

# JAN PFÄNDER

POSTDOCTORAL RESEARCHER · SWISS FEDERAL INSTITUTE OF AQUATIC SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY  
✉ janlukas.pfaender -at- gmail.com | 🏷 janpfander.github.io

## ACADEMIC POSITIONS

### Swiss Federal Institute of Aquatic Science and Technology (Eawag)

*Postdoctoral researcher*

- Advisor: Viktoria Cologna

2025 -

Zurich, Switzerland

## EDUCATION

### École Normale Supérieure (ENS-PSL), Institut Jean Nicod

*PhD Psychology*

- Supervisors: Hugo Mercier & Kevin Arceneaux
- Thesis: Essays on Understanding Trust in Science

2022 – 2025

Paris, France

### École Normale Supérieure (ENS-PSL)

*MA Cognitive Science*

- Supervisor: Hugo Mercier
- Thesis: Can we infer people are accurate and competent merely because they agree with each other?

2020 – 2022

Paris, France

### Universität Freiburg

*MA Journalism, 1st year*

2019 – 2020

Freiburg, Germany

### Universität Konstanz

*BA Political Science and Public Administration*

2014 – 2018

Konstanz, Germany

## WORK EXPERIENCE

### Direction Interministérielle de la Transformation Publique (DITP)

*Research Intern*

June 2021 – August 2021

Paris, France

### Assemblée Nationale

*Parliamentary Assistant*

September 2018 – July 2019

Paris, France

### University of St. Gallen

*Research Assistant*

June 2017 – July 2018

St. Gallen, Switzerland

## PUBLICATIONS

<sup>1</sup>first author

### Peer Reviewed Publications

- [1.] **Pfänder, J.**<sup>1</sup>, Kerzreho, L., Mercier, H. (2025). Quasi-universal acceptance of basic science in the United States. *Public Understanding of Science*. <https://doi.org/10.1177/09636625251364407>
- [2.] **Pfänder, J.**<sup>1</sup>, & Altay, S. (2025). Spotting false news and doubting true news: A systematic review and meta-analysis of news judgements. *Nature Human Behaviour*. <https://doi.org/10.1038/s41562-024-02086-1>
- [3.] **Pfänder, J.**<sup>1</sup>, de Courson, B., Mercier, H. (2025). How wise is the crowd: Can we infer people are accurate and competent merely because they agree with each other? *Cognition*, 255, 106005. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.cognition.2024.106005>

### Conference Proceedings

- [4.] **Pfänder, J.**<sup>1</sup>, de Courson, B., Mercier, H. (2024). How wise is the crowd: Can we infer people are accurate and competent merely because they agree with each other? *Proceedings of the Annual Meeting of the Cognitive Science Society*, 46(0). <https://escholarship.org/uc/item/4ms2n8wd>

### Large collaborations

- [5.] Cologna, V., Mede, N. G., Berger, S., Besley, J., Brick, C., Joubert, M., Maibach, E., Mihelj, S., Oreskes, N., Schäfer, M. S., Linden, D. S. van der., ..., Mercier, H., ..., **Pfänder, J.**, ... et al. (2024). Trust in scientists and their role in society across 67 countries. *Nature Human Behaviour*. <https://doi.org/10.1038/s41562-024-02090-5>
- [6.] Mede, N. G., Cologna, V., Berger, S., Besley, J., Brick, C., Joubert, M., Maibach, E., Mihelj, S., Oreskes, N., Schäfer, M. S., Linden, D. S. van der., ..., Mercier, H., ..., **Pfänder, J.**, ... et al. (2024). Perceptions of Science, Science Communication, and Climate Change Attitudes in 67 Countries: The TISP Dataset. *Scientific Data*. <https://doi.org/10.1038/s41597-024-04100-7>

## Working Papers

- [7.] **Pfänder, J.**<sup>1</sup>, Rouilhan, S. D., Mercier, H. (2025). Trusting but forgetting impressive science. [https://doi.org/10.31219/osf.io/argq5\\_v1](https://doi.org/10.31219/osf.io/argq5_v1) (*Under review*)
- [8.] **Pfänder, J.**<sup>1</sup>, Mercier, H. (2025). The French trust more the sciences they perceive as precise and consensual. [https://doi.org/10.31219/osf.io/k9m6e\\_v1](https://doi.org/10.31219/osf.io/k9m6e_v1) (*Under review*)

## PRESENTATIONS

---

### Conferences

- |  |      |
|--|------|
| [1.] <b>Belief in &amp; interventions against misinformation</b>   | 2025 |
| <i>15th Annual Conference of the European Political Science Association, Madrid</i>  |      |
| [2.] <b>The rational impression account of trust in science</b>  | 2025 |
| <i>Explaining culture: an interdisciplinary approach, Paris</i>  |      |
| [3.] <b>Spotting False News and Doubting True News. A Meta-Analysis of News Judgments (Keynote)</b>                                    | 2025 |
| <i>Infox sur Seine, Paris</i>  |      |
| [4.] <b>How wise is the crowd – Can we infer people are accurate and competent merely because they agree with each other? (Poster)</b> | 2024 |
| <i>46th Annual Meeting of the Cognitive Science Society, Rotterdam</i>   |      |
| [5.] <b>Processus sous-tendant la confiance dans la science</b>  | 2024 |
| <i>5ème édition des Rencontres Jeunes Chercheur·euse·s, Grenoble</i>   |      |
| [6.] <b>Spotting False News and Doubting True News: A Meta-Analysis of News Judgments</b>  | 2024 |
| <i>EDMO Scientific Conference on Disinformation, Amsterdam</i>   |      |

### Invited talks

- |   |      |
|---|------|
| [7.] <b>Trust in science</b>                        | 2025 |
| <i>Paris School of International Affairs, Paris</i> |      |

## TEACHING

---

### Courses

- |  |             |
|--|-------------|
| <b>Fact-Checking and Critical Thinking   Université PSL (Paris Sciences &amp; Lettres)</b>                         | 2022 – 2025 |
| • A hands-on introduction to research design for the interdisciplinary BA program "Sciences pour un monde durable" |             |
| • Sole instructor & creator of the course  |             |
| • 30h in-class per semester; one semester a year   |             |

### Workshops

- |   |      |
|---|------|
| <b>Meta-analysis for beginners</b>  |      |
| • Laboratoire de Psychologie du Développement et de l'Éducation de l'Enfant (LaPsyDÉ) | 2024 |

## Student internship supervision

[1.] Mateo Pivert, <i>undergraduate</i>	2024
[2.] Ludivine Million, <i>undergraduate</i>	2024
[3.] Prune Lefevre Jachimowicz, <i>undergraduate</i>	2024
[4.] Lou Kerzreho, <i>graduate</i>	2023
[5.] Kevin Chen, <i>undergraduate</i>	2023
[6.] Théodore Lellouche, <i>undergraduate</i>	2022

## PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

---

### Ad-hoc reviewer for

*Nature Climate Change* (1), *Public Understanding of Science* (3), *PNAS Nexus* (1), *Social Science & Medicine* (1), *Društvena istraživanja* (Croatian social science review) (1), *Behavior Research Methods* (1), *Educational Research Review* (1), *Artificial Intelligence Review* (1) — **Total: 10 reviews**

## EXTERNAL COURSEWORK & SUMMER SCHOOLS

---

### Diverse Intelligences Summer Institute

*Hosted by the University of St. Andrews and organized by Indiana University Bloomington*

July 2024

*St. Andrews, UK*

## SKILLS

---

**Languages:** German, English, French, Spanish

**Programming:** R, Git (basics), Python (rudimentary)