CURRICULUM VITAE
BASTIAAN T. RUTJENS

Contact info

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Positions held

2025-present	*University of Amsterdam* Associate professor
2015-2025	*University of Amsterdam* Assistant professor (tenured)
2013-2015	*University of Amsterdam* Postdoctoral fellow/lecturer
2012-2013	*University of British Columbia* Postdoctoral fellow

Education

2008-2012	Ph.D., *University of Amsterdam* (cum laude)
2005-2006	M.Sc., *University of Amsterdam* (cum laude)
1998-2004	M.A. (*doctoraal*), *Radboud University Nijmegen*

PhD candidate and postdoc supervision

Natalia Zarzeczna (postdoc; 2020-2024)
Shiva Pauer (2019-2024)
Bojana Većkalov (2020-2024)
Vukašin Gligorić (2021-2025)
Saara Taavila (2022-)
Kirsten Vegt (2022-)

Grants, awards, and funding

2026	OSNL Open Science Grant Co-recipient of grant (€247,600) on citizen science and trust in science
2025	Unilever research prize

	Supervisor of master's thesis that won the Unilever Research Prize 2025 (€2500). Key selection criterion is a positive contribution to the Sustainable Development Goals
2023	Polarisation RPA Seed Grants Recipient (€2500) and co-recipient €3750) of seed grants, Polarisation RPA scheme
2020	INSBS Grant Co-recipient of grant (£19,925) on the relationship between science and religion in practice (led by postdoc)
	Animal Advocacy Research Fund Co-recipient of grant ($14,000) on ambivalence about eating meat (led by PhD candidate)
2019	ERC starting grant Recipient of grant (€1,500,000) on psychological distance and science scepticism (2020-2025).
2019	Human(e) AI seed grant Co-recipient of grant (€45,000) on the social and moral psychology of human-AI interaction.
2018	Institute for Societal Resilience (ISR), VU University Recipient of grant (€16,500) on science scepticism across countries.
2018	EASP Seedcorn Grant Recipient of grant (€2000) on science scepticism across countries.
2017	BA/Leverhulme Small Research Grant Co-recipient of grant (£7000) on religion and insecurity.
2016	EASP Seedcorn Grant Co-recipient of grant (€2000) on religion and insecurity.
2014	*AXA Research Fund* Grant (€120,000) on threat compensation and risk seeking, 2014-2017.
2013	*Amsterdam Brain and Cognition Center* Talent Grant (€75,000), University of Amsterdam, 2013-2014.

2012 *Niels Stensen Foundation*
Stipend (€44,000) to conduct research at the University of British Columbia, Canada, 2012-2013.

Professional memberships

Associatie van Sociaal-Psychologische Onderzoekers (ASPO)
European Association of Social Psychology (EASP – full member)
Kurt Lewin Institute (KLI – associate member)
One Planet Network
Society of Experimental Social Psychology (SESP - fellow)
Society of Personality and Social Psychology (SPSP - fellow)
Young Academy of Europe (YAE – fellow)

Academic publications

*(Students and postdocs working under my supervision are underlined; * = Equal author contributions)*

2026 and in press

März, J., Arui, A., & Rutjens, B. T. (2026). Understanding experiential and subjective truth: Development and validation of the 'Youniversalism' scale. *Personality and Individual Differences*, *258*, 113820.

Vegt, K. R., Elberse, J. E., Rutjens, B. T., & Hessels, L. K. (2026). How can citizen science reduce psychological distance to science? Insights from three projects in contested environmental contexts. *Journal of Science Communication*, 25(6), A02.

Rutjens, B. T., van der Lee, R. Sutton, R. M. (2026). What's next for the psychology of science rejection? *Current Opinion in Psychology, 68*, 102217.

Chambon, M., & Rutjens, B. T. (2026). Utilizing a psychological network approach to improve insights into science attitudes. *Current Opinion in Psychology*, *67*, 102205.

Martens, J. P., & Rutjens. B. T. (2026). SMaRT: Understanding responses to inconsistency using sense motivation and response theory. *Acta Psychologica*, *263*, 106207.

Stalmeier, P., Rencz, F., Rutjens, B., & Roudijk, B. (2026). Unconscious death thoughts: Do they play a role in time trade-off and visual analogue scale scores for health?. *Quality of life research*, *35*(3), 60.å

Pauer, S., Rutjens, B.T., & van Harreveld, F. (2026). The experience of recurring ambivalence and its relation to effortful problem-focused coping. *Scientific Reports, 16*, 2601.

2025

Rutjens, B. T. (2025). Psychological distance to science. *Trends in Cognitive Sciences*, *29*(7), 594-596.

Rutjens, B. T., & Hornsey, M. J. (2025). The psychology of science rejection. *Advances in Experimental Social Psychology*, *71*, 243-280.

Taavila, S. H., Rutjens, B. T., & Jostmann, N. B. (2025). Perceptions of complexity in sustainability: Scale construction and validation. *Journal of Environmental Psychology*, *108*, 102812

Gligorić, V., van Kleef, G. A., & Rutjens, B. T. (2025). Political ideology and trust in scientists in the US. *Nature Human Behaviour*, *9*, 1501-1512.

Vegt, K. R., Elberse, J. E., Rutjens, B. T., & Hessels, L. K. (2025). Make America quiet again: Achieving socially robust knowledge on noise pollution through citizen science. *Public Understanding of Science*, *34*(8), 1066-1087.

Kesberg, R., Feddes, A. R., Vogel, E., & Rutjens, B. T. (2025). Associations between perceived societal polarisation and (extreme) non-normative attitudes and behaviour. *Social Inclusion*, *13*.

Većkalov, B., Zarzeczna, N., van Harreveld, F., & Rutjens, B. T. (2025). Psychological distance to science affects science evaluations. *Journal of Social Issues*, *81*(1), e12663.

Gligorić, V., Reinhardt, C., Nieuwenhuijzen, E., Orobio de Castro, J., Feddes, A. R., van Kleef, G. A., & Rutjens, B. T. (2025). The role of worldviews, radicalization risk factors, and personality in harassment of scientists. *Scientific Reports*, *15*, 1261.

Zarzeczna, N., Preston, J. L., Samekin, A., Reinhardt, C., Bolatov, A., Mussinova, Z., Selteyev, U., Topanova, G., & Rutjens, B. T. (2025). The feeling is not mutual: Religious belief predicts compatibility between science and religion, but scientific belief predicts conflict. *Psychology of Religion and Spirituality, 17*(3), 250–260.

Folk, D., Rutjens, B. T., Van Elk, M., & Heine, S. J. (2025). Dare to know! The existential costs of a faith in science. *The Journal of Positive Psychology*, *20*(1), 31–42.

2024

Većkalov, B., Geiger, S. J., Bartoš, F., White, M. P., Rutjens, B. T., van Harreveld, F., ... Ruggeri, K. & van der Linden, S. (2024). A 27-country test of communicating the scientific consensus on climate change. *Nature Human Behaviour*, *8*, 1892-1905.

Zarzeczna, N, Bertlich, T., Rutjens, B.T., Gerstner, I., von Hecker, U. (2024). Space as a mental toolbox in the representation of meaning. *Royal Society Open Science*, 11: 240985.

Pauer, S., Rutjens, B.T., Brick, C., Lob, A., Buttlar, B., Noordewier, M., Schneider, I., & van Harreveld, F. (2024). Is the effect of trust on risk perceptions a matter of knowledge, control, and time? An extension and direct replication attempt of Siegrist and Cvetkovich (2000). *Social Psychological and Personality Science*, *15*(8), 1008-1023.

Pauer, S., Rutjens, B.T., van Harreveld, F. (2024). Trust is good, control is better: The role of trust and personal control in response to threat. *Journal of Applied Social Psychology*, *54*(9), 552-571.

Zarzeczna, N., Hanel, P.H.P., Rutjens, B.T., Bono, S.A., Chen, Y.H., & Haddock, G. (2024). Scientists, speak up! Source impacts trust in health advice across five countries. *Journal of Experimental Psychology: Applied*, *30*(3), 430-444.

Gligorić, V., Clerc, R., Arkensteijn, G., Van Kleef, G. A., & Rutjens, B. T. (2024). Stereotypes and social evaluations of scientists have different antecedents and consequences. *Public Understanding of Science*, *33*(7), 855-871.

Gligorić, V., van Kleef, G. A., & Rutjens, B. T. (2024). How social evaluations shape trust in 45 types of scientists. *PLoS ONE*, *19*(4), e0299621.

Većkalov, B., Zarzeczna, N., McPhetres, J., van Harreveld, F., & Rutjens, B. T. (2024). Psychological distance to science as a predictor of science skepticism across domains. *Personality and Social Psychology Bulletin, 50*(1), 18–37.

2023

Rutjens, B. T., Ackers, C. A., & van Kleef, G. A. (2023). I'm (not) sorry: Interpersonal effects of neutralizations after a transgression. *Journal of Experimental Psychology: Applied*, *29*(4), 831-848.

Većkalov, B., van Stekelenburg, A., van Harreveld, F., & Rutjens, B. T. (2023). Who Is Skeptical About Scientific Innovation? Examining Worldview Predictors of Artificial Intelligence, Nanotechnology, and Human Gene Editing Attitudes. *Science Communication*, *45*(3), 337-366.

Zarzeczna, N., Većkalov, B., & Rutjens, B. T. (2023). Spirituality and intentions to engage in Covid-19 protective behaviours. *Social and Personality Psychology Compass*, 17(8), e12765.

Vegt, K. R., Elberse, J. E., Rutjens, B. T., Voogt, M. H., & Baâdoudi, F. (2023). Impacts of citizen science on trust between stakeholders and trust in science in a polarized context. *Journal of Environmental Policy & Planning*, *25*(6), 723-736.

van Mulukom, V., Turpin, H., Haimila, R., Purzycki, B. G., Bendixen, T., Kundtová Klocová, E., Řezníček, D., Coleman, T. J. III, Maraldi, E., Sevinç, K., Schjoedt, U., Rutjens, B. T., & Farias, M. (2023). What do non-religious non-believers believe in? Secular worldviews around the world. *Psychology of Religion and Spirituality*, *15*(1), 143-156.

Zarzeczna, N., Bertlich, T., Većkalov, B., & Rutjens, B. T. (2023). Spirituality is associated with COVID-19 vaccination skepticism. *Vaccine*, *41*(1), 226-235.

2022

Gligorić, V., van Kleef, G. A., & Rutjens, B. T. (2022). Social evaluations of scientific occupations. *Scientific Reports,* 12, 18339.

Rutjens, B. T., & Većkalov, B. (2022). Conspiracy beliefs and science rejection. *Current Opinion in Psychology*, 101392.

Rutjens, B. T., Niehoff, E., & Heine, S. J. (2022). The (im-)moral scientist? Measurement and framing effects shape the association between scientists and immorality. *PLoS ONE,* 17(10): e0274379.

Martens, J. P., & Rutjens, B. T. (2022). Spirituality and religiosity contribute to ongoing COVID-19 vaccination rates: Comparing 195 regions around the world. *Vaccine: X*, 100241.

Pauer, S., Rutjens, B.T., Ruby, M.B., Perino, G., & van Harreveld, F. (2022). Meating conflict: Toward a model of ambivalence-motivated reduction of meat consumption. *Foods*, *11(7)*:921.

Bago, B., Kovacs, M., Protzko, J., Nagy, T., Kekecs, Z., Palfi, B., ... & Matibag, C. J. (2022). Situational factors shape moral judgements in the trolley dilemma in Eastern, Southern and Western countries in a culturally diverse sample. *Nature Human Behaviour*, 1-16.

Hoogeveen, S., Haaf, J. M., Bulbulia, J. A., Ross, R. M., McKay, R., Altay, S., Bendixen, T., Berniūnas, R., Cheshin, A., Gentili, C., Georgescu, R., Gevais, W. M., Hagel, K., Kavanagh, C. M., Levy, N., Neely, A., Qiu, L., Rabelo, A., Ramsay, J. E., Rutjens, B. T., Turpin, H., Uzarevic, F., Wuyts, R., Xygalatas, D., & van Elk, M. (2022). The Einstein effect provides global evidence for scientific source credibility effects and the influence of religiosity. *Nature Human Behaviour*, *6*, 523-535*.*

Rutjens, B. T., Zarzeczna, N., & van der Lee, R. (2022). Science rejection in Greece: Spirituality predicts vaccine scepticism and low faith in science in a Greek sample. *Public Understanding of Science*, *31*, 428-436.

Rutjens, B. T., Sengupta, N., van der Lee, R., van Koningsbruggen, G. M., Martens, J. P., Rabelo, A., & Sutton, R. M. (2022). Science skepticism across 24 countries. *Social Psychological and Personality Science*, *13*(1), 102-117.

2021

Zarzeczna, N., Većkalov, B., Gligorić, V., & Rutjens, B.T. (2021). Letter to the Editors of *Psychological Science*: Boosting Understanding is Unlikely to Correct False Beliefs About Most Science Domains: Regarding van Stekelenburg et al. (2021). *Psychological Science.*

Većkalov, B., Zarzeczna, N., Niehoff, E., McPhetres, J., Rutjens, B. T. (201). A matter of time… Temporal orientation and perception contribute to the ideology gap in climate change scepticism. *Journal of Environmental Psychology, 78,* 101703*.*

Van Mulukom, V., Muzzulini, B., Rutjens, B. T., van Lissa, C.J., & Farias, M. (2021). The psychological impact of threat and lockdowns during the COVID-19 pandemic: Exacerbating factors and mitigating actions. *Translational Behavioral Medicine*, *11*(7), 1318-1329.

Rutjens, B. T., van der Linden, S., van der Lee, R., & Zarzeczna, N. (2021). A group processes approach to antiscience beliefs and endorsement of "alternative facts". *Group Processes and Intergroup Relations*, 24, 513-517.

Rutjens, B. T.*, van der Linden, S*., & van der Lee, R. (2021). Science skepticism in times of COVID-19. *Group Processes and Intergroup Relations*, 24, 276-283.

Noordewier, M. K., & Rutjens, B. T. (2021). Personal need for structure shapes the perceived impact of reduced personal control. *Personality and Individual Differences, 170*, 110478.

Martens, J. P., & Rutjens, B. T. (2021). Book review of The Acceleration of Cultural Change by R. Alexander Bentley and Michael J. O'Brien (2017). *Journal of Cognition and Culture*, *21*, 202-202.

2020

Storm, I., Rutjens, B. T., & van Harreveld, F. (2020). Personal experience or cultural tradition: The difference between christian identity in the Netherlands and Denmark. *Religion, Brain & Behavior, 10,* 428-443.

Van Elk, M., Maij, D., & Rutjens, B. T. (2020). Development of a Porous Theory of Mind scale. *Journal of Cognition and Culture*, *20*, 41-65.

Rutjens, B. T., & Preston, J. L. (2020). Science and religion: A rocky relationship shaped by shared psychological functions. In Vail, K., & Routledge, C. (Eds.) *The science of religion, spirituality, and existentialism (*pp. 373-385). Elsevier: Academic Press.

Rutjens, B. T., & van der Lee, R. (2020). Spiritual skepticism? Heterogeneous science skepticism in the Netherlands. *Public Understanding of Science*, *29*, 335-352.

2019

Fetterman, A. K., Rutjens, B. T., Wilkowski, B. M., & Landkammer, F. (2019). On post-apocalyptic & doomsday prepping beliefs: A new measure, its correlates, and the motivation to prep. *European Journal of Personality, 33,* 506-525.

McPhetres, J., Rutjens, B.T., Weinstein, N., & Brisson, J.A. (2019). Modifying attitudes about modified foods: increased knowledge leads to more positive attitudes. *Journal of Environmental Psychology, 64,* 21-29*.*

2018

Rutjens, B. T., & Brandt, M. J. (2018). *Belief systems and the perception of reality: An introduction*. In B.T. Rutjens & M.J. Brandt (Eds.). Belief systems and the perception of reality. Oxon, UK: Routledge.

Sutton, R. M., Petterson, A., & Rutjens, B. T. (2018). *Post-truth, anti-truth, and can't-handle-the-truth: How responses to science are shaped by concerns about its impact* (pp. 164-178). In B.T. Rutjens & M.J. Brandt (Eds.). Belief systems and the perception of reality. Oxon, UK: Routledge.

Rutjens, B. T., Sutton, R. M., & van der Lee, R. (2018). Not all skepticism is equal: Exploring the ideological antecedents of science acceptance and rejection. *Personality and Social Psychology Bulletin, 44*(3)*,* 384-405*.*

Rutjens, B. T., Heine, S. J., Sutton, R. M., & van Harreveld, F. (2018). Attitudes towards science. *Advances in Experimental Social Psychology, 57,* 125-165*.*

O'donnell, M., Nelson, L. D., Ackermann, E., Aczel, B., Akhtar, A., Aldrovandi, S., ... & Balatekin, N. (2018). Registered replication report: Dijksterhuis and van Knippenberg (1998). *Perspectives on Psychological Science*, *13*(2), 268-294.

2017

Van der Lee, R., Ellemers, N., Scheepers, D., & Rutjens, B.T. (2017). In or out? How the perceived morality (vs. competence) of prospective group members affects acceptance and rejection. *European Journal of Social Psychology, 47,* 748-762.

Van Elk, M., Rutjens, B. T., & van Harreveld, F. (2017). Why are Protestants more prosocial than Catholics? A comparative study among orthodox Dutch believers. *International Journal for the Psychology of Religion*, *27*, 65-81.

Rutjens, B. T., & Kay, A. C. (2017). *Compensatory Control Theory and the psychological importance of perceiving order*. In M. Bukowski, I. Fritsche, A. Guinote, & M. Kofta (Eds.), Current Issues in Social Psychology – Coping with lack of control in a social world (pp. 83-97). New York: Routledge Psychology Press.

2016

Rutjens, B. T., & Heine, S. J. (2016). The immoral landscape? Scientists are associated with violations of morality. *PLoS ONE*, *11*(4): e0152798

Van Elk, M., Rutjens, B. T., van der Pligt, J., & van Harreveld, F. (2016). Priming of supernatural agent concepts and agency detection. *Religion, Brain & Behavior*, *6*(1), 4-33.

Rutjens, B. T., van Harreveld, F., van der Pligt, J., van Elk, M., & Pyszczynski, T. (2016). A march to a better world? Religiosity and the existential function of belief in social-moral progress. *International Journal for the Psychology of Religion*, *26*(1), 1-18.

2015

Van Elk, M., Rutjens, B. T., & van der Pligt, J. (2015). The development of the illusion of control and sense of agency in 7- to -12-year old children and adults. *Cognition*, *145*, 1-12.

2014

Meijers, M. H. C.*, & Rutjens, B. T*. (2014). Affirming belief in scientific progress reduces environmentally friendly behaviour. *European Journal of Social Psychology*, *44*, 487-495.

Van Harreveld, F., Rutjens, B. T., Schneider, I. K., Nohlen, H. U., & Keskinis, K. (2014). In doubt and disorderly: Ambivalence promotes compensatory perceptions of order. *Journal of Experimental Psychology: General*, *143*, 1666-1676.

2013

Rutjens, B. T., van Harreveld, F., & van der Pligt, J. (2013). Step by step: Finding compensatory order in science. *Current Directions in Psychological Science*, *22*, 250-255.

Rutjens, B. T., van Harreveld, F., van der Pligt, J., Kreemers, L. M., & Noordewier, M. K. (2013). Steps, stages, and structure: Finding compensatory order in scientific theories. *Journal of Experimental Psychology: General*, *142*, 313-318.

2012

Rutjens, B. T., van der Pligt, J., & van Harreveld, F. (2012). *Regulating psychological threat: the motivational consequences of threatening contexts*. In K. J. Jonas & T. Morton (eds.), Restoring civil societies: The psychology of intervention and engagement following crisis (Social issues and interventions) (pp. 38-56). Malden, MA: Wiley-Blackwell.

Vail, K. E., Juhl, J., Arndt, J., Vess, M., Routledge, C., & Rutjens, B. T. (2012). When death is good for life: Considering the positive trajectories of terror management. *Personality and Social Psychology Review*, *16*, 303-329.

2011

Schneider, I.K., Rutjens, B.T., Jostmann, N.B., & Lakens, D. (2011). Weighty matters: Importance literally feels heavy. *Social Psychological and Personality Science*, *2*, 474-478.

Wojtkowiak, J., & Rutjens, B. T. (2011). The postself and terror management theory: Reflecting on after death identity buffers existential threat. *International Journal for the Psychology of Religion*, 21, 137-144.

2010

Rutjens, B. T., van der Pligt, J., & van Harreveld, F. (2010). Deus or Darwin: Randomness and belief in theories about the origin of life. *Journal of Experimental Social Psychology*, *46*, 1078-1080.

Rutjens, B. T., van Harreveld, F., & van der Pligt, J. (2010). Yes we can: Belief in progress as compensatory control. *Social Psychological and Personality Science*, *1*, 246-252.

Wojtkowiak, J., Rutjens, B. T., & Venbrux, E. (2010). Meaning making and death: A Dutch survey study. *Archive for the Psychology of Religion*, *32*, 363-373.

Rutjens, B. T., & Loseman, A. (2010). The society-supporting self: System justification and cultural worldview defense as different forms of self-regulation. *Group Processes and Intergroup Relations*, *13*, 241-250.

2009

Rutjens, B. T., van der Pligt, J., & van Harreveld, F. (2009). Things will get better: The anxiety-buffering qualities of progressive hope. *Personality and Social Psychology Bulletin*, *35,* 535-543.

Van Harreveld, F., Rutjens, B. T., Rotteveel, M., Nordgren, L. F., & van der Pligt, J. (2009). Ambivalence and decisional conflict as a cause of psychological discomfort: Feeling tense before jumping off the fence. *Journal of Experimental Social Psychology*, *45*, 167-173.

Other publications

Rutjens, B. T. (2018). What makes people distrust science? Surprisingly, not politics. *Aeon*. [link]

Rutjens, B. T., van Harreveld, F., & van der Pligt, J. (2013). Sense-making through science. *The Inquisitive Mind*.

Books

Rutjens, B. T., & Brandt, M. J. (2018). *Belief systems and the perception of reality.* Oxon, UK: Routledge.

Van Harreveld, F., van der Pligt, J., & Rutjens, B. T. (2013). *Dat kan geen toeval zijn: De psychologie van ons bijgeloof*. Uitgeverij Nieuw Amsterdam, Amsterdam.
(Popular science book on the psychology of superstition)

Publications in Dutch

Rutjens, B. T., Brummelman, E., Raijmakers, M., Vegt, K., & Damstra, A. (2025). Vertrouwen in wetenschap is hoog, maar ook weer niet. Sociale Vraagstukken.

Rutjens, B. T. (2024). Vertrouwen. In *Jim Jansen & Dolf Jansen. 2025 in 26 oplossingen*. New Scientist.

Rutjens, B. T. (2023). We moeten goed leren twijfelen aan de wetenschap. Financieele Dagblad.

Rutjens, B. T. (2019). De psychologische wortels van antivaccinatie-overtuigingen. In *Pierik, R. (Ed.). Hoe nu verder met de vaccinatietwijfel?*

Van Harreveld, F., & Rutjens, B. T. (2018). Alles onder controle. *Skepter*, *31*(2), 18-22.

De Dreu, C. K. W, Rutjens, B. T., & van Kleef, G. A. (2016). De veranderende positie van de hoogleraar en de promovendus. In *Pligtsbesef: een geschiedenis van de Nederlandse sociale psychologie*. UvA Sociale Psychologie, Amsterdam.

Rutjens, B. T., & Meijers, M. H. C. (2011). Teveel van het goede: Hoe een sterk geloof in wetenschappelijke vooruitgang duurzaamheid tegenwerkt. In *Jaarboek Sociale Psychologie 2010*, ASPO Press.

Rutjens, B. T., & van der Pligt, J. (2009). Succes alleen is niet genoeg: Standaardverhoging en sociale vergelijking. In *Jaarboek Sociale Psychologie 2008*, ASPO Press.

Presentations and panels (selection)

2026, June. Trust in science. Invited seminar at *Shaping Interfaces*, IAS, Amsterdam.

2026, January. The psychology of science rejection. Invited seminar at school of psychology, Cardiff University, UK.

2025, December. The psychology of science rejection. Invited seminar at University of Geneva, Switzerland.

2025, October. Psychologische afstand tot de wetenschap. Contribution to interactive session on science communication. De Nationale Wetenschapscommunicatiedag, Utrecht.

2025, September. Invited panelist KNAW/Rathenau symposium “Trust in science”, Amsterdam.

2025, April. Wetenschapsvertrouwen. Invited workshop on trust and science understanding for high school teachers and curriculum builders, Amsterdam.

2025, April. Antecedents of science rejection. Invited talk for online Mis/trust in science and religion workshop, University of Oxford, UK.

2025, January. PSYDISC symposium. Organized interdisciplinary symposium on the topic of trust in science, University of Amsterdam.

2024, November. Science rejection. Invited talk at University of Kent, United Kingdom.

2024, April. Wantrouwen in de wetenschap. Invited public lecture at Catharijne Convent Museum, Utrecht.

2023, June. Science skepticism. Invited keynote at interdisciplinary symposium on critical thinking, Brussels, Belgium.

2023, June. Antecedents of science rejection. Invited colloquium talk at Tilburg University.

2022, September. Antecedents of science rejection. Invited workshop talk at University of British Columbia Psychology department, Vancouver, Canada.

2022, April. Science skepticism in 24+ countries. Invited talk at the Kurt Lewin Institute (KLI) conference, Zeist.

2021, November. Invited panellist KNAW expert-meeting "Trustworthy science in the public domain", Amsterdam.

2021, September. Invited panellist Spui25 meeting "Science in the public arena - From distrust to threat", Amsterdam.

2021, July. Science skepticism in 24 countries. Paper presented at the International Research Network for the Study of Science and Belief in Society conference, Birmingham, UK.

2020, March. Heterogeneous science skepticism. Invited talk at RIVM, The Netherlands.

2019, December. Spiritual skepticism. Paper presented at the annual ASPO conference, Wageningen, The Netherlands.

2019, July. Spiritual skepticism. Paper presented at the International Research Network for the Study of Science and Belief in Society conference, Birmingham, UK.

2019, March. Spiritual skepticism. Symposium paper presented at the International Convention for Psychological Science (ICPS), Paris, France.

2018, February. Evaluations of science and scientists. Invited talk at University of Bath, UK.

2017, November. Evaluations of science and scientists. Invited talk at Birmingham City University, UK.

2017, July. Exploring the ideological antecedents of science skepticism. Symposium paper presented at the European Association of Social Psychology (EASP) conference, Granada, Spain.

2017, June. Evaluations of science and scientists. Invited talk at Leiden University.

2016, October. Order Overkill? A balance perspective on threat compensation. Symposium paper presented at the Society of Experimental Social Psychology (SESP) conference, Santa Monica, California, United States.

2016, July. Religion, conservatism, and rejection of science. Paper presented at the Annual Meeting of the International Society of Political Psychology (ISPP), Warsaw, Poland.

2015, October. Intuitive morality judgments and moral stereotypes of scientists. Invited talk at Tilburg University.

2015, June. Science as compensatory control. Invited talk at the *Control and Social Motivation Seminar*, Jagiellonian University, Krakow, Poland.

2015, April. Intuitive morality judgments and moral stereotypes of scientists. Invited talk at the *Breaking New Ground in the Science-Religion Dialogue Workshop*, University of Texas at Austin, TX, United States.

2015, April. Intuitive morality judgments and moral stereotypes of scientists. Invited talk at University of Kent, United Kingdom.

2015, March. Intuitive morality judgments and moral stereotypes of scientists. Invited talk at Groningen University.

2014, July. The appeal of stage theories in science. Symposium paper presented at the European Association of Social Psychology (EASP) meeting, Amsterdam.

2014, April. Omgaan met willekeur (*Engaging randomness*). Invited talk at *ASPO Blits*, Amsterdam.

2014, January. Finding compensatory order in science. Invited talk at the University of Salzburg, Austria.

2013, October. Finding compensatory order in science. Symposium paper presented at the Society of Experimental Social Psychology (SESP) conference, Berkeley, California, United States.

2013, October. Dat kan geen toeval zijn (*The psychology of superstition*). Invited public lecture at Zeeuws Museum, Middelburg.

2011, October. Deus or Darwin: Randomness and belief in theories about the origin of life. Symposium paper presented at the Society of Experimental Social Psychology (SESP) conference, Washington D.C., United States

2011, July. Yes we can: Belief in progress as compensatory control. Paper presented at the European Association of Social Psychology (EASP) meeting, Stockholm, Sweden

2009, September. Control and belief in progress. Paper presented at the annual BPS Social Psychology Section conference, Sheffield, United Kingdom.

Chaired symposia

*Belief systems. S*ymposium organized (with Mark Brandt) at the annual ASPO conference, Wageningen, The Netherlands. December, 2019.

The Social Psychology of (dis-)belief in science. Symposium organized (with Steven Heine) at the European Association of Social Psychology (EASP) conference, Granada, Spain. July, 2017.

The Optimal Balance: Motivation and Behavior as a Function of Order and (un-)Predictability. Symposium organized at the Society of Experimental Social Psychology (SESP) conference, Santa Monica, California, United States, October, 2016.

Bridging evolutionary and motivational approaches to culture and cognition. Symposium organized (with Daniel Balliet) for the Kurt Lewin Institute (KLI) conference, Zeist, the Netherlands, April 2016.

Perceiving (dis-)order: Multiple perspectives on a fundamental motive. Preconference organized for the European Association of Social Psychology (EASP) conference, Amsterdam, The Netherlands. July, 2014.

Keeping grip: Coping with world changes through simplification. Symposium organized (with Femke van Horen) at the European Association of Social Psychology (EASP) conference, Amsterdam, The Netherlands. July, 2014.

Engaging disorder: Multiple perspectives on a fundamental motive. Symposium organized at the Society of Experimental Social Psychology (SESP) conference, Berkeley, California, United States. October, 2013.

Teaching and professional development

2025	Ius Promovendi (the right to confer doctoral degrees), UvA
2025	Completed PhD supervision training course (Superb Supervision)
2021	Completed academic leadership program for VIDI/VICI/ERC scholars 2020-2021
2017	University Teaching Qualification (Basiskwalificatie Onderwijs; BKO)
2021 – present	Lecturer and course coordinator *The psychology of worldviews* *(research master)*
2025 – present	Lecturer *A critical look on psychology's past and future* *(interdisciplinary bachelor)*

2021 – 2025	Lecturer *Mind, Behavior, and Society II* *(interdisciplinary bachelor)*
2017 – 2021	Lecturer and course coordinator *Applying Research Methods* *(master)*
2016 – 2021	Lecturer and course coordinator *Cultural psychology* *(interdisciplinary bachelor)*
2018 - 2019	Lecturer and course coordinator *Decision making 1* *(interdisciplinary bachelor)*
2013 - 2016	Lecturer *Current debates in attitudes and decision making* *(research master)*
2015 – 2016	Lecturer and course coordinator *Measuring attitudes and behaviour* *(master)*
2013 - present	Contributing lecturer *Psychology of religion and spirituality (bachelor), Polarisation (bachelor), Applying Research methods (master)* University of Amsterdam; Radboud University Nijmegen
2006 - present	Supervisor (Research-)master thesis, bachelor thesis, and internship projects
2013	Coordinator *Experimentation practicum* *(bachelor)*
2012	Recipient of KLI certificate Completed the 4-year inter-university graduate teaching and training program provided by the Kurt Lewin Institute (KLI)
2010 – 2011	Teacher (practicum) Kurt Lewin Institute graduate student workshop on psychophysiological measures

Professional service, committees, and organization

2025-2026	Reviewer Rathenau Institute reports Critical reviewing of the Rathenau trust in science results and reports
2025-2027	Review committee member NEMO Advising NEMO science museum on scientific content of exhibition
2026-present	Psychology advocate of Psychology Research institute, University of Amsterdam Appointed as psychology advocate to improve public understanding of psychological science
2026-present	FMG faculty impact committee member, University of Amsterdam
2025-present	Member of Daily Board Social psychology program, University of Amsterdam
2025-2026	Member of writing group Call for proposals National Science Agenda (NWA)
2025-present	Associate editor *Personality and Social Psychology Bulletin*
2021–present	Editorial board member *Journal of Experimental Social Psychology*
2021–present	Editorial board member *Journal of Environmental Psychology*
2019 & 2020	Guest editor and special issue editor *Group Processes and Intergroup Relations*
2021–present	Examinations Board member (vice-chair from 2025), Department of Psychology, University of Amsterdam
2020–present	Scientific Advisory Board member, Department of Psychology, University of Amsterdam
2021–2024	Organizer of colloquium talk series, Social Psychology program, University of Amsterdam
2015-2019; 2024-present	Organizer of biweekly Brown Bag lunch talks, Social Psychology program, University of Amsterdam
2020	KLI best paper award selection committee member

2019-present	Member of *Vaccinatiealliantie*
2018-2025	Board member of Associatie van Sociaal-Psychologische Onderzoekers (ASPO)
2018-present	Remote referee European Research Council (ERC Consolidator Grant); National Science Centre Poland.
2009–present	Ad hoc reviewer for wide range of academic journals
2017-present	Invited viva opponent University of Amsterdam (2); Radboud University Nijmegen (2); Leiden University (1); Tilburg University (1); Royal Holloway University of London (1); The University of Western Australia (1; reading committee); VU University (1)
2016-2021	Member of Psychology Research Master Curriculum Committee, University of Amsterdam
2015-2021	Member of Psychology Research Master Thesis Committee, University of Amsterdam
2016	Member of hiring committee for assistant professor position, University of Amsterdam
2016	Member of 2016 KLI conference program committee
2015	Member of ASPO conference program and organizing committees
2013	Member of ASPO Yearbook editorial board
2010 & 2011	Member of ASPO dissertation committee
2010 & 2011	Reviewer for SPSP graduate student award

Media selection (2019-present):

My research is regularly covered by national and international media outlets, including BBC News, The Washington Post, National Public Radio (NPR), Psychology Today, NOS, Trouw, and De Volkskrant. A small selection of recent media coverage and interviews is provided below. Click here to generate an Altmetric media report.

- Psychology Today: https://www.psychologytoday.com/us/blog/misguided/202506/why-trust-in-science-depends-on-feeling-closer-to-it

- Nieuwsuur (Dutch TV): https://npo.nl/start/serie/nieuwsuur/seizoen-2024/nieuwsuur_4671/afspelen
- Radar (Dutch TV): https://radar.avrotros.nl/uitzendingen/gemist/item/fragment-onterechte-gezondheidsclaims-tijdens-cursus-alternatieve-geneeswijze/
- New Scientist: https://www.newscientist.nl/blogs/wetenschappers-worden-niet-alleen-op-kennis-beoordeeld/ https://www.newscientist.nl/premium/we-moeten-beter-leren-twijfelen-aan-de-wetenschap/
- NOS: https://nos.nl/nieuwsuur/artikel/2512789-zorgen-kinderopvang-om-lage-vaccinatiegraad-weiger-ongevaccineerde-kinderen
- Nu.nl: https://www.nu.nl/klimaat/6325949/wetenschappers-bijna-altijd-eens-over-klimaatverandering-tot-verrassing-burgers.html
- NRC Handelsblad: https://www.nrc.nl/nieuws/2021/10/12/spirituelen-zijn-vaker-sceptisch-a4061627#/ochtend/2021/10/13/#106 https://www.nrc.nl/nieuws/2023/10/07/het-medicijn-tegen-online-kwakzalverij-is-nog-niet-gevonden-a4176437#/krant/2023/10/07/#108 https://www.nrc.nl/nieuws/2025/04/17/wantrouwen-in-wetenschap-vs-nog-breder-onafhankelijkheid-ook-hier-in-het-geding-a4890304
- Financieele Dagblad (invited opinion article): https://fd.nl/opinie/1497204/we-moeten-goed-leren-twijfelen-aan-de-wetenschap
- Spui25: https://spui25.nl/programma/van-wantrouwen-tot-bedreiging-1
- La Presse: https://www.lapresse.ca/actualites/sciences/2021-05-25/les-personnes-spirituelles-plus-sceptiques-face-au-vaccin.php
- Trouw: https://www.trouw.nl/cultuur-media/pizzagate-deep-state-9-11-en-corona-waarom-complottheorie-qanon-zo-populair-is~bc19b11b/?referrer=https%3A%2F%2Ft.co%2Fc4fM9DBD7L%3Famp%3D1
- BetaBreak: https://spui25.nl/programma/the-science-of-conspiracies
- BBC World: https://www.bbc.com/afrique/region-52303246
- De Correspondent: https://decorrespondent.nl/11090/wetenschappers-zijn-nu-onmisbaar-ook-maar-mensen-linkse-activisten-omcirkel-wat-je-onderbuik-je-ingeeft/17954834407620-82f5ef05
- Le Monde: https://www.lemonde.fr/sciences/article/2019/11/20/pourquoi-etes-vous-pour-ou-contre_6019798_1650684.html
- Global News Canada: From the anti-vaxxers to flat earthers: what makes people distrust science?
- De Volkskrant:

https://www.volkskrant.nl/wetenschap/-een-bakfietsmoeder-die-haar-kind-niet-wil-laten-inenten-heeft-geen-boodschap-aan-extra-kennis-~b6627319/
https://www.volkskrant.nl/volkskrant-magazine/laat-een-stilte-vallen-gebruik-nooit-het-woord-dom-en-nog-26-etiquetteregels-voor-een-politiek-gesprek~b995f5be/

- Flair:
https://www.flair.nl/nieuws/wantrouwen-tegenover-vaccinaties-waarom-vertrouwen-we-de-wetenschap-niet-meer/