

JAN PFÄNDER

POSTDOCTORAL RESEARCHER · SWISS FEDERAL INSTITUTE OF AQUATIC SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

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ACADEMIC POSITIONS

Swiss Federal Institute of Aquatic Science and Technology (Eawag)

Postdoctoral researcher

2025 -

Zurich, Switzerland

- Advisor: Viktoria Cologna

EDUCATION

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

PhD Psychology

2022 – 2025

Paris, France

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

École Normale Supérieure (ENS-PSL)

MA Cognitive Science

2020 – 2022

Paris, France

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

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

¹first author

Peer Reviewed Publications

- [1.] **Pfänder, J.**¹, Rouilhan, S. de, Mercier, H. (2025). Trusting but forgetting impressive science. *Journal of Cognition and Culture*. <https://doi.org/10.1163/15685373-12340227>
- [2.] **Pfänder, J.**¹, 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>
- [3.] **Pfänder, J.**¹, & 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>
- [4.] **Pfänder, J.**¹, 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

- [5.] **Pfänder, J.**¹, 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

- [6.] 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>
- [7.] 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

- [8.] **Pfänder, J.**¹, Mercier, H. (2025). The French trust more the sciences they perceive as precise and consensual. <https://doi.org/10.31219/osf.io/k9m6e.v1> (*Under review*)

PRESENTATIONS

Conferences

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

Invited talks

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

Courses

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| Fact-Checking and Critical Thinking <i>Université PSL (Paris Sciences & Lettres)</i> | 2022 – 2025 |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 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

Meta-analysis for beginners

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Laboratoire de Psychologie du Développement et de l'Éducation de l'Enfant (LaPsyDÉ) | 2024 |
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Student internship supervision

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| [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)