

Curriculum Vitae



Andrea Samson, PhD

Associate Professor in Psychology

Director of the chEERS Lab

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Research Topics

- Better understanding affective processes such as positive emotions, humor, 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

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-Jan2020	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 2'953'000)

Swiss National Science Foundation

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) Emotion Reactivity and Regulation in Autism Spectrum Disorders
2011-2015	Fellowship for Advanced Researchers; PA00P1_136380 (40 months) Emotion Reactivity and Regulation in Autism Spectrum Disorders
2010-2011	Fellowship for Prospective Researchers; PBFPR1-127896 (18 months)

Humor and Emotion Regulation

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)

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

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

University of Fribourg, Research Foundation, Switzerland

- 2009 Humor processing in individuals with Asperger's Syndrome, Co-PI (with Prof. Oswald Huber)
- 2009 Cognitive humor processing and social cognition in individuals with Asperger's Syndrome – an fMRI study, Co-PI (with Prof. Oswald Huber)
- 2001-2003 Cognitive humor processing: an fMRI study – research stay at the Max-Planck Institute for Human Cognitive and Brain Sciences, Leipzig, Germany, Co-PI (with Prof. Oswald Huber)

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)

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

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
(Co-)organization of 16 symposia and workshops at various international and national conferences (see below).

Supervision of PhD theses

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

Nicolas Bressoud (since 09/2018, University of Fribourg)

Noémie Treichel (since 09/2018, University of Fribourg)

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

Giona Di Poi (since 05/2022, University of Fribourg)

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

Aikaterini Giannadou (2016-2022, Sheffield University, UK, co-supervision avec Prof. Elizabeth Milne)