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 *PhD Program*	University of California, San Diego (USA) **PhD in Cognitive Science** Advisor: Dr. Federico Rossano
10/2015 – 08/2017 *Master Studies*	University of Innsbruck, Innsbruck (Austria) Degree: **Master of Science in Psychology**
10/2011 – 08/2015 *Bachelor Studies*	University of Innsbruck, Innsbruck (Austria) Degree: **Bachelor of Science in Psychology**

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

08/2026 – present *Postdoctoral Researcher*	**XR Lab** UC *San Diego, USA* Department: Cognitive Science, David Kirsh
07/2025 – present *Postdoctoral Researcher*	**Comparative Cognition Laboratory (CCL)** UC *San Diego, USA* Department: Cognitive Science, Federico Rossano
03/2021 – present *Guest Researcher*	**Born Free USA Primate Sanctuary** *Texas, USA* Old-world Monkey Sanctuary
01/2019 – 03/2019 *Guest Researcher*	**Tchimpounga Chimpanzee Sanctuary** *Republic of Congo* Chimpanzee Sanctuary
02/2018 – 11/2018 *Guest Researcher*	**Gibbon Conservation Center** *Santa Clarita, USA* Gibbon Conservation Center
10/2016 – 04/2017 *Research Assistant*	**Leipzig Research Center for Early Child Development** *Leipzig, Germany* Research Group: Daniel Haun

08/2016 – 09/2016 *Guest Researcher*	**Max Planck Institute for Evolutionary Anthropology** *Leipzig, Germany* Wolfgang Köhler Primate Research Center
03/2016 – 06/2016 *Research Assistant*	**Chimfunshi Wildlife Orphanage** *Zambia* Chimpanzee Sanctuary
10/2014 – 08/2015 *Research Assistant*	**Max Planck Institute for Evolutionary Anthropology** *Leipzig, Germany* Department: Developmental and Comparative Psychology, Michael Tomasello
10/2012 – 09/2013 *Research Assistant*	**University of Innsbruck** *Innsbruck, Austria* 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	**Osher Lifelong Learning Institute UCSD** (USA) *Talk*: Animal Cognition and the Origins of Human Thinking
04/2026	**University of Stirling – Behaviour and Evolution Research Group (BERG) Seminar** (UK) *Talk*: Navigating Social Risk and Resource Access: Social Distances and Pathogen Avoidance in Macaques

12/2025	**NeurIPS 2025 – AI for Non-Human Animal Communication Workshop** (USA) *Poster*: A Functionalist Framework for Machine Learning in Animal Communication
09/2025	**UCLA – Behavior, Evolution, and Culture Speaker Series** (USA) *Talk*: Situated Simian Minds: Why Context Matters for Modeling Primate Behavior
08/2025	**47th Annual Meeting of the Cognitive Science Society** (USA) *Poster*: Socially Situated Navigation: Social Rank and Sex Influence Spatial Navigation Strategies in Japanese Macaques
02/2025	**Duke University – Hare Lab** (USA) *Talk*: How Macaques Navigate Social Proximity and Disease Threats
02/2025	**UC Berkeley – Social Origins Lab** (USA) *Talk*: How Macaques Navigate Social Proximity and Disease Threats
08/2023	**IPS/MPS Kuching** (Malaysia) *Talk*: The Influence of Life History on Pathogen Avoidance Behavior in Sanctuary-living Macaques (*Macaca spp.*)
07/2023	**Diverse Intelligences Summit** (UK) *Talk*: Intergroup Variation in Behavior in a Transplanted Population of Japanese Macaques (*Macaca fuscata*)
04/2023	**Mechanisms of Learning Forum** (UK) *Poster*: The Influence of Life History on Pathogen Avoidance Behavior in Sanctuary-living Macaques (*Macaca spp.*)
01/2021	**IPS/SLAPrim Quito** (Ecuador) *Talk*: Chimpanzees (*Pan troglodytes*) flexibly manipulate the pathway of food rewards to maximize their own payoff in a social scenario
03/2017	**ICPS Vienna** (Austria) *Talk*: Situation–dependent strategies to obtain food from conspecifics in zoo–living Sumatran orangutans *(Pongo abelii)*
08/2016	**IPS/ASP Chicago** (USA) *Talk*: Situation–dependent strategies to obtain food from conspecifics in zoo–living Sumatran orangutans (*Pongo abelii*)

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 & Alumnus**, 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 *38th Annual Conference on Neural Information Processing Systems*

SELECTED MEDIA COVERAGE

2026

The New York Times (October 20).
Germophobe Primates Want to Avoid Getting Sick, Too. [Article]

NPR, *All Things Considered* (October 23).
Will a macaque eat a grape sitting on a pile of poo? A study on germophobia. [Audio and text]

Smithsonian Magazine (October 28).
Some Monkeys Seem to Become Germophobic After Living Through a Disease Outbreak, Just Like Humans. [Article]

Scientific American, *Science Quickly* (October 26).
News-roundup segment: Snakes that cartwheel, vultures that groan, and a Martian moon full of mystery. [Audio and transcript]

Popular Science (October 20).
Monkeys also avoid germs after viral outbreaks. [Article]

PEER-REVIEWED PUBLICATIONS

Kaufhold, S.P., Goguen, A., Viano, K., & Rossano, F. (2026). Early-life experience and disease exposure affect pathogen avoidance behaviour in macaques. *Royal Society Open Science, 13*(10), 260011.

Kaufhold, S.P., Terwilliger, J., Kefer, S., & Rossano, F. (2026). The search process of professional detection dog teams in realistic environments. *arXiv preprint arXiv:2610.07129*.

Ma, X.*, Lin, Y.*, Xu, Y., **Kaufhold, S.P.**, Terwilliger, J., Meza, A., Zhu, Y., Rossano, F., & Wang, Y. (2026). AlphaChimp: Tracking and Behavior Recognition in Chimpanzees. *International Journal of Computer Vision 134*(6), 285.

Kaufhold, S.P.*, Borzello, M.*, Rossano, F., & 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.

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). Chimpanzees behave prosocially in a group-specific manner. *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.) *The Cambridge 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