Alex Koch, Ph.D.

Assistant Professor of Behavioral Science
Asness Junior Faculty Fellow

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Research Interests

Positive compared to negative information: Their distribution and processing
Dimensions of social judgment: Their content, priority, and relation

Employment and Education

2019-	Assistant Professor, University of Chicago, USA
2016	Visiting postdoc, Princeton University, USA
2016-2018	Postdoc, University of Cologne, Germany
2016	Visiting graduate student, Utrecht University, Netherlands
2012-2016	Graduate student, University of Cologne, Germany
2010-2011	Visiting undergraduate student, University of New South Wales, Australia
2006-2012	Undergraduate student, University of Heidelberg, Germany

Peer-Reviewed Publications

Asterisk means co-first authors; underscore means student author.

[1] Koch, A., Smith, A., Fiske, S., Abele, A., Ellemers, N., & Yzerbyt, V. (2024). Validating a brief measure of four facets of social evaluation. *Behavior Research Methods*.

[2] Connor, P., Antonoplis, S., Nicolas, G., & Koch, A. (2024). Unconstrained descriptions of Facebook profile pictures support high-dimensional models of impression formation. *Personality and Social Psychology Bulletin*.

[3] Woitzel, J., & Koch, A. (2024). Political rule (vs. opposition) predicts whether ideological prejudice is stronger in U.S. conservatives or progressives. *Journal of Experimental Psychology: General*.

[4] Roberts, R., & Koch, A. Power polarizes moral evaluations. (2024). *Personality and Social Psychology Bulletin*.

[5] Koch, A., Bromley, A., Woitzel, J. & Alves, H. (2024). Differentiation in social perception: Why later-encountered individuals are described more negatively. *Journal of Personality and Social Psychology, 126,* 978-997*.*

[6] Wang, J., Chaudhry, S., & Koch, A. (2024). Reminders undermine impressions of genuine gratitude. *Journal of Personality and Social Psychology, 126,* 1084-1102*.*

[7] Woitzel, J., & Koch, A. (2023). Ideological prejudice is stronger in ideological extremists (vs. moderates). *Group Processes and Intergroup Relations, 26*, 1685-1705.

[**8**] Koch, A., <u>Speckmann, F.</u>, & Unkelbach, C. (2022). Q-SpAM: Using spatial arrangement to measure similarity in efficient online research powered by Qualtrics. *Sociological Methods and Research*, *51*, 1442-1464.

[**9**] Nicolas, G., Fiske, S. T., Koch, A., Imhoff, R., & Unkelbach, C., Terache, J., Carrier, A., & Yzerbyt, V. (2022). Relational versus structural goals prioritize different social information. *Journal of Personality and Social Psychology, 122,* 659-682.

[**10**] Slepian, M., & Koch, A. (2021). Identifying the dimensions of secrets to reduce their harms. *Journal of Personality and Social Psychology, 120,* 1431-1456.

[**11**] *Abele, A., *Ellemers, N., *Fiske, S. T., *Koch, A., & *Yzerbyt, V. (2021). Navigating the social world: Shared horizontal and vertical evaluative dimensions. *Psychological Review, 128*, 290-314.

[**12**] Koch, A., Dorrough, A., Glöckner, A., & Imhoff, R. (2020). The ABC of society: Similarity in agency and beliefs predicts cooperation across groups. *Journal of Experimental Social Psychology*, *90*, 103996.

[**13**] Koch, A., Imhoff, R., Unkelbach, C., Nicolas, G., Fiske, S. T., Terache, J., Carrier, A., & Yzerbyt, V. (2020). Groups' warmth is a personal matter: Understanding consensus on stereotype dimensions reconciles adversarial models of social evaluation. *Journal of Experimental Social Psychology*, *89*, 103995.

[**14**] *Ellemers, N., *Fiske, S. T., *Abele, A., *Koch, A., & *Yzerbyt, V. (2020). Adversarial alignment enables competing models to engage in cooperative theory-building, toward cumulative science. *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*, *117*, 7561-7567.

[**15**] Fiedler, K., Krüger, T., Koch, A., & Kutzner, F. (2020). Dyadic judgments based on conflicting samples: The failure to ignore invalid input. *Journal of Behavioral Decision Making, 33*, 492-504.

[**16**] Unkelbach, C., Koch, A., & Alves, H. (2019). The evaluative information ecology: On the frequency and diversity of "good" and "bad". *European Review of Social Psychology, 30,* 216-270.

[**17**] Unkelbach, C, Koch, A., Silva, R., & Garcia-Marquez, T. (2019). Truth by repetition - explanations and implications. *Current Directions in Psychological Science, 28,* 247-253.

[**18**] Alves, H., Koch, A., & Unkelbach, C. (2019). The differential similarity of positive and negative information - an affect-induced processing outcome? *Cognition and Emotion, 33,* 1224-1238.

[**19**] Koch, A., Kervyn, N., Kervyn, A. & Imhoff, R. (2018). Studying the cognitive map of the U.S. states: Ideology and prosperity stereotypes predict interstate prejudice. *Social Psychological and Personality Science, 9,* 530-538.

[**20**] Imhoff, R., Koch, A., & Flade, F. (2018). (Pre)occupations: A data-driven map of jobs and its consequences for categorization and evaluation. *Journal of Experimental Social Psychology, 77*, 76-88.

[**21**] Alves, H., Koch, A., & Unkelbach, C. (2018). A cognitive-ecological explanation of intergroup biases. *Psychological Science*, 29, 1126-1133.

[**22**] Lammers, J., Koch, A., Conway, P., & Brandt, M. J. (2017). The political domain appears simpler to the politically extreme than to political moderates. *Social Psychological and Personality Science*, 8, 612-622.

[**23**] Alves, H., Koch, A., & Unkelbach, C. (2017). The "common good" phenomenon: Why similarities are positive and differences are negative. *Journal of Experimental Psychology: General, 146*, 512-528.

[**24**] Imhoff, R., & Koch, A. (2017). How orthogonal are the Big Two of social perception? On the curvilinear relationship between agency and communion. *Perspectives on Psychological Science, 12,* 122-137.

[**25**] *Alves, H., *Koch, A., & Unkelbach, C. (2017). Why good is more alike than bad: Processing implications. *Trends in Cognitive Sciences, 21,* 72-82.

[**26**] Koch, A., Alves, H., Krüger, T., & Unkelbach, C. (2016). A general valence asymmetry in similarity: Good is more alike than bad. *Journal of Experimental Psychology: Learning, Memory, and Cognition*, *42*, 1171-1192.

[**27**] *Koch, A., & *Imhoff, R., Dotsch, R., Alves, H., & Unkelbach, C. (2016). The ABC of stereotypes about groups: Agency / socio-economic success, conservative-progressive beliefs, and communion. *Journal of Personality and Social Psychology, 110,* 675-709.

[**28**] Alves, H., Koch, A., Krüger, T., & Unkelbach, C. (2016) My friends are all alike – On the relation between liking, knowledge and perceived similarity. *Journal of Experimental Social Psychology, 62,* 103-117.

[**29**] Alves. H, Unkelbach, C., Burghardt, J., Koch, A. Krüger, T. & Becker, V. (2015). A density explanation for valence asymmetries in recognition memory. *Memory and Cognition*, *43*, 896-909.

[**30**] Krüger, T., Fiedler, K., Koch, A., & Alves, H. (2014). Response category width as a psychophysical manifestation of construal level and distance. *Personality and Social Psychology Bulletin, 40*, 501-512.

[**31**] Matovic, D., Koch, A., & Forgas, J. P. (2014). Can negative mood improve language understanding? Affective influences on the ability to detect ambiguous communication. *Journal of Experimental Social Psychology, 52,* 44-49.

[**32**] Koch, A., Forgas, J. P., & Matovic, D. (2013). Can negative mood improve your conversation? Affective influences on conforming to Grice's communication norms. *European Journal of Social Psychology, 43*, 326-334.

[**33**] Koch, A., & Forgas, J. P. (2012). Feeling good and feeling truth: The interactive effects of mood and processing fluency on truth judgments. *Journal of Experimental Social Psychology, 48,* 481-485.

[**34**] Unkelbach, C., Bayer, M., Alves, H., Koch, A., & Stahl, C. (2011). Fluency and positivity as possible causes of the truth effect. *Consciousness and Cognition, 20*, 594-602.

Invited Contributions

[**1**] Koch, A., Woitzel, J., & Roberts, R. (2024). Social projection and cognitive differentiation co-explain self-enhancement and in-group favoritism. *Psychological Inquiry, 35*, 50-52.

[**2**] Alves, H., Koch, A., & Unkelbach, C. (2023). Evaluative consequences of sampling distinct information. In K. Fiedler, P. Juslin, & J. Denrell (Eds.), *Sampling in Judgment and Decision Making* (pp. 222-244). Cambridge, UK: Cambridge University Press.

[**3**] Unkelbach, C., Koch, A., & Alves, H. (2021). Explaining negativity dominance without processing bias. *Trends in Cognitive Sciences, 25,* 429-430.

[**4**] *Koch, A., *Yzerbyt, V., *Abele, A., *Ellemers, N., & *Fiske, S. T. (2021). Social evaluation: Comparing models across interpersonal, intragroup, intergroup, several-group, and many-group contexts. In B. Gawronski (Ed.), *Advances in Experimental Social Psychology* (Vol. 63, pp. 1-68). Cambridge, MA: Academic Press.

[**5**] Unkelbach, C., Alves, H., & Koch, A. (2020). Valence asymmetries: Explaining the differential processing of positive and negative information. In B. Gawronski (Ed.), *Advances in Experimental Social Psychology* (Vol. 62, pp. 115-187). Cambridge, MA: Academic Press.

[**6**] Unkelbach, C., & Koch, A. (2019). Gullible but functional: Information repetition and the formation of beliefs. In J. Forgas & R. Baumeister (Eds.), *Homo Credulus: The Social Psychology of Gullibility* (pp. 42-60). New York, NY: Guilford Press.

[**7**] Koch, A., & Imhoff, R. (2018). Rethinking the nature and relation of fundamental dimensions of meaning. In A. Abele & B. Wojciszke (Eds.), *Agency and Communion in Social Psychology* (pp. 167-179). Abingdon, UK: Routledge.

[**8**] Fiedler, K., Hofferbert, J., Woellert, F., Krüger, T., & Koch, A. (2015). The tragedy of democratic decision making. In J. Forgas, W. Crano, & K. Fiedler (Eds.), *Social Psychological Approaches to Political Psychology* (pp. 193-208). New York, NY: Guilford Press.

[**9**] Koch, A., Forgas, J. P., & Goldenberg, L. (2013). In the mood to break the rules: Happiness promotes language abstraction and transgression of conversation norms. In J. P. Forgas, O. Vincze, & J. László (Eds*.), Social Cognition and Communication* (pp. 83-100). New York, NY: Psychology Press.

[**10**] Forgas, J. P., & Koch, A. (2013). Mood effects on cognition. In M. Robinson, E. Watkins, & E. Harmon-Jones (Eds.), *Handbook of Emotion and Cognition* (pp. 231-252). New York, NY: Guilford Press.

Working Papers

[**1**] Gallardo, R., Smith, A., Zak, U., Lopez, D., Kirgios, E., & Koch, A. (2024) Being in the minority boosts in-group love: Explanations and boundary conditions. Accepted in *Journal of Personality and Social Psychology* pending minor revisions.

[**2**] Koch, A., Imhoff, R., Dotsch, R., Unkelbach, C., & Alves, H. Ideological beliefs as cues to exploitation-exploration behavior. Invited revision in *Journal of Experimental Social Psychology*.

[**3**] Barbedor, J., Roberts, R., Koch, A., & Yzerbyt, V. Judging many instead of two groups changes horizontal evaluations from compensatory to homophilic: An adversarial collaboration. Under review in *Journal of Personality and Social Psychology*.

[**4**] Lange, J., Koch, A., & Alves, H. Attitude formation in politics: An expectancy-value model of interpersonal liking in politics. *Draft subject to change.*

[**5**] Woitzel, J., & Koch, A. In-group and similarity bias double-dissociate U.S. conservatives and progressives. *Draft subject to change.*

[**6**] Cruz, F., Koch, A., Smith, A., & Mata, A. People with high status get away with epistemic trespassing (making claims outside of their field of expertise). *Draft subject to change.*

Select Writing and Data Collection

Zaw., S., & Koch, A. A cognitive-ecological explanation of prospective self-appraisals.

Mattavelli, S., Brambilla, M., Koch, A., & Dono, M. Incompetent lies and immoral failures: Asymmetric generalization of social evaluations.

Woitzel, J., Weitzel, A., Koch, A., Alves, H., & Ingendahl, M. What is (perceived) diversity?

Landry, A., Koch, A., & Kteily, N. A data-driven model of the precursors of dehumanizing groups.

Sun, R., Roberts, R., & Koch, A. An evaluation-likelihood model of connecting across the status divide.

Wang, J., & Koch, A. Why description improves evaluation.

Koch, A., & Unkelbach, C. Solving the puzzle of the valence-validity relation in judgments of truth: It depends on morality and competence.

Koch, A., Henzel, P., Woitzel, J., & Alves, H. Stereotype diagnosticity increases stereotype usage.

Select Grants and Awards

2022	Research Grant (~$60k out of a four-way grant of $260k), "Next-generation Adversarial Collaboration", Templeton World Charity Foundation (TWCF)
2021	Best Paper Award, "Valence asymmetries: Explaining the differential processing of positive and negative information" (PI is Christian Unkelbach), International Social Cognition Network (ISCON)
2020	Research Grant (~$290k), "Dimensions of the social mind: How adversarial collaboration on research, adversarial alignment of models, and effective process can advance the science" (PI is Susan Fiske), Templeton World Charity Foundation (TWCF)
2019	Rising Star Award, Association for Psychological Science (APS)
2017	Dissertation Award, "Good is generally more alike than bad in the information ecology: Investigating the case of (the ABC model of) group stereotypes", Society of Experimental Social Psychology (SESP)
2017	Best Paper Award, "The ABC of stereotypes about groups: Agency / socio-economic success, conservative-progressive beliefs, and communion", German Society of Social Psychology (DGP-FGSP)

2016	Dissertation Award, "Good is generally more alike than bad in the information ecology: Investigating the case of (the ABC model of) group stereotypes", Human Sciences, University of Cologne, Germany
2014	Research Grant (~€170k), "Content and Application of Fundamental Stereotype Dimensions" (PI is Roland Imhoff), University of Cologne, Germany
2013	Best Paper Award, "The "common good" phenomenon: Why similarities are positive and differences are negative" (PI is Hans Alves), European Social Cognition Network (ESCON)

Invited Talks

2024	U Chicago, US; U Bochum, Germany
2023	U California Berkeley, US
2021	U Florida, US
2020	Princeton U, US; New York U Abu Dhabi, UAE
2019	U Mainz, Germany; U California San Diego, US; U Southern California, US
2018	Northwestern U, US; U Milano-Bicocca, Italy; U British Columbia, Canada; U Washington, US
2017	U Kent, UK; Ghent U, Belgium; U Waterloo, Canada; U Chicago, US; Ryerson U, Canada
2016	U Heidelberg, Germany; U Sheffield, UK; U Basel, Switzerland
2015	U Louvain-la-Neuve, Belgium; Princeton U, US; U Vienna, Austria
2014	U Sopot, Poland; Utrecht U, Netherlands; U Heidelberg, Germany;
2012	Heidelberg, Germany

Conference Contributions

2024	European Society of Social Psychology (EASP) Small Group Meeting
2023	International Association of Conflict Management (IACM)
	European Society of Social Psychology (EASP)
2022	Society for Personality and Social Psychology (SPSP)
2020	Conference on Social-Evaluative Dimensions, Princeton, USA
	Society for Personality and Social Psychology (SPSP)
2019	Society for Personality and Social Psychology (SPSP)
	Person Memory Interest Group (PMIG)
	German Society of Social Psychology (DGP-FGSP)
	European Social Cognition Network (ESCON)
2018	International Association of Conflict Management (IACM)
	European Social Cognition Network (ESCON)
2017	Sydney Symposium of Social Psychology (SSSP)
	Society of Experimental Social Psychology (SESP)
	German Society of Social Psychology (DGP-FGSP)
	German Society of Social Psychology (DGP-FGSP)
	European Social Cognition Network (ESCON)
2016	European Society of Social Psychology (EASP)
	Cologne Social Cognition Meeting (CSCM)
	Dutch Society of Social Psychology (ASPO)
	European Social Cognition Network (ESCON)
2015	European Society of Social Psychology (EASP) Small Group Meeting
	Conference on Motivation and Social Perception, Gdansk, Poland
	German Society of Social Psychology (DGP-FGSP)
	Cologne Social Cognition Meeting (CSCM)
	Society for Personality and Social Psychology (SPSP)

2014	European Social Cognition Network (ESCON)
	European Society of Social Psychology (EASP)
	German Society of Experimental Psychology (TEAP)
	Society for Personality and Social Psychology (SPSP)
2013	European Social Cognition Network (ESCON)
	German Society of Experimental Psychology (TEAP)
2012	Society for Personality and Social Psychology (SPSP)
	Sydney Symposium of Social Psychology (SSSP)

Select Reviewing

Behavior Research Methods, Cognitive Research: Principles & Implications, Cognitive Science, Current Directions in Psychological Science, German National Science Foundation, Emotion, European Research Council, Israel National Science Foundation, Journal of Experimental Psychology: General, Journal of Experimental Social Psychology, Journal of Personality and Social Psychology, Methods in Psychology, Nature: Communications, Personality and Social Psychology Bulletin, Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences, Psychological Science, Scientific Reports, Social Psychology and Personality Science, U.S.-Israel Binational Science Foundation, U.S. National Science Foundation

Advising

Ongoing	Jiabi Wang (Ph.D. research)
	Samantha Zaw (Ph.D. research)
	Nicholas DiMaggio (Ph.D. research)
	Roman Gallardo (Ph.D. research)
	Russell Roberts (Ph.D. thesis)
	Johanna Woitzel (Ph.D. thesis)
2024	Andrew Bromley (Ph.D. research)
	Austin Smith (Predoctoral Research)
	Maximilian Schmidt (M.Sc. thesis)
2022	Darinel Lopez (Predoctoral Research)
2021	Johanna Woitzel (M.Sc. thesis)
	Yaoxi Shi (M.Sc. thesis)
	Philipp Henzel (M.Sc. thesis)
2019	Johanna Woitzel (B.Sc. thesis)
2018	Felix Speckmann (Predoctoral research)
	Kira Kasteleiner (B.Sc. thesis)
	Rickus Wildgrube (M.Sc. thesis)
	Theresa Schüller (B.Sc. thesis)
2017	Philipp Henzel (B.Sc. thesis)
	Max Alt (B.Sc. thesis)
	Ruth Bernardy (B.Sc. thesis)
2016	Zoe Dahl (B.Sc. thesis)
2015	Anne Theis (B.Sc. thesis)

Teaching

2024	Current Topics in Behavioral Science (Seminar)
2024	Strategies and Processes of Negotiation (Lecture/Seminar)
2023	Strategies and Processes of Negotiation (Lecture/Seminar)
2022	Behavioral Science Workshop (Speaker series)
2022	Strategies and Processes of Negotiation (Lecture/Seminar)
2021	Psychology and Social Inequities (Seminar)
2021	Strategies and Processes of Negotiation (Lecture/Seminar)
2020	Strategies and Processes of Negotiation (Lecture/Seminar)
2018	Emotion and Motivation (Seminar)

2018	Emotion and Motivation (Seminar)
2018	Stereotypes / Prejudice (Seminar)
2018	Similarity in Truth and Morality (Experimental research practicum)
2017	Cognitive Heuristics and Biases (Seminar)
2017	Cognitive Heuristics and Biases (Seminar)
2017	Stereotypes / Prejudice (Seminar)
2017	Emotion and Motivation (Experimental research practicum)
2016	Stereotypes / Prejudice (Seminar)
2016	Basic and Social Emotions (Seminar)
2016	Judgment and Decision Making (Seminar)
2016	Emotion and Motivation (Seminar)
2016	Stereotypes / Prejudice (Experimental research practicum)
2015	Friendship and Intimate Relationships (Seminar)
2015	Friendship and Intimate Relationships (Seminar)
2014	Friendship and Intimate Relationships (Seminar)
2014	Valence Asymmetries in Cognitive Processing (Seminar)
2012	Friendship and Intimate Relationships (Seminar)

Google Scholar as of 08/03/2024

	All	Since 2019
Citations	2548	2173
h-index	24	24
i10-index	31	31