

# Sandra Geiger

## PhD RESEARCHER

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## Research interests

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I am a PhD researcher in Social and Environmental Psychology at the University of Vienna. My work focuses broadly on **pro-environmental behavior change**, including what people think others think about environmental problems (**pluralistic ignorance**), as well as how interventions influence non-targeted behaviors (**spillover effects**). I am also interested in (Bayesian) **statistics** and **Big Team Science** and hope to contribute to making psychological research more transparent, reproducible, and sustainable (**Open Science**).

## Education & Employment

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**PhD Researcher** 2021 – 2025  
Social & Environmental Psychology, University of Vienna (Austria)  
Supervisors: Univ.-Prof. Dr. Sabine Pahl, Dr. Mathew White

**Research Internship Lead** 2022-2023  
Policy Research Group, University of Cambridge (UK)  
As part of my PhD, I co-led and coordinated a large-scale international collaboration involving 27 countries and 45 collaborators. We tested the effectiveness of several scientific consensus messages on climate change for climate change beliefs, worry, and policy support. I was responsible for designing, conducting, and executing the research project as well as supervising 33 interns on-site.

**MSc Psychology Research (cum laude)** 2018 – 2020  
University of Amsterdam (The Netherlands)  
Specializations: Social Psychology & Psychological Methods  
Thesis: Spillover effects of interventions in the environmental domain: A Bayesian meta-analysis

**BSc Psychology** 2014 – 2018  
University of Freiburg (Germany)

**Academic Exchange Semester** 2017  
University of British Columbia (Canada)

## Publications

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15 publications in international peer-reviewed journals (including 5 as first or last author). For first-authored articles, the pre-registration, data, and analysis code are available on my [OSF](#) page.

### *Spillover & second-order beliefs*

1. **Geiger, S. J.** (2022). Pro-environmental behavior spillover. *Nature Reviews Psychology*, 1, 191-191.

2. **Geiger, S. J.**, Brick, C., Nalborczyk, L., Bosshard, A., & Jostmann, N. B. (2021). More green than gray? Toward a sustainable overview of environmental spillover effects: A Bayesian meta-analysis. *Journal of Environmental Psychology*, Article e101694. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jenvp.2021.101694>
3. Ruggeri, K., Većkalov, B., Bojanić, L., ... **Geiger, S. J.**, ... M., Cikara, M., Lees, J., & Folke T (2021). The general fault in our fault lines. *Nature Human Behaviour*, 1-15. <https://doi.org/10.1038/s41562-021-01092-x>

### Nature & health

4. **Geiger, S. J.**, White, M. P., Davison, S. M. C., Lei Zhang, Oonagh McMeel, Paula Kellett, & Lora E. Fleming (2023). Coastal proximity and visits are associated with better health but may not buffer health inequalities. *Communications Earth & Environment*, 4, 166. <https://doi.org/10.1038/s43247-023-00818-1>

### COVID-19 pandemic

5. Buchanan, E. M., Lewis, S. C., Paris, B., Forscher, P. S., Pavlacic, J. M., ..., **Geiger, S. J.**, ... & Vega, D. (2023). The Psychological Science Accelerator's COVID-19 rapid-response dataset. *Scientific Data*, 10(1), 87. <https://doi.org/10.1038/s41597-022-01811-7>
6. Legate, N., Ngyuen, T. V., Weinstein, N., Moller, A., Legault, L., ... **Geiger, S. J.**, ... & Ogbonnaya, C. E. (2022). A global experiment on motivating social distancing during the COVID-19 pandemic. *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*, 119(22), Article e2111091119. <https://doi.org/10.1073/pnas.2111091119>
7. Wang, K., Goldenberg, A., Dorison, C., Miller, J., ... **Geiger, S. J.**, ... IJzerman, H., Forscher, P. S., & Moshontz, H. (2021). A global test of brief reappraisal interventions on emotions during the COVID-19 pandemic. *Nature Human Behaviour*, 1-22. <https://doi.org/10.1038/s41562-021-01173-x>
8. Dorison, C. A., Lerner, J. S., Heller, B. H., Rothman, A. J., Kawachi, I. I., ... **Geiger, S. J.**, ... & Pantazi, M. (2022). In COVID-19 health messaging, loss framing increases anxiety with little-to-no concomitant benefits: Experimental evidence from 84 countries. *Affective Science*, 3(3), 577-602. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s42761-022-00128-3>
9. Tanis, C. C., Leach, N., **Geiger, S. J.**, Nauta, F., Dablander, F., van Harreveld, F., ... Blanken, T. (2021). Smart Distance Lab Art Fair - An experimental data set on social distancing during the COVID-19 pandemic. *Nature Scientific Data*, 8, Article e179. <https://doi.org/10.1038/s41597-021-00971-2>

### Big team & open science

10. Crüwell, S., Apthorp, D., Baker, B. J., Colling, L., Elson, M., **Geiger, S. J.**, ... & Brown, N. J. (2023). What's in a badge? A computational reproducibility investigation of the Open Data badge policy in one issue of Psychological Science. *Psychological Science*. <https://doi.org/10.1177/09567976221140828>
11. Jarke, H., Anand-Vembar, S., Alzahawi, S., Andersen, T. L., Bojanić, L., Carstensen, A., ... & **Geiger, S. J.** (2022). A roadmap to large-scale multi-country replications in psychology. *Collabra: Psychology*, 8(1), Article e57538. <https://doi.org/10.1525/collabra.57538>
12. Ruggeri, K., Panin, A., Vdovic, M., Većkalov, B., Abdul-Salaam, N., ... **Geiger, S. J.**, ... & García-Garzon, E. (2022). The globalizability of temporal discounting. *Nature Human Behaviour*, 6(10), 1386-1397. <https://doi.org/10.1038/s41562-022-01392-w>

## Other

13. Pröpper, H. Y., **Geiger, S. J.**, Blanken, T. F., & Brick, C. (2022). Truth over identity? Cultural cognition weakly replicates across 23 countries. *Journal of Environmental Psychology*, 83, Article e101865. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jenvp.2022.101865>
14. **Geiger, S. J.**, Vintr, J., & Rachev, N. R. (2022). A reassessment of the Resistance to Framing scale. *Behavior Research Methods*, 1-13. <https://doi.org/10.3758/s13428-022-01876-7>
15. Rachev, N. R., **Geiger, S. J.**, Vintr, J., Kirilova, D., Nabutovsky, A., & Nelsson, J. (2022). Actively open-minded thinking, bullshit receptivity, and susceptibility to framing: Evaluating the dual-process account in North America and Bulgaria. *European Journal of Psychological Assessment*. <https://doi.org/10.1027/1015-5759/a000685>

## Grants & awards

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|---|-------------|
| <b>Dr. Edouard Delcroix Incentive Award (2.500€)</b>  | 2023        |
| Early-career researcher award by the VLIZ – Flanders Marine Institute (Belgium) for outstanding work on the link between human health and the ocean |             |
| <b>Young Investigator Competition 2023 (~ \$50.000)</b>   | 2023        |
| Time-Sharing Experiments for the Social Sciences (TESS; US)   |             |
| <b>Graduate Student Research Award (\$150)</b>  | 2023        |
| APA Division 34: Society for Environmental, Population and Conservation Psychology (US)   |             |
| <b>Insights to Impact (\$15.646)</b>  | 2023        |
| Rare's Center for Behavior & the Environment (US)   |             |
| <b>Travel Grants (3 x 900€)</b>   | 2021 – 2023 |
| Vienna Doctoral School in Cognition, Behavior, and Neuroscience, University of Vienna (Austria)   |             |
| <b>Pre-registration Grant (8.500€)</b>  | 2022        |
| Leibniz Institute for Psychology (Germany)  |             |
| <b>PhD Research Grant (7.000€)</b>  | 2022        |
| Vienna Doctoral School in Cognition, Behavior, and Neuroscience, University of Vienna (Austria)   |             |
| <b>Best Poster Award (1<sup>st</sup> Place)</b>   | 2022        |
| SPSP Sustainability Preconference (US)  |             |
| <b>Best Poster Award (2<sup>nd</sup> Place, 100€)</b>   | 2021        |
| Psychology Research Master's Conference of the University of Amsterdam (The Netherlands)  |             |
| <b>DAAD Scholarship (12.500€)</b>   | 2019 – 2020 |
| Merit-based international scholarship (Germany) for a master's program  |             |
| <b>Open Science Award (250€)</b>  | 2020        |
| Group award for the Student Initiative for Open Science (SIOS) by the National Open Science Festival (The Netherlands)                              |             |

## Invited talks & workshops

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- Geiger, S. J.** (November 2023). *What we think others think about environmental problems: Misperceptions and the effectiveness of consensus messages around the globe* [Invited online talk]. Collective Cognition Lab, New York University, US.
- Geiger, S. J. & Köhler, J. K.** (September 2021). *Why it is hard to act on climate change and what we can do about it* [Invited online talk]. Max-Perutz Lab, Vienna, Austria.
- Student Initiative for Open Science** (February 2020). *Pre-registration: Why, how, and what-if? A SIOS workshop for PhD students* [Invited workshop]. Vrije Universiteit, Amsterdam, The Netherlands.

## Conference & workshop contributions

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- Geiger, S. J.** (March 2023). *Coastal proximity and visits are associated with better health but may not buffer health inequalities* [Poster]. International Convention of Psychological Science 2023, Brussels, Belgium.
- Geiger, S. J.** (February 2023). *What we Think Others Think About Climate Change: An 11-Country Study* [Conference talk]. CoBeNe Academy 2023, Vienna, Austria.
- Geiger, S. J.** (December 2022). *Big Team Science in Environmental Psychology* [Symposium talk]. International Conference on Sustainable Development: Interdisciplinary Trends and Practices, Delhi, India.
- Geiger, S. J.** (October 2022). *More green than gray? Toward a sustainable overview of environmental spillover effects: A Bayesian meta-analysis* [Conference talk]. IAAP Early Career Marathon 2022: Integrating Research and Practice, online.
- Geiger, S. J.** (September 2022). *Coastal proximity and visits are associated with better health but may not buffer health inequalities* [Conference talk]. Austrian Environmental Psychology Conference 2022, Vienna, Austria.
- Geiger, S. J.** (August 2022). *Coastal proximity and visits are associated with better health but may not buffer health inequalities* [Poster]. Junior Researcher Programme Conference, Cambridge, United Kingdom.
- Geiger, S. J.** (June 2022). *Coastal proximity and visits are associated with better health but may not buffer health inequalities* [Poster]. Junior Researcher Programme Summer School, Siena, Italy.
- Geiger, S. J.** (February 2022). *More green than gray? Toward a sustainable overview of environmental spillover effects: A Bayesian meta-analysis* [Poster]. SPSP Sustainability Preconference, online.
- Geiger, S. J.** (October 2021). *More green than gray? Toward a sustainable overview of environmental spillover effects: A Bayesian meta-analysis* [Conference talk]. Psychological Science Accelerator Conference, online.
- Geiger, S. J.** (October 2021). *More green than gray? Toward a sustainable overview of environmental spillover effects: A Bayesian meta-analysis* [Conference talk]. International Conference of Environmental Psychology, Syracuse, Italy.
- Rachev, N. R., **Geiger, S. J.**, Vintr, J., Bühler, V., Kirilova, D., Nabutovsky, A., & Nelsson, J. (August 2020). *Actively open-minded thinking, bullshit receptivity, and susceptibility to framing: Evaluating the dual-process account in North America and Bulgaria* [Conference talk]. Junior Researcher Programme Conference, online.
- Geiger, S. J. & Jostmann, N. B.** (July 2020). *Environmental spillover effects of interventions: A Bayesian meta-analysis* [Poster]. Open Conference, online.

**Student Initiative for Open Science** (February 2020). *Pre-registration: Why, how, and what-if? A SIOS workshop for students* [Workshop]. University of Amsterdam, Amsterdam, The Netherlands.

**Geiger, S. J.** (November 2019). *Always connected, always stressed: How organizational identification and social support influence work-related smartphone use and stress after work* [Conference talk]. WAOP Conference, Amsterdam, The Netherlands.

**Geiger, S. J.** (July 2019). *Always connected, always stressed: How organizational identification and social support influence work-related smartphone use and stress after work* [Poster]. Open Conference, Siena, Italy.

## Teaching & supervision

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### Bachelor's thesis supervision

Supervision of 13 bachelor's theses in Environmental Psychology 2021 – 2024  
University of Vienna (Austria)

### Bachelor's courses (> 1.100h)

Scientific Readings & Bachelor's Thesis (96h) 2022 – 2024  
University of Vienna (Austria)  
Average evaluation: 1.4 (1 highest to 5 lowest)

Interdisciplinary courses Decision Making II & Solidarity (393h) 2021  
PPLE, University of Amsterdam (The Netherlands)  
Average evaluation: 9.8 (1 lowest to 10 highest)

Cognitive Psychology I & II (640h) 2015 – 2017  
Teaching assistant, University of Freiburg (Germany)

### Master's courses (80h)

Structural Equation Modeling I & II (80h) 2020  
Teaching assistant, University of Amsterdam (The Netherlands)

## Ad hoc reviewing

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Journal of Environmental Psychology (6 manuscripts) • Appetite (2) • The Lancet Planetary Health (1)  
• Communications Earth & Environment (1) • Translational Issues in Psychological Science •  
Systematizing Confidence in Open Research and Evidence (SCORE) from the Center of Open Science

For verified peer reviews, see also [Web of Science](#).

## Academic services

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**Scientific organization of the JRP Summer School & Conference** 2021 – 2023  
Junior Researcher Programme, Siena (Italy)

**Data Analyst** 2020  
CorrelaidxNL & dance4life, Amsterdam (The Netherlands)

**Head of Workshop Team** 2019 – 2020  
Student Initiative for Open Science, Amsterdam (The Netherlands)

## Research Assistant

2018

Strathmore Business School, Nairobi (Kenya)

- Accompanied sessions of the [Student Training for Entrepreneurial Promotion](#) in Kenya
- Evaluation of the training and data collection (surveys, interviews, case studies)
- Local contact person for researchers, trainers, and students

## Technical skills & languages

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R, JASP, Qualtrics, and E-Prime Psychology Software Tools (advanced)

HTML and CSS (basics)

German (native), English (C1), French (B2), Dutch (A2/B1)

## Media coverage

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My research has been featured in the Austrian media in the [ORF](#) Zeit im Bild (ZiB) Magazin, the Austrian Press Agency (e.g., [Instabile Wirtschaftslage verstärkt Tendenz zum "Spatz in der Hand"](#)), Die Presse (e.g., [Krisen machen ungeduldig](#); <https://www.diepresse.com/6292493/menschen-sind-am-meer-gesuender>), Der Standard, Ö1 Radio, and international media (e.g., MDR, [Deutschlandfunk](#), [SRF](#)), and several international blog posts (e.g., In-Mind, [Scienitas.nl](#), [Schrödinger's Katze](#)).