# Mélinda Pozzi, PhD

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## EDUCATION

08.2019 – 09.2024 **PhD in Cognitive Science** (*summa cum laude*), University of Neuchâtel
Advisor: Prof. Diana Mazzarella

09.2016 – 08.2018 **MSc in Cognitive Science** (*magna cum laude*), University of Neuchâtel
Advisor: Prof. Adrian Bangerter

09.2013 – 06.2016 **BA in Philosophy, Language Sciences, Information and Communication Sciences** (*cum laude*), University of Neuchâtel
Advisor: Prof. Richard Glauser

## PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

08.2026 - Present **Co-Head Neuchâtel** | foraus – Swiss Forum on Foreign Policy
Co-directing the Neuchâtel foraus network, promoting evidence-based policy, diplomacy, and dialogue between academia, citizens, and foreign policymakers.

10.2025 – 09.2026 **SNSF Postdoctoral Researcher** | Sorbonne University – Sciences Normes Démocratie
Advisor: Prof. Igor Douven
Exploring the trust trade-off between benefiting from others' knowledge and avoiding misinformation, through simulations of costly vigilance and evolutionary algorithms.

10.2024 – 09.2025 **SNSF Postdoctoral Researcher** | UC Irvine – Dept. of Logic and Philosophy of Science
Advisor: Prof. Cailin O'Connor
Modeling epistemically vigilant agents and their ability to evaluate (mis)information, simulating how tracking sources' past accuracy promotes collective knowledge.

08.2019 – 07.2024 **PhD Assistant** | University of Neuchâtel – Inst. of Communication and Cognition Sciences
Advisor: Prof. Diana Mazzarella
Experimental research and doctoral thesis on the cognitive mechanisms of trust and vigilance in communication.

09.2018 – 05.2019 **Research Assistant** | Laval University – Cognition and Social Interactions Lab, CERVO
Advisor: Prof. Amélie Achim
Experimental research and psychological questionnaires for the study of communication in typical and clinical populations (schizophrenia and personality disorders).

08.2017 – 01.2018 **Research Intern (Master)** | New Jersey Institute of Technology – Swarm Lab
Advisor: Prof. Simon Garnier
Modeling and simulations of division of labor and collective performance.

## 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 (124'000 CHF)** | Swiss National Science Foundation (SNSF)
Postdoctoral research at UC Irvine & Sorbonne University

09.2018 **Research Grant (18'000 CAD)** | CERVO Foundation
Research at the Cognition and Social Interactions Lab, Laval University

09.2017 **Rosa Schlatter Fund (4'000 CHF)** | University of Neuchâtel
Master's internship at the Swarm Lab, New Jersey Institute of Technology

## AWARDS

09.2023 **Sam Glucksberg Student Prize** | Best Research Presentation
International Conference of Experimental Pragmatics, Paris Cité University.

## PUBLICATIONS

In Preparation **Pozzi, M.** Does tracking source accuracy make groups more resilient to misinformation?

Forthcoming **Pozzi, M.**, & Mazzarella, D. Strategic and epistemic vigilance: adaptive trust in the face of miscommunication and misinformation. *Springer series in Pragmatics and Philosophy*. https://drive.switch.ch/index.php/s/3RcWZXcxnjdJFd9

2026 **Pozzi, M.**, & Mazzarella, D. Speakers' responsibility for evidential claims: Believe me, I saw it! In "The pragmatics of trusting (artificial) others", *Pragmatics and Society, 17*(5), 599–620. https://doi.org/10.1075/ps.25133.poz

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) webinar 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.

06.2025 **Pozzi, M.** Misinformation, epistemic vigilance and collective performance. *Work in Progress talks*. Department of Logic and Philosophy of Science, University of California, Irvine.

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.

01.2024 **Pozzi, M.**, & Mazzarella, D. Speaker trustworthiness: calibrating confidence with evidence. *Work in Progress talks*. Department of Logic and Philosophy of Science, University of California, Irvine.

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.

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.

## 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.

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.

## SERVICE & OUTREACH

06.2023/06.2024 **Co-Organizer** | 1st and 2nd Linguistics Day, University of Bern/University of Fribourg

02.2020 – 12.2022 **Co-Organizer** | Discussion group on the development, evolution, and acculturation of cognition, University of Neuchâtel.

## SCIENTIFIC REVIEWS

2024 – 2026 AI & SOCIETY, 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, reinforcement learning, behavioral science and economics, online experiments and surveys (Prolific, Qualtrics, LIONESS Lab), statistical analysis, data visualization, qualitative methods (interviews, behavioral and discourse analysis), natural language processing

Languages French (native), English (fluent), German (basic), Persian (elementary)