

Research Group Prof. Dr. Oliver T. Wolf

The following Master project proposals are from year **2023**. They can give you an impression which kind of projects are possible in the department of *Cognitive Psychology*.

Master theses can be conducted in [current DFG projects](#) of the department of *Cognitive Psychology*.

Please notice that projects usually involve interaction with German-speaking participants. Therefore, in most cases sufficient German skills are required.

Master Project: Controlling unwanted memories: A multisite registered replication of the Think/No-Think effect

The Think/No-Think (TNT; Anderson & Green, 2001) paradigm is an influential approach to studying the control of unwanted memories. Participants first learn a series of cue-target pairs (e.g., BEACH-AFRICA) until the cue reliably elicits the target; then for a subset of the cues (BEACH) they practice avoiding retrieval of the associated target (AFRICA). Evidence from this paradigm suggests that intentionally not retrieving unwanted experiences renders those experiences less accessible at test. This is referred to as the Suppression-Induced Forgetting (SIF) effect and has been linked to a variety of conditions involving unwanted past or future experiences. The SIF effect obtained with independent retrieval cues has been suggested to provide compelling evidence for the existence of cognitive inhibition. However, some researchers have questioned its replicability. The present Registered Report will address these concerns by replicating the TNT paradigm using two common instructional variants (Thought Substitution and Thought Avoidance) previously shown to reduce the accessibility of unwanted memories.

The project involves interaction with German-speaking participants. Therefore, sufficient German skills are required.

Literature:

Anderson, M. C., & Green, C. (2001). Suppressing unwanted memories by executive control. *Nature*, *410*, 366. <https://doi.org/10.1038/35066572>

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