

# 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.  
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  
University of Göttingen

2009 – 2012 BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN PSYCHOLOGY  
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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1. 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.
2. 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.
3. Stephan, S., Mayrhofer, R., & Waldmann, M. R. (2020). Time and singular causation: A computational model. *Cognitive Science*, 44, e12871
4. 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.
5. Stephan, S., & Waldmann, M. R. (2018). Preemption in singular causation judgments: A computational model. *Topics in Cognitive Science*, 10, 242–257.
6. 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.
7. 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.
8. 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.
9. 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.
10. 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.

## Submitted / Forthcoming

11. Stephan, S., Tentori, K., Pighin, S. & Waldmann, M. R. (accepted in JEP:G). Interpolating causal mechanisms: The paradox of knowing more.
12. Gerstenberg, T., & Stephan, S. (under revision). A counterfactual simulation model of causation by omission.
13. Skovgaard-Olsen, N., Stephan, S., & Waldmann, M. R. (under revision). Conditionals and the hierarchy of causal queries.

## CONFERENCES

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- September 2019 ESPP Conference (27th), Athens, Greek **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

Winter term 2014-15/15-16/16-17/20-21	TUTORIAL IN “QUANTITATIVE METHODS I” Part of the first year undergraduate psychology statistics class
Summer term 2015/16/17/19/20	TUTORIAL IN “QUANTITATIVE METHODS II” Part of the first year undergraduate psychology statistics class

### Supervision

Summer term 2020	SUPERVISION OF A MASTER THESIS on the difference between “triggering” and “maintaining” causes
Summer term 2020	SUPERVISION OF A BACHELOR THESIS on the interpolation of causal chains
Winter term 2018/19	SUPERVISION OF A BACHELOR THESIS on interpolation vs. lengthening of causal chains
Summer term 2018	SUPERVISION OF A BACHELOR THESIS on the role of category levels in causal judgments
Summer term 2018	SUPERVISION OF A BACHELOR THESIS on the influence of statistical norms on causal selection
Summer term 2017	SUPERVISION OF A BACHELOR THESIS on preemption in singular causation judgments
Winter term 2016/17	SUPERVISION OF A BACHELOR THESIS on singular causation judgments
Winter term 2016/17	SUPERVISION OF A BACHELOR THESIS on causal reasoning about double prevention

## REVIEWS

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

- Memory & Cognition: I
- Philosophical Psychology: I
- Psychological Review (as co-reviewer): I
- Cognitive Science: III

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
- 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