

Alex Koch, Ph.D.

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Positions / Degrees

2025-	Associate Professor, University of Chicago, USA
2019-2025	Assistant Professor, University of Chicago, USA
2016-2019	Postdoc, University of Cologne, Germany
2016	Ph.D. in Psychology, University of Cologne, Germany
2012	Diploma (B.Sc. & M.Sc.) in Psychology, University of Heidelberg, Germany

Scientific Publications

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

- [53] Mattavelli, S., Brambilla, M., Koch, A., & Dono, M. (in press) 'If immoral then unable': Asymmetric generalization of social evaluations. *Personality and Social Psychology Bulletin*. [\[view\]](#)
- [52] Lange, J., Koch, A., Knöchelmann, L., & Alves, H. (in press). Attitude formation based on political views: An expectancy-value model of interpersonal likability in politics. *Personality and Social Psychology Bulletin*. [\[view\]](#)
- [51] Chawinwit, P., & Koch, A. (in press). Ability, assertiveness, morality, and friendliness? A retrospective validation of the facet model of social evaluation. *Social Psychological and Personality Science*. [\[view\]](#)
- [50] Koch, A., Woitzel, J., Roberts, R., Smith, A., & Connor, P. (in press). Group stereotypes: Their content, importance, correlation, and impact. In J. Landy (Ed.), *Research Handbook on Social Judgment* (pp. TBD-TBD). Cheltenham, UK: Edward Elgar Publishing. [\[view\]](#)
- [49] Woitzel, J., & Koch, A. (in press). Ideological favoritism and in-group favoritism: A double dissociation of U.S. progressives and conservatives. *Personality and Social Psychology Bulletin*. [\[view\]](#)
- [48] Connor, P., Antonoplis, S., Nicolas, G., & Koch, A. (2025). Unconstrained descriptions of Facebook profile pictures support high-dimensional models of impression formation, *Personality and Social Psychology Bulletin*, 52(1), 53-69. [\[view\]](#)
- [47] *Yzerbyt, V., *Koch, A., Brambilla, M., Ellemers, N., Fiske, S. T., & Nicolas, G. (2025). Dimensions of stereotypes about groups. *Current Directions in Psychological Science*, 34(6), 365-372. [\[view\]](#)
- [46] Roberts, R., & Koch, A. Power polarizes moral evaluations. (2025). *Personality and Social Psychology Bulletin*, 51(11), 2150-2165. [\[view\]](#)

- [45] Zaw, S., & Koch, A. (2025) A cognitive-ecological explanation of prospective self-comparisons. *Journal of Experimental Social Psychology*, 120, 104787. [\[view\]](#)
- [44] Koch, A., Imhoff, R., Dotsch, R., Unkelbach, C., & Alves, H. (2025). Ideological beliefs as cues to exploitation-exploration behavior. *Journal of Experimental Social Psychology*, 117, 104718. [\[view\]](#)
- [43] Gallardo, R., Smith, A., Zak, U., Lopez, D., Kirgios, E., & Koch, A. (2025). Being in the minority boosts in-group love: Explanations and boundary conditions. *Journal of Personality and Social Psychology*, 129, 668-691. [\[view\]](#)
- [42] 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. [\[view\]](#)
- [41] 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*, 56, 8521-8539. [\[view\]](#)
- [40] *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*, 153, 2454-2469. [\[view\]](#)
- [39] 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. [\[view\]](#)
- [38] Wang, J., Chaudhry, S., & Koch, A. (2024). Reminders undermine impressions of genuine gratitude. *Journal of Personality and Social Psychology*, 126, 1084-1102. [\[view\]](#)
- [37] Woitzel, J., & Koch, A. (2023). Ideological prejudice is stronger in ideological extremists (vs. moderates). *Group Processes and Intergroup Relations*, 26, 1685-1705. [\[view\]](#)
- [36] 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. [\[view\]](#)
- [35] Koch, A., Speckmann, F., & 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. [\[view\]](#)
- [34] 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. [\[view\]](#)
- [33] Unkelbach, C., Koch, A., & Alves, H. (2021). Explaining negativity dominance without processing bias. *Trends in Cognitive Sciences*, 25, 429-430. [\[view\]](#)
- [32] *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. [\[view\]](#)

- [31] Slepian, M., & Koch, A. (2021). Identifying the dimensions of secrets to reduce their harms. *Journal of Personality and Social Psychology*, 120, 1431-1456. [\[view\]](#)
- [30] *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. [\[view\]](#)
- [29] 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. [\[view\]](#)
- [28] 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. [\[view\]](#)
- [27] 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. [\[view\]](#)
- [26] *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. [\[view\]](#)
- [25] 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. [\[view\]](#)
- [24] 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. [\[view\]](#)
- [23] Unkelbach, C., Koch, A., Silva, R., & Garcia-Marquez, T. (2019). Truth by repetition - explanations and implications. *Current Directions in Psychological Science*, 28, 247-253. [\[view\]](#)
- [22] 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. [\[view\]](#)
- [21] 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. [\[view\]](#)
- [20] 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. [\[view\]](#)
- [19] 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. [\[view\]](#)

- [18] 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. [\[view\]](#)
- [17] Alves, H., Koch, A., & Unkelbach, C. (2018). A cognitive-ecological explanation of intergroup biases. *Psychological Science*, 29, 1126-1133. [\[view\]](#)
- [16] 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. [\[view\]](#)
- [15] 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. [\[view\]](#)
- [14] 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. [\[view\]](#)
- [13] *Alves, H., *Koch, A., & Unkelbach, C. (2017). Why good is more alike than bad: Processing implications. *Trends in Cognitive Sciences*, 21, 72-82. [\[view\]](#)
- [12] 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. [\[view\]](#)
- [11] *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. [\[view\]](#)
- [10] 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. [\[view\]](#)
- [9] 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. [\[view\]](#)
- [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. [\[view\]](#)
- [7] 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. [\[view\]](#)
- [6] 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. [\[view\]](#)
- [5] 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. [\[view\]](#)

- [4] 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. [\[view\]](#)
- [3] 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. [\[view\]](#)
- [2] 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. [\[view\]](#)
- [1] 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. [\[view\]](#)

Working Papers

- [7] Barbedor, J., Roberts, R., Koch, A., & Yzerbyt, V. Judging many instead of two groups changes horizontal evaluations from compensatory to homophilic: An adversarial collaboration.
- [6] Cruz, F., Schulte, A., Mata, A., & Koch, A. Public views of sciences predict trust and support for funding.
- [5] Wang, J., & Koch, A. Describing products improves their evaluation through feeling effective.
- [4] Cruz, F., Koch, A., Smith, A., & Mata, A. People with high status get away with epistemic trespassing.
- [3] Woitzel, J., Weitzel, A., Ingendahl, M., Koch, A., & Alves, H. What drives perceived diversity? Evidence for a richness heuristic.
- [2] Liu, Y., Charlesworth, T., Koch, A., Luttrell, A., & Jackson, J. C. The content, structure, and history of English trait words.
- [1] Mao, H., Leong, Y. C., Jiang, Y., Koch, A., Brady, W. J., & Jackson, J. C. Attention economics and the erosion of positivity online.

Selected Grants / 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) 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 at Universities

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

Selected Conference Talks / Posters

2024	Academy of Management (AOM)
2019	Person Memory Interest Group (PMIG)
2018-2023	2 * International Association of Conflict Management (IACM)
2017	Society of Experimental Social Psychology (SESP)
2015-2024	2 * European Association of Social Psychology (EASP) Small Group Meeting
2015-2019	4 * German Society of Social Psychology (DGP FGSP)
2014-2023	3 * European Association of Social Psychology (EASP)
2013-2019	6 * European Social Cognition Network (ESCON)
2013-2014	2 * German Society of Experimental Psychology (TEAP)
2012-2022	6 * Society of Personality and Social Psychology (SPSP)

Reviewing

Editorial Board:

Journal of Personality and Social Psychology (2025-ongoing)
European Journal of Social Psychology (2021-ongoing)

Selected Journals:

Behavior Research Methods
Cognitive Research: Principles and Implications
Current Directions in Psychological Science
Group Processes and Intergroup Relations
Journal of Experimental Psychology: General
Journal of Experimental Social Psychology
Journal of Personality and Social Psychology
Nature: Communications
Perspectives on Psychological Science
Personality and Social Psychology Bulletin
Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences
Psychological Science
Social Psychology and Personality Science

Funding agencies:

German National Science Foundation (DFG)
European Research Council (ERC)
Israel National Science Foundation (ISF)
U.S.-Israel Binational Science Foundation (BSF)
U.S. National Science Foundation (NSF)

Advising

2025-	2 * Ph.D. thesis (Johanna Woitzel and Russell Roberts)
2020-2024	3 * M.Sc. thesis (Maximilian Schmidt, Johanna Woitzel, and Yaoxi Shi)
2015-2019	2 * M.Sc. thesis (Philipp Henzel and Rickus Wildgrube)
	8 * B.Sc. thesis (Johanna Woitzel, Kira Kasteleiner, Theresa Schüller, Philipp Henzel, Max Alt, Ruth Bernardy, Zoe Dahl, and Anne Theis)

Teaching

2026	3 * Managing in Organizations (Lecture)
2022-2025	2 * Behavioral Science Workshop (Speaker series)
2021-2024	2 * Current Topics in Behavioral Science (Seminar)
2020-2026	17 * Strategies and Processes of Negotiation (Lecture)
2018	Truth Judgments and Moral Psychology (Research workshop)
2017	2 * Cognitive Heuristics and Biases (Seminar)
2016-2018	4 * Emotion and Motivation (Seminar / Research workshop)
2016-2018	4 * Stereotypes and Prejudice (Seminar / Research workshop)
2016	Basic and Social Emotions (Seminar)
2016	Judgment and Decision Making (Seminar)
2015	Valence Asymmetries in Cognitive Processing (Seminar)
2012-2015	4 * Friendship and Intimate Relationships (Seminar)