

# CURRICULUM VITAE

## BASTIAAN T. RUTJENS

---

### Contact info

Bastiaan Rutjens  
University of Amsterdam  
Department of Social Psychology  
Nieuwe Achtergracht 129-B  
1018 WT Amsterdam, The Netherlands  
[bastiaan.rutjens@gmail.com](mailto:bastiaan.rutjens@gmail.com)  
[www.bastiaanrutjens.com](http://www.bastiaanrutjens.com)

### Positions held

2014-present	<i>University of Amsterdam</i> Assistant professor
2013-2014	<i>University of Amsterdam</i> Postdoctoral fellow
2012-2013	<i>University of British Columbia</i> Postdoctoral fellow
2008-2012	<i>University of Amsterdam</i> PhD candidate
2007-2008	<i>University of Amsterdam</i> Research assistant
2004-2005	<i>Max Planck Institute for psycholinguistics</i> Student assistant

### Education

2008-2012	Ph.D., <i>University of Amsterdam</i> (cum laude)
2005-2006	M.Sc., <i>University of Amsterdam</i> (cum laude)
1998-2004	M.A. ( <i>doctoraal</i> ), <i>Radboud University Nijmegen</i>

### Grants, awards, and funding

2016	EASP Seedcorn Grant Co-recipient of grant (€2000) on religion and insecurity.
2014	<i>AXA Research Fund</i> Grant (€120,000) on threat compensation and risk seeking, 2014-2017.
2013	<i>Amsterdam Brain and Cognition Center</i> Talent Grant (€75,000) to conduct research at the University of Amsterdam, 2013-2014.

2012

*Niels Stensen Foundation*

Stipend (€44,000) to conduct research at the University of British Columbia, Canada, 2012-2013.

### **Professional memberships**

Associatie van Sociaal-Psychologische Onderzoekers (ASPO)  
Association for Psychological Science (APS)  
European Association of Social Psychology (EASP – full member)  
Kurt Lewin Institute (KLI – associate member)  
Society for the Scientific Study of Religion (SSSR)  
Society of Personality and Social Psychology (SPSP)

### **Reviewing**

*British Journal of Social Psychology, Group Processes and Intergroup Relations, International Journal for the Psychology of Religion, Journal of Experimental Social Psychology, Motivation and Emotion, Personality and Social Psychology Bulletin, PLOS One, Psychological Science, Social Cognition, Social Psychological and Personality Science*

### **Academic publications**

Van der Lee, R., Ellemers, N., Scheepers, D., & Rutjens, B. T. In or out? How the perceived morality (vs. competence) of prospective group members affects acceptance and rejection. *European Journal of Social Psychology*, in press.

van Elk, M., Rutjens, B. T., & van Harreveld, F. Why are Protestants more prosocial than Catholics? A comparative study among orthodox Dutch believers. *International Journal for the Psychology of Religion*, in press.

Rutjens, B. T., & Heine, S. J. (2016). The immoral landscape? Scientists are associated with violations of morality. *PLoS ONE*, 11(4): e0152798

Rutjens, B. T., & Kay, A. C. *Compensatory Control Theory and the psychological importance of perceiving order* (in press). In M. Bukowski, I. Fritsche, A. Guinote, & M. Kofta (Eds.), *Current Issues in Social Psychology – Coping with lack of control in a social world*. Routledge Psychology Press.

van Elk, M., Rutjens, B. T., van der Pligt, J., & van Harreveld, F. (2016). Priming of supernatural agent concepts and agency detection. *Religion, Brain & Behavior*, 6(1), 4-33.

Rutjens, B. T., van Harreveld, F., van der Pligt, J., van Elk, M., & Pyszczynski, T. (2016). A march to a better world? Religiosity and the existential function of belief in social-moral progress. *International Journal for the Psychology of Religion*, 26(1), 1-18.

van Elk, M., Rutjens, B. T., & van der Pligt, J. (2015). The development of the illusion of control and sense of agency in 7- to -12-year old children and adults. *Cognition*, 145, 1-12.

Meijers, M. H. C., & Rutjens, B. T\*. (2014). Affirming belief in scientific progress reduces environmentally friendly behaviour. *European Journal of Social Psychology*, *44*, 487-495.

van Harreveld, F., Rutjens, B. T., Schneider, I. K., Nohlen, H. U., & Keskinis, K. (2014). In doubt and disorderly: Ambivalence promotes compensatory perceptions of order. *Journal of Experimental Psychology: General*, *143*, 1666-1676.

Rutjens, B. T., van Harreveld, F., & van der Pligt, J. (2013). Step by step: Finding compensatory order in science. *Current Directions in Psychological Science*, *22*, 250-255.

Rutjens, B. T., van Harreveld, F., van der Pligt, J., Kreemers, L. M., & Noordewier, M. K. (2013). Steps, stages, and structure: Finding compensatory order in scientific theories. *Journal of Experimental Psychology: General*, *142*, 313-318.

Rutjens, B. T., van der Pligt, J., & van Harreveld, F. (2012). *Regulating psychological threat: the motivational consequences of threatening contexts*. In K. J. Jonas & T. Morton (eds.), *Restoring civil societies: The psychology of intervention and engagement following crisis (Social issues and interventions)* (pp. 38-56). Malden, MA: Wiley-Blackwell.

Vail, K. E., Juhl, J., Arndt, J., Vess, M., Routledge, C., & Rutjens, B. T. (2012). When death is good for life: Considering the positive trajectories of terror management. *Personality and Social Psychology Review*, *16*, 303-329.

Schneider, I.K., Rutjens, B.T., Jostmann, N.B., & Lakens, D. (2011). Weighty matters: Importance literally feels heavy. *Social Psychological and Personality Science*, *2*, 474-478.

Wojtkowiak, J., & Rutjens, B. T. (2011). The postself and terror management theory: Reflecting on after death identity buffers existential threat. *International Journal for the Psychology of Religion*, *21*, 137-144.

Rutjens, B. T., van der Pligt, J., & van Harreveld, F. (2010). Deus or Darwin: Randomness and belief in theories about the origin of life. *Journal of Experimental Social Psychology*, *46*, 1078-1080.

Rutjens, B. T., van Harreveld, F., & van der Pligt, J. (2010). Yes we can: Belief in progress as compensatory control. *Social Psychological and Personality Science*, *1*, 246-252.

Wojtkowiak, J., Rutjens, B. T., & Venbrux, E. (2010). Meaning making and death: A Dutch survey study. *Archive for the Psychology of Religion*, *32*, 363-373.

Rutjens, B. T., & Loseman, A. (2010). The society-supporting self: System justification and cultural worldview defense as different forms of self-regulation. *Group Processes and Intergroup Relations*, *13*, 241-250.

Rutjens, B. T., van der Pligt, J., & van Harreveld, F. (2009). Things will get better: The anxiety-buffering qualities of progressive hope. *Personality and Social Psychology Bulletin*, *35*, 535-543.

---

\* Equal author contributions

van Harreveld, F., Rutjens, B. T., Rotteveel, M., Nordgren, L. F., & van der Pligt, J. (2009). Ambivalence and decisional conflict as a cause of psychological discomfort: Feeling tense before jumping off the fence. *Journal of Experimental Social Psychology, 45*, 167-173.

### **Manuscripts**

Rutjens, B. T., Heine, S. J., van Harreveld, F., & Sutton, R. Attitudes toward science. *Review paper in preparation.*

Rutjens, B. T., & Sutton, R. Exploring the antecedents of faith in science: religion, conservatism, and morality. *In preparation.*

Rutjens, B. T., Heine, S. J., Schmader, T., van der Lee, R., & van Harreveld, F. The affective and motivational underpinnings of control-threat and order affirmation. *In preparation.*

Rutjens, B. T., & Guinote, A. Power, superstition, and religion. *In preparation.*

Rutjens, B. T., van Harreveld, F., & Cunningham, W. A balance perspective on threat compensation. *In preparation.*

### **Publications in Dutch**

De Dreu, C. K. W., Rutjens, B. T., & van Kleef, G. A. (2016). De veranderende positie van de hoogleraar en de promovendus. In *Pligtsbesef: een geschiedenis van de Nederlandse sociale psychologie*. UvA Sociale Psychologie, Amsterdam.

Rutjens, B. T., & Meijers, M. H. C. (2011). Teveel van het goede: Hoe een sterk geloof in wetenschappelijke vooruitgang duurzaamheid tegenwerkt (Too much of a good thing: The detrimental effects of a strong belief in scientific progress on green attitudes and behavior). In *Jaarboek Sociale Psychologie 2010*, ASPO Press.

Rutjens, B. T., & van der Pligt, J. (2009). Succes alleen is niet genoeg: Standaardverhoging en sociale vergelijking (Success alone is not enough: Standard raising and social comparison). In *Jaarboek Sociale Psychologie 2008*, ASPO Press.

### **Book**

Van Harreveld, F., van der Pligt, J., & Rutjens, B. T. (2013). *Dat kan geen toeval zijn: De psychologie van ons bijgeloof*. Uitgeverij Nieuw Amsterdam, Amsterdam. (Popular science book on the psychology of superstition)

### **Conference presentations and talks**

Rutjens, B. T. (2017, June). TBA. Invited talk at the *New Perspectives on Science and Religion in Society meeting*, Manchester, UK.

Rutjens, B. T., van Harreveld, F., & Cunningham, W. (2016, October). Order Overkill? A balance perspective on threat compensation. Symposium paper presented at the Society

of Experimental Social Psychology (SESP) conference, Santa Monica, California, United States.

Rutjens, B. T. (2016, July). Religion, conservatism, and rejection of science. Paper presented at the Annual Meeting of the International Society of Political Psychology, Warsaw, Poland.

Rutjens, B. T. (2016, April). The functional value of perceiving order and control. Talk at the bi-annual Kurt Lewin Institute (KLI) conference, Zeist, the Netherlands.

Rutjens, B. T., & Heine, S. J. (2015, October). Intuitive morality judgments and moral stereotypes of scientists. Invited talk at Tilburg University, the Netherlands.

Rutjens, B. T. (2015, June). Science as compensatory control. Invited talk at the *Control and Social Motivation Seminar*, Jagiellonian University, Krakow, Poland.

Rutjens, B. T., & Heine, S. J. (2015, April). Intuitive morality judgments and moral stereotypes of scientists. Invited talk at the *Breaking New Ground in the Science-Religion Dialogue Workshop*, University of Texas at Austin, TX, United States. [[link to talk](#)] [[link to interview](#)]

Rutjens, B. T., & Heine, S. J. (2015, April). Intuitive morality judgments and moral stereotypes of scientists. Invited talk at University of Kent, United Kingdom.

Rutjens, B. T., & Heine, S. J. (2015, March). Intuitive morality judgments and moral stereotypes of scientists. Invited talk at Groningen University, the Netherlands.

Rutjens, B. T., & Heine, S. J. (2014, December). The immoral landscape? Intuitive morality judgments of scientists. Paper presented at the annual ASPO conference, Groningen, The Netherlands.

Rutjens, B. T., van Harreveld, F., & van der Pligt, J. (2014, July). The appeal of stage theories in science. Symposium paper presented at the European Association of Social Psychology (EASP) meeting, Amsterdam, The Netherlands.

Rutjens, B. T. (2014, April). Omgaan met willekeur (*Engaging randomness*). Invited talk at *ASPO Blits*, Amsterdam, The Netherlands.

Rutjens, B. T. (2014, January). Finding compensatory order in science. Invited talk at the University of Salzburg, Austria.

Rutjens, B. T., van Harreveld, F., & van der Pligt (2013, October). Finding compensatory order in science. Symposium paper presented at the Society of Experimental Social Psychology (SESP) conference, Berkeley, California, United States.

Rutjens, B. T. (2013, October). Dat kan geen toeval zijn (*The psychology of superstition*). Invited talk at Zeeuws Museum, Middelburg, The Netherlands.

Rutjens, B. T. (2013, April). De psychologische functies van wetenschap en (bij-)geloof (The psychological functions of science, religion, and superstition). Invited talk at the University of Amsterdam Psychology alumni network, The Netherlands.

Rutjens, B. T., van Harreveld, F., van der Pligt, J., Kreemers, L. M., & Noordewier, M. K. (2013, January). Finding compensatory order in scientific stage theories. Poster presented at the 14th Society of Personality and Social Psychology (SPSP) meeting, New Orleans, Louisiana, United States.

Rutjens, B. T., van Harreveld, F., & van der Pligt, J. (2012, September). Step by step: Finding compensatory order in science. Workshop talk at the department of Psychology, *University of British Columbia*, Canada.

Rutjens, B. T. (2012, May). Control-threat and compensation. Invited talk at the Motivation & Social cognition Lab of the *Fuqua School of Business, Duke University*, Durham, United States.

Rutjens, B. T., van der Pligt, J., & van Harreveld, F. (2011, October). Deus or Darwin: Randomness and belief in theories about the origin of life. Symposium paper presented at the Society of Experimental Social Psychology (SESP) conference, Washington D.C., United States

Rutjens, B. T., van Harreveld, F., & van der Pligt, J. (2011, July). Yes we can: Belief in progress as compensatory control. Paper presented at the European Association of Social Psychology (EASP) meeting, Stockholm, Sweden

Rutjens, B. T., van Harreveld, F., van der Pligt, J., & Pyszczynski, T. (2010, September). On cannibals and cutlery: Belief in moral versus technological progress as a shield against existential threat. Paper presented at the annual BPS Social Psychology Section conference, Winchester, United Kingdom.

Rutjens, B. T., van Harreveld, F., & van der Pligt, J. (2010, April). Belief in progress as compensatory control. Paper presented at the bi-annual Kurt Lewin Institute (KLI) conference, Zeist, the Netherlands.

Rutjens, B. T., van Harreveld, F., & van der Pligt, J. (2010, January). Belief in progress as compensatory control. Poster presented at the 11th Society of Personality and Social Psychology (SPSP) meeting, Las Vegas, Nevada, United States.

Rutjens, B. T., van Harreveld, F., & van der Pligt, J. (2009, September). Control and belief in progress. Paper presented at the annual BPS Social Psychology Section conference, Sheffield, United Kingdom.

Rutjens, B. T., & van der Pligt, J. (2008, December). Succes alleen is niet genoeg: Standaardverhoging en sociale vergelijking (Success alone is not enough: Standard raising and social comparison). Paper presented at the annual ASPO conference, Amsterdam, The Netherlands.

### **Chaired symposia**

*The Optimal Balance: Motivation and Behavior as a Function of Order and (un-)Predictability.* Symposium organized at the Society of Experimental Social Psychology (SESP) conference, Santa Monica, California, United States, October, 2016.

*Bridging evolutionary and motivational approaches to culture and cognition.* Symposium organized (with Daniel Balliet) for the Kurt Lewin Institute (KLI) conference, Zeist, the Netherlands, April 2016.

*Perceiving (dis-)order: Multiple perspectives on a fundamental motive.* Preconference organized for the European Association of Social Psychology (EASP) conference, Amsterdam, The Netherlands. July, 2014.

*Keeping grip: Coping with world changes through simplification.* Symposium organized (with Femke van Horen) at the European Association of Social Psychology (EASP) conference, Amsterdam, The Netherlands. July, 2014.

*Engaging disorder: Multiple perspectives on a fundamental motive.* Symposium organized at the Society of Experimental Social Psychology (SESP) conference, Berkeley, California, United States. October, 2013.

## **Teaching**

2016:	Lecturer and course coordinator <i>Cultural psychology</i> (interdisciplinary bachelor)
2013 - present:	Lecturer <i>Current debates in attitudes and decision making</i> (research master)
2015 - present:	Lecturer and course coordinator <i>Measuring attitudes and behaviour</i> (master)
2013 - present:	Guest lecturer <i>Psychology of Religion and Spirituality</i> (bachelor) University of Amsterdam & Radboud University Nijmegen
2006 - present:	Advisor (Research-)Master thesis, bachelor thesis, and internship projects
2013:	Coordinator <i>Experimentation practicum</i> (bachelor)

2010 and 2011: Teacher (practicum)  
Kurt Lewin Institute graduate student workshop on psychophysiological measures

2006–2012: Teacher  
Writing (VRT) and statistic (SPO) courses, research practicum

**Service, committees, and other:**

2016-present: Member of the Psychology Research Master Curriculum Committee, University of Amsterdam

2016: Member of hiring committee for assistant professor function, University of Amsterdam

2016: Member of the 2016 KLI conference program committee

2015: Member of the ASPO conference program and organizing committees

2015-present: Member of the Psychology Research Master Thesis Committee, University of Amsterdam

2013: Member of the ASPO Yearbook editorial board

2012: Recipient of KLI certificate  
Completed the 4-year inter-university graduate teaching and training program provided by the Kurt Lewin Institute (KLI)

2010 and 2011: Member of the ASPO dissertation committee

2010 and 2011: Reviewer for the SPSP graduate student award

**Media selection:**

- 2016:
- NPO Radio: [Item](#) about superstition
  - Phys.org: The anatomy of science denial  
<http://phys.org/news/2016-06-morality-stereotypes-scientiststhe-anatomy-science.html>
  - British Psychological Society: Anti-scientist prejudice  
<http://digest.bps.org.uk/2016/04/anti-scientist-prejudice-theyre-seen-as.html>



- National Public Radio: Scientists Largely Trusted, But Also Seen As 'Inhuman'  
<http://www.npr.org/sections/13.7/2016/04/10/473631771/scientists-largely-trusted-but-also-seen-as-inhuman>
- University of Amsterdam news: Wat is het imago van de wetenschapper?  
<http://www.uva.nl/nieuws-agenda/nieuws/uva-nieuws/nieuws/nieuws/content/folder/2016/04/wat-is-het-imago-van-de-wetenschapper.html>

2015:

- Trouw: Besef van wat eerlijk is verschilt per cultuur  
<http://www.trouw.nl/tr/nl/5009/Archief/archief/article/detail/4190990/2015/11/20/Besef-van-wat-eerlijk-is-verschilt-per-cultuur.dhtml>
- Quest Magazine: Interview about luck and illusory control: Geloof in Geluk  
<http://www.quest.nl/magazine/oktober-2015>
- SBS Australia:  
<http://www.sbs.com.au/news/article/2015/08/13/be-careful-your-love-science-looks-lot-religion>
- National Public Radio (NPR):  
(<http://www.npr.org/sections/13.7/2015/07/27/426727766/15-questions-about-science-and-religion-answered>)
- RTL Nieuws (RTL 4): Interview about superstition  
(<http://www.rtlnieuws.nl/editienl/laatste-videos-editienl/het-regent-wensen>)
- Hallo Nederland (NPO): Interview about superstition  
(<http://www.omroepmax.nl/hallonederland/uitzending/tv/hallo-nederland-vrijdag-13-februari-2015/>)
- Algemeen Dagblad: Interview about superstition  
(<http://www.ad.nl/ad/nl/1012/Nederland/article/detail/3850658/2015/02/13/Vrijdag-de-13de-extreem-veel-pech-of-is-het-bijgeloof.dhtml>)
- Epiphenom: Is belief in moral progress a substitute for religion?  
(<http://www.patheos.com/blogs/epiphenom/2015/02/is-belief-in-moral-progress-a-substitute-for-religion.html>)

2014:

- RTL Nieuws: Interview about lotteries  
(<http://www.rtlnieuws.nl/editienl/laatste-videos-editienl/de-net-niet-bijlmer-miljonairs>)

- Hart van Nederland: Interview about superstition (<http://www.hartvannederland.nl/top-nieuws/2014/bijgeloof-beheerst-de-oranjefan/>)
- RTL Nieuws: Interview about superstition (<http://www.rtlnieuws.nl/editienl/voetballen-op-vrijdag-de-13e-als-dat-maar-goed-gaat>)
- Smithsonian Smartnews: Why environmentalists should keep quiet about geoenvironmentalists (<http://www.smithsonianmag.com/smart-news/why-environmentalists-should-keep-quiet-about-geoenvironmentalists-180952629/?no-ist>)
- Minnesota Public Radio News: How not to teach climate change (<http://www.mprnews.org/story/2014/09/16/how-not-to-teach-climate-change>)
- Pacific Standard: Faith in Scientific Progress Decreases Eco-Friendly Behavior (<http://www.psmag.com/nature-and-technology/faith-scientific-progress-decreases-eco-friendly-behavior-87692>)
- New Zealand listener: Very superstitious <http://www.listener.co.nz/lifestyle/psychology/very-superstitious/>

2013:

- NPO Radio: Interview about superstition (<http://www.npowetenschap.nl/programmas/pavlov/radio/2013/mei/11-05-2013.html>)
- NPO 3FM Radio: Interview about superstition (<http://www.3fm.nl/a/102069>)
- Science: Belief in science (<http://news.sciencemag.org/2013/06/fear-death-makes-people-believers-science?ref=hp>)

2012:

- NPO Radio: Interview about science as compensatory control (<http://www.npowetenschap.nl/programmas/hoe-zo-radio/Uitzendingen/2012/juni/18-06-2012-Wetenschap-schept-orde-in-chaos.html>)
- NPO Radio: Interview about the need for control (<http://www.npowetenschap.nl/programmas/pavlov/radio/2012/oktober/Ontgroening.html>)

2009-2011:

- Editie.nl: Interview about superstition (<http://www.rtlxl.nl/#!/u/d3a40ba3-d3c4-4ee3-a28f-44b72393bd0c>)
- De Volkskrant: Belief in progress as compensatory control (<http://www.volkskrant.nl/dossier-archieff/een-controlefreak-heeft-geen-voortgang-nodig~a979973/>)

- USA Today: Evolutionary theory and compensatory control  
(<http://content.usatoday.com/communities/sciencefair/post/2010/09/god-or-darwin-hard-life-decision/1?loc=interstitialskip#.VOHFPC64I9->)
- Psychology Today: Embracing Darwin in an uncertain world  
(<https://www.psychologytoday.com/blog/explananda/201201/embracing-darwin-in-uncertain-world>)
- Pacific Standard: Fearing death? Think progress!  
(<http://www.psmag.com/business-economics/fearing-death-think-progress-3855>)
- De Volkskrant: Superstition in football  
(<http://www.volkskrant.nl/dossier-wk-voetbal/bijgeloof-tiert-welig-als-spanning-oploopt~a1013350/>)