

STEPHAN PAUL KAUFHOLD

Current Position Postdoctoral Researcher
Comparative Cognition Laboratory
Department of Cognitive Science
University of California San Diego

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EDUCATION

09/2017 – 06/2025 University of California, San Diego (USA)
PhD Program **PhD in Cognitive Science**
Advisor: Dr. Federico Rossano

10/2015 – 08/2017 University of Innsbruck, Innsbruck (Austria)
Master Studies Degree: **Master of Science in Psychology**

10/2011 – 08/2015 University of Innsbruck, Innsbruck (Austria)
Bachelor Studies Degree: **Bachelor of Science in Psychology**

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

09/2025 – present **Comparative Cognition Laboratory (CCL)**
Postdoctoral Researcher UC San Diego, USA
Department: Cognitive Science, Federico Rossano

03/2021 – present **Born Free USA Primate Sanctuary**
Guest Researcher Texas, USA
Old-world Monkey Sanctuary

01/2019 – 03/2019 **Tchimpounga Chimpanzee Sanctuary**
Guest Researcher Republic of Congo
Chimpanzee Sanctuary

02/2018 – 11/2018 **Gibbon Conservation Center**
Guest Researcher Santa Clarita, USA
Gibbon Conservation Center

10/2016 – 04/2017 **Leipzig Research Center for Early Child**
Research Assistant **Development**
Leipzig, Germany
Research Group: Daniel Haun

08/2016 – 09/2016 **Max Planck Institute for Evolutionary**
Guest Researcher **Anthropology**
Leipzig, Germany

	Wolfgang Köhler Primate Research Center
03/2016 – 06/2016	Chimfunshi Wildlife Orphanage
<i>Research Assistant</i>	<i>Zambia</i>
	Chimpanzee Sanctuary
10/2014 – 08/2015	Max Planck Institute for Evolutionary
<i>Research Assistant</i>	Anthropology
	<i>Leipzig, Germany</i>
	Department: Developmental and Comparative Psychology,
	Michael Tomasello
10/2012 – 09/2013	University of Innsbruck
<i>Research Assistant</i>	<i>Innsbruck, Austria</i>
	Department: Social Psychology, Tobias Greitemeyer

GRANTS AND SCHOLARSHIPS

09/2021	CARTA Fellowship (20,000\$)
	Center for Academic Research & Training in Anthropogeny
04/2021	Friend of the International Center Scholarship (2,000\$)
	Friends of the International Center, UCSD
09/2020	Annette Merle-Smith Fellowship (20,000\$)
	Center for Academic Research & Training in Anthropogeny
03/2020	Ruth Newmark Scholarship (2,000\$)
	Friends of the International Center, UCSD
09/2019	CARTA Fellowship (20,000\$)
	Center for Academic Research & Training in Anthropogeny

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS & TALKS

04/2026	University of Stirling – Behaviour and Evolution Research Group (BERG) Seminar (UK)
	<i>Talk: Navigating Social Risk and Resource Access: Social Distances and Pathogen Avoidance in Macaques</i>
12/2025	NeurIPS 2025 – AI for Non-Human Animal Communication Workshop (USA)
	<i>Poster: A Functionalist Framework for Machine Learning in Animal Communication</i>
09/2025	UCLA Behavior, Evolution, and Culture Speaker Series (USA)
	<i>Talk: Situated Simian Minds: Why Context Matters for Modeling Primate Behavior</i>

08/2025	47th Annual Meeting of the Cognitive Science Society (USA) <i>Poster: Socially Situated Navigation: Social Rank and Sex Influence Spatial Navigation Strategies in Japanese Macaques</i>
02/2025	Duke University – Hare Lab (USA) <i>Talk: How Macaques Navigate Social Proximity and Disease Threats</i>
02/2025	UC Berkeley Social – Origins Lab (USA) <i>Talk: How Macaques Navigate Social Proximity and Disease Threats</i>
08/2023	IPS/MPS Kuching (Malaysia) <i>Talk: The Influence of Life History on Pathogen Avoidance Behavior in Sanctuary-living Macaques (<i>Macaca spp.</i>)</i>
07/2023	Diverse Intelligences Summit (UK) <i>Talk: Intergroup Variation in Behavior in a Transplanted Population of Japanese Macaques (<i>Macaca fuscata</i>)</i>
04/2023	Mechanisms of Learning Forum (UK) <i>Poster: The Influence of Life History on Pathogen Avoidance Behavior in Sanctuary-living Macaques (<i>Macaca spp.</i>)</i>
01/2021	IPS/SLAPrim Quito (Ecuador) <i>Talk: Chimpanzees (<i>Pan troglodytes</i>) flexibly manipulate the pathway of food rewards to maximize their own payoff in a social scenario</i>
03/2017	ICPS Vienna (Austria) <i>Talk: Situation-dependent strategies to obtain food from conspecifics in zoo-living Sumatran orangutans (<i>Pongo abelii</i>)</i>
08/2016	IPS/ASP Chicago (USA) <i>Talk: Situation-dependent strategies to obtain food from conspecifics in zoo-living Sumatran orangutans (<i>Pongo abelii</i>)</i>

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Instructor

2025 Spring	COGS 143: Animal Cognition (50 Students)
2025 Winter	COGS 13: Field Methods: Cognition in the Wild (409 Students)
2024 Fall	COGS 13: Field Methods: Cognition in the Wild (414 Students)

Teaching Assistant

2024 Winter	COGS 13: Field Methods: Cognition in the Wild
2023 Fall	COGS 100: Cyborgs Now and in the Future
2023 Spring	COGS 13: Field Methods: Cognition in the Wild

2022 Fall	COGS 100: Cyborgs Now and in the Future
2022 Spring	COGS 142: Animal Communication
2021 Fall	COGS 102A: Cognitive Perspectives
2021 Spring	COGS 142: Animal Communication
2021 Winter	COGS 144: Social Cognition
2020 Winter	COGS 143: Animal Cognition
2019 Fall	COGS 144: Social Cognition
2019 Spring	COGS 13: Field Methods: Cognition in the Wild
2018 Fall	COGS 110/HDP 121: The Developing Mind
2018 Summer	COGS 102A: Distributed Cognition
2018 Spring	COGS 13: Field Methods: Cognition in the Wild
2018 Winter	COGS 144: Social Cognition

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

2018 – 2024	Anthropogeny Graduate Specialization , San Diego (USA) CARTA: Center for Academic Research & Training in Anthropogeny
2023	DISI Fellow & Alumni , St. Andrews (UK) Diverse Intelligences Summer Institute

ACADEMIC SERVICES

2026	Reviewer , Behavioural Processes Reviewer , American Journal of Primatology
2024	Reviewer , International Journal of Computer Vision Reviewer , NeurIPS Datasets and Benchmarks Tracks 38 th Annual Conference on Neural Information Processing Systems

PEER-REVIEWED PUBLICATIONS

- Kaufhold, S.P.**, Goguen, A., Viano, K., & Rossano, F. (under review). Pathogen sensitivity in macaques: The role of early life experiences and disease exposure.
- Kaufhold, S.P.***, Borzello, M.*, Rossano, K., & Kirsh, D. (2026). Beyond the Lab: Cognitive Neuroscience in Real-World Contexts. *Wiley Interdisciplinary Reviews: Cognitive Science*, 17(2), e70027.
- Chang, T. A.*, Arnett, C.*, ..., **Kaufhold, S.P.**, ... Belinkov, Y. (2025). Global PIQA: Evaluating Physical Commonsense Reasoning Across 100+ Languages and Cultures. *arXiv preprint arXiv:2510.24081*.

- Terwilliger, J.*, **Kaufhold, S.P.***, & Rossano, F. (2025). A Functionalist Framework for Machine Learning in Animal Communication. *Proceedings of the AI for Animal Communication Workshop at the Conference on Neural Information Processing Systems (NeurIPS)*.
- Kaufhold, S.P.***, Terwilliger, J.*, & Rossano, F. (2025). Socially Situated Navigation: Social Rank and Sex Influence Spatial Navigation Strategies in Japanese Macaques. *Proceedings of the Annual Meeting of the Cognitive Science Society*, 47.
- Ma, X.*, Lin, Y.*, Xu, Y., **Kaufhold, S.P.**, Terwilliger, J., Meza, A., Zhu, Y., Rossano, F., & Wang, Y. (2024). AlphaChimp: Tracking and Behavior Recognition in Chimpanzees. *arXiv preprint arXiv:2410.17136*.
- Kaufhold, S.P.**, Sánchez-Amaro, A., Tan, J., & Rossano, F. (2024). Chimpanzees (*Pan troglodytes*) strategically manipulate their environment to deny conspecifics access to food. *Scientific Reports* 14(1), 17579.
- Ma, X.*, **Kaufhold, S.P.***, Su, J.*, Zhu, W., Terwilliger, F., Meza, A., Zhu, Y., Rossano, F., & Wang, Y. (2023). ChimpACT: A longitudinal dataset for understanding chimpanzee behaviors. *Advances in Neural Information Processing Systems*, 36, 27501-27531.
- van Leeuwen, E. J. C., DeTroy, S. E., **Kaufhold, S. P.**, Dubois, C., Schütte, S., Call, J., & Haun, D. B. M. (2021). Group identity predicts prosociality in chimpanzees. *Science Advances*, 7(9), eabc7982.
- Sánchez-Amaro, A., Tan, J., **Kaufhold, S. P.**, & Rossano, F. (2021). How environmental unpredictability and harshness affect chimpanzees in risk- choice and temporal-discounting tasks. *Journal of Comparative Psychology*.
- Rossano, F.* & **Kaufhold, S. P.*** (2021). Introduction to Animal Communication. In Call, J., Kaufman A. & Kaufman J. (eds.) *Handbook of Animal Cognition*. Cambridge University Press.
- Kaufhold, S. P.**, & Rossano, F. (2020). Proximate mechanisms and the interdependence of food transfer interactions in socially housed orangutans (*Pongo abelii*). *Animal behavior*, 167, 243-253.
- Sánchez-Amaro, A., Tan, J., **Kaufhold, S. P.**, & Rossano, F. (2020). Gibbons exploit information about what a competitor can see. *Animal cognition*, 23(2) 289-299.
- Kaufhold, S. P.***, & van Leeuwen, E. J. C.* (2019). Why intergroup variation matters for understanding behaviour. *Biology letters*, 15(11), 20190695.

* indicates shared first authorship