

Prof. Dr. Benjamin Stahl

CURRICULUM VITAE

ADDRESS Medical School Berlin
Fakultät Naturwissenschaften
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Scientific and Clinical Qualifications

2021 Technische Universität Dresden, Germany
Habilitation (Dr. rer. nat. habil.) in Psychology (*venia legendi*)

2017–2021 Psychologische Hochschule Berlin, Germany
Training in Psychotherapy (approbation for individuals and groups)

2009–2013 Max Planck Institute for Human Cognitive and Brain Sciences,
Leipzig, Germany
Doctorate (Dr. phil.) in Clinical Neuroscience (*summa cum laude*)

2009–2013 International Max Planck Research School on Neuroscience of
Communication, Leipzig, Germany
Graduate training organized by the Max Planck Society

2003–2009 Freie Universität Berlin, Germany
Diploma in Psychology (specialization: Music and Musicology)

Professional Experience

SINCE 2021 Medical School Berlin, Germany
W3-equivalent Professorship for Clinical Psychology and Psychotherapy

2020–2022 Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin, Germany
Research Associate (Prof. Dr. Jin Hyun KIM)

2016–2021 Charité Universitätsmedizin Berlin, Universitätsmedizin Greifswald,
Max Planck Institute for Human Cognitive and Brain Sciences
Research Associate (Prof. Dr. Agnes FLÖEL and PD Dr. Stefan GEYER)

2013–2016 Freie Universität Berlin, Germany
Postdoctoral Researcher (Prof. Dr. Dr. Friedemann PULVERMÜLLER)

2009–2013 Max Planck Institute for Human Cognitive and Brain Sciences
PhD Project (supervision: Prof. Dr. Sonja KOTZ and PD Dr. Stefan GEYER)

2008–2009 Charité Universitätsmedizin Berlin, Germany
Research Assistant

2007–2008 Université de Montréal and McGill University, Montreal, Canada
Research Fellowship (supervision: Prof. Dr. Isabelle PERETZ)

2006–2007 Max Planck Institute for Human Cognitive and Brain Sciences
Diploma Project (supervision: Prof. Dr. Stefan KOELSCH)

2005–2006 Max Planck Institute for Human Development, Berlin, Germany
Research Assistant

2002–2003 Jewish Social Service, Brussels, Belgium

Grants and Scholarships

SCHOLARSHIPS	Max-Planck-Gesellschaft (2009–2013) PhD scholarship
	Studienstiftung des deutschen Volkes (2004–2009) Undergraduate scholarship
AWARDS	Gesellschaft für Aphasieforschung und -behandlung (2013) Doctoral dissertation prize
GRANTS	Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft (2019–2026) Funding: 1 590 879 € Project: “Transcranial direct current stimulation to enhance training effectiveness in chronic post-stroke aphasia: A randomized controlled trial” Co-Applicant (with Prof. Dr. Agnes FLÖEL)
	Berlin University Alliance (2019–2020) Funding: 10 000 € Project: “Digital societal health through communicative interaction” Co-Applicant (with Prof. Dr. Jin Hyun KIM)
	Else Kröner-Fresenius-Stiftung (2016–2019) Funding: 92 700 € Project: “Neural resources of verbal communication in the rehabilitation of speech-motor planning disorders” Co-PI (with Prof. Dr. Agnes FLÖEL and Prof. Dr. Sonja KOTZ)

Teaching and Mentoring

UNIVERSITY LECTURESHIPS	Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin Medical School Berlin Technische Universität Dresden
THESIS AND INTERNSHIP SUPERVISION	Bianca Gawron née Amelew, Louis Bartels, Kristina Becker, Laura Besch, Anna Bilstein, Julia Biskupek, Ana Böke, Lea Böker, Anika Dannemann, Hannah Etier, Jason Fairbrother, Milad Fakoori, Natalie Feldmann, Alina Fendel, Amelie Führ, Melis Gassen, Anne-Katrin Giese, Adriana Gießler, Lia Hausmann, Hannah Helm, Sara Holm, Franziska Kahlweiß, Morena Kaiser, Laura Kaminski, Alma Kathmann, Dilan Kaya, James Kerr, Maxi Kirchhoff, Lena Kleist, Kevser Kocyigit, Theresa Kohne, Paula Langer, Eric Leckschas, Rebecca Lepartz, Charlotte Lion, Lara Marks, Svea Mählmann, Lena Meißner, Valentina Meli, Saskia Millrose, Aurèle Molitor, Sara Nek, Mirella Orji, René Papenfuß, Seraphina Peter, Noreen Prediger, Melina Riegel, Carolin Rodde, Lua Romano, Paula Röder, Linus Sagert, Cagla Sahin, Mona Samuel, Franziska Seeliger, Berta-Sophie Seifert, Simone Seiferth, Katja Schendel, Mia Schlotfeldt, Ulrike Schönfelder, Elisabeth Schulte, Antonia Schulze, Lea Sittig, Mia Szymanski, Rebecca Tenge, Normen Thieß, Laszlo Weber, Silas Wieland, Bahar Yapal, Andreas Zidak, and others

Key Publications

- Stahl, B.,** Sittig, L., Milek, A., Gehrmann, F.-H., Lussana, M., Rizzonelli, M., Staudt, P., & Kim, J. H. (2025). Childhood trauma may explain gains in relationship satisfaction after integrative couple therapy. *Journal of Loss and Trauma*. doi: 10.1080/15325024.2025.2481408
- Stahl, B.,** Becker, K., Kocyigit, K., Denzler, P., & Röder, P. (2024). Link between post-stroke psychopathology and scope-of-action awareness. *Therapeutic Advances in Neurological Disorders*, 17. doi: 10.1177/17562864241282633
- Stahl, B.,** Szymanski, M., Milek, A., Volkert, J., Gehrmann, F.-H., Lussana, M., Rizzonelli, M., Staudt, P., & Kim, J. H. (2024). Exploring the long-term impact of working alliance in couple therapy: A waiting-list controlled 1-year follow-up study. *Journal of Psychotherapy Integration*. doi: 10.1037/int0000341
- Stahl, B.** (2023). Beyond language deficits: Working alliance and resources as predictors of recovery from aphasia. *Stroke*, 54(8), 2208–2212. doi: 10.1161/strokeaha.123.043498
- Stahl, B.,** Millrose, S., Denzler, P., Lucchese, G., Jacobi, F., & Flöel, A. (2022). Intensive social interaction for treatment of post-stroke depression in subacute aphasia: The CONNECT trial. *Stroke*, 53(12), 3530–3537. doi: 10.1161/strokeaha.122.039995
- Popescu, T., **Stahl, B.,** Wiernik, B. M., Helm, H., Zemanek, M., Haiduk, F., Matzinger, T., Beisteiner, R., & Fitch, T. W. (2022). Melodic Intonation Therapy for aphasia: A multi-level meta-analysis of randomised controlled trials and individual participant data. *Annals of the New York Academy of Sciences*, 1516(1), 76–84. doi: 10.1111/nyas.14848
- Stahl, B.** (2021). *Music and Social Interaction in the Treatment of Post-Stroke Aphasia: Habilitation Thesis*. Technische Universität Dresden, Germany. doi: 10.25368/2021.69
- Stahl, B.,** Gawron, B., Regenbrecht, F., Flöel, A., & Kotz, S. A. (2020). Formulaic language resources may help overcome difficulties in speech-motor planning after stroke. *PLOS ONE*, 15(6), Article e0233608. doi: 10.1371/journal.pone.0233608
- Stahl, B.,** Mohr, B., Büscher, V., Dreyer, F. R., Lucchese, G., & Pulvermüller, F. (2018). Efficacy of intensive aphasia therapy in chronic stroke: A randomised controlled trial. *Journal of Neurology, Neurosurgery and Psychiatry*, 89(6), 586–592. doi: 10.1136/jnnp-2017-315962
- Stahl, B.,** Mohr, B., Dreyer, F. R., Lucchese, G., & Pulvermüller, F. (2016). Using language for social interaction: Communication mechanisms promote recovery from chronic non-fluent aphasia. *Cortex*, 85, 90–99. doi: 10.1016/j.cortex.2016.09.021
- Stahl, B.,** Kotz, S. A., Henseler, I., Turner, R., & Geyer, S. (2011). Rhythm in disguise: Why singing may not hold the key to recovery from aphasia. *Brain*, 134(10), 3083–3093. doi: 10.1093/brain/awr240

All Publications

PUBLIC RECORD OF ONGOING (RANDOMIZED CONTROLLED) TRIALS

DC-Train-Aphasia Collaboration (recruitment ongoing). Transcranial direct current stimulation to enhance training effectiveness in chronic post-stroke aphasia: A randomized controlled trial (www.who.int registry identifier: NCT03930121).

Stahl, B., Lussana, M., Rizzonelli, M., Staudt, P., Milek, A., & Kim, J. H. (recruitment completed). Exploring the suitability of movement and sound in couple therapy: A proof-of-concept trial (www.who.int registry identifier: NCT04830553).

Röder, P., & **Stahl, B.** (recruitment completed). Link between Post-Stroke Psychopathology and Psychological Flexibility: The PSYFLEX Trial (www.who.int registry identifier: DRKS00031204).

JOURNAL ARTICLES (IN PREPARATION, UNDER REVIEW, ACCEPTED)

Stahl, B., Kathmann, A., Stelzer, J., Pine, K., Holm, S., Reimer, E., Weiskopf, N., Kotz, S. A., & Geyer, S. (in preparation). Tracking neural networks of everyday communication: A prospective motion-correction neuroimaging study.

Bilstein, A. H., & **Stahl, B.** (in preparation). Music use to alter or echo emotions may reveal core pattern of mental disorders.

Unger, N., Helm, H., Grittner, U., Willmes, K., Flöel, A., & **Stahl, B.** (under review). Psychosocial consequences of acquired brain injury.

JOURNAL ARTICLES (PUBLISHED)

Stahl, B., Sittig, L., Milek, A., Gehrmann, F.-H., Lussana, M., Rizzonelli, M., Staudt, P., & Kim, J. H. (2025). Childhood trauma may explain gains in relationship satisfaction after integrative couple therapy. *Journal of Loss and Trauma*. doi: 10.1080/15325024.2025.2481408

Stahl, B., Becker, K., Kocyigit, K., Denzler, P., & Röder, P. (2024). Link between post-stroke psychopathology and scope-of-action awareness. *Therapeutic Advances in Neurological Disorders*, 17. doi: 10.1177/17562864241282633

Stahl, B., Szymanski, M., Milek, A., Volkert, J., Gehrmann, F.-H., Lussana, M., Rizzonelli, M., Staudt, P., & Kim, J. H. (2024). Exploring the long-term impact of working alliance in couple therapy: A waiting-list controlled 1-year follow-up study. *Journal of Psychotherapy Integration*. doi: 10.1037/int0000341

Stahl, B. (2023). Beyond language deficits: Working alliance and resources as predictors of recovery from aphasia. *Stroke*, 54(8), 2208–2212. doi: 10.1161/strokeaha.123.043498

Stahl, B., Millrose, S., Denzler, P., Lucchese, G., Jacobi, F., & Flöel, A. (2022). Intensive social interaction for treatment of post-stroke depression in subacute aphasia: The CONNECT trial. *Stroke*, 53(12), 3530–3537. doi: 10.1161/strokeaha.122.039995

Popescu, T., **Stahl, B.**, Wiernik, B. M., Helm, H., Zemanek, M., Haiduk, F., Matzinger, T., Beisteiner, R., & Fitch, T. W. (2022). Melodic Intonation Therapy for aphasia: A multi-level meta-analysis of randomised controlled trials and individual participant data. *Annals of the New York Academy of Sciences*, 1516(1), 76–84. doi: 10.1111/nyas.14848

- Stufano, A., Lucchese, G., **Stahl, B.**, Flöel, A., & Lovreglio, P. (2022). Impact of covid-19 emergency on the psychological well-being of susceptible individuals. *Scientific Reports*, 12, Article 11152. doi: 10.1038/s41598-022-15357-6
- The RELEASE Collaboration (2022). Complex speech-language therapy interventions for stroke-related aphasia: The RELEASE study incorporating a systematic review and individual participant data network meta-analysis. *Health and Social Care Delivery Research*, 10(28), 1–323. doi: 10.3310/rtlh7522
- The RELEASE Collaboration (2022). Utilising a systematic review-based approach to create a database of individual participant data for meta- and network meta-analyses: the RELEASE database of aphasia after stroke. *Aphasiology*, 36(4), 513–533. doi: 10.1080/02687038.2021.1897081
- The RELEASE Collaboration (2022). Dosage, intensity and frequency of language therapy for aphasia: An individual participant data network meta-analysis. *Stroke*, 53(3), 956–967. doi: 10.1161/strokeaha.121.035216
- The RELEASE Collaboration (2022). Precision rehabilitation for aphasia by patient age, sex, aphasia severity, and time since stroke? A prespecified, systematic review-based, individual participant data, network, subgroup meta-analysis. *International Journal of Stroke*, 17(10), 1067–1077. doi: 10.1177/17474930221097477
- Doppelbauer, L., Mohr, B., Dreyer, F. R., **Stahl, B.**, Büscher, V., & Pulvermüller, F. (2021). Long-term stability of short-term Intensive Language-Action Therapy in chronic aphasia: A 1–2 years follow-up study. *Neurorehabilitation and Neural Repair*, 35(10), 861–870. doi: 10.1177/15459683211029235
- Dreyer, F. R., Doppelbauer, L., Büscher, V., Arndt, V., **Stahl, B.**, Lucchese, G., Hauk, O., Mohr, B., & Pulvermüller, F. (2021). Increased recruitment of domain general neural networks in language processing following Intensive Language-Action Therapy: fMRI evidence from people with chronic aphasia. *American Journal of Speech-Language Pathology*, 30, 455–465. doi: 10.1044/2020_ajslp-19-00150
- The RELEASE Collaboration (2021). Predictors of post-stroke aphasia recovery: A systematic review-informed individual participant data meta-analysis. *Stroke*, 52(5), 1778–1787. doi: 10.1161/strokeaha.120.031162
- Stahl, B.**, Gawron, B., Regenbrecht, F., Flöel, A., & Kotz, S. A. (2020). Formulaic language resources may help overcome difficulties in speech-motor planning after stroke. *PLOS ONE*, 15(6), Article e0233608. doi: 10.1371/journal.pone.0233608
- Lucchese, G., Flöel, A., & **Stahl, B.** (2020). A peptide link between HCMV infection, neuronal migration, and psychosis. *Frontiers in Psychiatry*, 10, Article 3389. doi: 10.3389/fpsyt.2020.00349
- The RELEASE Collaboration (2020). RELEASE: A protocol for a systematic review-based, individual participant data, meta- and network meta-analysis of complex speech-language therapy interventions for stroke-related aphasia. *Aphasiology*, 34(2), 137–157. doi: 10.1080/02687038.2019.1643003

- The RELEASE Collaboration (2020). Communicating simply, but not too simply: Reporting of participants and speech and language interventions for aphasia after stroke. *International Journal of Speech-Language Pathology*, 22(3), 302–312. doi: 10.1080/17549507.2020.1762000
- Stahl, B.**, Darkow, R., von Podewils, V., Meinzer, M., Grittner, U., Reinhold, T., Grewe, T., Breitenstein, C., & Flöel, F. (2019). Transcranial direct current stimulation to enhance training effectiveness in chronic post-stroke aphasia: A randomized controlled trial protocol. *Frontiers in Neurology*, 10, Article 1089. doi: 10.3389/fneur.2019.01089
- Lucchese, G., Flöel, A., & **Stahl, B.** (2019). Cross-reactivity as a mechanism linking infections to stroke. *Frontiers in Neurology*, 10, Article 469. doi: 10.3389/fneur.2019.00469
- Stahl, B.**, Flöel, A., Amelew, B., Regenbrecht, F., & Kotz, S. A. (2018). Tapping into neural resources of verbal communication may help overcome difficulties in speech-motor planning after stroke. *Clinical Neurophysiology*, 128(8), Article e51. doi: 10.1016/j.clinph.2018.04.619
- Stahl, B.**, Mohr, B., Büscher, V., Dreyer, F. R., Lucchese, G., & Pulvermüller, F. (2018). Efficacy of intensive aphasia therapy in chronic stroke: A randomised controlled trial. *Journal of Neurology, Neurosurgery and Psychiatry*, 89(6), 586–592. doi: 10.1136/jnnp-2017-315962
- Lucchese, G., & **Stahl, B.** (2018). Peptide sharing between viruses and DLX proteins: A potential cross-reactivity pathway to neuropsychiatric disorders. *Frontiers in Neuroscience*, 12, Article 150. doi: 10.3389/fnins.2018.00150
- Stahl, B.**, Mohr, B., Dreyer, F. R., Lucchese, G., & Pulvermüller, F. (2017). Communicative-pragmatic assessment is sensitive and time-effective in measuring the outcome of aphasia therapy. *Frontiers in Human Neuroscience*, 11, Article 223. doi: 10.3389/fnhum.2017.00223
- Mohr, B., **Stahl, B.**, Berthier, M. L., & Pulvermüller, F. (2017). Intensive communicative therapy reduces symptoms of depression in chronic non-fluent aphasia. *Neurorehabilitation and Neural Repair*, 31(12), 1053–1062. doi: 10.1177/1545968317744275
- Lucchese, G., Pulvermüller, F., **Stahl, B.**, Dreyer, F. R., & Mohr, B. (2017). Therapy-induced neuroplasticity of language in chronic post-stroke aphasia: A mismatch negativity study of (a)grammatical and meaningful/less mini-constructions. *Frontiers in Human Neuroscience*, 10, Article 669. doi: 10.3389/fnhum.2016.00669
- Stahl, B.**, Mohr, B., Dreyer, F. R., Lucchese, G., & Pulvermüller, F. (2016). Using language for social interaction: Communication mechanisms promote recovery from chronic non-fluent aphasia. *Cortex*, 85, 90–99. doi: 10.1016/j.cortex.2016.09.021
- Stahl, B.**, & Van Lancker Sidsis, D. (2015). Tapping into neural resources of communication: Formulaic language in aphasia therapy. *Frontiers in Psychology*, 6, Article 1526. doi: 10.3389/fpsyg.2015.01526
- Stahl, B.**, & Kotz, S. A. (2014). Facing the music: Three issues in current research on singing and aphasia. *Frontiers in Psychology*, 5, Article 1033. doi: 10.3389/fpsyg.2014.01033

PUBLICATIONS
IN GERMAN

Stahl, B., Henseler, I., Turner, R., Geyer, S., & Kotz, S. A. (2013). How to engage the right brain hemisphere in aphasics without even singing: Evidence for two paths of speech recovery. *Frontiers in Human Neuroscience*, 7, Article 35. doi: 10.3389/fnhum.2013.00035

Stahl, B., Kotz, S. A., Henseler, I., Turner, R., & Geyer, S. (2011). Rhythm in disguise: Why singing may not hold the key to recovery from aphasia. *Brain*, 134(10), 3083–3093. doi: 10.1093/brain/awr240

Unger, N., **Stahl, B.,** Darkow, R., Scholz, V., Weinmar, I., Schmidt, J., Breitenstein, C., Meinzer, M., Grewe, T., & Flöel, A. (2024). Transkranielle Gleichstromstimulation zur Verbesserung der Trainingseffektivität bei chronischer Aphasie nach Schlaganfall – wie gelingt die Studienrekrutierung Betroffener? *Der Nervenarzt*, 95(4), 368–375. doi: 10.1007/s00115-023-01572-7

Stahl, B. (2020). Musik als Brücke zur Verständigung? Neue Wege der Behandlung von Sprachstörungen nach einem Schlaganfall. *Neurologie & Rehabilitation*, 26(2), 114.

Flöel, A., & **Stahl, B.** (2019). Aphasie. In Diener, H. C., Kastrup, O., & Steinmetz, H. (Editors). *Referenz Neurologie* (pp. 1045–1051), New York, NY: Thieme.

Stahl, B. (2018). Musikgestützte Aphasietherapie. *neuoreha*, 10, 21–23. doi: 10.1055/s-0043-125439

Stahl, B., & Sollereder, S. (2014). Gesang in der Sprachtherapie: Theorie und Praxis. *logoTHEMA*, 2, 3–5.

Stahl, B., & De Langen-Müller, U. (2012). Gesang in der Sprachtherapie: Theorie und Praxis. *Sprachheilarbeit*, 57(4), 210–212.

Stahl, B., Kotz, S. A., Henseler, I., Turner, R., & Geyer, S. (2011). Rhythmus in Verkleidung: Warum melodische Intonation wohl nicht der Schlüssel zu nicht-flüssiger Aphasie ist. *Neurologie & Rehabilitation*, 17(5–6), 268–268.

OTHER PRINT OR
AUDIOVISUAL
MEDIA

Stahl, B., Szymanski, M., Milek, A., Volkert, J., Gehrmann, F.-H., Lussana, M., Rizzonelli, M., Staudt, P., & Kim, J. H. (2024). What boosts the long-term efficacy of couple therapy? *Kudos*, London, United Kingdom.

Borgeest, B. Mit den Melodien kommen die Worte (2024). *Focus*, Munich, Germany.

Hübner, J., & Adam-Radmanic, B. (2020). *Musik als Brücke zur Verständigung? Neue Wege zur Behandlung von Sprachstörungen nach einem Schlaganfall*. Interview published by Kortizes, Nuremberg, Germany.

Schendel, K. (2020). *Sind musikgestützte Interventionen bei Aphasie und Depression nach Schlaganfall wirksam?* Interview published by SanftMut, Berlin, Germany.

Bernstein, M. (2019). *Aphasie—im Takt*. Documentary feature published by bernsteinfilm, Munich, Germany.

Berscheid, L.-C., & **Stahl, B.** (2018). *Leben nach Schlaganfall: Aphasie und Depression*. Documentary feature published by the Max Planck Institute for Human Cognitive and Brain Sciences, Leipzig, Germany.

ACADEMIC
THESES

Stahl, B. (2021). *Music and Social Interaction in the Treatment of Post-Stroke Aphasia: Habilitation Thesis*. Technische Universität Dresden, Germany. doi: 10.25368/2021.69

Stahl, B. (2013). *Treatment of Non-Fluent Aphasia through Melody, Rhythm and Formulaic Language: Doctoral Thesis*. In MPI Series in Human Cognitive and Brain Sciences: Vol. 146. Leipzig, Germany: Max Planck Institute for Human Cognitive and Brain Sciences.

EDITORIAL
EXPERIENCE

Lucchese, G., Garagnani, M., & **Stahl, B.** (Editors). (in preparation). Bridging the gap between basic and clinical neuroscience: How behavioral, molecular and computational research can promote care of mental and neurological disorders. *Psychiatry International*.

Kim, J. H., Lussana, M., & **Stahl, B.** (Editors). (2021). *Mapping Social Interaction through Sound: Conceptual Framework, Technological Development, and Real-World Studies*. Humboldt University of Berlin, Germany. doi: 10.18452/23258

Scientific
Associations

Gesellschaft für Aphasieforschung und -behandlung
Elected board member (since 2021)

Key Research
Interests

- I. Integrative theory and practice of psychotherapy
- II. Psychotherapy for individuals with neurological communication disorders
- III. Music and social interaction in psychotherapy and speech-language pathology

Berlin, March 2025