

Talk Announcement for the Psychological Research Colloquium, Winter Semester 2026/27

Martin Daumiller^{a,b}

^aUniversity of Freiburg, ^bUniversity of Augsburg

What Does Your Motivation Look Like? The Personal Motivome as a Concept and Research Agenda

Thursday, 29. October 2026, 11:45 – 13:15, Room 2108/D

Abstract: Two students may both want to succeed in an exam, value good performance, and invest substantial effort—yet for one, effort represents a promising route towards competence, whereas for the other, having to invest effort may signal insufficient ability. Such differences invite the question if motivation is sufficiently understood through shared constructs and average relations, or if the way in which motivational components are personally represented and connected constitute an additional explanatory level. In this talk, I will introduce and invite discussion of the construct of the personal motivome: it describes how an individual represents and recurrently organises motivational components within particular achievement contexts. The concept asks whether person-specific organisation can help explain situations in which competence is developed, demonstrated, protected, or evaluated, beyond what is captured by established general models. I will situate the concept within achievement goal theory, expectancy-value theory, self-determination theory, and research on metamotivation. Building on these perspectives, I will outline a research agenda addressing four questions: How can personal motivational representations be captured while retaining comparability? To what extent do people's stated representations recur in their appraisals, choices, and behaviour? When do personal models add explanatory value beyond established shared models? And can they inform motivational reflection, diagnosis, and support? The proposed research combines adaptive idiographic assessment with standardised anchors, repeated measurement, behavioural tasks, experiments, and citizen-science collaboration. I do not assume the personal motivome as a necessary explanatory level, but seek to subject this possibility to rigorous empirical testing, clarify its theoretical boundaries, and examine whether integrating shared and person-specific explanations can contribute to a more comprehensive understanding of motivation.

All colleagues, doctoral researchers and students are cordially invited.

Optionally, digital participation is also possible at:

<https://uni-augsburg.zoom.us/j/98037502123?pwd=N0NPYmVlNmhKRdICSXISbGZiclhZz09>