# NICOLIEN JANSSENS

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Last updated: October 2024

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## About Me

I am a PhD candidate working in the field of democratic innovations, aiming to enhance democratic participation. With a background in philosophy, logic, and social choice theory, I focus on designing online democratic platforms that align with democratic, specifically deliberative, values.

In addition to my research, I run a monthly radio show, "Talk That Science," broadcast live on echobox.radio.

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## Education

**Master in Logic**
*University of Amsterdam*
2020 – 2022

- Computation Track | GPA: 8.3/10

- Thesis: *Communicate and Vote: Collective Truth-Tracking in Networks*

- Supervisors: Davide Grosse & Giuseppe Dari-Mattiacci

**Visiting Student**
*University of Edinburgh, Scotland*
2018

**Bachelor in Philosophy**
*University of Amsterdam*
2016 – 2019

- Specialization: Analytic Philosophy and Logic | Cum Laude

# Work Experience

**Visiting PhD**
*Munich Center for Mathematical Philosophy, Ludwig Maximilian University of Munich*
October 2024 - Present

- Visiting PhD in Philosophy and Decision Theory, chaired by Christian List

**PhD Candidate**
*Erasmus University Rotterdam*
April 2022 - Present

- Focus: Digital, deliberative, and participatory democracy | Social choice theory

- Supervisors: Frederik van de Putte, Jack Vromen

**Research Associate & Assistant**
*Center for Law and Economics, Amsterdam*
2020 - 2022

- Worked on the Humane Artificial Intelligence project, Collective Decisions in Law and Economics: A Computational Perspective, with Davide Grosse & Giuseppe Dari-Mattiacci

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# Teaching Experience

**Teaching Assistant**
*Erasmus University Rotterdam*

- TA for the course *Deliberative Democracy*, May – June 2022

- TA for the course *Social Choice Theory and Political Representation*, December 2022 – January 2023

  - Guest lecture on Liquid Democracy

- Grading for the course *Deliberative Democracy*, January 2023

- TA for the course *Film en Filosofie*, October 2023 – January 2024

  - Guest lecture on *Digitale Democratie: een vloek of zegen?*

**Teaching & Student Assistant**
*University of Amsterdam*
2020

- Assisted in the BSc Artificial Intelligence course *Cognitive Modelling*

- Supporting PhD candidate Arnold Kochari with data collection

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# Science Communication

**Panel Discussion Organizer**
*1st Conference of the European Network for Digital Democracy*
2024

- Organization of the panel discussion on Digital Democracy | https://www.eddy-network.eu/in-person-conference/panel-discussion

**Science Festival Organization**
*Talk That Science Live*
2023

- Organization of *Talk That Science Live* | https://www.de-sering.org/event-details/talk-that-science

**Science Radio Host**
*Talk That Science*
2020 – Present

- Manage the nonprofit radio show and platform Talk That Science, combining science with music to reach a broader public | talkthatscience.com

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# Academic Service

**Editor**
*Erasmus Journal for Philosophy and Economics (EJPE)*
2024 – Present

- Role: Editor and webmaster | ejpe.org/journal

**Reading Group**

2023 – Present

- Founder of the monthly OZSW reading group on Digital Demoracy

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# Publications

- **Enabling the Digital Democratic Revival: A Research Program for Digital Democracy**
  This white paper presents a long-term scientific vision for developing digital democracy technology, advocating for a comprehensive multi-methods research effort to support participatory renewal in society. It is co-authored by an interdisciplinary team and emerged from the Lorentz Center Workshop on "Algorithmic Technology for Democracy" (Leiden, October 2022).
  *arXiv, January 30, 2024*

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# Student Publications

- **Being Optimistic About Skepticism**
  This article critiques various contextualist responses to skepticism, arguing that no form of contextualism adequately addresses the challenges posed by the brain in a vat thought experiment. It concludes that skepticism can be accepted without it being a problem, as skeptic pragmatic contextualism provides a plausible explanation for our intuitive knowledge claims.
  *Stance, Vol. 13, January 1, 2020*

- **De Jure Rigidity**
  This paper discusses Kripke's doctrine of rigid designation, arguing that while proper names and natural kind terms are de jure rigid, the rigidity problem extends to descriptions acting as singular terms. It defends Kripke's argument against descriptivism by distinguishing between de jure and de facto rigidity.
  *Aporia, January 1, 2018*

- **Ethiek van en voor het klinisch laboratorium**
  This article emphasizes the importance of ethical considerations in clinical laboratory work, discussing the ISO15189 guidelines and the relevance of ethical norms and values in daily practice. It highlights the necessity of established guidelines to enhance quality and reduce variability in laboratory settings.

  *Labaratoriumgeneeskunde No. 1 · 1 jan. 2018*