

CURRICULUM VITAE**Marcel Zentner**

Current Position	Full Professor (Universitätsprofessor)
Institution	
Address	
Telephone	
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Webpage	
ORCID iD	
Google Scholar Profile	

Personal

Date of Birth	
Place of Birth	
Nationality	
Languages	
Address (private)	
Phone (private)	

Education

	Habilitation , University of Fribourg (Switzerland)
	PhD , University of Zürich
2004	Lizentiat (Diploma) , University of Zürich
1996	Studies in Psychology, Clinical Child Psychology, and Philosophy University of Zürich (Final grade: 5.9/6.0)
1992	
1986-1992	Visiting Student, Harvard University
	Matura , Typus B (with Latin), Gymnasium Rämibühl, Zürich
1990-1991	
1980-1985	

Research Interests

Music perception, gender, emotion, personality and close relationships

Positions

2014-	<i>Universitäts-Professor für Persönlichkeitspsychologie, Differentielle Psychologie und Diagnostik</i>
2017	<i>Visiting Scholar</i> (fall term), Department of Music, Durham University (UK)
2008-2013	<i>Senior Lecturer</i> (with tenure), <i>Department of Psychology, University of York (UK)</i>
2001-2007	<i>Swiss National Science Foundation Professorship</i> , Department of Psychology, University of Geneva
2003	<i>Visiting Scholar</i> (spring term), Department of Psychology, University of California Berkeley
2002-2010	<i>Lecturer</i> , Department Psychology, University of Fribourg
1999/2000	<i>Professeur remplaçant</i> (fall term), Department of Psychology, Developmental Psychology Unit, University of Lausanne
1996-2001	<i>Maître-Assistant</i> , Department of Psychology, University of Geneva, Emotion Research Group
1994-1996	<i>Post-Doctoral Associate</i> , Department of Psychology, Harvard University

Additional Research Achievements (selection)

Funding	More than 1,5 million EUR in research grants from national and international funding bodies (e.g., Economic and Social Research Council; Swiss National Science Foundation; Austrian Science Foundation)
Awards	Career Development Award, Swiss National Science Foundation (2001)
Editorial	Editor-in-Chief, <i>Frontiers in Personality and Social Psychology</i> (2014-2019)
Reviewing	Scientific institutions: ESRC; European Commission; Israel Science Foundation; Leverhulme Trust, Agence de Recherche Nationale Française; Netherlands Organization for Scientific Research; Swiss National Science Foundation Journals: Over 30 peer-reviewed journals, including <i>Nature</i> , <i>Psychological Bulletin</i> , <i>Psychological Science</i> , <i>Behavior Research Methods</i>
Organization of Scientific Events	Conferences: Geneva Emotion Week (University of Geneva, 1999); Music and Emotion Colloquium (University of York, 2010) Symposia: Chair of > 10 conference symposia (details available on request)
Student Supervision	7 PhD students (5 finished, 2 ongoing); over 50 Masters and over 200 Bachelor theses

Key Publications

1. Strauss, H., Vigl, J., Jacobsen, P. O., Bayer, M., Talamini, F., Vigl, W., ... & Zentner, M. (2024). The Emotion-to-Music Mapping Atlas (EMMA): A systematically organized online database of emotionally evocative music excerpts. *Behavior Research Methods*, 56(4), 3560-3577.
2. Zentner, M., & von Aufsess, C. (2022). Is being gender nonconforming distressing? It depends where you live: gender equality across 15 nations predicts how much gender nonconformity is related to self-esteem. *Psychological Medicine*, 52(10), 1857-1865.
3. Zentner, M. & Strauss, H. (2017). Assessing musical ability quickly and objectively. Development and validation of the Short-PROMS and the Mini-PROMS. *Annals of the New York Academy of Sciences*, 1400, 33-45.
4. Zentner, M. & Mitura, K. (2012). Stepping out of the caveman's shadow: Nations' gender gap predicts degree of sex differentiation in mate preferences. *Psychological Science*, 23, 1176-1185.
5. Zentner, M. & Eerola, T. (2010). Rhythmic engagement with music in infancy. *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences (PNAS)*, 107, 5568-5573.
6. Zentner, M., Grandjean, D., & Scherer, K.R. (2008). Emotions evoked by the sound of music: Characterization, classification, and measurement. *Emotion*, 8, 494-521.
7. Zentner, M.R. & Kagan, J. (1996). Perception of music by infants. *Nature*, 383, 29.

Full List of Publications

1. Peintner, A., Moscati, M., Kinoshita, Y., Vogl, R., Knees, P., Schedl, M., Strauß, H., Zentner, M. & Zangerle, E. (2025). Nuanced music emotion recognition via a semi-supervised multi-relational graph neural network. *Transactions of the International Society for Music Information Retrieval*, 8(1), 140-153.
2. Zentner, M. (2025). Wider den Bindungszwang. Reflexionen zu drei prägenden Prämissen der Bindungsforschung. *Familiendynamik*, 50(3), 206-218.
3. Jacobsen, P. O., Strauss, H., Vigl, J., Zangerle, E., & Zentner, M. (2025). Assessing aesthetic music-evoked emotions in a minute or less: A comparison of the GEMS-45 and the GEMS-9. *Musicae Scientiae*, 29(1), 184-192.
4. Strauss, H., Vigl, J., Jacobsen, P. O., Bayer, M., Talamini, F., Vigl, W., ... & Zentner, M. (2024). The Emotion-to-Music Mapping Atlas (EMMA): A systematically organized online database of emotionally evocative music excerpts. *Behavior Research Methods*, 56(4), 3560-3577.
5. Strauss, H., Reiche, S., Dick, M., & Zentner, M. (2024). Online assessment of musical ability in 10 minutes: Development and validation of the Micro-PROMS. *Behavior Research Methods*, 56(3), 1968-1983.
6. Vigl, J., Talamini, F., Strauss, H., & Zentner, M. (2024). Prosodic discrimination skills mediate the association between musical aptitude and vocal emotion recognition ability. *Scientific Reports*, 14(1), 16462.
7. Biedermann, V., & Zentner, M. (2024). Assessing temperament risk factors in late childhood and early adolescence: Development and validation of the Integrative Late Childhood Temperament Inventory. *Child Psychiatry & Human Development*. Advance online.
8. Moscati, M., Strauß, H., Jacobsen, P. O., Peintner, A., Zangerle, E., Zentner, M., & Schedl, M. (2024, June). Emotion-Based Music Recommendation from Quality Annotations and Large-Scale User-Generated Tags. In *Proceedings of the 32nd ACM Conference on User Modeling, Adaptation and Personalization* (pp. 159-164).
9. Vigl, J., & Zentner, M. (2023). How much does performance quality matter in musical emotion induction? Main effects and interaction effects with listener features. *Psychology of Aesthetics, Creativity, and the Arts*. Advance online.
10. Georgi, M., Gingras, B., & Zentner, M. (2023). The Tapping-PROMS: A test for the assessment of sensorimotor rhythmic abilities. *Frontiers in Psychology*, 13, 862468.
11. Parada-Cabaleiro, E., Batliner, A., Zentner, M., & Schedl, M. (2023). Exploring emotions in Bach chorales: a multi-modal perceptual and data-driven study. *Royal Society Open Science*, 10(12), 230574.
12. Vigl, J., Talamini, F., Strauss, H., & Zentner, M. (2023). A prospective study of relationship and sexual satisfaction during the first year of the COVID-19 pandemic: The role of dispositional vulnerabilities and external stressors. *Journal of Personality*, 91(5), 1152-1170.
13. Strauss, H., Venables, P., & Zentner, M. (2023). Associations between early childhood poverty and cognitive functioning throughout childhood and adolescence: A 14-year prospective longitudinal analysis of the Mauritius Child Health Project. *PLoS One*, 18(2), e0278618.
14. Gerstgrasser, S., Vigl, J., & Zentner, M. (2023). The role of listener features in musical emotion induction: The contributions of musical expertise, personality dispositions, and mood state. *Psychology of Aesthetics, Creativity, and the Arts*, 17(2), 211-224.
15. Zentner, M., & von Aufsess, C. (2022). Is being gender nonconforming distressing? It depends where you live: gender equality across 15 nations predicts how much gender nonconformity is related to self-esteem. *Psychological Medicine*, 52(10), 1857-1865.

16. Vigl, J., Strauss, H., Talamini, F., & Zentner, M. (2022). Relationship satisfaction in the early stages of the COVID-19 pandemic: A cross-national examination of situational, dispositional, and relationship factors. *PLoS One*, 17(3), e0264511.
17. Talamini, F., Eller, G., Vigl, J., & Zentner, M. (2022). Music-evoked emotions affect memory for emotional pictures. *Scientific Reports*, 12(1), 10636.
18. Zentner, M., Biedermann, V., Taferner, C., da Cudan, H., Möhler, E., Strauß, H., & Sevecke, K. (2021). Early detection of temperament risk factors: a comparison of clinically referred and general population children. *Frontiers in Psychiatry*, 12, 667503.
19. Zentner, M. (2021). Social bonding and credible signaling hypotheses largely disregard the gap between animal vocalizations and human music. *Behavioral & Brain Sciences*, 44.
20. Zentner, M. (2020). Identifying child temperament risk factors from 2 to 8 years of age: validation of a brief temperament screening tool in the US, Europe, and China. *European Child & Adolescent Psychiatry*, 29(5), 665-678.
21. Zentner, M. & Gingras, B. (2019). The assessment of musical ability and its determinants. In J. Rentfrow & D. Levitin (Eds.), *Foundations in Music Psychology: Theory and Research* (pp. 641-683). MIT Press.
22. Zentner, M. (2019). Der Einfluss des Temperaments auf das Bindungsverhalten. In L. Ahnert (Ed.), *Frühe Bindung* (4. Aufl., S. 175-197). München: Reinhardt Verlag.
23. Zentner, M. (2018). A sadness-independent account of the enjoyment of music-evoked sadness: Comment on "An integrative review of the enjoyment of sadness associated with music" by T. Eerola et al. *Physics of Life Reviews*, 25, 144-146.
24. Zentner, M. & Strauss, H. (2017). Assessing musical ability quickly and objectively. Development and validation of the Short-PROMS and the Mini-PROMS. *Annals of the New York Academy of Sciences*, 1400, 33-45.
25. Bardi, A. & Zentner, M. (2017). Bardi, A., & Zentner, M. (2017). Grand challenges for personality and social psychology: moving beyond the replication crisis. *Frontiers in Psychology*, 8, 2068.
26. Zentner, M. & Shiner (2015). Fifty years of progress in temperament research: A synthesis of major themes, findings, and a look forward. In M. Zentner & R. Shiner (Eds.). *Handbook of Temperament* (pp. 673-700). NY: Guilford
27. Zentner, M. & Shiner, R. (Eds., 2015). *The Handbook of Temperament*. New York: Guilford Press.
28. Zentner, M. & Wang, F. (2013). *Inventory for the Integrative Assessment of Child Temperament – ICTI*. Manual. Oxford: Hogrefe Publishers, UK.
29. Zentner, M. (2011). *Inventar zur integrativen Erfassung des Kind-Temperaments – IKT*. Manual Bern: Huber.
30. Silvestrini, N., Piguet, V., Cedraschi, C., & Zentner, M. (2011). Music and auditory distraction reduce pain: Emotional or attentional effects? *Music and Medicine*, 3, 264-270.
31. Zentner, M. & Eerola, T. (2011). Self-report measures and models of musical emotions. In P. Juslin & J. Sloboda (Eds.), *Handbook of Music and Emotion: Theory, Research, Applications* (pp. 187-223). Oxford, New York: OUP.
32. Zentner, M. & Eerola, T. (2010). Rhythmic engagement with music in infancy. *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences (PNAS)*, 107, 5568-5573.
33. Zentner, M. (2010). Homer's Prophecy. An essay on music's primary emotions. *Music Analysis*, 29, 102-125.
34. Zentner, M. & Bates, J.E. (2008). Child temperament: An integrative review of concepts, research programs, and measures. *European Journal of Developmental Science*, 2, 7-37

35. Zentner, M., Grandjean, D., & Scherer, K.R. (2008). Emotions evoked by the sound of music: Characterization, classification, and measurement. *Emotion*, 8, 494-521.
36. Scherer, K.R. & Zentner, M. (2008). Music-evoked emotions *are* different – more often aesthetic than utilitarian. *Behavioral and Brain Sciences*, 31, 595-596.
37. Guhn, M., Hamm, A., & Zentner, M. (2007). Physiological and musico-acoustic correlates of the chill response. *Music Perception*, 24, 473-483.
38. Zentner, M.R. & Renaud, O. (2007). Origins of adolescents' ideal-self: An intergenerational perspective. *Journal of Personality and Social Psychology*, 92, 357-375.
40. Zentner, M.R. (2005). Ideal mate personality concepts and compatibility in close relationships: A longitudinal analysis. *Journal of Personality and Social Psychology*, 89, 242-256.
41. Scherer, K.R., Zentner, M.R., & Stern, D. (2004). Beyond surprise: The puzzle of infants' expressive reactions to expectancy violation. *Emotion*, 4, 389-402.
42. Scherer, K.R., Zentner, M.R., & Schacht, A. (2002). Emotions generated by music: A conceptual analysis and some preliminary data. *Musicae Scientiae (Special issue on music and emotion)*, 149-170.
43. Zentner, M.R. (2002). Nineteenth-century precursors of Freud. In E. Erwin (Ed.), *The Freud Encyclopedia* (pp. 370-383). London, New York: Routledge.
44. Scherer, K.R. & Zentner, M.R. (2001). Emotion effects of music: Perception and production rules. In P. Juslin & J. Sloboda (Eds.), *Music and Emotion: Theory and Research* (pp. 361-392). Oxford & New York: Oxford University Press.
45. Zentner, M.R. & Scherer, K.R. (1998). Emotionaler Ausdruck in Musik und Sprache. *Deutsches Jahrbuch für Musikpsychologie*, 13, 8-25.
46. Zentner, M.R. & Kagan, J. (1998). Infants' perception of consonance and dissonance in music. *Infant Behavior and Development*, 21, 483-492.
47. Zentner, M.R. & Kagan, J. (1996). Perception of music by infants. *Nature*, 383, 29.
48. Kagan, J. & Zentner, M.R. (1996). Early childhood predictors of adult psychopathology. *Harvard Review of Psychiatry*, 3, 341-350.
49. Zentner, M.R. (1993). Temperament, psychische Entwicklung und Psychopathologie. Zusammenhänge, Erklärungsmodelle und Formen der Intervention. *Zeitschrift für Klinische Psychologie, Psychopathologie und Psychotherapie*, 41, 43-68.
50. Zentner, M.R. (1993). "Das Ziel alles Lebens ist der Tod". Schopenhauer und Freuds Todestrieb. *Archiv für Geschichte der Philosophie*, 75, 319-339.
51. Ferber, R. & Zentner, M.R. (1993). "Und werden wieder hell" – Nietzsches Marc Aurel. *Archiv für Geschichte der Philosophie*, 75, 219-224.
52. Zentner, M. (1988). Der Selbstmord als Antwort auf das Leid bei Schopenhauer. *Freiburger Zeitschrift für Philosophie und Theologie*, 35, 433-448.

Research Synopsis

My research interests are in the areas of personality and close relationships, gender, emotion, and music perception. My research on **music perception** made contributions to three areas: a) work showing that preverbal infants are biased toward preferring harmonically consonant over harmonically dissonant melodies¹, and discovering infants' precocious ability to move in time with music and other rhythmically regular stimuli²; b) the creation of a broad-ranging test-battery for assessing music aptitude in both musicians and non-musicians^{3,4}; and c) empirical work on music-evoked emotion resulting in the GEMS-model, which redefined how music-induced emotions are conceptualized and measured⁵. The focus of my current work in this area is on applying the GEMS-model in the domain of music emotion recognition, where it led to a neural network approach that can automatically predict emotions that will be evoked by music⁶, and in examining an induction rule model that attempts predicts intensity of music-induced emotions from musical, performance, listener, and contextual features^{7,8}.

My work on the **psychology of gender** demonstrated that sex differences in mate preferences are to a large extent determined by differences in national levels of gender-equality, calling evolutionary psychologists' claim that these sex differences are the result of evolutionary adaptations into question⁹. This work was followed-up by a new framework for understanding partner preferences of women and men¹⁰, which inspired further work on the role of gender inequality, notably in affecting self-esteem in gender-nonconforming individuals¹¹.

My work on **personality and close relationships** includes the introduction of a person-centered methodology to assess personality similarity and compatibility in personal relationships^{12, 13}, research particularizing the role of personality and individual differences in shaping responses to the COVID-19 pandemic¹⁴, and the development of an integrative model and measure for assessing temperament risk factors in children¹⁵. My current work in the social and personality domain expands the range of tools for assessing temperament risk factors in children, and examines the role of music preferences in close relationships.

References

1. Zentner, M.R. & Kagan, J. (1996). Perception of music by infants. *Nature*, 383, 29.
2. Zentner, M. & Eerola, T. (2010). Rhythmic engagement with music in infancy. *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences (PNAS)*, 107, 5568-5573.
3. Law, L. N., & Zentner, M. (2012). Assessing musical abilities objectively: Construction and validation of the profile of music perception skills. *PloS one*, 7(12), e52508.
4. Strauss, H., Reiche, S., Dick, M., & Zentner, M. (2024). Online assessment of musical ability in 10 minutes: Development and validation of the Micro-PROMS. *Behavior Research Methods*, 56, 1968-1983.
5. Zentner, M., Grandjean, D., & Scherer, K.R. (2008). Emotions evoked by the sound of music: Characterization, classification, and measurement. *Emotion*, 8, 494-521.
6. Peintner, A., Moscati, M., Kinoshita, Y., Vogl, R., Knees, P., Schedl, M., Strauß, H., Zentner, M. & Zangerle, E. (2025). Nuanced music emotion recognition via a semi-supervised multi-relational graph neural network. *Transactions of the International Society for Music Information Retrieval*, 8(1), 140-153.

7. Vigl, J., & Zentner, M. (2023). How much does performance quality matter in musical emotion induction? Main effects and interaction effects with listener features. *Psychology of Aesthetics, Creativity, and the Arts*. Advance online.
8. Gerstgrasser, S., Vigl, J., & Zentner, M. (2023). The role of listener features in musical emotion induction: The contributions of musical expertise, personality dispositions, and mood state. *Psychology of Aesthetics, Creativity, and the Arts*, 17, 211-224.
9. Zentner, M. & Mitura, K. (2012). Stepping out of the caveman's shadow: Nations' gender gap predicts degree of sex differentiation in mate preferences. *Psychological Science*, 23, 1176-1185.
10. Zentner, M., & Eagly, A. H. (2017). A sociocultural framework for understanding partner preferences of women and men: Integration of concepts and evidence. *European Review of Social Psychology*, 26, 328-373.
11. Zentner, M., & von Aufsess, C. (2022). Is being gender nonconforming distressing? It depends where you live: gender equality across 15 nations predicts how much gender nonconformity is related to self-esteem. *Psychological Medicine*, 52, 1857-1865.
12. Zentner, M. R. (2005). Ideal mate personality concepts and compatibility in close relationships: a longitudinal analysis. *Journal of Personality and Social Psychology*, 89, 242-256.
13. Zentner, M. & Renaud, O. (2007). Origins of adolescents' ideal-self: An intergenerational perspective. *Journal of Personality and Social Psychology*, 92, 357-375.
14. Vigl, J., Talamini, F., Strauss, H., & Zentner, M. (2023). A prospective study of relationship and sexual satisfaction during the first year of the COVID-19 pandemic: The role of dispositional vulnerabilities and external stressors. *Journal of Personality*, 91, 1152-1170.
15. Zentner, M. (2020). Identifying child temperament risk factors from 2 to 8 years of age: validation of a brief temperament screening tool in the US, Europe, and China. *European Child & Adolescent Psychiatry*, 29, 665-678.

Editorial and Reviewer Activities

Editor-in-Chief 2014-2019	<i>Frontiers in Personality and Social Psychology</i> (from 2016 Co-editor with Dr. Anat Bardi)
Associate Editor 2010-	<i>Frontiers in Personality Science and Individual Differences</i>
Editorial Board 2008-	<i>International Journal of Developmental Science</i>
Ad hoc Reviewer	Behavior Research Methods; British Journal of Psychology; Cognition; Developmental Psychology; Diagnostica; Emotion; European Journal of Personality; Family Process; International Journal of Behavioral Development; Music Perception; Nature; PLOS ONE, Psychological Bulletin, Psychology of Music; Psychological Science; Swiss Journal of Psychology; Scandinavian Journal of Psychology; Scientific Reports; Social Psychological and Personality Science; Zeitschrift für Entwicklungs- und Pädagogische Psychologie
Scientific Institutions	Leverhulme Trust (UK) Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC, UK) European Commission. Future and Emerging Technologies Israel Science Foundation French National Science Foundation (Agence de Recherche Nationale) Swiss National Science Foundation Netherlands Organisation for Scientific Research (Social Sciences)
External Examiner for PhD Theses	Kim Thibault de Beauregard, University of Geneva (2017) Gerard Madden, Queen's University Belfast (2017) Eva Istok, University of Helsinki (2013) Christopher Edgar, Queen's University Belfast (2013) Sylwia Hyniewska, Telecom Paris Tech (2013) Kari Kallinen, University of Jyväskylä (2006)

PhD Student Supervision

Lily Law, PhD (2009-2012). Assessing and understanding individual differences in perceptual musical abilities. PhD awarded December 2012, University of York.

Alessio Pruneddu (2010-2014). Factors Affecting Personality Change in the Transition to University". PhD awarded February 2014, University of York.

Andrea Kammermann (2017-2021). Co-Supervisor. Die Beziehung zwischen Naturjodel und Emotion. Ein Interdependenzphänomen mit Fokus Unterwalden. PhD awarded December 2021, University of Innsbruck.

Julia Vigl (2019-2023). Personality in the context of close relationships and music-evoked emotions. Universität Innsbruck. PhD awarded March 2023, University of Innsbruck.

Hannah Strauß (2019-2024). Methodological Advances in the Assessment of Music Perception Abilities and Music-Evoked Emotions. PhD awarded July 2024, University of Innsbruck.

Vivienne Bidermann (2021-2025). Assessment of child temperament risk factors. University of Innsbruck. PhD final exam expected for autumn 2025.

Florian Hemetsberger (2025-). Differential validity of music-evoked emotion taxonomies.

University administration / committee work

University Professors (Speaker), Department of Psychology, University of Innsbruck, 2015-present

Selection Committee Professorship General Psychology, University of Innsbruck, 2019

Selection Committee Professorship Clinical Psychology, University of Innsbruck, 2017

Selection Committee Professorship Developmental Psychology, University of Innsbruck, 2017

Departmental Ethics Committee (Chair), Department of Psychology, University of York, 2010-2013

Social and Personality Psychology Unit (Strand Leader), Department of Psychology, University of York, 2010-2013

Schweizerische Vereinigung für Kinder-und Jugendpsychologie (Board Member) 2005-2008.