

Alex Koch

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Areas of Research

Social perception and cognition, content and relation of (group) stereotypes, social and economic behavior, data-driven methods, similarity (assessment), valence asymmetries in information processing, judgments of truth

Education / Employment

2019-	Assistant Professor, University of Chicago, USA
2016-2018	Postdoc, University of Cologne, Germany
2016	Visiting postdoc, Princeton University, NJ, USA
2016	Ph.D. (summa cum laude), University of Cologne, Germany
2016	Visiting graduate student, Utrecht University, Netherlands
2012-2016	Graduate student (psychology), University of Cologne, Germany
2010-2011	Visiting undergraduate student, University of New South Wales, Australia
2006-2012	Undergraduate student (psychology), University of Heidelberg, Germany

Publications in Peer-Reviewed Journals

In press	[18] Alves, H., Koch, A., & Unkelbach, C. (in press). The differential similarity of positive and negative information - an affect-induced processing outcome? <i>Cognition & Emotion</i> .
	[17] Unkelbach, C, Koch, A., Silva, R., & Garcia-Marquez, T. (in press). Truth by repetition - explanations and implications. <i>Current Directions in Psychological Science</i> .
2018	[16] 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. <i>Social Psychological and Personality Science</i> , 9, 530-538.
	[15] Imhoff, R., Koch, A., & Flade, F. (2018). (Pre)occupations: A data-driven map of jobs and its consequences for categorization and evaluation. <i>Journal of Experimental Social Psychology</i> , 77, 76-88.
	[14] Alves, H., Koch, A., & Unkelbach, C. (2018). A cognitive-ecological explanation of intergroup biases. <i>Psychological Science</i> , 29, 1126 – 1133.
2017	[13] Lammers, J., Koch, A., Conway, P., & Brandt, M. J. (2017). The political domain appears simpler to the politically extreme than to political moderates. <i>Social Psychological and Personality Science</i> , 8, 612-622.
	[12] Alves, H., Koch, A., & Unkelbach, C. (2017). The "common good" phenomenon: Why similarities are positive and differences are negative. <i>Journal of Experimental Psychology: General</i> , 146, 512-528.

- [11] 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.
- [10] Alves, H., Koch, A., & Unkelbach, C. (2017). Why good is more alike than bad: Processing implications. *Trends in Cognitive Sciences*, 21, 72-82.
- 2016 [9] 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.
- [8] 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.
- [7] 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.
- 2015 [6] Alves, H., Unkelbach, C., Burghardt, J., Koch, A., Krüger, T. & Becker, V. (2015). A density explanation for valence asymmetries in recognition memory. *Memory & Cognition*, 43, 896-909.
- 2014 [5] 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.
- [4] 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.
- 2013 [3] 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.
- 2012 [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.
- 2011 [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.

Other Publications

- In press [6] Unkelbach, C., & Koch, A. (in press). Gullible but functional: Information repetition and the formation of beliefs. In J. Forgas & R. Baumeister (Eds.), *Homo credulus: The social psychology of gullibility*. New York, NY: Guilford Press.
- 2018 [5] 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.

- 2016 [4] Koch, A., & Imhoff, R. (2016). Towards an ecologically valid model of spontaneous stereotypes about groups. *The Brunswick Society Newsletter*, 31, 25-27.
- 2015 [3] 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.
- 2013 [2] 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.
- [1] 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.

Invited Revisions / Under Review / In Preparation

- [8] Abele-Brehm, A., Ellemers, N., Fiske, S., Koch, A., & Yzerbyt, V. Navigating the social world: Shared horizontal and vertical evaluative dimensions. *Under review*.
- [7] Unkelbach, C., Koch, A., Alves, H. Good is more frequent and less diverse than bad: Evidence, explanations, and implications. *Under review*.
- [6] Koch, A., Dorrough, A., Glöckner, A., & Imhoff, R. The ABC of society: Similarity in agency and beliefs predicts cooperation across groups. *In preparation*.
- [5] Slepian, M., & Koch, A. The dimensions of secrets. *In preparation*.
- [4] Koch, A., Imhoff, R., Unkelbach, C., Nicolas, G., Fiske, S., Terache, J., Carrier, A., & Yzerbyt, V. Warmth is a Personal Matter: Consensus Reconciles the Agency-Beliefs-Communion (ABC) Model with the Stereotype Content Model (SCM). *Under review*.
- [3] Koch, A., Speckmann, F., & Unkelbach, C. Q-SpAM: Using spatial arrangement to measure similarity in efficient online research powered by Qualtrics. *In preparation*.
- [2] Koch, A., Imhoff, R., Dotsch, R., Unkelbach, C., & Alves, H. Ideology stereotypes help to solve the tradeoff between exploitation and exploration. *In preparation*.
- [1] Koch, A., & Unkelbach, C. Solving the puzzle of the valence-validity relation in judgments of truth: it depends on morality and competence. *In preparation*.

Awards and Grants

2018	<p>[22] Student Grant (€ 1,360) "Spontaneous stereotypes predict discriminatory behavior" (with PI Philipp Henzel), Center for Social and Economic Behavior, University of Cologne, Germany</p> <p>[21] Seedcorn Grant (€ 4,990) "SpAM³-VR part 2: Can virtual reality elucidate dimensions of conceptual space?" (with PI Jan Crusius), Center for Social and Economic Behavior, University of Cologne, Germany</p> <p>[20] International Fellowship Program Grant (€ 2,300) "Predicting cognition and behavior from Big Data: A machine learning workshop with Professor Danilo Bzdok" (with PI Felix Speckmann), Center for Social and Economic Behavior, University of Cologne, Germany</p> <p>[19] Student Grant (€ 1,400) "Spontaneous brand stereotypes predict purchase intention" (with PI Rickus Wildgrube), Center for Social and Economic Behavior, University of Cologne, Germany</p> <p>[18] Junior Start-Up Grant (€ 3,000) "SpAM³-VR: Harnessing virtual reality to investigate dimensions of social judgment" (with PI Jan Crusius), Center for Social and Economic Behavior, University of Cologne, Germany</p>
2017	<p>[17] Junior Start-Up Grant (€ 2,400) "Similarity in agency / socioeconomic success increases cooperation", Center for Social and Economic Behavior, University of Cologne, Germany</p> <p>[16] Dissertation Award 2017, US Society of Experimental Social Psychology (SESP)</p> <p>[15] Publication Award 2017 (€ 750), German Society of Social Psychology (DGP-FGSP)</p> <p>[14] Finalist for Dissertation Award 2017, German Society of Cognitive Psychology (DGP-FGAP)</p> <p>[13] Junior Start-Up Grant (€ 2,880) "Fundamental stereotype dimensions: How people make sense of the social world", Center for Social and Economic Behavior, University of Cologne, Germany</p>
2016	<p>[12] International Fellowship Program Grant (€ 3,480) "Learning generalized mixed-model analysis from the expert: A methods workshop with Professor Charles Judd" (with PI Adam Hahn), Center for Social and Economic Behavior, University of Cologne, Germany</p> <p>[11] Dissertation Award 2016 (€ 900), Faculty of Human Sciences of the University of Cologne, Germany</p> <p>[10] Finalist for Best Paper Award 2016, European Social Cognition Network (ESCON)</p> <p>[9] Visitor Program Grant (€ 2,280) "Reconciling the SCM and ABC models of stereotype content", Center for Social and Economic Behavior, University of Cologne, Germany</p>

- 2015
- [8] Junior Start-Up Grant (€ 2,500) "Do people prefer conservatives (progressives) for joint exploitation (exploration)?", Center for Social and Economic Behavior, University of Cologne, Germany
 - [7] Five-week full scholarship (€ 1,500) for research at Utrecht University, Netherlands, Faculty of Human Sciences of the University of Cologne, Germany
- 2014
- [6] Junior Start-Up Grant (€ 3,800) "Creating a website to measure the similarity of lots of stimuli in little time", Center for Social and Economic Behavior, University of Cologne, Germany
 - [5] Travel grant for SPSP 2015 (€ 1,200), Faculty of Human Sciences of the University of Cologne, Germany
 - [4] Advanced PostDoc Grant (€ ~170,000) "Content and application of fundamental stereotype dimensions" (with PI Roland Imhoff), University of Cologne, Germany
- 2013
- [3] Travel grant for SPSP 2014 (€ 1,600), German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD)
 - [2] Best Paper Award 2013 (with PI Hans Alves), European Social Cognition Network (ESCON)
- 2010
- [1] One-year full scholarship (€ ~10,000) for research at the University of New South Wales, Australia, German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD)

Invited Talks

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- 2018
- [19] The A(gency)-B(eliefs)-C(ommunion) model of stereotypes about societal groups. University of Kent, UK
 - [18] Information repetition and the formation of beliefs. SSSP 2018, Budapest, Hungary
 - [17] (Why) good is more alike than bad: Implications for classification, generalization, recognition, social comparison and evaluation. Ghent University, Belgium
 - [15 & 16] Teaching and research at university. American Corner of Turkmenabat and American Center of Ashgabat, Turkmenistan
 - [14] (Why) good is more alike than bad: Implications for classification, generalization, recognition, social comparison and evaluation. University of Waterloo, Canada
 - [13] (Why) good is more alike than bad: Implications for classification, generalization, recognition, social comparison and evaluation. University of Chicago, IL, USA
 - [12] Data-driven insights into the content, relation, and effects of stereotypes about groups. Ryerson University, Canada
 - [11] Stereotype diagnosticity increases stereotype usage. University of Heidelberg, Germany

2017	<p>[10] The ABC of content dimensions in social cognition. University of Sheffield, UK</p> <p>[9] Good is generally more alike than bad: Investigating the case of (the ABC model of) group stereotypes. SESP 2017, Boston, USA</p> <p>[8] Why good is more alike than bad: Processing implications. University of Basel, Switzerland</p> <p>[7] Refining the ABC model of spontaneous stereotypes about social groups. Catholic University of Louvain-la-Neuve, Belgium</p>
2016	<p>[6] Refining the ABC model of spontaneous stereotypes about social groups. Princeton University, NJ, USA</p> <p>[5] Data-driven approaches to the content of social perception. University of Vienna, Austria</p> <p>[4] The ABC of stereotypes. Utrecht University, Netherlands</p> <p>[3] Using spatial arrangement to map people's mind. University of Heidelberg, Germany</p>
2015	<p>[2] Not in the mood to go with the flow: Negative mood eliminates reliance on processing fluency in judgments of truth. University of Heidelberg, Germany</p>
2012	<p>[1] In the mood to break the rules: Happiness promotes language abstraction and transgression of conversation norms. SSSP 2012, Pécs, Hungary</p>

Conference Contributions

2018	<p>[24] Stereotype diagnosticity increases stereotype usage. European Social Cognition Network (ESCON), Cologne, Germany</p>
2017	<p>[23] Stereotypes about conservative-progressive beliefs serve as guides for managing the tradeoff between exploitation and exploration. German Society of Social Psychology (DGP-FGSP), Ulm, Germany</p> <p>[22] An ecological perspective of psychological phenomena. German Society of Social Psychology (DGP-FGSP), Ulm, Germany</p> <p>[21] Ideology stereotypes help to solve the trade-off between exploitation and exploration. European Social Cognition Network (ESCON), Gdansk, Poland</p> <p>[20] Refining the ABC model of spontaneous group stereotypes. European Society of Social Psychology (EASP), Granada, Spain</p>
2016	<p>[19] Stereotypes about conservative-progressive beliefs are consensual, and people use them to strike a balance between exploitation and exploration. Dutch Society of Social Psychology (ASPO), Leiden, Netherlands</p> <p>[18] The ABC of stereotypes about social groups. European Social Cognition Network (ESCON), Lisbon, Portugal</p>

- [17] The ABC of attitudes about social groups. European Society of Social Psychology (EASP) small group meeting, University of Cologne, Germany
- [16] The ABC of stereotypes about social groups. Conference on motivation and social perception, University of Gdansk, Poland
- 2015 [15] Spatial arrangement: A powerful research tool for C-SEB and beyond. Center for Social and Economic Behavior, University of Cologne, Germany
- [14] The ABC of stereotypes. German Society of Social Psychology (DGP-FGSP)
- [13] The ABC of stereotypes (poster). Conference on social cognition, Cologne, Germany
- [12] The ABC of stereotypes: Spontaneous stereotypes reflect agency, beliefs, and (some) communion. Conference on social perception, Sopot, Poland
- [11] The ABC of stereotypes (poster). Society for Personality and Social Psychology (SPSP), Long Beach, CA, USA
- 2014 [10] More representative ways to examine how people stereotype groups. European Social Cognition Network (ESCON), Louvain-la-Neuve, Belgium
- [9] Semantic maps reveal that representatively sampled positive information is more alike than negative information (poster). European Society of Social Psychology (EASP), Amsterdam, Netherlands
- [8] Reassessing the role of warmth in spontaneous, default social perception. Cologne-Nijmegen meeting, Cologne, Germany
- [7] Self-drawn similarity maps reveal valence asymmetry in the density of naturally sampled concepts. German Society of Experimental Psychology (TEAP), Giessen, Germany
- [6] Conversational norms influence the credibility of a message (poster). Society for Personality and Social Psychology (SPSP), Austin, TX, USA
- 2013 [5] Norm-congruent communication is more likely to be perceived as true than norm-deviant communication. European Social Cognition Network (ESCON), Vilnius, Lithuania
- [4] Disapproval has many faces; approval has only one face! Nijmegen-Cologne meeting, Nijmegen, Netherlands
- [3] Information valence impacts category-split effects. German Society of Experimental Psychology (TEAP), Vienna, Austria
- [2] Mood influences language abstraction and transgression of conversation norms (poster). Society for Personality and Social Psychology (SPSP), New Orleans, LA, USA
- 2012 [1] Does information valence moderate unpacking effects? Cologne-Nijmegen meeting, Cologne, Germany

Ad Hoc Reviewer

Addiction Research and Theory,
 Behavior Research Methods,
 British Journal of Social Psychology,
 Comprehensive Results in Social Psychology,
 Cognition & Emotion,
 Current Directions in Psychological Science,
 Emotion,
 European Journal of Personality,
 European Journal of Social Psychology,
 Experimental Psychology,
 Frontiers in Psychology,
 Group Processes and Intergroup Relations,
 Journal of Experimental Social Psychology,
 Journal of Personality and Social Psychology,
 NeuroImage,
 Personality and Social Psychology Bulletin,
 Social and Personality Psychology Compass,
 Social Cognition,
 Social Psychology

Teaching

2018/19	Emotion and Motivation (Seminar)
2018/19	Emotion and Motivation (Seminar)
2018	Stereotypes / Prejudice (Seminar)
2018	Similarity in Truth and Morality (Experimental research practicum)
2017/18	Cognitive Heuristics and Biases (Seminar)
2017/18	Cognitive Heuristics and Biases (Seminar)
2017	Stereotypes / Prejudice (Seminar)
2017	Emotion and Motivation (Experimental research practicum)
2016/17	Stereotypes / Prejudice (Seminar)
2016/17	Basic and Social Emotions (Seminar)
2016	Judgment and Decision Making (Seminar)
2016	Emotion and Motivation (Seminar)
2016	Stereotypes / Prejudice (Experimental research practicum)
2015/16	Friendship and Intimate Relationships (Seminar)
2015	Friendship and Intimate Relationships (Seminar)
2014/15	Friendship and Intimate Relationships (Seminar)
2014	Valence Asymmetries in Cognitive Processing (Seminar)
2012/13	Friendship and Intimate Relationships (Seminar)

Supervision

2019	Johanna Woitzel, "Extreme (vs. moderate) groups show stronger similarity bias in social valuation" (B.Sc. thesis).
	Philipp Henzel, "Spontaneous hierarchy and ideology stereotypes predict discriminatory behavior" (M.Sc. thesis).
2018	Kira Kasteleiner, "Roses by other names do not smell as sweet: Spontaneous name stereotypes predict interpersonal liking" (B.Sc. thesis).
	Rickus Wildgrube, "Your brand reveals where you stand: Spontaneous brand stereotypes predict interpersonal liking" (MA thesis).

- Theresa Schüller, "News that make a difference: Spatial proximity increases evaluation flexibility (translated)" (B.Sc. thesis).
- 2017 Philipp Henzel, "Social perception is context-dependent: Stereotype diagnosticity increases stereotype usage" (B.Sc. thesis).
- Max Alt, "Social perception is context-dependent: Stereotype diagnosticity increases stereotype usage" (B.Sc. thesis).
- Ruth Bernardy, "Stereotypes in private and public life (translated)" (B.Sc. thesis).
- 2016 Zoe Dahl, "Refining the ABC of stereotypes about groups: A (agency) and B (beliefs) stereotypes are consensual, C (communion) stereotypes are a function of perceivers' A and B." (B.Sc. thesis).
- 2015 Anne Theis, "Giving more to gain, taking less to not lose (translated)" (B.Sc. thesis).

References

Main:

Prof. Dr. Christian Unkelbach, University of Cologne, Germany
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