

# SIMON STEPHAN

## PERSONAL DATA

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DATE OF BIRTH: 31.01.1990, Kassel, Germany  
WORK ADDRESS: Department of Psychology, University of Göttingen, Gosslerstr. 14,  
37073 Göttingen, Germany  
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## WORK EXPERIENCE/ POSITIONS

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2019 - POSTDOCTORAL ASSOCIATE, Department of Cognition and Decision Making, PI: Prof. Dr. Michael R. Waldmann, University of Göttingen

2015 – 2019 PHD STUDENT (PSYCHOLOGY) in the Program: “Behavior and Cognition”, University of Göttingen

since 2014 RESEARCH ASSISTANT, Department of Cognition and Decision Making, University of Göttingen

2010 – 2014 STUDENT RESEARCH ASSISTANT, Department of Psychology, University of Göttingen

## EDUCATION

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2015 – 2019 DOCTORATE DEGREE, Dr. rer. nat. (summa cum laude)  
University of Göttingen, Program: Behavior and Cognition  
Title: “Answering Causal Queries About Singular Cases – An Evaluation of a New Computational Model”, Supervisor: Prof. Dr. Michael R. Waldmann

2012 – 2014 MASTER OF SCIENCE IN PSYCHOLOGY (with distinction)  
University of Göttingen

2009 – 2012 BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN PSYCHOLOGY (with distinction)  
University of Göttingen

2002 – 2009 ABITUR (EQVL. A-LEVELS)  
Grotefend-Gymnasium Münden, Hann. Münden

## AWARDS & SCHOLARSHIPS/GRANTS

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- October 2017 DFG Grant, value: 212,768.00€ Project: “Answering causal queries about singular cases” (The official holder of this grant is Michael R. Waldmann)
- July 2017 Computational Modeling Prize in High-level Cognition Sponsored by the Cognitive Science Society for the best full paper submissions that involve

computational cognitive modeling.

- 2016 – 2018 Leibniz-ScienceCampus Grant, value: 9,552.80€ Project: “The relationship between causal and moral judgments”
- 2015 – 2017 Leibniz-ScienceCampus Grant, value: 7,272.40€ Project: “The role of intentions in children’s and adult’s causal ascriptions”
- 2011 – 2012 e-fellows.net Scholarship

## PUBLICATIONS

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An online version of the publication list including links to PDFs and other publication-related materials can be found at: <https://www.simonstephan.com/#publications>.

1. **Stephan, S.**, Placi, S., & Waldmann, M. R. (2021). Evaluating General versus Singular Causal prevention. In T. Fitch, C. Lamm, H. Leder, & K. Tessmar (Eds.), *Proceedings of the 43rd Annual Conference of the Cognitive Science Society*. Austin, TX: Cognitive Science Society.
2. Skovgaard-Olsen, N., **Stephan, S.**, & Waldmann, M. R. (2021). Conditionals and the hierarchy of causal queries. *Journal of Experimental Psychology: General*
3. **Stephan, S.**, Tentori, K., Pighin, S. & Waldmann, M. R. (2021). Interpolating causal mechanisms: The paradox of knowing more. *Journal of Experimental Psychology: General* Advance online publication. <https://doi.org/10.1037/xge0001016>
4. **Stephan, S.**, & Waldmann, M. R. (2020). Causal scope and causal strength: The number of potential effects of a cause influences causal strength estimates. In S. Denison., M. Mack, Y. Xu, & B.C. Armstrong (Eds.), *Proceedings of the 42th Annual Conference of the Cognitive Science Society* (pp. 3426 - 3432). Austin, TX: Cognitive Science Society.
5. **Stephan, S.**, & Waldmann, M. R. (2020). On causal claims, contingencies, and inference: How causal terminology affects what we think about the strength of causal links. In S. Denison., M. Mack, Y. Xu, & B.C. Armstrong (Eds.), *Proceedings of the 42th Annual Conference of the Cognitive Science Society* (pp. 3419 - 3425). Austin, TX: Cognitive Science Society.
6. **Stephan, S.**, Mayrhofer, R., & Waldmann, M. R. (2020). Time and singular causation: A computational model. *Cognitive Science*, 44, e12871
7. **Stephan, S.**, Mayrhofer, R., & Waldmann, M. R. (2018). Assessing singular causation: The role of causal latencies. In T.T. Rogers, M. Rau, X. Zhu, & C. W. Kalish (Eds.), *Proceedings of the 40th Annual Conference of the Cognitive Science Society* (pp. 1080-1085). Austin, TX: Cognitive Science Society.
8. **Stephan, S.**, & Waldmann, M. R. (2018). Preemption in singular causation judgments: A computational model. *Topics in Cognitive Science*, 10, 242–257.
9. **Stephan, S.**, & Waldmann, M. R. (2017). Preemption in Singular Causation Judgments: A Computational Model. In G. Gunzelmann, A. Howes, T. Tenbrink, & E. Davelaar (Eds.), *Proceedings of the 39th Annual Meeting of the Cognitive Science Society* (pp. 1126–1131). Austin, TX: Cognitive Science Society.
10. **Stephan, S.**, Willemsen, P., & Gerstenberg, T. (2017). Marbles in inaction: Counterfactual simulation and causation by omission. In G. Gunzelmann, A. Howes,

- T. Tenbrink, & E. Davelaar (Eds.), *Proceedings of the 39th Annual Meeting of the Cognitive Science Society*. (pp. 1132-1137). Austin, TX: Cognitive Science Society.
11. Nagel, J., & **Stephan, S.** (2016). Explanations in causal chains: Selecting distal causes requires exportable mechanisms. In A. Papafragou, D. Grodner, D. Mirman, & J.C. Trueswell (Eds.), *Proceedings of the 38th Annual Conference of the Cognitive Science Society* (pp. 806-812). Austin, TX: Cognitive Science Society.
  12. **Stephan, S.**, & Waldmann, M. R. (2016). Answering causal queries about singular cases. In A. Papafragou, D. Grodner, D. Mirman, & J.C. Trueswell (Eds.), *Proceedings of the 38th Annual Conference of the Cognitive Science Society* (pp. 2795-2801). Austin, TX: Cognitive Science Society.
  13. Nagel, J., & **Stephan, S.** (2015). Mediators or alternative explanations: Transitivity in human-mediated causal chains. In D. C. Noelle, R. Dale, A. S. Warlaumont, J. Yoshimi, T. Matlock, C. D. Jennings, & P. P. Maglio (Eds.), *Proceedings of the 37th Annual Meeting of the Cognitive Science Society* (pp. 1691-1696). Austin, TX: Cognitive Science Society.

## Forthcoming

14. Gerstenberg, T., & **Stephan, S.** (in press). A counterfactual simulation model of causation by omission. *Cognition*.
15. **Stephan, S.**, & Waldmann, M. R. (in press). The interplay between covariation, temporal, and mechanism information in singular causation judgments. In A. Wiegmann, & P. Willemsen (Eds.), *Advances in Experimental Philosophy of Causation*. London, UK: Bloomsbury Press.
16. **Stephan, S.**, & Waldmann, M. R. (under review). The role of mechanism knowledge in singular causation judgments.
17. Placi, S., **Stephan, S.**, Waldmann, M. R., & Vallortigara, G. (preprint). The categorization of geometric objects in 3D and 2D contexts depends on invariant referents. <https://doi.org/10.31234/osf.io/78syx>

## CONFERENCES

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- September 2019 ESPP Conference (27th), Athens, Greece **Talk**: “The Role of Effect and Sample Size in Causal Induction.”
- September 2019 EuroCogSci 2019, Bochum, Germany **Poster**: “The Role of Effect and Sample Size in Causal Induction.”
- June 2019 19th Summer Institute on Bounded Rationality, Berlin, Germany **Poster**: “Answering Causal Queries about Singular Cases: An Evaluation of a New Computational Model”
- July 2018 Cognitive Science Conference (40th), Madison, USA **Talk**: “Assessing Singular Causation: The Role of Causal Latencies”
- May 2018 International Meeting of the Psychonomic Society, Amsterdam, NL **Poster**: “Answering Singular Causation Queries: The Role of Temporal and Mechanistic Information”

- February 2018 Annual Meeting (7th) of the DFG Priority Program “New Frameworks of Rationality”
- August 2017 European Society for Philosophy and Psychology (ESPP) Conference, Hertfordshire, UK **Talk:** “Answering causal queries about singular cases”
- July 2017 Cognitive Science Conference (39th), London, UK **Talk:** “Preemption in singular causation judgments: A computational model”
- July 2017 Cognitive Science Conference (39th), London, UK **Talk:** “Marbles in in-action: Counterfactual simulation and causation by omission”
- March 2017 Annual Meeting (6th) of the DFG Priority Program “New Frameworks of Rationality” **Talk:** “Answering causal queries about singular cases”
- August 2016 Cognitive Science Conference (38th), Philadelphia, USA **Talk:** “Answering causal queries about singular cases”
- August 2016 Cognitive Science Conference (38th), Philadelphia, USA **Poster:** “Explanations in causal chains: Selecting distal causes requires exportable mechanisms” (presented by Jonas Nagel)
- July 2015 Cognitive Science Conference (37th), Pasadena, USA **Poster:** “Mediators or alternative explanations: Transitivity in human-mediated causal chains” (presented by Jonas Nagel)

## TEACHING EXPERIENCE

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## Tutorials/ Seminars

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| Winter 2020/21 | SEMINAR IN "QUANTITATIVE METHODS I"<br>Part of the first year undergraduate psychology statistics class  |
| Winter 2019/20 | SEMINAR IN "QUANTITATIVE METHODS I"<br>Part of the first year undergraduate psychology statistics class  |
| Winter 2016/17 | SEMINAR IN "QUANTITATIVE METHODS I"<br>Part of the first year undergraduate psychology statistics class  |
| Winter 2015/16 | SEMINAR IN "QUANTITATIVE METHODS I"<br>Part of the first year undergraduate psychology statistics class  |
| Winter 2014/15 | SEMINAR IN "QUANTITATIVE METHODS I"<br>Part of the first year undergraduate psychology statistics class  |
| Summer 2021    | SEMINAR IN "QUANTITATIVE METHODS II"<br>Part of the first year undergraduate psychology statistics class |
| Summer 2020    | SEMINAR IN "QUANTITATIVE METHODS II"<br>Part of the first year undergraduate psychology statistics class |
| Summer 2019    | SEMINAR IN "QUANTITATIVE METHODS II"<br>Part of the first year undergraduate psychology statistics class |
| Summer 2017    | SEMINAR IN "QUANTITATIVE METHODS II"<br>Part of the first year undergraduate psychology statistics class |
| Summer 2016    | SEMINAR IN "QUANTITATIVE METHODS II"<br>Part of the first year undergraduate psychology statistics class |
| Summer 2015    | SEMINAR IN "QUANTITATIVE METHODS II"<br>Part of the first year undergraduate psychology statistics class |

see: <https://quantigoettingen.github.io/quantigoettingen/>

## Supervision

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| Summer term 2021    | SUPERVISION OF A BACHELOR THESIS<br>on how violations of the causal Markov assumption are influenced by knowledge about the underlying causal system and causal strength |
| Summer term 2021    | SUPERVISION OF A BACHELOR THESIS<br>on how violations of the causal Markov assumption are influenced by knowledge about the underlying causal system                     |
| Summer term 2021    | SUPERVISION OF A BACHELOR THESIS<br>on how the dilution effect of causal strength is influenced by causal capacity manipulations   |
| Summer term 2021    | SUPERVISION OF A BACHELOR THESIS<br>on how the dilution effect of causal strength is influenced by a cause's valence   |
| Summer term 2020    | SUPERVISION OF A MASTER THESIS<br>on the difference between "triggering" and "maintaining" causes  |
| Summer term 2020    | SUPERVISION OF A BACHELOR THESIS<br>on the interpolation of causal chains  |
| Winter term 2018/19 | SUPERVISION OF A BACHELOR THESIS<br>on interpolation vs. lengthening of causal chains  |
| Summer term 2018    | SUPERVISION OF A BACHELOR THESIS<br>on the role of category levels in causal judgments   |
| Summer term 2018    | SUPERVISION OF A BACHELOR THESIS<br>on the influence of statistical norms on causal selection  |
| Summer term 2017    | SUPERVISION OF A BACHELOR THESIS<br>on preemption in singular causation judgments  |
| Winter term 2016/17 | SUPERVISION OF A BACHELOR THESIS<br>on singular causation judgments  |
| Winter term 2016/17 | SUPERVISION OF A BACHELOR THESIS<br>on causal reasoning about double prevention  |

## REVIEWS

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- Cognitive Science Conference Proceedings: III III III II
- Cognition: II
- Journal of Experimental Psychology – General: I

- Journal of Experimental Psychology: Learning, Memory, and Cognition I
- Journal of Experimental Social Psychology: I
- Memory & Cognition: I
- Philosophical Psychology: II
- Psychological Review (as co-reviewer): I
- Cognitive Science: IIII
- Journal of Cognitive Psychology: I
- Plos One: I
- Computational Brain & Behavior I

see: <https://publons.com/researcher/2998394/simon-stephan/>

## SKILLS

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- Language: German (native), English (fluent), French (basic)
- Software: R, Photoshop, Illustrator, Flash, Animate,  $\text{\LaTeX}$ , HTML5, JavaScript
- Interests: Philosophy, Politics, Literature, Music, Guitar, Blues Harp, Football, Badminton, Traveling

## REFERENCES

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Prof. Dr. Michael R. Waldmann,  
 Department of Cognitive and Decision Sciences,  
 Georg-Elias-Müller Institute of Psychology,  
 University of Göttingen