophy and Psychology</i>
01/2026	Reviewer , ECOM Kinds of Agency Graduate Conference 2026
01/2023	Reviewer , ECOM Kinds of Actions Graduate Conference 2023 Areas: Philosophy of Action, Philosophy of Mind
07/2017	Reviewer , Oxford Graduate Philosophy Conference 2017 Areas: Philosophy of Language, Epistemology

COMMITTEE WORK AND ACADEMIC SELF-GOVERNMENT

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| 11/2025–today | Member of the selection committee for the Junior Professorship in Political Philosophy, University of Mannheim |
| 2024–today | Member of the task force “Bachelor KUWT”, University of Mannheim <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Redesign of the study program “Bachelor Kultur und Wirtschaft” |