


EEG ERP Preregistration Template

Gisela H. Govaart^{1,2,3,*}, Antonio Schettino^{4,5,*}, Saskia Helbling^{6,7}, David M. A. Mehler^{8,9}, William Xiang Quan Ngiam¹⁰, David Moreau^{11,12}, Francesco Chiossi¹³, Anthony Zanesco¹⁴, Yu-Fang Yang¹⁵, Remi Gau¹⁶, James Bartlett¹⁷, José C. García Alanis^{18,19}, Jennifer Gutsell²⁰, Melis Cetincelik²¹, Yuri Pavlov^{22,23}, Anđela Šoškić²⁴, Benedikt Ehinger²⁵, Pedram Mouseli²⁶, Johannes Algermissen²⁷, Marta Topor²⁸, Jose Pérez-Navarro²⁹, Greta Häberle^{2,3,15}, Melanie S. Schreiner³⁰, Katrin Rothmaler³¹, Guiomar Niso³², Mariella Paul^{33,34,*}, 

¹Department of Neuropsychology, Max Planck Institute for Human Cognitive and Brain Sciences, Leipzig, Germany, ²Charité – Universitätsmedizin Berlin, Einstein Center for Neurosciences Berlin, Berlin, Germany, ³Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin, Faculty of Philosophy, Berlin School of Mind and Brain, Berlin, Germany, ⁴Erasmus Research Services, Erasmus University Rotterdam, Rotterdam, the Netherlands, ⁵Institute for Globally Distributed Open Research and Education (IGDORE), Sweden, ⁶Poeppel Lab, Ernst Strüngmann Institute for Neuroscience, Frankfurt am Main, Germany, ⁷Department of Neurophysics, Max Planck Institute of Human Cognitive and Brain Sciences, Leipzig, Germany, ⁸Department of Psychiatry, Psychotherapy and Psychosomatics, Medical School, RWTH Aachen University, Aachen, Germany, ⁹Institute for Translational Psychiatry, University Hospital Münster, Münster, Germany, ¹⁰Department of Psychology, University of Chicago, Chicago, IL, USA, ¹¹School of Psychology, University of Auckland, Auckland, New Zealand, ¹²Centre for Brain Research, University of Auckland, Auckland, New Zealand, ¹³Faculty for Mathematics, Informatics und Statistics, LMU Munich, Munich, Germany, ¹⁴Department of Psychology, University of Miami, Coral Gables, FL, USA, ¹⁵Department of Educational Science and Psychology, Freie Universität Berlin, Berlin, Germany, ¹⁶Psychological Sciences Research Institute, Université Catholique de Louvain, Louvain-la-Neuve, Belgium, ¹⁷School of Psychology and Neuroscience, Glasgow University, Glasgow, United Kingdom, ¹⁸Department of Psychology, Johannes Gutenberg-Universität Mainz, Mainz, Germany, ¹⁹Child and Adolescent Psychology, Department of Psychology, Philipps-Universität Marburg, Marburg, Germany, ²⁰Department of Psychology, Brandeis University, Waltham, MA, USA, ²¹Language Development Department, Max Planck Institute for Psycholinguistics, Nijmegen, The Netherlands, ²²University of Tübingen, Tübingen, Germany, ²³Ural Federal University, Ekaterinburg, Russia, ²⁴University of Belgrade, Teacher Education Faculty, Belgrade, Serbia, ²⁵University of Stuttgart, Stuttgart Center for Simulation Science, Stuttgart, Germany ²⁶Centre for Multimodal Sensorimotor and Pain Research, Faculty of Dentistry, University of Toronto, Toronto, ON, Canada, ²⁶Division of Clinical and Computational Neuroscience, Krembil Brain Institute, Toronto Western Hospital, University Health Network, Toronto, ON, Canada, ²⁷Radboud University, Donders Institute for Brain, Cognition, and Behaviour, Nijmegen, Netherlands ²⁸Department of Nutrition Exercise and Sports, University of Copenhagen, Copenhagen, Denmark ²⁹Basque Center on Cognition, Brain and Language (BCBL), Donostia-San Sebastian, Spain, ³⁰Department of Linguistics, Cognitive Sciences, University of Potsdam, Potsdam, Germany, ³¹Research Group Milestones of Early Cognitive Development, Max Planck Institute of Human Cognitive and Brain Sciences, Leipzig, Germany, ³²Psychological & Brain Sciences, Indiana University,

Bloomington, IN, USA, ³³Psychology of Language Department, University of Göttingen, Göttingen, Germany, ³⁴Leibniz ScienceCampus Primate Cognition, Göttingen, Germany

*authors contributed equally, ✉ corresponding author: mariella.paul@uni-goettingen.de

Contributions

This template was started at [a hackathon at SIPS 2019](#), organized by Johannes Algermissen, Remi Gau, Stephan Heunis, and David M. A. Mehler. Afterwards, Gisela H. Govaart, Antonio Schettino, and Mariella Paul took over project administration and organized multiple additional hackathons. Below we list all people that contributed to the template. The people below all agreed to be mentioned as a contributor on the template. The people in the author list also agreed to be listed as an author on this preprint. Apart from the two shared first authors and the last author, the author list was randomized.

Contributions are reported following the CRediT Contributor Roles:

Conceptualization: Gisela H. Govaart, Antonio Schettino, Johannes Algermissen, Remi Gau, Stephan Heunis, David M. A. Mehler, Mariella Paul

Project administration: Gisela H. Govaart, Antonio Schettino, Mariella Paul

Writing – original draft: Gisela H. Govaart, Antonio Schettino, Saskia Helbling, David M. A. Mehler, William Xiang Quan Ngiam, David Moreau, Francesco Chiossi, Anthony Zanesco, Yu-Fang Yang, Remi Gau, James Bartlett, José C. García Alanis, Jennifer Gutsell, Melis Cetincelik, Yuri Pavlov, Anđela Šoškić, Benedikt Ehinger, Pedram Mouseli, Johannes Algermissen, Marta Topor, Jose Pérez-Navarro, Greta Häberle, Melanie S. Schreiner, Katrin Rothmaler, Mariella Paul

Writing – review & editing: Gisela H. Govaart, Antonio Schettino, Johannes Algermissen, Clóna L. Kelly, David M. A. Mehler, David Moreau, Guiomar Niso, Aislinn Sandre, Anđela Šoškić, Marta Topor, Yu-Fang Yang, Mariella Paul

Table of Contents

[Introduction](#)
[Study Information](#)
[Design Plan](#)
[Sampling Plan](#)
[Variables](#)
[Acquisition](#)
[Pre-processing](#)
[Analysis Plan](#)
[Other](#)

Introduction

This preregistration template guides researchers who wish to preregister their EEG projects, more specifically studies investigating event-related potentials (ERPs) in the sensor space. We invite researchers to use and/or adapt the template to other forms of EEG analysis (e.g., source space, time-frequency, steady-state).

We emphasize that all examples in this template are non-exhaustive and are aimed to provide guidance on how to transparently preregister a study's analysis plan. Besides descriptions for individual items, we provide examples for better illustration only. With these examples we do not intend to provide researchers with guidance about choosing specific preprocessing and analysis steps.

For more information and additional examples, see Paul et al. (2021). To use this template for your preregistration, you can download an editable version [here](#).

Study Information

1. Title (required)
 - 1.1. Provide the working title of your study. It may be the same title that you submit for publication of your final manuscript, but it is not a requirement.
 - 1.2. **Example:** The influence of musical training on the MMN in response to pitch differences
 - 1.3. **More info:** The title should be a specific and informative description of a project. Vague titles such as 'ERP preregistration plan' are not appropriate.
2. Authors (required)
3. Description (optional)
 - 3.1. Please give a brief description of your study, including some background, the purpose of the study (e.g., whether it is a replication), or broad research questions.
 - 3.2. **Example:** We will test whether the mismatch negativity (MMN) is modulated by pitch differences differently in people with and without musical training. We will present a group of musicians and a group of non-musicians with tones in an oddball paradigm. The difference between the standard and the deviant

tone will be either small (4 Hz) or large (8 Hz). We collect EEG data as well as behavioral accuracy in detecting the oddball as measured by a button-press.

3.3. **More info:** The description should be no longer than the length of an abstract. It can give some context for the proposed study, but great detail is not needed here for your preregistration.

4. Hypotheses (required)

4.1. List specific, concise, and testable hypotheses. Please state if the hypotheses are directional or non-directional. If directional, state the direction. A predicted effect size is also appropriate here. If a specific interaction or moderation is important to your research, you can list that as a separate hypothesis. State what kind of ERP response you expect to find, including time window and region of interest if you have hypotheses about this.

4.2. **Example:**

H1 (directional). We predict that people without musical training compared to people with musical training will show a smaller mean amplitude of the MMN (difference wave (deviant - standard) between 50 and 250 ms in a frontocentral ROI: Fz, FCz, and Cz) to the smaller pitch difference, but not to the larger pitch difference.

H2 (directional). We predict that people with musical training will be more accurate at behaviorally detecting the deviant stimulus (both small and large tone difference) compared to those without musical training.

Design Plan

In this section, you will be asked to describe the overall design of your study. Remember that this research plan is designed to register a single study, so if you have multiple experimental designs, please complete a separate preregistration.

5. Stimuli (required)

5.1. Describe the stimuli used in the experiment.

5.2. **Example:** The pitch difference for the small difference is 4 Hz (standard 400 Hz, deviant 404 Hz), and for the large difference is 8 Hz (standard 400 Hz, deviant 408 Hz). There will be 300 trials per block, 80% of which are standards (N = 240; 400 Hz), and 20% are deviants (N = 60, either 404 Hz or 408 Hz). The stimuli will be created as pure sine tones (mono, sampling frequency of 44100 Hz, amplitude of 0.2 Pa and Fade-in and fade-out durations of 0.01 sec).

6. Study design (required)

6.1. Describe your study design. Is it a between-subject, within-subject, or mixed design?

6.1.1. **Example:** We will employ a mixed 2x2 design, with one between-subject factor *musical training* (two levels: musicians - non-musicians) and one within-subject factor *pitch difference* (two levels: small difference, large difference).

6.2. Describe the experimental design. Consider adding the following information:

- Stimulus presentation duration

- Inter-stimulus interval
- Trial duration
- Inter-trial interval
- Number of trials
- Blocked or randomized trial presentation
- Participant's task
- Duration of the study
- Response window

6.2.1. **Example.** Stimuli will be presented for 400 ms, with an ISI of 500 ms. Participants will be presented with 4 blocks (two with small pitch difference, two with large pitch difference) of 300 trials each, separated by short self-paced pauses. The total duration of the experiment will be about 20 minutes. Participants will be instructed to press the spacebar when they detect the deviant (i.e., stimulus that has a higher pitch).

6.3. **More info:** This question has a variety of possible answers. The key is for a researcher to be as detailed as is necessary given the specifics of their design. Be careful to determine if every parameter has been specified in the description of the study design. There may be some overlap between this question and the following questions. That is OK, as long as sufficient detail is given in one of the areas to provide all of the requested information. For example, if the study design describes a complete factorial, 2x2 design and the treatments and levels are specified previously, you do not have to repeat that information.

7. Randomization (required)

7.1. If you are doing a randomized study, how will you randomize, and at what level? What kind of counterbalancing will you use?

7.2. **Example:** We will pseudo-randomize the stimuli such that there will be at least 3 consecutive standards between each deviant. Participants' group assignment is based on pre-set musicality criteria and therefore cannot be randomized. Non-musicians will be age-matched to musicians. Block order will be counterbalanced: within each group, participants assigned with an odd number will be presented with the small difference block first, whereas participants assigned with an even number will be presented with the large difference block first.

8. Blinding (optional)

8.1. Blinding describes who is aware of the experimental manipulations within a study. You can specify whether the study was blind for subjects, experimenters or double blind. You can also specify whether the analysis was performed in a blind way.

8.2. **Example:** Group assignment is based on pre-set musicality criteria, and will not be blinded for the experimenter. The experimenter will not be blinded to block order either, since this is a perceivable pitch difference (at least for a trained listener). Preprocessing will be blinded, that is, the researcher performing the preprocessing will not be aware of the participant's group, or of the pitch difference of the block.

9. Manipulation check (optional)
 - 9.1. Describe whether you are going to do any manipulation checks
 - 9.2. **Example:** We will check whether the participants are, independent of our manipulation, able to hear the tones. Therefore, we will assess whether all individual participants show a P100 averaged across conditions.

Sampling Plan

In this section, please describe how you plan to collect samples, as well as the number of samples you plan to collect and your rationale for this decision. Please keep in mind that the data described in this section should be the actual data used for analysis, so if you are using a subset of a larger dataset, please describe the subset that will actually be used in your study.

10. Existing data (required)
 - 10.1. Please select the description that best describes your situation. Do not hesitate to contact the Center for Open Science (prereg@cos.io) if you have questions about how to answer this question.
 - 10.1.1. Registration prior to creation of data: As of the date of submission of this research plan for preregistration, the data have not yet been collected, created, or realized.
 - 10.1.2. Registration prior to any human observation of the data: As of the date of submission, the data exist but have not yet been quantified, constructed, observed, or reported by anyone - including individuals that are not associated with the proposed study. An example could be data collected for a student project that has not been accessed yet.
 - 10.1.3. Registration prior to accessing the data: As of the date of submission, the data exist, but have not been accessed by you or your collaborators. Commonly, this includes data that has been collected by another researcher or institution.
 - 10.1.4. Registration prior to analysis of the data: As of the date of submission, the data exist and you have accessed it, though no analysis has been conducted related to the research plan (including calculation of summary statistics). A common situation is a large dataset that is used for many different studies over time, or when a data set is randomly split into a sample for exploratory analyses and the other section of data is reserved for later confirmatory data analysis. Another scenario for ERP research is that the data have been preprocessed but no ERP averages have been calculated yet.
 - 10.1.5. Registration following analysis of the data: As of the date of submission, you have accessed and analyzed some of the data relevant to the research plan. This includes preliminary analysis of variables, calculation of descriptive statistics, and observation of data distributions.
If this is the case, please indicate in your final paper that this is a preregistration after (part of the) data has been analyzed.

11. Explanation of existing data (optional)
 - 11.1. If you indicate that you will be using some data that already exists, please describe the steps you have taken to assure that you are unaware of any patterns or summary statistics in the data. This may include an explanation of how access to the data has been limited, who has observed the data, or how you have avoided observing any analysis of the existing data you will use in your study.

12. Participant recruitment procedure (required)
 - 12.1. Please describe the process by which you will collect (or have collected, see section 10) your data. If you are using human participants, this should include the sampling population, recruitment efforts, payment/reimbursement for participation, inclusion and exclusion criteria, and study timeline.
 - 12.2. **Example:** Participants will be recruited through advertisements at the local university and the conservatory. Participants will be paid €10 or receive course credit for their participation. Participants must be at least 18 years old, have normal hearing, with no history of neurological diseases. We will exclude participants that speak a tone language as L1/L2 (acquired before the age of 12). Participants will be considered musicians if they have received at least 12 years of formal music training. Participants will be considered non-musicians if they have never had any formal music training, except for group lessons in primary school.
 - 12.3. **More information:** The answer to this question requires a specific set of instructions so that another person could replicate the data collection procedures and recreate the study population as closely as possible. If the study population cannot be reproduced (e.g., patients with rare diseases, elite athletes), please clarify this here.

13. Sample size (required)
 - 13.1. Describe the sample size of your study. How many participants will be recruited?
 - 13.2. **Example:** Within the data collection phase of the study (three months), we aim to collect clean datasets from 80 participants (40 per group: with vs. without musical training).
 - 13.3. **More information:** For some studies, this will simply be the number of participants and/or the number of clusters. For others, this could be an expected range, minimum, or maximum number.

14. Sample size rationale (required)
 - 14.1. This gives you an opportunity to specifically state how the sample size will be determined. This could include a power analysis or an arbitrary constraint such as time, money, or personnel. If there is more than one hypothesis, choose the largest estimated sample size that is required from the power analyses corresponding to your hypotheses.
 - 14.2. **Example:** We used MOREpower software (Campbell & Thompson, 2012) to calculate the necessary sample size to detect an effect size of $\eta^2 = 0.15$ with alpha level set at .05 for the interaction term (H1) in the 2 x 2 mixed ANOVA design to obtain .90 power. The target effect size is taken from a recent study

- by X et al. (2016) and accounted for a potential effect size inflation by taking 75% of the original effect size.
- 14.3. **More information:** A wide range of possible answers is acceptable; remember that transparency is more important than principled justifications. If you state any reason for a sample size upfront, it is better than stating no reason and leaving the reader to “fill in the blanks.” Acceptable rationales include: a power analysis, an arbitrary number of subjects, or a number based on time or monetary constraints. For details, see Lakens (2022).
15. Rationale for number of trials (optional)
 - 15.1. Provide a justification for how the number of trials was determined. This could be a power analysis, time and resource constraints or based on previous experiments in the literature.
 - 15.2. **Example:** Previous studies in the literature (e.g., X et al, 2016; X et al., 2012) have collected 600 trials per condition, and we have kept that consistent here.
 - 15.3. **More information:** A wide range of answers is acceptable, including a justification based on a power analysis, time constraints, or pilot studies. Note that transparency is encouraged – any trial selection or exclusion criteria should be worth mentioning like correct or incorrect trials.
 16. Stopping rule (optional)
 - 16.1. If your data collection procedures do not give you full control over your exact sample size, specify how you will decide when to terminate your data collection.
 - 16.2. **Example:** If we have to exclude participants due to data quality issues (specify the criteria in the section “Data exclusion”), we will recruit additional participants to replace the excluded datasets. The minimum acceptable sample size within the scheduled data collection phase is 60 (30 per group). Due to budgetary constraints, we will terminate data collection after reaching a total of 100 participants.
 - 16.3. **More information:** You may specify a stopping rule based on p -values only in the specific case of sequential analyses with pre-specified checkpoints, alpha levels, and stopping rules. Unacceptable rationales include stopping based on p -values if checkpoints and stopping rules are not specified.

Variables

In this section you should describe all variables that will be measured during the experiment and will later be used in your analysis plan. In your analysis plan, you will have the opportunity to describe how each variable will be used. If you have variables which you are measuring for exploratory analyses, you are not required to list them, though you are encouraged to do so in the exploratory analysis section.

17. Manipulated variables (required)
 - 17.1. Describe all variables you plan to manipulate in your experimental paradigm.
 - 17.2. **Example:**
Between-subject variable:
 Variable *musical training*, with two levels: musicians and non-musicians.

Within-subject variable:

Variable *pitch difference*, with two levels: 4 Hz (small difference) and 8 Hz (large difference).

- 17.3. **More information:** For any experimental manipulation, you should give a precise definition of each manipulated variable. This must include a precise description of the levels at which each variable will be set, or a specific definition for each categorical treatment. For example, “loud” or “quiet,” should instead give either a precise decibel level or a means of recreating each level. 'Presence/absence' or 'positive/negative' is an acceptable description if the variable is precisely described.

18. Measured variables (required)

- 18.1. Describe each variable that you will measure. This will include behavioral and EEG outcome measures, as well as any predictors or covariates that you will collect. In case of the EEG variables, please specify how you subselect your data in time and sensor space.

18.2. **Example:**

EEG outcome measure:

The EEG outcome variable will be the difference wave, i.e., the mean amplitude in response to the deviant minus the mean amplitude in response to the previous standard, in a time-window of 50-250 ms at electrodes Fz, FCz, and Cz. Time window and electrodes were chosen based on recommendations by X et al. (2014).

Behavioral outcome measure:

Behavioral outcome will be measured by calculating the hit rate. An accurate response is defined as a button-press during the response window: between 100 ms after the start of the oddball until the start of the following standard.

- 18.3. **More information:** As with the previous questions, the answers here must be precise. For example, 'MMN' or 'accuracy' is too vague.

18.4. **More information on channel selection:**

Non-exhaustive list of examples:

- Exact a-priori ROI: "We will select electrodes FCz and Cz based on previous research (insert references to studies which use this combination of electrodes that were used to make the decision)"
- Broad a-priori ROI, refined via independent contrast: "We will consider a large candidate ROI over left motor cortex, including Cz, C1, C3, CPz, CP1, CP3, Pz, P1, P3, and select those electrodes that showed a robust modulation by left vs. right hand responses at $p < .05$, paired *t*-test"
- Collapsed localizer: "We will select the 4 electrodes with the largest MMN between 50 and 250 ms on the grand average data"
- No selection of channels necessary: e.g., mass-univariate, ICA/PCA, source-space, cluster-based permutation tests

18.5. **More information on time windows:**

Non-exhaustive list of examples:

- Specified a-priori: "We will select a time-window 100-200 ms following stimulus onset"

- Adaptive mean approach: “We will locate the peak amplitude within 200 ms from stimulus onset and average amplitude values for the 100 ms surrounding that peak for each participant individually”

19. Indices (optional)

- 19.1. If any measurements are going to be combined into an index (or even a mean), what measures will you use and how will they be combined? Include either a formula or a precise description of your method. If you are using a more complicated statistical method to combine measures (e.g., factor analysis, z-standardization within conditions/participants), you can note that here but describe the exact method in the analysis plan section. Also include the time window and region of interest over which the index will be computed.
- 19.2. **Example:** We will compute the mean amplitude based on the above specified time window (50-250 ms) and electrodes (Fz, FCz, Cz) (see section 18).

Acquisition

In this section you should describe the hardware you plan to use to collect data (e.g., computer screen, response box, EEG hardware).

20. Computer screen (optional)

- 20.1. Type (e.g., LCD, CRT), resolution, refresh rate. **Example:** LED screen, 1920 x 1080 resolution, 59 Hz refresh rate.
- 20.2. Distance between computer screen and participant, use of a chinrest or other constraints. **Example:** 1 m distance between screen and participant, no chinrest or constraints.

21. EEG hardware and acquisition settings (required)

- 21.1. Amplifier: manufacturer, model. **Example:** EEG activity will be recorded using a BioSemi Active-Two system (BioSemi, Inc., Netherlands).
- 21.2. Electrode cap: manufacturer, model: **Example:** Brain Products (BrainVision) BrainCap.
- 21.3. Electrodes:
- 21.3.1. Do scalp electrodes have pre-amplifiers: Active (yes)/passive (no)
- 21.3.2. Number and location of electrodes, including reference and ground, but excluding EOG and other non-EEG electrodes. **Example:** There will be 35 electrodes in total including two mastoid electrodes and a ground electrode at AFz. The remaining 32 electrodes are: F7, F8, FC5, FC6, T7, T8, CP5, CP6, P7, P8, FP1, FP2, AF3, AF4, FC1, FC2, F3, F4, C3, C4, CP1, CP2, P3, P4, PO3, PO4, Oz, Fz, Cz, Pz).
- 21.3.3. Electrode material. **Example:** Ag/AgCl.
- 21.3.4. Conductive medium. **Example:** Gel/dry/saline/adhesive paste
- 21.3.5. Montage (e.g., standard 10-5 system, custom). **Example:** we will use the standard 10-5 international electrode montage (Oostenveld & Praamstra, 2001).
- 21.3.6. Online reference and ground electrode placement. **Example:** The BioSemi ActiveTwo system has two electrodes, the common mode sense (CMS) active electrode and the driven right leg (DRL) passive

- electrode, which will be used as reference and ground electrodes, respectively.
- 21.3.7. Impedance level deemed acceptable for data collection or alternative data quality indicator for high input impedance amplifiers. **Example:** Electrode impedances on all recording sites will be kept below 5 k Ω at the beginning of data collection for all participants.
 - 21.3.8. Online sampling rate and filter settings (if applicable). **Example:** EEG activity will be recorded at a 1024 Hz sampling rate with a 100 Hz low-pass filter and a 0.16 Hz high-pass filter.
 - 21.3.9. Local power line frequency (usually 60 Hz in America and parts of Asia or 50 Hz in other parts of the world). **Example:** 50 Hz
22. Describe other equipment in addition to EEG in as much detail as appropriate (e.g., ECG/EMG/EOG/eye tracking). (optional)

Pre-processing

Please reorder these preprocessing steps to reflect the order you will apply them to your data. Please first read all questions in sections 22-30, which list a wide (but non-exhaustive) array of possible steps. Based on those suggestions, write an individualized pipeline about which steps you will take in which order. If you have already preprocessed the data before preregistering, you can still specify the steps you took, but please indicate that these steps have already been performed. For recommendations on the order of pre-processing steps, see Luck (2014).

Please also clarify whether (some) preprocessing steps are common to all hypotheses or specific to only a sub-type of them. Furthermore, please specify whether different software is used at different stages of the preprocessing pipeline.

23. General Setup (required)
- 23.1. List the order in which you will apply the preprocessing steps. **Example:** Resampling, re-referencing, offline-filtering, artifact correction/rejection, epoching, averaging, baseline correction
 - 23.2. Which program/toolbox/package are you going to use? For example, [FieldTrip](#), [EEGLAB](#), [Brainstorm](#), or [ERPLAB](#) in MATLAB, or [MNE](#) in Python. Which version number? **Example:** All EEG data preprocessing steps will be scripted and run in MATLAB (v. 2021b) and the FieldTrip toolbox using the version that will be the latest at the time pre-processing begins.
 - 23.3. Will you use a pre-existing/standardized preprocessing pipeline (e.g., [PREP](#), [BEAPP](#), [HAPPE](#); remember to also report the version number) or develop your own? **Example:** We will not use any pre-existing preprocessing pipelines. The planned preprocessing steps are described below.
24. Data Import (required)
- 24.1. What software will be used to record the EEG data? **Example:** EEG data will be recorded using BrainVision Recorder software (the latest available version at the start of data collection).

- 24.2. What file format will you use at recording? Are you planning to export the files to a different format for analyses (e.g., *.edf*, *.cnt*, *.bnf*)? **Example:** The data will be recorded in *.eeg* format and exported to *.edf* for analyses.
- 24.3. Will you import all recorded channels or a subset? **Example:** All recorded channels will be imported.
25. Resampling (required)
- 25.1. Are you going to resample the continuous EEG signal? If so, to what sampling rate? **Example:** The EEG data will be downsampled to 200 Hz to decrease file size and computational time.
26. Re-Referencing (required)
- 26.1. Are you going to re-reference your data?
- 26.1.1. To what reference? **Example:** average reference, mean mastoids, Laplacian.
- 26.2. Which channels are you going to re-reference? **Example:** all EEG channels will be re-referenced.
27. Offline Filtering (required)
- 27.1. Will filters be applied to continuous or epoched data?
- 27.2. How will data be filtered (e.g., high-pass, low-pass, band-pass)? Please report at least the following properties:
- 27.2.1. filter type, e.g., FIR, IIR, Butterworth
- 27.2.2. filter order, e.g., 5th order
- 27.2.3. filter cut-off type and frequency, e.g., 40 Hz (-3 dB half-amplitude)
- 27.2.4. filter roll-off, e.g., 12 dB/oct
- 27.3. **Example:** “[A] 5th order infinite impulse response (IIR) Butterworth filter [will be] used for low-pass filtering on the continuous (nonsegmented data), with a cut-off frequency (3 dB point) of 40 Hz and 12 dB/octave roll-off.” (Keil et al., 2014, p. 6).
28. Artifact rejection/correction (required)
- 28.1. How are you going to identify noisy channels for subsequent interpolation (e.g., visually or using automated algorithms)? **Example:** EEG data will be inspected visually for flat channels which will be selected for interpolation. We will also use the FieldTrip semi-automatic *ft_rejectvisual* tool to identify noisy channels for interpolation.
- 28.2. Will you use an interpolation algorithm for those bad channels? If so, what kind of algorithm will you use (e.g., spherical spline)? **Example:** Selected channels will be interpolated from 4 neighboring electrodes using the spherical spline method based on 3D sensor locations.
- 28.3. Are you going to perform artifact rejection on continuous or epoched data? **Example:** Artifact rejection will be performed on continuous data.
- 28.4. Are you going to do artifact rejection automatically, semi-automatically, manually, or not at all? **Example:** Artifact rejection will be performed automatically.
- 28.5. If artifacts are rejected automatically or semi-automatically, what kind of artifact rejection algorithm will you use (e.g., z-value approach implemented in

- FieldTrip, detect abrupt spikes or flat activity based on kurtosis, reject epochs using spectral estimates)? What parameter values will you use for your algorithm? If artifacts are rejected manually, which criteria will you apply (e.g., only blinks and horizontal eye movements?) **Example:** We will use the automatic artifact rejection algorithm implemented in Fieldtrip: we will reject from the analysis trials with a z-value > 3.
- 28.6. What kind of artifact *correction* will you perform? For example, independent component analysis like FASTica as implemented in EEGLAB or Artifact Subspace Reconstruction (Mullen et al., 2013)? What parameter values will you use for your algorithm? Will you correct all artifacts (blinks, saccades, alpha, muscle, etc) or only a subset? For example, in infant research you might want to reject muscle artifacts from the neck but correct eye movement artifacts. **Example:** We will use AMICA algorithm (Palmer et al., 2012) (calculated data rank with 'pcakeep' option) for independent component analysis (ICA). The components corresponding to eye movements, blinks, heart activity will be identified and rejected semi-automatically with ICLabel (Pion-Tonachini et al., 2019): if a component is classified as eye movements or heart activity with > 60% and < 30% brain activity (and confirmed visually), then it will be rejected.
- 28.7. **More information:** https://eeglab.org/tutorials/06_RejectArtifacts
29. Epoching and averaging (required)
- 29.1. Are you going to epoch data? If so, what will the epoch length be? What part of the stimulus/response will epochs be time-locked to?
- 29.2. Will you include a time window before the event of interest as a baseline? How long will it be and how did you come to this decision?
- 29.3. How will these epochs be averaged to create ERPs? Include information about which stimuli and/or responses will be included in each average.
- 29.4. **Example:** Epochs will be created starting 400 ms before the onset of the standard and deviant tones, and will last for 2400 ms. Standard and the two kinds of deviant tones (small or large difference) will be averaged separately per participant.
30. Baseline correction (required)
- 30.1. Will you apply baseline correction?
- 30.1.1. Over what time window? **Example:** 400 ms before the stimulus onset will be used for baseline correction.
- 30.2. Will you calculate a separate baseline per trial, condition, block, participant? **Example:** the baseline will be extracted preceding stimulus onset for every trial
- 30.3. What procedure will you use? **Example:** subtraction, division, covariate in statistical model
31. **More information:** If you are recording other types of data or analyses in addition to ERPs (e.g., eye-tracking data), describe relevant software and pre-processing in as much detail as appropriate.

Analysis Plan

You may describe one or more planned analyses in this preregistration. An analysis plan must state up front which variables are predictors (independent) and which are the outcomes (dependent). Please remember that all analyses specified below must be reported in the final article, and any additional analyses must be reported in a separate section as data-driven analyses.

32. Statistical models (required)

- 32.1. What statistical model will you use to test your hypotheses? Please include the type of model (e.g., ANOVA, cluster-based permutation test, linear mixed model, etc.) and the model specification (this includes each variable that will be included as predictors, outcomes, or covariates). Please specify any interactions, subgroup analyses, pairwise or complex contrasts, or follow-up tests from omnibus tests. Will you be using one- or two-tailed tests? If you are comparing multiple conditions or testing multiple hypotheses, how will you correct for multiple comparisons? Please also indicate which statistical model tests which hypothesis.
- 32.2. **Example:** To analyze the EEG data, we will use a 2 x 2 mixed ANOVA on MMN mean amplitude values. Based on our main hypothesis, we will only consider whether the *pitch difference x musical training* interaction is statistically significant. We will not consider the main effects and therefore will not correct for multiple testing for several comparisons within the ANOVA. If the interaction (in either or both ANOVAs) is statistically significant, we will run post-hoc t-tests for the given ANOVA.
- 32.3. **More information:** Please provide a specific recipe for analyzing the collected data. Ask yourself: did you provide enough detail so that someone else could run the same analysis again?

33. Transformations (optional)

- 33.1. If you plan on transforming, centering, or recoding the data, please describe that process here. Transformations often are not necessary for ERP data, but other factors in your model may need recoding (see example below).
- 33.2. **Example:** We will compute the difference wave by subtracting the standard from the deviant waveform.
- 33.3. **More information:** If any categorical predictors are included in a regression, indicate how those variables will be coded (e.g., dummy coding, summation coding, etc.) and what the reference category will be.

34. Inference criteria (required)

- 34.1. What criteria will you use to make inferences (e.g., p -values, Bayes factors, specific model fit indices)? Where appropriate, please also report the cut-off criterion (e.g., $p < .05$, $BF_{10} > 10$).
- 34.2. **Example:** We will use $p < .05$ to determine statistical significance.

35. Data exclusion (required)

- 35.1. How will you determine what data or samples, if any, to exclude from your analyses? How will outliers be handled? Will there be awareness checks? Is

there a pre-specified minimum number of trials for participants to be retained in the final analysis? If so, how did you come to this decision (e.g., prior work indicates that 30 trials are required to elicit a reliable MMN)?

35.2. **Example:** Participants will be excluded if there are less than 40 deviant trials per condition left after artifact rejection or due to technical failure; this cutoff is based on prior work by X et al. (2014).

36. Exploring your data (optional)

36.1. You are obviously free to explore your data set to look for unexpected relationships. You may describe this procedure here. Describing this procedure here can serve as a reminder to meticulously log your analysis steps and decisions while performing your data exploration.

36.2. **Example:** We will explore relationships between age and handedness and MMN amplitude.

Other

If there is any additional information that you would like to be included in your preregistration, please enter it here.

37. References (optional)

37.1. List the references you cited in the preregistration, e.g.:

Campbell, J. I. D., & Thompson, V. A. (2012). MorePower 6.0 for ANOVA with relational confidence intervals and Bayesian analysis. *Behavior Research Methods*, *44*(4), 1255–1265. <https://doi.org/10.3758/s13428-012-0186-0>

Keil, A., Debener, S., Gratton, G., Junghöfer, M., Kappenman, E. S., Luck, S. J., Luu, P., Miller, G. A., & Yee, C. M. (2014). Committee report: Publication guidelines and recommendations for studies using electroencephalography and magnetoencephalography. *Psychophysiology*, *51*(1), 1–21. <https://doi.org/10.1111/psyp.12147>

Luck, S. J. (2014). *An Introduction to the Event-Related Potential Technique* (2nd edition). Bradford Books.

Mullen, T., Kothe, C., Chi, Y. M., Ojeda, A., Kerth, T., Makeig, S., Cauwenberghs, G., & Jung, T.-P. (2013). Real-time modeling and 3D visualization of source dynamics and connectivity using wearable EEG. *2013 35th Annual International Conference of the IEEE Engineering in Medicine and Biology Society (EMBC)*, 2184–2187. <https://doi.org/10.1109/EMBC.2013.6609968>

Oostenveld, R., & Praamstra, P. (2001). The five percent electrode system for high-resolution EEG and ERP measurements. *Clinical Neurophysiology*, *112*(4), 713–719. [https://doi.org/10.1016/S1388-2457\(00\)00527-7](https://doi.org/10.1016/S1388-2457(00)00527-7)

Palmer, J., Kreutz-Delgado, K., & Makeig, S. (2012). *AMICA: An Adaptive Mixture of Independent Component Analyzers with Shared Components*.

Paul, M., Govaart, G. H., & Schettino, A. (2021). Making ERP research more transparent: Guidelines for preregistration. *International Journal of Psychophysiology*, *164*, 52–63. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ijpsycho.2021.02.016>

Pernet, C., Garrido, M. I., Gramfort, A., Maurits, N., Michel, C. M., Pang, E., Salmelin, R., Schoffelen, J. M., Valdes-Sosa, P. A., & Puce, A. (2020). Issues and recommendations from the OHBM COBIDAS MEEG committee for reproducible EEG and MEG research. *Nature Neuroscience*, *23*(12), 1473–1483. <https://doi.org/10.1038/s41593-020-00709-0>

Pion-Tonachini, L., Kreutz-Delgado, K., & Makeig, S. (2019). ICLabel: An automated electroencephalographic independent component classifier, dataset, and website.

NeuroImage, 198, 181–197. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.neuroimage.2019.05.026>
Styles, S. J., Ković, V., Ke, H., & Šoškić, A. (2021). Towards ARTEM-IS: Design guidelines for evidence-based EEG methodology reporting tools. *NeuroImage*, 245, 118721. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.neuroimage.2021.118721>

38. Supplementary materials (optional)

38.1. **Example:** figures, templates/checklists such as eCOBIDAS (Pernet et al., 2020) or ARTEM-IS (Styles et al., 2021), preprocessing and analysis scripts (tested on pilot data)

38.2. Data Management Plan: a document that specifies how data will be organized, tracked, stored, and eventually shared following the FAIR guiding principles of Findability, Accessibility, Interoperability, and Reusability, to facilitate result reproducibility. Your institution and/or funding body may already require it and you can consider adding a copy here as well.