



# ALONG THE TRACES OF CHARLOTTE BUEHLER



universität  
wien

The **RESEARCH UNIT**  
**EARLY CHILDHOOD**  
**IN CONTEXT**  
INVITES

2018  
NOV 29<sup>th</sup>  
NOV 30<sup>th</sup>  
FESTIVAL HALL  
BILLROTHHAUS

# 10<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF RESEARCH ON EARLY CHILDHOOD IN CONTEXT



# ALONG THE TRACES OF CHARLOTTE BUEHLER

## WHAT CONNECTS CHARLOTTE BÜHLER TO THE UNIVERSITY OF VIENNA?

Charlotte Bühler (born as Malachowski in 1893) was raised in an upper-class Jewish family in Berlin. She studied philosophy, psychology and pedagogy in Freiburg, Berlin and Kiel, and attained her Ph.D. in Dresden where she also met Karl Bühler, whom she later married.

After her husband became a full professorship at the Philosophical Faculty at the University of Vienna in 1922, Charlotte joined him with their two children in 1923, in order to help him to build up the Department of Psychology. Charlotte Bühler was the second female around that time who was accepted as associate professor at the Philosophical Faculty. Her research was concerned with development in early childhood, which she later integrated into developmental theories throughout the life span.

## HOW DID VIENNA DEVELOPMENTAL PSYCHOLOGY INCLUDE EARLY CHILDHOOD INTO ITS RESEARCH PROGRAM?

From 2008 – 2018 Vienna developmental psychology has been exclusively concerned with child development throughout the preschool years. It grounded its research on the principle of attachment theory that – while being cared for – a child needs to develop attachments with sensitively caring adults for a successful social and emotional development.

We thus have been dealing with developmental consequences of care practice in families exploring parenting activities in mothers and fathers, the children's attachment qualities with their parents, and how these attachments affect a variety of developmental domains. We have been concerned even with children born preterm, and in particular the question how the care influences social interactions and stress regulation in these vulnerable children. We have also been investigating out-of-home care arrangements, and were interested whether care providers and child minders would be able to build up attachment relationship of high quality with the children in order to affect children's development over and above developmental impacts from home.

## HOW COULD THIS RESEARCH BE INTENSIFIED OVER THE LAST TWO YEARS?

It could be intensified over the last two years by setting up the Research Unit ECC at the Faculty of Psychology of University of Vienna supervised by Lieselotte Ahnert, the former head of the Department of Developmental Psychology. Seven young scholars continued the research with her while finalising current Ph.D. projects. During the present symposium and accompanied by keynotes from international top researchers, the seven scholars will present highlights from their projects.

As the ECC team has been considered actively involved in science as well as dramatic art (when the University of Vienna celebrated its 650<sup>th</sup> anniversary, in 2015, they performed pieces of a CABARET, which originated in 1929, when the Bühler team hosted the Inaugural Congress of the German Society of Psychology in Vienna) each of the scholars' presentation will be started with a short sketch representing the core of the issue.



LIESELOTTE AHNERT



BERNHARD PISKERNIK



LUKAS TEUFL



ANDREA WITTING



NINA RUIZ



FELIX DEICHMANN



NICOLE ZAVISKA



TINA ECKSTEIN-MADRY



# ALONG THE TRACES OF CHARLOTTE BUEHLER

29<sup>th</sup>

## MORNING

10:00 **WELCOME GREETINGS**  
AM **JEAN-ROBERT TYRAN** (Vice-Rector for Research and Internal Affairs at the University)  
**BARBARA SCHOBER** (Dean of the Faculty of Psychology at University Vienna)  
**URS NATER** (Head of the Institute of Health, Development and Intervention)

10:30 **OPENING:** Vienna Developmental Psychology between 2008 and 2018  
**LIESELOTTE AHNERT** (Head of the Research Unit Early Childhood in Context of the Faculty of Psychology at University Vienna)

11:00 **KEYNOTE**  
**BRENDA L. VOLLING** (University of Michigan, USA)  
**Changes in family of the 21st century and what fathering means for children**

SKETCH I  
FATHER INVOLVEMENT

**BERNHARD PISKERNIK** (University of Vienna, Austria)  
**What does it mean when fathers are involved in parenting?**

12:30 **LUNCH**  
Café Francais

## AFTERNOON

SKETCH II  
DUAL CAREER

2:30 **LUKAS TEUFL** (University of Vienna, Austria)  
PM **Fathering in different partnership constellations**

**ANDREA WITTING** (Neonatology, Medical University of Vienna, Austria)  
**The impact of maternal gatekeeping on father-child-attachment**

03:30 **COFFEE BREAK**

04:00 **KEYNOTE**  
**MICHAEL E. LAMB** (University of Cambridge, United Kingdom)  
**Early care in gay, lesbian, and hetero families and its implications**

05:00 **END**

## EVENING

08:00 Get together to exchange knowledge, experiences and a tasty meal  
**Café Diglas im Schottentlift, Schottengasse 2**

30<sup>rd</sup>

## MORNING

10:00 **KEYNOTE**  
AM **RUTH E. GRUNAU** (University of British Columbia, Canada)  
**Child stress reactivity, vulnerability and parenting**

11:00 **NINA RUIZ** (Federal Institute for the Blind, Vienna/Austria)  
**Consequences of prematurity on parent-child attachment**

SKETCH IV  
PREMATURITY

**FELIX DEICHMANN** (University of Vienna, Austria)  
**Diurnal cortisol profiles in young children: The impact of environmental and biological conditions on HPA-axis functioning**

SKETCH V  
STRESS

12:00 **LUNCH**  
Café Francais

## AFTERNOON

02:00 **KEYNOTE**  
PM **PAUL LESEMANN** (University of Utrecht, The Netherlands)  
**The advantages of group-based care in individualistic societies**

03:00 **NICOLE ZAVISKA** (University of Vienna, Austria)  
**Care providers' orientation towards children in group care**

SKETCH VI  
GROUP ORIENTATION

**TINA ECKSTEIN-MADRY** (Hilfswerk for Childcare and the Family in Vienna, Austria)  
**Child care entry and the role of care providers**

SKETCH VII  
ATTACHMENT

04:00 **COFFEE-BREAK**

04:30 **CLOSING:** Research outlooks in Vienna Developmental Psychology  
**STEFANIE HOEHL** (Head of the Department of Developmental Psychology at University of Vienna, Austria)

**FINAL REMARKS**  
**HERBERT SCHEITHAUER** (Head of the Department of Developmental Science and Applied Developmental Psychology at Free University of Berlin, Germany)

05:30 **END**



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## KEYNOTES



### BRENDA L. VOLLING

(University of Michigan, USA)

#### CHANGES IN FAMILY OF THE 21ST CENTURY & WHAT FATHERING MEANS FOR CHILDREN

This talk will focus on the changing roles of fathers over the past several decades from the primary bread-winner to the more involved fatherhood "ideal", as well as how fathers' relationships with their children may be different than mother-child relationships and how these differences affect children's development. Various examples of research exploring these new definitions of fathering, how it differs from mothering, and how it benefits children will be presented using examples of research in the field of child development and research from our current study examining families making the transition from one child to two.



### MICHAEL E. LAMB

(University of Cambridge, United Kingdom)

#### EARLY CARE IN GAY, LESBIAN, AND HETERO FAMILIES AND ITS IMPLICATIONS

Most theories of early social and emotional development underline the importance of early relationships with both male and female parents, as well as of the need to live in households containing parents of both genders. To date, however, most studies have focused on babies in traditional families, with primary caretaking mothers and primary bread-winning fathers. Our study of young infants raised by two mothers, two fathers, or both mothers and fathers provided a unique opportunity to assess the importance of parental gender and sexual orientation in shaping the behavior those adults caring for infants.



### RUTH E. GRUNAU

(University of British Columbia, Canada)

#### CHILD STRESS, VULNERABILITY AND PARENTING

Stress in early life can have long-term adverse effects on neurobehavioral development. Infants born very prematurely are exposed to daily repetitive stressful procedures, during a vulnerable window of fetal life outside the protective intrauterine environment. Evidence that early stress/pain is associated with altered programming of the hypothalamic-pituitary-adrenal (HPA) axis, brain developmental and biobehavioral regulation will be described. Parenting stress and parent-infant interaction play central roles in preventing and/or modulating these effects.



### PAUL LESEMANN

(University of Utrecht, The Netherlands)

#### THE ADVANTAGES OF GROUP-BASED CARE IN INDIVIDUALISTIC SOCIETY

In the context of decreasing family size, group-based care in daycare centers can provide an important context for the development of social skills, self-regulation, empathy and intercultural understanding in young children. However, how to work with groups and how to organize group activities that stimulate positive relationships, collaboration, and sense of belongingness is a neglected topic, both in research and in the training of early years professionals, attributable to the Western-individualistic emphasis on the dyadic caregiver-child relationship. We will present findings from a number of studies showing the relevance of a group perspective in daycare as a key aspect of quality.

### BERNHARD PISKERNIK (University of Vienna, Austria)

#### WHAT DOES IT MEAN WHEN FATHERS ARE INVOLVED IN PARENTING?

Using experience-based sampling methods father-child activities were sampled over one week, and three home visits were conducted to gather interview, questionnaires, and observational data. The talk uncovers different profiles of father-child activities, and explores associations between these profiles and the quality of father-child relationships and family functioning demonstrating that paternal involvement is most vulnerable to relationship dynamics in the family.

### LUKAS TEUFL (University of Vienna, Austria)

#### FATHERING IN DIFFERENT PARTNERSHIP CONSTELLATIONS

Focusing on work and partnership related influences on fathering, this talk investigates how fathers experience their parenting role in three different partnership constellations: Single-Earner (SE), Double-Earner (DE) and Double-Career (DC) couples. Whereas all fathers appeared similar in terms of marital satisfaction, DC fathers were more seldom faced with maternal gate keeping strategies than other fathers. Consequences of the different family constellations on the father-child relationship are discussed.

### ANDREA WITTING (Neonatology of the Medical University of Vienna, Austria)

#### THE IMPACT OF MATERNAL GATEKEEPING ON FATHER-CHILD ATTACHMENT

Maternal Gatekeeping strategies suggest that gatekeeping may affect mother-child attachment but might have even more impact on the father-child attachment. The talk presents data of more than 200 families with infants aging from 12 to 36 months (including 136 preterms age adjusted), and explores whether maternal gatekeeping helps the infants' attachments towards mother and whether and how maternal gatekeeping affects the father-child attachment.

### NINA RUIZ (Federal Institute for the Blind in Vienna, Austria)

#### CONSEQUENCES OF PREMATURITY ON PARENT-CHILD ATTACHMENT

Based on a sample of nearly 200 children aged between 12-20 months, the talk explores (a) whether the father-child attachment differs between children born preterm and at term, and diverges from the mother-child attachment, (b) whether fathers' mentalization is associated with their attachment to preterm vs. term children, and whether these associations are distinct from mothers' mentalization, and finally (c) whether topics on fathers' minds differs in terms of parenting a premature or full-term child as well as whether they diverged from maternal topics.

### FELIX DEICHMANN (University of Vienna, Austria)

#### DIURNAL CORTISOL PROFILES IN YOUNG CHILDREN

When studying stress reactivity in young children based on diurnal cortisol profiles, common statistical practices from research on adults (e.g. intercept and slope simplification) are often linear simplifications resulting in large deviations of the natural profiles and are thus not appropriate. The talk presents Latent class mixed models and discuss whether the profiles can alternatively be described focusing on underlying latent trajectories and potential indices of risks.

### NICOLE ZAVISKA (University of Vienna, Austria)

#### CARE PROVIDERS' ORIENTATION TOWARDS CHILDREN IN GROUP CARE

The talk discusses whether and under what conditions care providers' group-orientated behaviors even predict the care provider-child attachment for the dyadic relationships between a child and his primary care provider. However, group dynamics plays an important role, too with boys even more dependent on care providers' group orientations than girls.

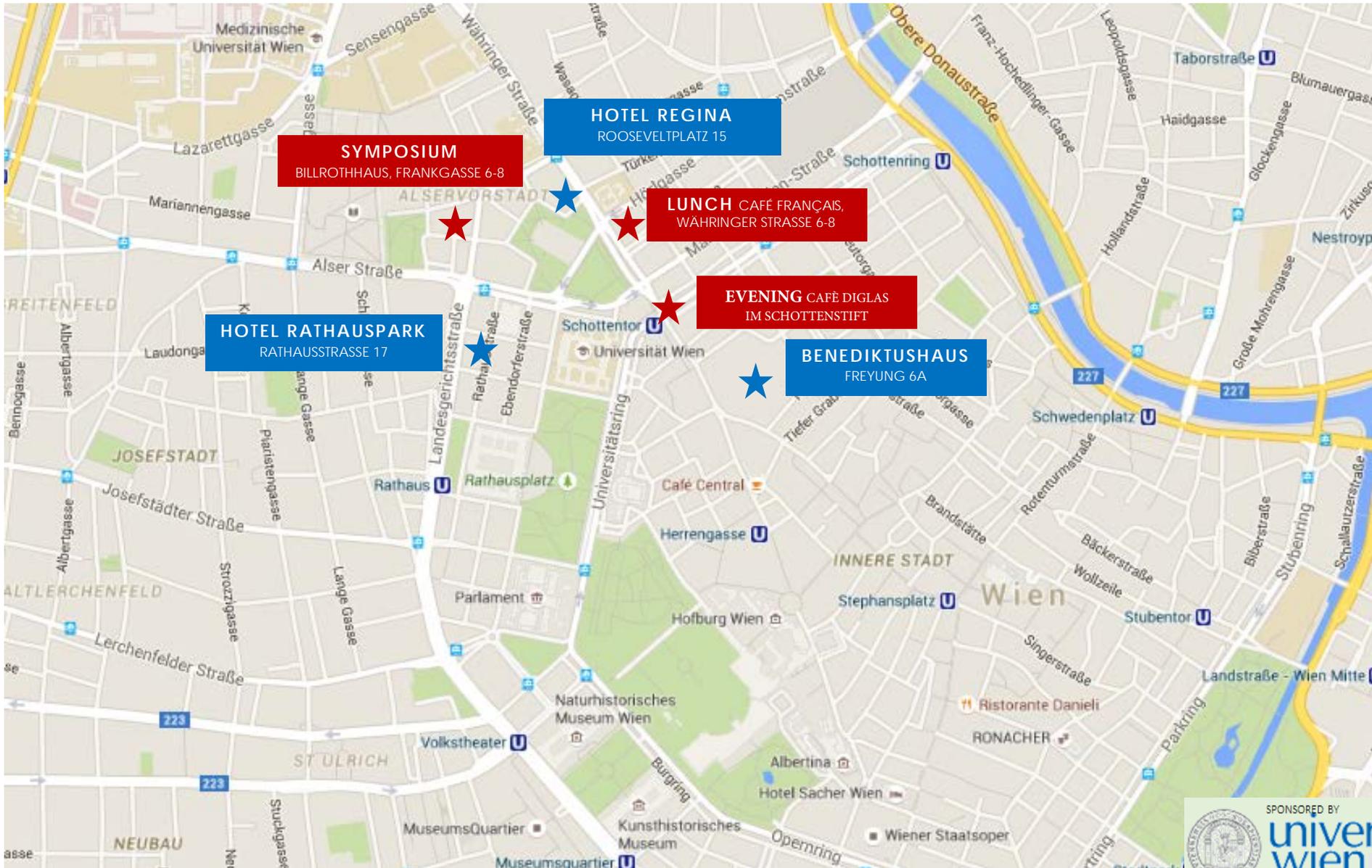
### TINA ECKSTEIN-MADRY (Hilfswerk for Childcare and the Family in Vienna, Austria)

#### CHILD CARE ENTRY AND THE ROLE OF CARE PROVIDERS

The early entry of childcare has complex psychobiological and behavioral effects on children's functioning. Full day placement in childcare is physiologically stressful for most infants and toddlers, and the transition from home to group care can be especially stressful. The talk discusses empirical work which demonstrates how intense protests predicted later secure attachments to care providers, which adaptively helped to reduce stress.



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## NOV 29<sup>th</sup>

WELCOME GREETINGS

## NOV 30<sup>rd</sup>

10:30  
AM

LIESELOTTE AHNERT  
 BRENDA L. VOLLING  
 BERNHARD PISKERNIK

RUTH E. GRUNAU  
 NINA RUIZ  
 FELIX DEICHMANN

10:00  
AM

12:30  
AM

Lunch

Lunch

12:00  
AM

01:30  
PM

LUKAS TEUFL  
 ANDREA WITTING

PAUL LESEMANN  
 NICOLE ZAVISKA  
 TINA ECKSTEIN-MADRY

02:00  
PM

03:30  
PM

Coffee Break

Coffee Break

04:00  
PM

04:00  
PM

MICHAEL E. LAMB

STEFANIE HOEHL  
 HERBERT SCHEITHAUER

04:30  
PM

**FREE  
 ADMISSION**  
 FOR STUDENTS  
 AND FACULTY  
 MEMBERS

**LOCATION** FESTIVAL HALL BILLROTHHAUS