

JOLIEN RIETKERK

CONTACT INFORMATION

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To understand the etiology of mood disorders and their comorbidities, my research bridges across disciplines by developing statistical genetics approaches for complex polygenic traits and aims to bring these findings to people from all populations affected by psychiatric disorders.

EDUCATION

Dr. rer. nat. in Experimental Medicine (2020-2025) (*magna cum laude*)

TUM school of Medicine and Health, Technical University of Munich, Germany

Master of Science in Molecular and Cellular Life Sciences (2018-2020)

University of Utrecht, The Netherlands

Bachelor of Science in Life Science and Technology (2015-2018)

University of Groningen, The Netherlands

ACADEMIC POSITIONS

Postdoctoral Researcher Trans-Ancestry Psychiatric Genetics (2025-2027)

Affiliations: (1) Institute for Genomics in Health, SUNY Downstate Health Sciences University, New York, USA; (2) University Center of Psychiatry, University Medical Center Groningen, The Netherlands; (3) Virginia Institute of Psychiatric and Behavioral Genetics, Virginia Commonwealth University, Richmond, Virginia, USA

- Trans-ancestry statistical genetic analyses of Major Depressive Disorder (MDD), utilizing large datasets from Europe, the USA and China to study MDD and clinical subtypes.

Doctoral Researcher in Psychiatric Genetics (2020-2025)

Affiliations: (1) Helmholtz Pioneer Campus, Helmholtz Munich, Munich, DE; (2) Max Planck Institute of Psychiatry, Munich, DE

- Dissertation: *Complex Polygenic Pathway Interactions in Psychiatric Disorders and Comorbidity*
- Investigation of genetic pathway interactions through use and development of the statistical genetics framework Coordinated Epistasis in large datasets (e.g. N~300K UKBiobank; N~130K iPSYCH; N~2.5M Danish Register) applied to meta-analyses of Major Depressive Disorder, symptoms, clinical subtypes, family history and psychiatric comorbidities.

SCIENTIFIC COMMUNITY AND LEADERSHIP

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| 2025 | Chair for the UMCG Postdoc Council, Groningen, Netherlands |
| 2025 | Data Access Committee Liaison for the cross-population working group of the Psychiatric Genomics Consortium |
| 2025 | Member of the Major Depressive Disorder heterogeneity sub-group of the MDD working group at the Psychiatric Genetics Consortium |
| 2018-2020 | Secretary and Chair for the board of the Kunstorchestra in Utrecht, Netherlands |

SELECTED CONFERENCES AND SEMINARS

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| 2025 | Invited Speaker , European College of Neuropsychopharmacology (ECNP), Amsterdam, Netherlands <i>Using Polygenic Methods and Pedigrees to Understand Within-Disorder and Cross-Disorder Genetic Architecture and Heterogeneity</i> |
| 2024 | Speaker , World Congress of Psychiatric Genetics, Singapore <i>Coordinated Epistasis Detects Heterogeneous Pathways Across Psychiatric Disorders and Comorbidities</i> |
| 2024 | Speaker Behavior Genetics Association meeting, London, United Kingdom <i>Using Coordinated Epistasis to Investigate Genetic Architecture of Psychiatric Comorbidity</i> |

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| | 2023 | Oral Presentation Award Finalist , World Congress of Psychiatric Genetics, Montréal, Canada <i>Coordinated Epistasis Reveals Pathway Architecture (and method considerations)</i> |
| | 2023 | Speaker , Gordon Research Seminar, Quantitative Genetics and Genomics, Ventura, USA <i>Coordinated Epistasis Reveals Symptom-Driven Pathways Towards Major Depressive Disorder</i> |
| TEACHING EXPERIENCE | Anticipated 2026 | Writing Coach for Science Writing Course by UMCG , to coach 4 graduate students through peer-review process. Reviewer , to review two papers in Translational Psychiatry, co-reviewed with colleagues from POP-GEM lab. |
| PUBLICATIONS | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> N. Cai, A. Dahl, R. Border, A. Gorla, J. Rietkerk, J. Mefford, N. Zaitlen, M.D. Krebs, A.J. Schork, K.Kendler, J. Flint: <i>The predicament of heritable confounders</i>. Nature Genetics (2026) DOI: 10.1038/s41588-025-02465-y M. Tesfaye, J. Rietkerk, J. Cárcamo, S. S. de Viteri, D. Singman, Z. Neale, C. Chatzinakos, T.B. Bigdeli, J.L. Meyers, R.E. Peterson: <i>Molecular Genetics of Neuro-Psychiatric Disorders: Current Research and Perspectives</i>, TBD, Henry's Clinical Diagnosis and Management by Laboratory Methods, 25th edition J. Rietkerk, M.D. Krebs, J. Mefford, L. Huang, K.G. Hellberg, iPSYCH Study Consortium, A. Børglum, T. Werge, K.S. Kendler, J. Flint, A.J. Schork, A.Dahl, N. Cai: <i>Genetic Risk Effects on Psychiatric Disorders Act in Sets</i>. medRxiv, DOI: 10.1101/2025.07.23.25332043 L. Huang, S. Tang, J. Rietkerk, V. Appadurai, M.D. Krebs, A.J. Schork, T. Werge, V. Zuber, K. Kendler, N.Cai: <i>Polygenic Analyses Show Important Differences Between Major Depressive Disorder Symptoms Measured Using Various Instruments</i>. Biological Psychiatry (2024) Volume 95, Issue, 12, p1110-1121, DOI: 10.1016/j.biopsych.2023.11.021 |
| REFEREES | | Available upon request |