

Trainer



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- Teaches psychology at a private university, focusing on biopsychology, experimental psychology, and neuroscience
- Likes to give workshops on different topics: image processing, programming, open science

# Perfecting Your Figures with Free Software



## Objective

Research output is often conveyed by images and graphical illustrations, providing insights at a glance that are much more difficult to grasp in text format. There are many free software packages you can use to modify photographs and figures allowing you to optimize the presentation of your results.

In this online workshop, you will learn some important basics about image formats and how to use open-source tools (Inkscape and GIMP) to read, edit, and write image files.



## Description

- Why did the picture look OK on my screen, but now it looks imperfect in the manuscript printout?
- How can I make my data graph look nice and not so pixelated?
- How can I change font and color in my figure without rewriting my code and running the whole analysis again?

We will start with some basic knowledge on images and graphs. You will learn about graphics file formats, bitmap vs. vector graphics, image resolution, color spaces, and further image properties.

This will allow you to choose the optimal option in different situations (presentations, manuscripts, websites, etc.). Specifically, we will look at typical journal requirements for figure files and how best to meet them.

The good thing is, any software that will be introduced is available at no cost, so you can save some money while ensuring that you will always have these tools available in the future. Nevertheless, the basic principles and methods you learn in the course will apply in a similar fashion even if you need to use other software in your lab.

**Note that the first session on 29 January is optional** to learn about the two free software packages for image editing we will employ (Inkscape + GIMP).

You will benefit most if you allow some time in January before the workshop for viewing video material and doing exercises which we will discuss in the optional session.

If you are familiar with other software, you will find similar functions there and can still benefit from the general tips on editing in the main session. However, the course examples are based on Inkscape and GIMP.



## Methodology

- Screencasts
- Lectures
- Practical exercises
- Q&A session

## Organizational Information

|                   |                                                                                             |
|-------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Language / Format | English / Online                                                                            |
| Target group      | Doctoral Candidates at all stages and Postdocs (R2/R3) from all faculties                   |
| Date              | Friday, 29 January 2027, 10:00 – 12:00 - optional<br>Friday, 12 February 2027, 9:00 – 13:00 |
| Registration      | <a href="#">For registration click here</a>                                                 |