Dominik Vollbracht

Doctoral thesis submitted, defense in February 2027 · Available from February 15, 2027

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PROFILE

I am interested in analyzing and interpreting data of all kinds with statistical methods. In my doctoral research, I applied established models and developed a new one of my own; alongside my doctorate, I completed a qualification program in statistical modeling. I like to plan and carry out projects, such as moving the course evaluation system on the Landau campus of RPTU Kaiserslautern-Landau to an automated process that is now in routine use. I write my own code, mostly in R, from packages to interactive apps. I enjoy explaining statistics, whether in my teaching, which has earned me five teaching awards, or in workshops as an external lecturer. I care about working rigorously and finding pragmatic solutions that hold up in day-to-day use and that others can follow and build on. Outside of work, music is a great passion of mine; I play several instruments, sing, and am in a band.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Oct 2021 – present

Research Associate
RPTU Kaiserslautern-Landau (University of Koblenz-Landau until 2022)

Research Methods and Evaluation
Department of Psychology · Research, teaching and methodological consulting

- **Doctoral thesis:** empirical studies and simulations, complex statistical modeling (MSEM, DSEM, IRT); developed a new model and implemented it as an R package
- **Methodological consulting:** research projects and co-authored papers, within and beyond RPTU
- **International collaborations:** Universities of Basel (research stay, 2025) and Oslo
- **Supervision:** 13 theses and student assistants

Oct 2021 – Dec 2025

Research Associate, Course Evaluation (DigiKompASS Project)
RPTU Kaiserslautern-Landau · Methodological Center

- **Concept and rollout:** redesign of the campus-wide course evaluation in Landau, from needs analysis and questionnaire to routine use, in coordination with data protection and committees; around 600 courses, 6,000–8,000 responses per semester; now continued by colleagues
- **Automation:** web scraping and LimeSurvey registration in R; cut the effort from several workdays to a few hours per semester
- **Analysis and reporting:** R package setanalysis for automated reports; tested factor structure and measurement invariance
- **LLMs and evaluation:** piloted an open-source LLM pipeline for open-ended responses (guided its development); coordinated external evaluations

Dec 2019 – Sep 2021

Student Research Assistant
University of Koblenz-Landau · Methodological Center

Analysis and reporting for university surveys in R (the basis of setanalysis) · LimeSurvey support · independent program evaluation with report

SELECTED SOFTWARE

R package

setanalysis · with set-template
Automated, personalized survey reports from Quarto templates; in routine use at RPTU; snapshot tests, pkgdown, CI with GitHub Actions

R package

birmrssim
Simulation studies for the BIRM-RS with Stan and parallel execution; citable via Zenodo

Web apps

Interactive model visualizations
Serverless via shinylive: response-style model · responses at 0 and 100 · Likert vs. slider scales

SKILLS

Statistical modeling	Regression · machine learning · multilevel models · structural equation modeling · psychometrics and IRT · factor analysis and measurement invariance · Bayesian statistics · segmentation (latent class analysis) · experimental design and power analysis
Programming	**R** (package development with tests and CI) · Python · SQL · Git and GitHub · Shiny
Reporting	Quarto (automated and parameterized reports) · R Markdown · Typst · LaTeX
Tools	Stan · HPC cluster (Slurm) · LimeSurvey (incl. API) · EvaSys
AI and LLMs	Open-source LLMs in analysis pipelines · AI-assisted development (Claude Code)
Languages	German (native) · English (fluent)

EDUCATION

expected 2027 — **PhD in Psychology**
RPTU Kaiserslautern-Landau · Advisor: Prof. Tanja Lischetzke
Doctoral thesis on response formats in surveys; submitted, defense in February 2027

2021 — **Master of Science in Psychology, with honors**
University of Koblenz-Landau
Specialization in business psychology (personnel, team, and organizational development); master's thesis on measurement invariance of course evaluations across disciplines

2020 — **Bachelor of Science in Psychology**
University of Koblenz-Landau

2013 — **Abitur (German university entrance qualification)**
Christian-Rauch-Schule, Bad Arolsen

ADDITIONAL TRAINING

2023 – 2026 — **Qualification program of the DFG Research Training Group *Statistical Modeling in Psychology***
Universities of Freiburg, Heidelberg, Mannheim, Tübingen, and RPTU
Courses including machine learning, Python, simulation studies, and LLMs

TEACHING

Courses	Multivariate Methods (bachelor's) · Advanced Multivariate Methods (master's) · Evaluation: Intensive Longitudinal Data (master's) · Psychometrics (master's)
Workshops	Multilevel models for doctoral students and postdocs, as an external lecturer (University of Duisburg-Essen, Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin)

AWARDS

2022 – 2025 — **Five teaching awards**, Department of Psychology, RPTU

2024 — **Young Researcher Award**, Multilevel Conference, Utrecht

2023, 2025 — **Two Open Science Awards in Gold**, Department of Psychology, RPTU, for preregistration, open data, and reproducible analyses

LEADERSHIP AND SERVICE

2016 – 2026 — **Landau University Choir:** musical co-director, 80–100 members

2016 – 2019 — **PsyFaKo and PsychOlympia:** organized national student events, including a conference with more than 250 participants

2023 – present — **Committees:** doctoral, examination, study, and faculty search committees at RPTU; doctoral student representative in the SMiP Research Training Group

2015 – 2021 — **Student government:** including vice president of the student parliament

APPENDIX: PUBLICATIONS AND TALKS

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Peer-Reviewed Journal Articles

Vollbracht, D., Ottenstein, C., Ecker, S., & Lischetzke, T. (2026). Slider versus Likert scales: Psychometric properties in ambulatory assessment. *Behavior Research Methods*, *58*(4), 97. doi.org/10.3758/s13428-026-02992-4

Ottenstein, C., Ecker, S., **Vollbracht, D.**, & Lischetzke, T. (2026). Multiverse of data sets regarding indirect measures of emotional clarity: An examination of the degrees of freedom in analyzing response times to emotion items. *Collabra: Psychology*, *12*(1), 162291. doi.org/10.1525/collabra.162291

Ecker, S., Ottenstein, C., **Vollbracht, D.**, & Lischetzke, T. (2026). Does the procedure matter? Applying a multiverse analysis approach to negative emotion differentiation. *Collabra: Psychology*, *12*(1), 159939. doi.org/10.1525/collabra.159939

Knorr, A., Wegmann, E., **Vollbracht, D.**, Brand, M., & Antons, S. (2026). Predicting moments of impaired control over addictive behaviors: Relevance of craving and inhibitory control measured in laboratory and ambulatory settings. *Journal of Behavioral Addictions*. doi.org/10.1556/2006.2025.00102

Schmid, A. M., Thomas, T. A., Oelker, A., **Vollbracht, D.**, Meurer, N., Mallon, L., Diers, M., Dominick, N., Kampa, M., Wolf, O. T., Brand, M., Müller, A., & Steins-Loeber, S. (2026). Daily stress and gaming – an ambulatory assessment study in individuals with pathological, risky, and non-problematic gaming behavior. *Acta Psychologica*, *263*, 106321. doi.org/10.1016/j.actpsy.2026.106321

Thomas, T. A., Schmid, A. M., **Vollbracht, D.**, Oelker, A., Wolf, O. T., Brand, M., Steins-Loeber, S., & Müller, A. (2026). Pavlovian-to-instrumental transfer effect after devaluation as indicator of habitual behavior together with stress responsivity predicts daily use of buying-shopping platforms. *Acta Psychologica*, *264*, 106453. doi.org/10.1016/j.actpsy.2026.106453

Preprints (Under Review)

Vollbracht, D., Müller, M., Lischetzke, T., & Henninger, M. (2026). Extreme response style generalizes across Likert-type and visual analogue scales. *PsyArXiv*. doi.org/10.31234/osf.io/zevb7_v1

Vollbracht, D., Lischetzke, T., & Henninger, M. (2026). Detecting response styles in visual analogue scales. *PsyArXiv*. doi.org/10.31234/osf.io/xteku_v2

Ulitzsch, E., **Vollbracht, D.**, Zhang, L., Jover Martínez, A., Domingue, B., Haslbeck, J. M. B., Lischetzke, T., & Vogelsmeier, L. V. D. E. (2026). Likert versus visual analogue scales in ecological momentary assessment: Initial evidence that Likert scales come with reduced capacity to sustain attentiveness. *PsyArXiv*. doi.org/10.31234/osf.io/p8fg6_v1

Conference Presentations (First Author)

Vollbracht, D., Lischetzke, T., & Henninger, M. (2025, November). *Detecting response styles in slider scales* [Talk]. SMiP Retreat Fall 2025, Ludwigshafen, Germany.

Vollbracht, D., Lischetzke, T., & Henninger, M. (2025, September). *Detecting response styles in slider scales* [Talk]. Conference of the DGPs Methods and Evaluation Section 2025, Berlin, Germany.

Vollbracht, D., Ottenstein, C., Ecker, S., & Lischetzke, T. (2025, May). *Slider vs. Likert scales: Psychometric properties in ambulatory assessment* [Talk]. Society for Ambulatory Assessment Conference 2025, Leuven, Belgium.

Vollbracht, D., Ottenstein, C., Ecker, S., & Lischetzke, T. (2024, September). *Slider scales vs. radio buttons: A comparison of psychometric properties in experience sampling methods* [Talk]. 53rd DGPs Congress / 15th ÖGP Conference, Vienna, Austria.

Vollbracht, D., Ottenstein, C., Ecker, S., & Lischetzke, T. (2024, March). *Slider scales vs. radio buttons: A comparison of psychometric properties in experience sampling methods* [Talk]. Multilevel Conference 2024 (Young Researcher Award), Utrecht, The Netherlands.

Vollbracht, D., Ottenstein, C., Ecker, S., & Lischetzke, T. (2023, June). *Slider scales or radio buttons? Comparing the psychometric properties of slider scales with traditional radio button scales in ambulatory assessment* [Poster]. Society for Ambulatory Assessment Conference 2023, Amsterdam, The Netherlands.

Vollbracht, D., Ottenstein, C., Ecker, S., & Lischetzke, T. (2023, June). *Slider scales or radio buttons? Comparing the psychometric properties of slider scales with traditional radio button scales in ambulatory assessment* [Poster]. SMiP Summer School 2023, Mannheim, Germany.

Peer Review

Ad hoc reviewer for *Collabra: Psychology*