

## Curriculum Vitae

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### Andrea Samson, PhD

Associate Professor in Psychology

Director of the chEERS Lab

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## Research Topics

- Improving our understanding of affective phenomena such as positive emotions, humor, and emotion regulation
- Contributing to a better understanding of and supporting the development of emotional competencies in individuals with neurodevelopmental conditions, such as autism and Williams syndrome
- Developing tools such as psycho-educative training programs and board games to promote emotional competencies

## Professional Experience

Feb 2024-Feb 2026	Responsible of the French Master's program in Psychology, Unidistance Suisse
Since February 2020	Associate Professor in Psychology, UniDistance Suisse, Brig, Switzerland
Sept 2018-Dec 2022	SNSF Professorship Institute of Special Education, University of Fribourg, Switzerland
Jan 2018-Jan 2022	Co-responsible of the French Master's program in Psychology, Unidistance Suisse
Jan 2018-Jan 2020	Assistant Professor in Psychology, UniDistance Suisse
Jan 2017-2018	Scientific Advisor, Departments of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences, Stanford School of Medicine, Stanford University, CA, USA
Jan-Dec 2016	Consulting Assistant Professor, Departments of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences, Stanford School of Medicine, Stanford University, CA, USA
Sep 2015-Aug 2018	Ambizione Fellowship awarded by the Swiss National Science Foundation Swiss Center for Affective Sciences, University of Geneva, Switzerland

Feb 2015-Aug 2015	Return Fellowship from the Swiss National Science Foundation Swiss Center for Affective Sciences, University of Geneva, Switzerland
Feb 2010-Jan 2015	Postdoctoral Position Department of Psychology, Stanford University
Nov 2009-Jan 2010	Visiting scholar at the Institute of Neuroscience, Trinity College, Dublin, Ireland (part-time for 3 months)
2009	Postdoctoral Position Department of Psychology, University of Fribourg, Switzerland
Aug 2005	Visiting Scientist Max-Planck-Institute of Human Cognitive and Brain Sciences, Leipzig, Germany
2003 – 2008	PhD student and assistant Department of Psychology University of Fribourg, Switzerland

## Education

May 29, 2017	Habilitation Defense at the University of Fribourg “Should emotions be taught in schools? Possible avenues for promoting emotional competences through board games” (Supervisor: Prof. Valerie Camos)
December 2016	Submission of written part of the Cumulative Habilitation at the Faculty of Philosophy, University of Fribourg, Switzerland: “Emotion Dysregulation in Individuals with Autism Spectrum Disorder” (Supervisor: Prof. Valerie Camos)
Dec 10, 2008	PhD thesis (summa cum laude) at the Department of Psychology, University of Fribourg, Switzerland: “Cognitive and Neural Humor Processing: Stimulus characteristics and Theory of Mind” (Supervisor: Prof. Oswald Huber, Prof. Willibald Ruch)
1998 – 2003	University of Fribourg (Switzerland) and University of Bern (Switzerland): General Psychology, Clinical Psychology and Neurobiology (Lizentiat ~Masters) Empirical Thesis: “Humor und Cartoons: Der Einfluss des Geschlechtes auf die Stilelemente von Cartoonisten und Cartoonistinnen” [Humor and cartoons: gender differences in structural elements of cartoons] (Supervisor: Prof. Oswald Huber)

## Funding

### Approved Research projects and Fellowships (>CHF 4'290'000)

#### Swiss National Science Foundation

2026-2030	Project funding for Andrea Samson (PI): Climate change: no laughing matter? Using humor to prevent and correct misinformation
2018-2023	SNSF Professorship PP00P1_176722 The Differential Roles of Positive Emotions and Emotion Regulation for Socio-Emotional Processes in Developmental Disabilities: Insights for Future Interventions
2016-2017	120% Support Grant (13 months)
2015-2018	Ambizione Fellowship; PZ00P1_154937 (36 months) Emotion Dysregulation in Psychopathology: Pathway to an Innovative Neuroconnectivity-Informed Intervention

2015	Return Fellowship for Advanced Researchers; PA00P1_136380 (granted for 12 months, but used 6 months only)
2011-2015	Emotion Reactivity and Regulation in Autism Spectrum Disorders Fellowship for Advanced Researchers; PA00P1_136380 (40 months)
2010-2011	Emotion Reactivity and Regulation in Autism Spectrum Disorders Fellowship for Prospective Researchers; PBFRP1-127896 (18 months) Humor and Emotion Regulation

#### **Canton of Valais: Interinstitutional projects**

5/2025-5/2026	Interinstitutional project funding of the Canton of Valais: Empowering Connections: Interpersonal Emotion Regulation as a Key to Managing Challenging Behaviors in Individuals with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND), Co-PI with Prof. Eline de Gaspari, Institute of Social Work, University of Applied Sciences and Arts of Western Switzerland (HES-SO) Valais-Wallis School of Social Work (13 months)
5/2025-5/2026	Interinstitutional project funding of the Canton of Valais: chEERS Board Games for Socio-emotional Learning in preadolescents: Bridging Research and Teacher Training in Valais Primary Schools, Co-PI with: Dr. Nicolas Bressoud, University of Teachers Education Valais HEP-VS (13 months)

#### **NCCR of Affective Sciences**

2016-2017	NCCR of Affective Sciences Research Funding (Co-PI with David Sander) A Novel Positive Emotion Regulation Intervention for Young Children: Emotional Learning in the School Context
2015-2016	NCCR of Affective Sciences Research Support (PI)

#### **UniDistance – Research Fund (as PI)**

2021	Extension of Board Game Development and Production
2021	COVID19 study on families with children with special educational needs (SEN-COPING19 project)
2020-2021	Board Game Development and Production
2019-2020	Emotion Regulation Study
2018-2020	Development of a VR Game for the Assessment of Socio-Emotional Processes in Intellectual Disability
2018	Assessment of socio-emotional competencies in developmental and intellectual disabilities

#### **Swiss Center for Affective Sciences**

2018	Incentive Funding awarded by Swiss Center for Affective Sciences (co-PI with David Rudrauf) for hiring a VR developer
2018	Incentive Funding awarded by Swiss Center for Affective Sciences (PI)

#### **Stanford Center for Cognitive and Neurobiological Imaging: Research awards**

2013	Emotion Dysregulation in Autism Spectrum Disorders revisited – an fMRI study
2012	Neural Correlates of Emotion Regulation in Young Adults with Autism Spectrum Disorders
2011-12	Neural Correlates of Emotional Reactivity and Regulation in Autism Spectrum Disorder
2012	Sex Differences in Qualitative Emotion Regulation
2011	Neural Correlates of Qualitative Emotion Regulation

#### **European Federation Williams Syndrome (FEWS)**

2020-21	Research Funds for COVID-19 project (co-PI with Daniel Dukes, Jo Van Herwegen, Fionnula Tynan, Lenka Hrnčirova)
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#### Palatin Foundation

2026-2028

Elucidating the neural bases of flexible emotion regulation in autistic children and adolescents (PI: Andrea Samson).

### Organisation of conferences

**Samson, A. C.** & Ruch, W. (2006, July 10–15). Organisation of the 6th International Summer School on Humor and Laughter: Theory, Research and Applications, University of Fribourg, Switzerland.

Dukes, D., & **Samson, A. C.** (2018, July 5–13). Co-organisation of the International Summer School in Affective Sciences (ISSAS) 2018, Swiss Center for Affective Sciences, University of Geneva, Chateau de Bossey, Switzerland.

Program committee member (2019-2024): Organisation of the Annual Meeting for the Society of Affective Sciences (SAS) 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023, and 2024.

**Samson, A. C.** & DaSilva, L. (2023, March 30-April 1). Program committee co-chair 2023: Annual Meeting for the Society of Affective Sciences (SAS), Long Beach, CA, USA

Kramer, U., **Samson, A. C.**, & Sander, D. (2025, July 7-9). Organization of the “Scientific Workshop: Change in emotion in psychotherapy”, CHUV, Lausanne, Switzerland.

Banta-Lavenex, P., Coppin, G., Hartmann, M., Martarelli, C., Reber, T., Rothen, N., & **Samson, A. C.** (2025, September 7-9). Program committee co-chair 2025: 18<sup>th</sup> conference of the Swiss Psychology Society, Crans Montana, Switzerland.

(Co-)organization of 18 symposia and workshops at various international and national conferences.

### Supervision of PhD theses

#### Current:

Alexandra Zaharia (since 09/2018, University of Fribourg)

Lina Stallmann (since 03/2019, University of Fribourg)

Yannick Claivaz (since 06/2023, University of Fribourg, co-supervision with Prof. Myriam Squillaci)

Laura Moreno (since 08/2024, University of Fribourg)

Sam Ahmad (since 08/2024, University of Fribourg)

#### Finished:

**Aikaterini Giannadou** (2016-2022, Sheffield University, UK, co-supervision with Dr. E. Milne): Neural Noise in Autism Spectrum Conditions

**Noémie Treichel** (09/2018-12/2023, University of Fribourg): Humor in neurodevelopmental conditions

**Nicolas Bressoud** (09/2018-05/2024, University of Fribourg): Développement de l'interdépendance positive et du pouvoir d'agir des élèves en contexte inclusif