

SAM VERSCHOOREN, PhD
Sam.Verschooren@outlook.com
Belgian (Belgium), Oct. 9 1991, M
<https://samverschooren.github.io/>

Education

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- 2016-2020:** Ph.D. in Psychology, Ghent Univ.
- 2014-2016:** MA in Theoretical and Experimental Psychology (*magna cum laude*), Ghent Univ.
- 2012-2014:** Prep. Course for MA Psychology (Th. & Exp.) (*magna cum laude*), Ghent Univ.
- 2012-2014:** MA in Philosophy (*cum laude*), Ghent Univ.
- 2009-2012:** BA in Philosophy (*cum laude*), Univ. of Antwerp

Academic experience

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| 2024-present | Postdoctoral fellow (AvH) School of Mind and Brain, Humboldt University, Berlin, DE;
Mind-Body-Emotion group, Max Planck Institute for Human Cognitive and Brain Sciences, Leipzig, DE |
| 2023-2024: | Visiting researcher (FWO/CWO), Mind-Body-Emotion group, Max Planck Institute for Human Cognitive and Brain Sciences, Leipzig, DE |
| 2021-2022: | Postdoctoral fellow (BAEF), Center for Cognitive Neuroscience, Duke Univ., NC, USA |
| 2020-2024: | Postdoctoral fellow (FWO), Dep. of Exp. Psychology, Ghent Univ., BE |
| 2019: | Visiting researcher (FWO), Center for Cognitive Neuroscience, Duke Univ., NC, USA |
| 2016-2020: | PhD researcher, Dep. of Exp.-Clinical Psychology, Ghent Univ., BE |
| 2015-2016: | Research internship, Netherlands Institute for Neuroscience, Amsterdam, NL |
| 2014: | Research assistant, Department of Experimental Psychology, Ghent Univ., BE |

Publications

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- Verschooren, S., Boeve, S., Vermeylen, L., Pourtois, .G. (2025)** Perceptual decoupling underlies internal shielding benefit during switches between external and internal attention: Evidence from early sensory ERP components. *Journal of Cognitive Neuroscience*
- Van der Biest, M., **Verschooren, S., Verbruggen, F., Brass, M. (2025)** Perceptual judgements are resistant to the advisor's perceived level of trustworthiness: a deep fake approach. *Plos One*
- Van der Biest, M., **Verschooren, S., Verbruggen, F., Brass, M. (2024)** Don't Judge a Book by its Cover: The Effect of Perceived Facial Trustworthiness on Advice Following in the Context of Value-Based Decision-Making. *Journal of Experimental Social Psychology*, 118, 104719
- Wang, N., **Verschooren, S., Vermeylen, L., Grahek, I., Pourtois, G. (2025)** Hypervigilance strikes a balance between external and internal attention: behavioral and modeling evidence from the switching attention task. *Psychological Research*, 89 (1), 3
- Verschooren, S., Gaebler, M., Brass, M. (2024)** From interoception to control over the internal body: The ideomotor hypothesis of voluntary interoaction. *Psychological Review*
- Verschooren, S., Egner, T. (2023)** When the mind's eye prevails: the internal dominance over external attention (IDEA) hypothesis. *Psychonomic Bulletin & Review*, 1-21.
- Hautekiet, C., **Verschooren, S., Langerock, N., Vergauwe, E. (2023)** Attentional Switching Between Perception and Memory: Examining Asymmetrical Switch Costs. *Attention, Perception, & Psychophysics*, 1-11.
- Verschooren, S., Schindler, S., De Raedt, R., Pourtois, G (2021)** Early reduction of sensory processing within the extrastriate visual cortex when switching from internal to external attention. *Biological Psychology*, 163, 108119.
- Verschooren, S., Kessler, Y., Egner, T (2021)** Evidence for a single mechanism gating perceptual and long-term memory information into working memory. *Cognition*, 212, 104668.
- Trutti, A. C., **Verschooren, S., Forstmann, B. U., Boag, R. (2021)** Understanding subprocesses of working memory through the lens of model-based cognitive neuroscience. *Current Opinion in Behavioral Sciences*. 38, 57-65.
- Verschooren, S., Pourtois, G., Egner, T. (2020)** More efficient shielding for internal than external attention? Evidence from asymmetrical switch costs. *Journal of Experimental Psychology: Human Perception and Performance*, 46(9), 912-925.

- Verschooren, S.**, Lefooghe, B., Brass, M., Pourtois, G. (2019) Attentional flexibility is imbalanced: Asymmetric cost for switches between external and internal attention. *Journal of Experimental Psychology: Human Perception and Performance*, 45(10), 1399-1414.
- Verschooren, S.**, Schindler, S., De Raedt, R., Pourtois, G. (2019) Switching attention from internal to external information processing: a review of the literature and empirical support of the resource sharing account. *Psychonomic Bulletin and Review*, 26(2), 468-490.
- Han, Y., Bruls, R., Soyman, E., Thomas, R.J., Pentaraki, V., Jelinek, N., Heinemans, M., Bassez, I., **Verschooren, S.**, Pruis, I., Van Lierde, T., Carrillo, N., Gazzola, V., Carrillo, M., Keysers, C. (2019) Bi-directional cingulate-dependent danger information transfer across rats. *PLOS Biology*, 17(12).

Fellowships

MSCA: Postdoctoral fellowship (2 years), Arctic University of Norway (start: 1 Aug 2025)

AvH: Postdoctoral fellowship (2 years), MPI CBS/Berlin School of Mind and Brain (start: 1 Oct 2024)

FWO: Postdoctoral fellowship (3 years), Ghent University (start: 1 Oct 2020)

BAEF: Postdoctoral fellowship (1 year), Duke University (start: 1 Oct 2020)

Mobility grants

FWO: Mobility grant for research stay (8 months), MPI CBS (start: 1 June 2023)

CWO: Mobility grant for research stay (3 months), MPI CBS (start: 1 Feb 2023)

FWO: Mobility grant for research stay (5 months), Duke University (start: 1 Feb 2019)

Preprints

Liao, J., **Verschooren, S.**, Grahek, I., Mo, L., Pourtois, G. (2024) Value-driven Attentional Capture is Stronger for Internal than External Stimuli. <https://psyarxiv.com/e52n4/>

Verschooren, S., Kessler, Y. (2022) Working memory is updated as part of response selection: Evidence from inter-trial interval effects in the reference-back paradigm. <https://psyarxiv.com/94bj2/>

In preparation

Verschooren, S., Dahl, M., Aly, M., Mittner, M. (in prep) Charting the flux of attention: Transition dynamics of external and internal attention across on- and off-task states

Verschooren, S., Mastek, H., Fourcade, A., Gerosa, M., Gaebler, M., Brass, M. (in prep) Ideomotor control over the internal body through autogenic training: a six-week pilot study

Oral presentations (selected):

Verschooren, S., (2025) Charting the flux of attention: transition dynamics of external and internal attention across on- and off-task states. *Invited talk at the lifespan psychology colloquium, Max Planck Institute for Human Development, DE*

Verschooren, S., (2024) From interoception to control over the internal body: The ideomotor hypothesis of voluntary interoaction. *Invited talk at the research colloquium, University of Wuerzburg, DE*

Verschooren, S. (2022) When the mind's eye prevails: The Internal Dominance over External Attention (IDEA) hypothesis. *Invited talk at the research colloquium, VU, Amsterdam, NE*

Verschooren, S. (2022) When the mind's eye prevails: The Internal Dominance over External Attention (IDEA) hypothesis. *Invited talk at the research seminar, University of Tromsø, Tromsø, NO*

Verschooren, S., Kessler, Y. (2022) The reference-back task revisited: Evidence for automatic WM updating from an ITI manipulation. *22nd Conference of the European Society for Cognitive Psychology, Lille, FR*

Verschooren, S., Pourtois, G., Egner, T. (2022) More efficient shielding for internal than external attention? Evidence from asymmetrical switch costs. *22nd Conference of the European Society for Cognitive Psychology, Lille, FR*

Verschooren, S. (2021) External and internal switch costs: Insights from the drift diffusion model. *Invited talk in Birte Forstmann's lab, Amsterdam, NL*

Verschooren, S., Pourtois, G., Egner, T. (2019) More Efficient Shielding for Internal than External Attention: Evidence from Asymmetrical Switch Costs. *17th NVP Winter Conference on Brain and Cognition, Egmond-aan-Zee, NL*

Verschooren, S. (2019) Switching between external and internal attention: declarative versus procedural working memory. *Invited talk in Evie Vergauwe's lab*. Genève, CH

Verschooren, S. (2019) Modeling interactions between perception, memory, and working memory. *Invited talk in Klaus Oberauer's lab*. Zurich, CH

Verschooren, S., Lefooghe, B., Marcel, B., Pourtois, G. (2019) Attentional Flexibility is Imbalanced: Asymmetric Cost for Switches between External and Internal Attention. *21th Conference of the European Society for Cognitive Psychology*, Tenerife, ES

Verschooren, S. (2019) BrainHack results: Drift diffusion modeling of working memory gating. *Model-based Neuroscience BrainHack*, Amsterdam, NL

Verschooren, S., Lefooghe, B., Marcel, B., Pourtois, G. (2019) Attentional Flexibility is Imbalanced: Asymmetric Cost for Switches between External and Internal Attention. *Data Blitz session CCN Retreat*, Durham, NC, USA

Verschooren S., Pourtois, G. (2018) Switching attention between external and internal information. *Joined labmeeting Matthias Wieser*, Rotterdam, NL

Verschooren, S., Pourtois, G. (2017) Switching between an internal and external focus of attention. *Joined meeting with Birgit Sturmer (IPU), Werner Sommer (Humboldt University), Annekathrin Schacht (Goettingen)*, Berlin, DE

Poster presentations

Verschooren, S., Kessler, Y. Egner, T. (2019) Working Memory Gating for Perception and Long-Term Memory: Opening as a Serial and Closing as a Parallel Process. *7th Symposium on Motivation and Cognitive Control*, Berlin, DE

Verschooren, S., Kessler, Y. Egner, T. (2019) Modeling Working Memory Gating for External and Internal Information. *Model-based Neuroscience Summer School*, Amsterdam, NL

Verschooren, S., Lefooghe, B., Marcel, B., Pourtois, G. (2019) Attentional flexibility is imbalanced: Asymmetric Cost for Switches between External and Internal Attention. *1st Smokies Cognition & Affective Neuroscience Symposium*, Asheville, NC, USA

Verschooren, S., Schindler, S., De Raedt, R., Pourtois, G. (2018) Attention from inside out: P1 effects of shifts between internally and externally oriented attention. *Annual Meeting of Cognitive Neuroscience Society*, March 24-27, Boston, MA, USA

Skills

Experimental design Javascript, Python, E-Prime, Matlab

Data analysis Bayesian and frequentist multilevel modeling (*R*), Drift diffusion modeling (*R*), RM ANOVA (*JASP/R*), ERP (*Python*)

Communication of scientific findings (written and presented)

Teaching

2023-2024: Attention in cognitive science and contemplative traditions (MA Mind & Brain)

2023-2024: Neuropsychologie (3rd BA Physiotherapy)

2020-2021: Cognitive Psychology 1&2 (1st and 2nd MA Psychology)

2019-2020: Academic Skills – module Bias (2nd BA Psychology)

2017-2018: Academic Skills – module Bias (2nd BA Psychology)

Supervision

PhD: Mathias Van Der Biest (UGent, 2024), Nan Wang (UGent, ongoing), Jiejie Liao (UGent, ongoing)

MA: Helena Mastek (2024), Juliette Tacquet (2018), Gert Klügel (2019), Maël Reubens (2019), Hannelore Petitjean (2021), Gabrielle Van Tomme (2021)

Ad-hoc journal reviewing

Psychological Review; Journal of Experimental Psychology: Human Perception and Performance; Memory & Cognition; Attention, Perception, & Psychophysics; Nature Communications; Psychological Research;

Ad-hoc grant reviewing

Austrian Science Fund (FWF; ESPRIT Program)

Conferences and Workshops

Conferences:

17th NVP Winter Conference on Brain and Cognition, Egmond-aan-Zee, NL

21st Conference of the European Society for Cognitive Psychology, September 25-28, Tenerife, ES

7th Symposium on Motivation and Cognitive Control, September 16-18, 2019, Berlin, DE

1st Smokies Cognition & Affective Neuroscience Symposium, April 11-13, 2019, Asheville, NC, USA

25th Annual Meeting of the Cognitive Neuroscience Society, March 24-27, 2018, Boston, MA, USA

Workshops/courses:

Neuroscience School of Advanced Studies: Interoception and Brain Disorders, May 10-17 2025, Venice, IT

6th European Summer School for Mathematical and Computational Modeling of Cognition

Advanced Academic English – Writing Skills, October 1 – December 16, Ghent, BE

Model-based Neuroscience Summer School and Brainhack, August 5-14, Amsterdam, NL

3rd CuttingEEG Symposium, June 19-22, 2017, Glasgow, UK

EPOS Attention Workshop, November 24-25, 2016, Amsterdam, NL

Major collaborations

Tobias Egner, Duke University, USA

Gilles Pourtois, Ghent Univ., BE

Mariam Aly, UC Berkeley, USA

Marcel Brass, Humboldt Univ., NE

Yoav Kessler, Ben-Gurion University of the Negev, ISR

Michael Gaebler, Max Planck Institute for Human Cognitive and Brain Sciences, GE

Evie Vergauwe, University of Geneva, CH

Matthias Mittner, University of Tromsø, NO

Professional Memberships

2022-2023: European Society for Cognitive Psychology

2021-2022: European Society for Cognitive Psychology

2021: Psychonomics

2019-2020: Belgian Association for Psychological Science

2017-2018: Cognitive Neuroscience Society

Public Outreach

Dag van de Wetenschap: Change blindness experiment (22 November 2020)