

CURRENT POSITION

Postdoctoral researcher

Max Planck Institute for Human Development
Center for Humans and Machines

Berlin, Germany

Since 09/2023

PREVIOUS POSITIONS

Postdoctoral researcher

Ruhr-University Bochum
Center for Law, Behaviour, and Cognition

Bochum, Germany

04/2022 - 08/2023

- DFG/CAPES-funded project: “Experimental legal philosophy: The concept of law revisited”. Principal investigator: Stefan Magen
- September 2022: Research stay at University of Granada (Spain)
- April/May 2023: Research stay at Insper, São Paulo, and PUC Rio de Janeiro (Brazil)

EDUCATION

Dr. rer. nat. Psychology

Georg-August-University Göttingen. Grade: magna cum laude (“with great honors”)
Georg-Elias-Müller Institute for Psychology
Cognitive and Decision Sciences

Göttingen, Germany

2017 - 2022

- Thesis: “The role of causal representations in moral judgment”. Advisor: Michael R. Waldmann.
- Defense date: August 29, 2022

M.Sc. Psychology

Georg-August-University Göttingen. Grade: 1.3 (“very good”)

Göttingen, Germany

2014–2017

- Thesis: “An empirical investigation of the effects of prescriptive and statistical normality on judgments of actual causation and accountability”. Grade: 1.0 (“very good”). Advisor: Michael R. Waldmann
- Research stay at University College London, UK (Summer 2016), Department of Experimental Psychology, Causal Cognition Lab (David Lagnado)

B.Sc. Psychology

Georg-August-University Göttingen. Grade: 1.3 (“very good”, degree awarded with distinction)

Göttingen, Germany

2010–2014

- Thesis: “Foraging with threatened options”. Grade: 1.0 (“very good”). Advisor: Hansjörg Neth
- Study stay at Université Paris Est Créteil Val de Marne, France (Summer 2014), Studies of French philology, literature, philosophy and history

PUBLICATIONS

- Engelmann, N.** (2025). Murderer at the door! To lie or to mislead? In A. Wiegmann (Ed.), *Advances in experimental philosophy of lying*. Bloomsbury.
- Engelmann, N.**, Kirfel, L., Nussberger, A., Rilla, R., & Rahwan, I. (2025). Framing, not transparency, reduces cheating in algorithmic delegation [in press]. In D. Barner, C. Walker, A. Ruggeri, & N. Bramley (Eds.), *Proceedings of the 47th annual meeting of the cognitive science society*. Cognitive Science Society.

- Engelmann, N.**, & Kirfel, L. (2025). Who caused it? Different effects of statistical and prescriptive abnormality on causal selection in chains [in press]. In K. Tobia (Ed.), *The Cambridge handbook of experimental jurisprudence*. Cambridge University Press.
- Almeida, G. F. C. F., Nunez, J. L., **Engelmann, N.**, Wiegmann, A., & de Araújo, M. (2024). Exploring the psychology of LLM's moral and legal reasoning. *Artificial Intelligence*, 333, 104145.
- Engelmann, N.**, Almeida, G. F. C. F., Oliveira, F., Prochownik, K., Hannikainen, I., Struchiner, N., & Magen, S. (2024). Apply the laws, if they are good: Moral evaluations linearly predict whether judges should apply the law. *Cognitive Science*, 48(10), e70001.
- Engelmann, N.**, & Hannikainen, I. R. (2024). Does moral valence influence the construal of alternative possibilities? *Possibility Studies & Society*, 2(3), 318–333.
- Engelmann, N.**, Hannikainen, I. R., González-García, C., & Ruz, M. (2024). Understanding rule enforcement using drift diffusion models. In L. Samuelson, S. Frank, M. Toneva, A. Mackey, & E. Hazeltine (Eds.), *Proceedings of the 46th meeting of the cognitive science society*.
- Shurakov, N., Kolbe, M., **Engelmann, N.**, & Wiegmann, A. (2024). Borderline lies - do LLMs judge like humans? [in press]. In V. C. Müller, A. R. Dewey, L. Dung, & G. Löhr (Eds.), *Philosophy of artificial intelligence: The state of the art*. Springer Nature.
- Stephan, S., **Engelmann, N.**, & Waldmann, M. R. (2023). The perceived dilution of causal strength. *Cognitive Psychology*, 140, 101540.
- Engelmann, N.**, & Waldmann, M. R. (2022a). How causal structure, causal strength, and foreseeability affect moral judgments. *Cognition*, 226, Article 105167.
- Engelmann, N.**, & Waldmann, M. R. (2022b). How to weigh lives. A computational model of moral judgment in multiple-outcome structures. *Cognition*, 218, Article 104910.
- Wiegmann*, A., & **Engelmann*, N.** (2022). Is lying morally different from misleading? An empirical investigation. In L. Horn (Ed.), *From lying to perjury: Linguistic and legal perspectives on lies and other falsehoods* (pp. 89–111).
- Engelmann, N.**, & Waldmann, M. R. (2021). A causal proximity effect in moral judgment. In T. Fitch, C. Lamm, H. Leder, & K. Teßmar-Raible (Eds.), *Proceedings of the 43rd meeting of the cognitive science society* (pp. 2330–2336).
- Viebahn*, E., Wiegmann*, A., **Engelmann, N.**, & Willemsen, P. (2021). Can a question be a lie? An empirical investigation. *Ergo*, 8, Article 7.
- Hagmayer, Y., & **Engelmann, N.** (2020). Asking questions to provide a causal explanation – Do people search for the information required by cognitive psychological theories? In E. A. Bar-Asher Siegal & N. Boneh (Eds.), *Perspectives on causation: Selected papers from the Jerusalem 2017 workshop* (pp. 121–147). Springer International Publishing.
- Wiegmann*, A., & **Engelmann*, N.** (2020). Entwicklungen und probleme der moralpsychologie zu beginn des 21. jahrhunderts [Developments and problems in moral psychology in the 21st century]. In N. Paulo & J. C. Bubltz (Eds.), *Empirische ethik - Grundlagentexte aus psychologie und philosophie* (pp. 139–175). Suhrkamp Verlag.
- Hagmayer, Y., & **Engelmann, N.** (2014). Causal beliefs about depression in different cultural groups — What do cognitive psychological theories of causal learning and reasoning predict? *Frontiers in Psychology*, 5, Article 1303.
- Neth, H., **Engelmann, N.**, & Mayrhofer, R. (2014). Foraging for alternatives: Ecological rationality in keeping options viable. In P. Bello, M. Guarini, M. McShane, & B. Scassellati (Eds.), *Proceedings of the 36rd meeting of the cognitive science society* (pp. 1078–1083).

* = shared first authorship

MANUSCRIPTS IN PREPARATION

Hannikainen, I. R., **Engelmann, N.**, González-García, C., & Ruz, M. (2024). Drift diffusion models reveal punitive bias and cognitive conflict in rule enforcement.

SCHOLARSHIPS AND AWARDS

- 2024: Disciplinary Diversity & Integration Award in Cognitive Science for the paper “Understanding rule enforcement using drift diffusion modelling”, Annual Meeting of the Cognitive Science Society, 1000\$.
- 2023: Nominated for the dissertation prize of the German Psychological Society (DGPs), General Psychology section.
- 2023: Travel grant by Fritz Thyssen Stiftung for research stay at Insper, São Paulo, and PUC Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, ca. 3000€.
- 2016: Erasmus+ Scholarship for research stay at University College London, UK, ca. 1500€.
- 2014: Erasmus Scholarship for stay at Université Paris Est Créteil Val de Marne, Paris, France, ca. 1500€.
- 2014: “Niedersachsenstipendium” (Scholarship awarded by the German Federal Ministry of Education and Research for outstanding grades and political engagement, 500€).
- 2012–2013: “Deutschlandstipendium” (Scholarship awarded by the German Federal Ministry of Education and Research for outstanding grades and political engagement, 12 x 300€).

INVITED TALKS

- Engelmann, N., Kirfel, L., Nussberger, A., Rilla, R., Rahwan, I., “Understanding and preventing unethical behavior in delegation to AI”, *Basel-Oxford-NUS BioXPhi Summit 2025, University of Basel, Switzerland, June 26, 2025*.
- Engelmann, N., Hannikainen, I., “Understanding rule enforcement using drift diffusion models”, *Symposium on Legal Interpretation and Data, Georgetown University, Washington D.C., USA, March 14, 2025*.
- Engelmann, N., Kirfel, L., Nussberger, A., Rilla, R., Rahwan, I., “Understanding and preventing the delegation of unethical behavior to AI”, *EXTRA Research Colloquium, Ruhr-University Bochum, Germany, January 29, 2025*.
- Engelmann, N., Kirfel, L., Nussberger, A., Rilla, R., Rahwan, I., “Why does delegation to algorithms facilitate unethical behavior?”, *Workshop “Machine Behavior Research on Cooperative AI”, University of Duisburg, Germany, November 14-15, 2024*.
- Shurakov, N., Kolbe, M., Engelmann, N., and Wiegmann, A., “Borderline lies: Do LLMs judge like humans?”, *Symposium “LLMs for xPhi”, Jagiellonian University Kraków, Poland, May 30, 2024*.
- Engelmann, N., “Is there a duty to apply immoral laws?”, *Workshop “Moral cognition in medicine and law”, University of Granada, Spain, May 10 - 11, 2024*.
- Engelmann, N., “Is lying morally different from misleading? An empirical investigation”, *Workshop “Deceptive speech acts in philosophy and law”, Jagiellonian University Kraków, Poland, October 05 - 06, 2023*.
- “The role of causal representations in moral judgment”, *Dissertation competition of the German Psychological Society (DGPs), General Psychology section, Schloss Rauischholzhausen, June 24, 2023*.
- “An empirical investigation of the relationship between law and morality”, *PUC Rio de Janeiro, May 15, 2023*.
- “Causal reasoning”, *Insper, São Paulo, May 02, 2023*.
- “The role of causal representations in moral judgment”, *Stanford University, Causality in Cognition Lab, October 17, 2022*.
- “How to weigh lives. A computational model of moral judgment in multiple-outcome structures”, *Workshop “Moral dilemmas involving self-driving cars”, Bundeswehr University, Munich, October 7, 2022*.
- “The role of causal representations in moral judgment”, *University of Granada, Department of Philosophy, September 28, 2022*.

- “A causal proximity effect in moral judgment”, *Chicago/Michigan Psychology and Law Studies Lab*, September 29, 2021.
- “A causal proximity effect in moral judgment”, *Georgetown Law & Language Lab*, September 13, 2021.
- Invited discussant, *Workshop “The Moral Psychology of War.” Oxford Institute for Ethics, Law, and Armed Conflict (ELAC) & Nuffield College Oxford*, May 13 - 14, 2021.
- Invited author, *book workshop “Empirische Ethik.” Center for Interdisciplinary Research at Bielefeld University, Germany*, August 29 - 30, 2019.
- “Norms and causation - Current empirical findings” (with Lara Kirfel), *Workshop “The Experimental Philosophy of Morality and Causation - Perspectives from Philosophy, Psychology, and Law.” Ruhr University Bochum, Germany*, June 13, 2017.

CONFERENCE TALKS

- Engelmann, N., Kirfel, L., Nussberger, A., Rilla, R., Rahwan, I., “Framing, not transparency, reduces cheating in algorithmic delegation”, *EASP Meeting: The Future of Behavioural Ethics, Harnack Haus, Berlin, Germany*, May 16 - 17, 2025.
- Engelmann, N., Hannikainen, I., González-García, C., and Ruz, M., “Understanding rule enforcement using drift diffusion models”, *46th Meeting of the Cognitive Science Society, Rotterdam, Netherlands*, July 26, 2024.
- Engelmann, N., “Is there a duty to apply immoral laws?”, *4th European Experimental Philosophy Conference, Kraków, Poland*, May 30 — June 2, 2024.
- Engelmann, N. & Wiegmann, A., “Is lying morally different from misleading? An empirical investigation”, *2nd European Experimental Philosophy Conference, Granada, Spain*, September 08 - September 10, 2022.
- Engelmann, N. & Wiegmann, A., “Is lying morally different from misleading? An empirical investigation”, *Joint Meeting of the Society for Philosophy and Psychology (SPP) and the European Society for Philosophy and Psychology (ESPP), Milan, Italy*, July 19 - July 22, 2022.
- Wiegmann, A. & Engelmann, N., “Is lying morally different from misleading? An empirical investigation”, *Workshop “Commitments in Grammar and Discourse” at the Annual Meeting of the German Society for Linguistics*, February 23, 2022 (Online).
- Engelmann, N. & Waldmann, M.R., “Moral reasoning with multiple effects: Exploring the scope of a subjective-utilitarian approach”, *Annual Meeting of the European Society for Philosophy and Psychology (ESPP), Titania Hotel, Athens, Greece*, September 6, 2019.
- Engelmann, N. & Waldmann, M.R., “Moral reasoning with multiple effects: Exploring the scope of a subjective-utilitarian approach”, *European Conference for Cognitive Science, Ruhr University Bochum, Germany*, September 3, 2019.
- Engelmann, N. & Waldmann, M.R., “Moral reasoning with multiple effects”, *Tagung experimentell arbeitender Psychologen (Teap), London Metropolitan University, UK*, April 17, 2019.

POSTER PRESENTATIONS

- Engelmann, N. & Waldmann, M.R., “How to weigh lives. A computational model of moral judgment in multiple-outcome structures”, *Poster presentation at the workshop “Engineering and Reverse-Engineering Morality” at the Annual Meeting of the Cognitive Science Society*, July 26, 2021 (online)
- Engelmann, N. & Waldmann, M.R., “A causal proximity effect in moral judgment”, *Poster presentation at the Annual Meeting of the Cognitive Science Society*, July 26 - 29, 2021 (Online)

- Engelmann, N. & Waldmann, M.R., “A causal proximity effect in moral judgment”, *Poster presentation at the Annual Meeting of the Society for Philosophy and Psychology (SPP), June 28 - July 02, 2021 (Online)*
- Engelmann, N. & Waldmann, M.R., “Moral reasoning with multiple effects”, *Poster presentation at the Annual Meeting of the Cognitive Science Society, Palais des Congrès, Montréal, Canada, July 27, 2019.*
- Engelmann, N. & Waldmann, M.R., “Moral reasoning with multiple effects”, *Poster presentation at the RTG 2070 conference “Understanding Social Relationships“, German Primate Center, Göttingen, Germany, October 17, 2018.*
- Engelmann, N. & Waldmann, M.R., “The interaction between causality, foreseeability, and outcome valence in attributions of moral responsibility”, *Poster presentation at the UK Xphi Conference, University College London, UK, June 14, 2018.*
- Viebahn, E., Wiegmann, A., Engelmann, N., & Willemsen, P., “Can a question be a lie? An empirical investigation”, *Poster presentation at the UK Xphi Conference, University College London, UK, June 14, 2018.*
- Stephan, S., Engelmann, N., & Kirfel, L., “The influence of learned statistical abnormality on singular causation judgments”, *Poster presentation at the UK Xphi Conference, University College London, UK, June 14, 2018.*
- Engelmann, N., Stephan, S., & Lagnado, D., “Functional norms and causal judgment”, *Poster presentation at the Annual Meeting of the European Society for Philosophy and Psychology (ESPP), University of Hertfordshire, UK, August 16, 2017.*

TEACHING

Courses

Quantitative Methods I (Bachelor Psychology): basics of research design and hypothesis testing, data visualisation, descriptive and inferential data analysis, data visualisation, power analyses. Practical exercises in MS Excel.

- Winter 2017/18, Winter 2018/19, Winter 2019/20, Winter 2020/21, Winter 2021/22

Quantitative Methods II (Bachelor Psychology): General Linear Model and applications (multiple linear regression and its assumptions, ANOVA, contrast analyses, logistic regression, multilevel models). Practical exercises in R and RStudio.

- Summer 2018, Summer 2019, Summer 2020, Summer 2021

Thesis Supervision

- **Deprivationism vs. willhavehadism - The influence of life satisfaction on judgments in moral dilemmas.** M.Sc. thesis, A. Rinn, Summer 2022.
- **Moral intuitions about death.** M.Sc. thesis, F. Koniusch, Summer 2022.
- **Killing as a side effect: Investigating the violability of soldiers and civilians in war.** B.Sc. thesis, K. McElyea, Summer 2021 (co-supervision with Juan Carlos Marulanda).
- **AI and moral decisions: Can experience learning and process transparency increase acceptability?** M.Sc. thesis, A. Zobott, Summer 2020.
- **Lying, deceiving, misleading: Moral evaluation and the influence of perspective.** M.Sc. thesis, E. Köhler, Summer 2020 (co-supervision with Dr. Alex Wiegmann).
- **The influence of causal structure and beliefs about causal structure on judgments of causation and moral responsibility.** B.Sc. thesis, S. Ernst, Summer 2020.
- **Moral reasoning with multiple effects: Intentionality and moral responsibility for side effects.** B.Sc. thesis, M. Rocholl, Summer 2019.

- **The role of outcome valence for causal attributions in disjunctive causal structures.** B.Sc. thesis, L. Ahlwes, Summer 2019.
- **Causal questions and explanation.** B.Sc. thesis, L. Bertz, Summer 2018 (co-supervision with Prof. York Hagmayer).

SERVICE AND OTHER ACTIVITIES

- **Member of the Research Data Management and Open Science Working Group** since 2024
Max Planck Institute for Human Development, Berlin.
- **Member of search committee for a professorship in work and organizational psychology** 2021/22
Institute for Psychology, Georg-August-University Göttingen.
- **Participant in Dorothea Schlözer mentoring programme** 2021 - 2022
Career mentoring for female PhD candidates and postdocs, selected for academic potential
- **Co-organizer of R-Ladies Göttingen** 2021
Organization to promote gender diversity in the R community
- **Member of the ethics board** 2020 - 2022
Institute for Psychology, Georg-August-University Göttingen.

AD HOC REVIEWS

- *Acta Psychologica*
- *Bloomsbury Press*
- *Cognition*
- *Cognitive Science*
- *Cognitive Psychology*
- *Collabra*
- *Journal of Experimental Social Psychology*
- *Open Mind*
- *Scientific Reports*
- *Social Psychological and Personality Science*
- *Philosophical Psychology*
- *PLoS one*
- *Proceedings of the Annual Meeting of the Cognitive Science Society*
- *Royal Society Open Science*

LANGUAGES

- **German:** Native speaker
- **English:** Fluent
- **French:** Conversational

SOFTWARE AND PROGRAMMING SKILLS

- R (advanced)
- LaTeX (intermediate)

- MatLab (basics)
- Python (basics)