

Mélinda Pozzi, PhD

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PROFILE

Computational and experimental cognitive scientist specializing in how people build and calibrate trust, both individually and in groups. My work focuses on epistemic vigilance ('who to believe?') and strategic vigilance ('with whom to collaborate?'). Combining experiments and agent-based modeling, I extend micro-level findings in cognitive science to explore collective behaviors, modeling societal resilience to misinformation.

EDUCATION

- 08.2019 – 09.2024 **PhD in Cognitive Science** (*summa cum laude*), University of Neuchâtel
- 09.2016 – 08.2018 **MSc in Cognitive Science** (*magna cum laude*), University of Neuchâtel
- 09.2013 – 06.2016 **BA in Philosophy, Language Sciences, Information and Communication Sciences** (*cum laude*), University of Neuchâtel

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

- 10.2024 – Present **SNSF Postdoctoral Researcher** | Sorbonne University & University of California, Irvine
Project on modeling and simulations of misinformation and collective resilience, funded by the Swiss National Science Foundation.
- 08.2019 – 07.2024 **PhD Assistant** | University of Neuchâtel – Inst. of Communication and Cognitive Sciences
Experimental research, and doctoral thesis, on the cognitive mechanisms of trust and vigilance in communication.
- 09.2018 – 05.2019 **Research Assistant** | Laval University – CERVO Brain Research Centre
Administration of experimental protocols and psychological questionnaires for the study of communication and social interactions in typical and clinical populations (schizophrenia and personality disorders).
- 08.2017 – 01.2018 **Research Intern (Master)** | New Jersey Institute of Technology – Swarm Lab
Modeling and simulations of collective social behaviors (division of labor).

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

- 05.2024 – 05.2025 **Master's Thesis Supervisor/Expert** | University of Neuchâtel
Cognitive Science (MA)
- 11.2022 – 11.2023 **Guest Lecturer** | University of Neuchâtel
Communication and Deception (MA), Experimental Pragmatics (MA)
- 08.2019 – 07.2024 **Seminar Assistant** | University of Neuchâtel
Directed Readings (BA), Experimental Methods in Information and Communication Sciences (BA)
- 08.2019 – 07.2024 **Exam Expert** | University of Neuchâtel
Pragmatics and Cognition (BA), Experimental Pragmatics (MA)

FUNDING

- 06.2024 **Postdoc.Mobility Fellowship** | Swiss National Science Foundation (SNSF) – 124,000
Postdoctoral research at the Department of Logic and Philosophy of Science, UC Irvine, and the Sciences Normes Démocratie unit, Sorbonne University.

- 09.2018 **Research Grant** | CERVO Foundation – 18,000 CAD
Research at the Cognition and Social Interactions Laboratory, Laval University.
- 09.2017 **Rosa Schlatter Fund** | University of Neuchâtel – 4,000 CHF
Master's internship at the Swarm Lab, New Jersey Institute of Technology.

AWARDS

- 09.2023 **Sam Glucksberg** | Best Presentation Award
International Conference of Experimental Pragmatics, Paris Cité University.

PUBLICATIONS

- In Preparation Trust, Vigilance, and Knowledge: Who Benefits from Tracking Source Accuracy?
- Under Review **Pozzi, M.**, & Mazzarella, D. Strategic and epistemic vigilance: adaptive trust in the face of miscommunication and misinformation.
- Forthcoming **Pozzi, M.**, & Mazzarella, D. Speaker's responsibility for evidential claims: Believe me, I saw it! In "The pragmatics of trusting (artificial) others", *Pragmatics and Society*.
<https://drive.switch.ch/index.php/s/2ajlSpG5CxxDmud>
- 2024 **Pozzi, M.**, & Mazzarella, D. Speaker trustworthiness: Shall confidence match evidence? In "Trust and Trustworthiness: individual and institutional dimensions", *Philosophical Psychology*, 37(1), 102–125. <https://doi.org/10.1080/09515089.2023.2193220>
- 2024 **Pozzi, M.**, Bangerter, A., & Mazzarella, D. Does lexical coordination affect epistemic and practical trust? The role of conceptual pacts. *Cognitive Science*, 48(1), e13372.
<https://doi.org/10.1111/cogs.13372>
- 2023 **Pozzi, M.**, & Mazzarella, D. What's Your Evidence? The Psychological Foundations of the Evaluation of Testimony. In "Testimony and Law", *Ars interpretandi*, 28(2), 113–128.
<https://www.rivisteweb.it/doi/10.7382/108913>

INVITED TALKS

- 04.2026 **Pozzi, M.** Does epistemic vigilance make groups more resilient to misinformation? Integrating experiments and computational modeling. *Cognitive Science Center*, University of Neuchâtel.
- 02.2026 **Pozzi, M.** [Trust, Vigilance, and Knowledge: Who Benefits from Tracking Source Accuracy?](#) *Research Center Knowledge and Cognition*, University of Bologna.
- 03.2025 **Pozzi, M.** [Speaker trustworthiness: Shall confidence match evidence?](#) *TRUEDEM (Trust in European Democracies) webinars series*.

PRESENTATIONS

- 11.2025 **Pozzi, M.** From Individual Trust to Collective Knowledge: Modeling Epistemic Vigilance. *7th International Workshop on Cognition: Interdisciplinary Foundations, Models and Applications*, University of Toledo.
- 06.2024 **Pozzi, M.**, & Mazzarella, D. Believe me, I saw it! Speaker's responsibility for evidential claims. *Pragmasophia*, University of Messina.
- 06.2024 **Pozzi, M.**, & Mazzarella, D. Believe me, I saw it! Speaker's responsibility for evidential claims. *2nd Linguistics Day (Bern/Neuchâtel/Fribourg network)*, University of Fribourg.
- 05.2024 **Pozzi, M.**, & Mazzarella, D. Believe me, I saw it! Speaker's responsibility for evidential claims. *House of Language and Communication Sciences (SCILAC)*, University of Neuchâtel.

- 03.2024 **Pozzi, M.**, & Mazzarella, D. Believe me, I saw it! Speaker's responsibility for evidential claims. *2nd Postgraduate Workshop in Pragmatics*, National and Kapodistrian University of Athens.
- 11.2023 **Pozzi, M.**, Bangerter, A., & Mazzarella, D. Does lexical coordination affect epistemic and practical trust? The role of conceptual pacts. *Experimental Pragmatics in Switzerland (XPrag.ch) 2023*, University of Fribourg.
- 09.2023 **Pozzi, M.**, Bangerter, A., & Mazzarella, D. Does lexical coordination affect epistemic and practical trust? The role of conceptual pacts. *10th biennial meeting of Experimental Pragmatics (XPrag X)*, Paris.
- 07.2023 **Pozzi, M.**, Bangerter, A., & Mazzarella, D. Does lexical coordination affect epistemic and practical trust? The role of conceptual pacts. Panel: The pragmatics of trusting (artificial) others. *18th International Pragmatics Conference of the International Pragmatics Association (IPrA)*, Brussels.
- 07.2023 Mazzarella, D., & **Pozzi, M.** Speaker trustworthiness: shall confidence match evidence? Panel: Experimental and corpus perspectives on (socio)pragmatics. *18th International Pragmatics Conference of the International Pragmatics Association (IPrA)*, Brussels.
- 05.2023 **Pozzi, M.**, & Mazzarella, D. Speaker trustworthiness: calibrating confidence with evidence. Trust and Uncertainty: Perspectives from linguistics and literary studies. *Biennial conference of the Swiss Association of University Teachers of English (SAUTE)*, University of Fribourg.
- 10.2022 **Pozzi, M.**, & Mazzarella, D. Speaker trustworthiness: calibrating confidence with evidence. *House of Language and Communication Sciences (SCILAC)*, University of Neuchâtel.
- 07.2022 Dykstra, N., **Pozzi, M.**, & Garnier, S. Decoupling division of labor and worker expertise in simulated colonies. *59th Annual Conference of the Animal Behavior Society*, online.
- 05.2022 **Pozzi, M.**, & Mazzarella, D. Speaker reliability: calibrating confidence with evidence. *Experiments in Linguistic Meaning (ELM) 2*, University of Pennsylvania.
- 02.2022 **Pozzi, M.**, & Mazzarella, D. Speaker reliability: calibrating confidence with evidence. *SWiss English Language and Linguistics (SWELL) 2022*, University of Basel.
- 11.2021 **Pozzi, M.**, & Mazzarella, D. Speaker reliability: shall confidence match evidence? *Experimental Pragmatics in Switzerland (XPrag.ch) 2021: Pragmatics and its Interfaces*, University of Bern.
- 03.2021 **Pozzi, M.**, & Mazzarella, D. The effect of lexical entrainment on epistemic and interpersonal trust. *SWiss English Language and Linguistics (SWELL) 2021*, University of Zurich, online.
- 11.2020 **Pozzi, M.**, & Mazzarella, D. The effect of coordination on epistemic and interpersonal trust. *11th Day of Swiss Linguistics*, Swiss Society of Linguistics, University of Fribourg.
- 07.2020 Dykstra, N., **Pozzi, M.**, & Garnier, S. Relative contribution of division of labor and specialization to group efficiency. *57th Annual Conference of the Animal Behavior Society*, online.

POSTERS

- 09.2024 Mazzarella, D., & **Pozzi, M.** Believe me, I saw it! Speaker's responsibility for evidential claims. *5th Experimental Pragmatics Conference in Italy (XPRAG.it 2024)*, San Camillo Hospital IRCCS, Venice.
- 10.2023 **Pozzi, M.**, Bangerter, A., & Mazzarella, D. Does lexical coordination affect epistemic and practical trust? The role of conceptual pacts. (Mis)alignment in alignment research: a

multidisciplinary workshop on alignment in interaction. *CONversational BRAins (COBRA)*, Laboratoire Parole et Langage, Aix-en-Provence.

- 06.2022 Dykstra, N., **Pozzi, M.**, & Garnier, S. Decoupling division of labor and worker expertise in simulated colonies. *10th Social Insects in the North-East RegionS (SINNERS) meeting*, New Jersey Institute of Technology.
- 05.2022 Dykstra, N., **Pozzi, M.**, & Garnier, S. Decoupling division of labor and worker expertise in simulated colonies. *17th annual conference on Frontiers in Applied and Computational Mathematics*, New Jersey Institute of Technology.
- 07.2021 **Pozzi, M.**, & Mazzarella, D. The effect of coordination on epistemic and interpersonal trust. *4th Experimental Pragmatics Conference in Italy (XPRAG.it 2020(21))*, University of Turin, online.
- 08.2020 Dykstra, N., **Pozzi, M.**, & Garnier, S. Relative contribution of division of labor and specialization to group efficiency. *Animal Behaviour Live: Annual Online Conference 2020*.
- 09.2019 Achim, A., Thibaudeau, É., Vallée, A., **Pozzi, M.**, Lampron, M., Savard, C. & Haesebaert, F. Reliability of the Combined Stories Test (COST) and the Social Knowledge Test (SKT) in people with schizophrenia or with a personality disorder. *Congress of the Society for Research in Psychopathology*, Buffalo.
- 05.2019 Thibaudeau, É., Cayouette, A., **Pozzi, M.**, Vallée, A., Demers, G., Haesebaert, F., & Achim, A. Examination of the reliability of the Combined Stories Test and the Situations Test in individuals living with a psychotic disorder. *1st Conference of the French-Speaking Branch of the International Early Psychosis Association*, Charlevoix.

INTERNAL COLLOQUIA

- 06.2025 **Pozzi, M.** Misinformation, epistemic vigilance and collective performance. *Work in Progress talks*. Department of Logic and Philosophy of Science, University of California Irvine.
- 01.2024 **Pozzi, M.**, & Mazzarella. Speaker trustworthiness: calibrating confidence with evidence. *Work in Progress talks*. Department of Logic and Philosophy of Science, University of California Irvine.

ACADEMIC EVENT ORGANIZATION

- 06.2023/06.2024 1st and 2nd Linguistics Day (Bern/Neuchâtel/Fribourg network), University of Bern/ University of Fribourg
- 02.2020 – 12.2022 Discussion group on the development, evolution, and acculturation of cognition, University of Neuchâtel.

SCIENTIFIC REVIEWS

- 2024 – 2026 CogSci 2026, Discover Artificial Intelligence, Biology & Philosophy, Linguistics Vanguard, Journal of Pragmatics, Pragmatics and Society

SKILLS

- Digital tools Julia, R, JavaScript, Python, NetLogo, HTML, CSS, LaTeX, Visual Studio Code, Google Colab, JASP, PCIBex, BORIS, Audacity, OBS Studio, Moodle, Peergrade, Testable
- Methodology Agent-based modeling, creation of online experiments and questionnaires (Prolific, Qualtrics, LIONESS Lab), statistical analysis, data visualization, qualitative methods (interviews, behavioral analysis), Natural Language Processing (NLP)
- Languages French (Native), English (Fluent)