

Jakob Kasper, M.Sc. Psychology

Ph.D. Researcher in Political Psychology

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Johan Hofmanstraat 215, 1069KD, Amsterdam

Education

Ph.D. Communication & Political Science, University of Amsterdam, The Netherlands 2023–Present

Supervisors: Dr. Bert N. Bakker & Prof. Gijs Schumacher

Project: MSCA Doctoral Network "Interdisciplinary Perspectives on the Politics of Adolescence and Democracy"

M.Sc. Psychology, University of Heidelberg, Germany 2020–2023

Supervisors: Prof. Tom Gilovich & Dr. Klaus Fiedler

Thesis: *Do People Prefer to Share Political Information that Boosts their Ingroup or Derogates the Outgroup?*

Graduate Exchange Student, Cornell University, USA 2021–2022

Supervisors: Prof. David Pizarro & Prof. Tom Gilovich

B.Sc. Psychology, University of Heidelberg, Germany 2017–2020

Supervisors: Prof. Klaus Fiedler & Prof. Florian Kutzner

Thesis: *On the Role of Exploitation and Exploration Strategies in the Maintenance of Cognitive Biases*

Grants, Awards & Honors

Cornell Center for Social Sciences Research Grant (\$6,505.00, Role: Co-PI) 2025

Polarization Research Lab Successful Application Partisan Animosity Survey Time Sharing ($N = 1000$) 2024

Horizon Europe Marie Skłodowska-Curie Fellowship 2023

Konrad Adenauer Foundation Academic Scholarship for Graduate Studies 2021

Baden-Württemberg Foundation Travel Scholarship 2021

University of Heidelberg Undergraduate Psychology Conference Poster Price, 2. Rank 2021

Konrad Adenauer Foundation Academic Scholarship for Undergraduate Studies 2019

St. Hildegard School Association Award for Exemplary Social Attitudes 2017

Publications

Kasper, J., Lee, R. T., Pennycook, G., Binnendyk, J., & Sezer, O. (in prep). *People Overestimate How Much Others Would Support Them Getting “cancelled” Over Speech.*

Kasper, J., Schumacher, G., ten Brinke, L., Crone, E., & Bakker, B.N. (in prep). *The Development, Level, and Malleability Adolescent Affective Polarization among Adolescents.*

Kasper, J., Bakker, B.N., Lelkes, Y., & Schumacher, G. (under review). *Beyond Valence: Arousal as a Core Dimension of Affective Polarization.* doi: 10.31234/osf.io/5dfbj_v1

Kasper, J., Schumacher, G., & Bakker, B.N. (2025). *Establishing the construct and predictive validity of brief measures of affective polarization.* European Journal of Political Research. doi: 10.1111/1475-6765.70022

Laffineur, C., Kasper, J., ten Brinke, L., Bakker, B. N., & Schumacher, G. (2025). *Political Interest, Activism, and Affective Polarization: Dutch Adolescents and Adults are not that Different.* Tijdschrift voor Communicatiewetenschap. doi: 10.5117/TCW2025.2.006.LAFF

Kasper, J., & Gilovich, T. (2025). *Do people prefer to share political information that boosts their ingroup or derogates the outgroup?* Journal of Experimental Psychology: General doi: 10.1037/xge0001683

Kasper, J., & Bakker, B.N. (2025). *Alexa Bankert. When Politics Becomes Personal: The Effect of Partisan Identity on Anti-Democratic Behavior.* Public Opinion Quarterly. doi: 10.1093/poq/nfaf025

Kasper, J., Fiedler, K., Kutzner, F., & Harris, C. (2023). *On the role of exploitation and exploration strategies in the maintenance of cognitive biases: Beyond the pursuit of instrumental rewards.* Memory & Cognition. doi: 10.3758/s13421-023-01393-8

Conference Presentations

Kasper, J., Bakker, B.N., Lelkes, Y., & Schumacher, G. (2025, November). *Beyond Valence: Arousal as a Core Dimension of Affective Polarization.* Talk presented at the Polarization Consortium Workshop.

Kasper, J., Bakker, B.N., Lelkes, Y., & Schumacher, G. (2025, July). *Beyond Valence: Arousal as a Core Dimension of Affective Polarization.* Talk presented at the Political Identities Workshop of the Amsterdam Centre for European Studies.

Kasper, J., Schumacher, G., ten Brinke, L., Crone, E., & Bakker, B.N. (2025, November). *The Development, Level, and Malleability Adolescent Affective Polarization among Adolescents.* Poster presented at the IP-PAD Doctoral Network Conference.

Kasper, J., Bakker, B.N., Lelkes, Y., & Schumacher, G. (2025, July). *Conceptualizing and Measuring Affective Polarization: The Role of Valence and Arousal.* Talk presented at the annual meeting of the International Society for Political Psychology.

- Kasper, J., Schumacher, G., & Bakker, B.N.** (2025, July). *Conceptualizing and Measuring Affective Polarization: The Role of Valence and Arousal*. Talk presented at the Dutch Political Science Conference 2025.
- Kasper, J., Schumacher, G., & Bakker, B.N.** (2024, September). *Putting the Affect into Affective Polarization: New Insights into Conceptualization and Measurement*. Talk presented at the German Political Psychology Meeting 2024.
- Kasper, J., Schumacher, G., & Bakker, B.N.** (2024, February). *Establishing the Construct and Predictive Validity of Brief Measures of Affective Polarization*. Talk presented at the 24h Communication Science Conference.
- Kasper, J., & Gilovich, T.** (2022, May). *Do People Prefer to Share Political Information that Boosts their Ingroup or Derogates the Outgroup?* Talk presented at the 2022 Six College (Columbia, Cornell, CUNY, NYU, Princeton, Yale) Conference.
- Kasper, J., Kaulhausen, F., Lob, A., & Scholten, F.** (2018, October). *Too far to change? How psychological distance shapes our pro-environmental behavior*. Poster presentation at the Undergraduate Psychology Research Conference at the University of Heidelberg.

Popular Press & Dissemination

- Bakker, B.N., **Kasper, J.**, & Schumacher, G. (2025, July). *Vanaf 16 stemmen? Jongeren is er klaar voor*. *Algemeen Dagblad*. <https://www.ad.nl/opinie>
- Kasper, J.**, & Gilovich, T. (2025, June). *Why Do Hostile Posts Go Viral When Most People Prefer More Positive Communication?* *SPSP Character & Context Blog*. <https://spsp.org/>
- Schumacher, G., & Bakker, B.N., **Kasper, J.**, & Zaslove, M. (2024, December). *Alarmisme over antidemocratische jongeren is misplaatst*. *StukRoodVlees*. <https://stukroodvlees.nl/alarmisme-over-antidemocratische-jongeren-is-misplaatst/>
- SYNC Lab & **HotPoliticsLab** (2023, December). *Fact Sheet: Hoe denken jongeren over politiek?* link to fact sheet

Teaching Experience

- Lecturer, Research Seminar - Experiments, University of Amsterdam** 2026
FILL IN AFTER TEACHING
- Co-Lecturer, Visualization Workshop, IP-PAD Doctoral Network** 2025
Workshop on common plots in the social sciences, introduction to ggplot2, visualization best practices, and interactive coding challenge.
- Guest Lecturer, Good Research Practices, University of Amsterdam** 2025
Guest lectures on p-curve analysis, multiverse analysis, and causal inference in statistical control.
- Research Internship Supervisor, University of Amsterdam** 2025
Supervision of 10 student theses during internship, including literature review, data collection, data analysis, and report writing.
- Graduate TA, Introduction to Social Psychology, Cornell University (Prof. Tom Gilovich)** 2021–2022
Office hours for student support, creation of multiple-choice exam questions, exam instruction and administration, grading of research proposals and essays.
- Graduate TA, Research Seminar Cognitive Illusions, University of Heidelberg (Dr. Karolin Salmen)** 2021
Office hours for student support, creation of multiple-choice exam questions, exam instruction and administration, grading of research proposals and essays.

Research Experience (Prior to the PhD)

- Graduate RA, Max-Planck-Institute for Research on Collective Goods (Prof. Susanne Fiedler)** 2022–2023
Literature reviews, teaching preparation, design of surveys/experiments, data analysis, coding of studies for a meta-analysis.
- Graduate Researcher, Cornell University (Prof. Thomas Gilovich)** 2021–2022
Independent project on polarizing political content on social media, literature review, survey and material design (Qualtrics), data collection and analysis, lab presentations, manuscript preparation.
- Graduate Researcher, Cornell University (Prof. David Pizarro)** 2021–2022
Independent project on deliberate ignorance, literature review, survey and material design (Qualtrics), data collection and analysis, lab presentations, manuscript preparation.
- Graduate RA, University of Heidelberg (Prof. Klaus Fielder)** 2021–2022
Independent project on pseudo-contingencies, literature review on experience sampling and racial profiling, study and survey design (SoSciSurvey), data collection and analysis.

Academic and Community Service

- Reviewer:** *The Journal of Politics, Political Psychology, Social Cognition, European Journal of Political Research.*

Organization of the IP-PAD Doctoral Network Conference	2025
Organization of a conference with 60 attendees, including 2 keynote talks, roundtable discussions with academics and practitioners, and 22 research posters.	
HotPoliticsLab: Charing of Weekly Speaker Series	2023-2025
PsyArXiv: Emergency Moderation of Pre-Prints	2025
Malengo: Mentoring of a student from Uganda concerning living and studying in Germany	2022-2025
PrEVENTion Heidelberg: Foundation of a non-profit organization for the prevention of depression	2019-2023
University of Heidelberg: Member of Faculty Council	2018-2019
University of Heidelberg: Member of Subject Council	2017-2021

Professional Experience

Junior Consultant at CF Consulting	2021
Joint moderation of digital assessment centers, preparation and implementation of online assessments, design of interviewer trainings (German/English).	
Internship at PE Systemtraining	2020
Development of employee training materials, introduction of new IT tools and email system, contribution to website design.	
Internship at the Psychosis Ward of the State Hospital Andernach	2020
Psychological interviews and psychoeducational group sessions.	