Dr. Niels G. Mede

Version: 23 November 2026

Wageningen University & Research, Strategic Communication Group

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CURRENT APPOINTMENT

07/25 – present **Assistant Professor of Science Communication**
Wageningen University & Research, Strategic Communication Group, Netherlands
Tenured position within the Academic Career Framework (ACF)

RESEARCH INTERESTS

- Science and environmental communication
- Public criticism and hostility toward science
- Populism
- Survey methodology
- Digital media
- Comparative analysis

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

04/25 – 11/25 **DDC × TrygFonden Academic Fellow**
University of Southern Denmark, Denmark
Fellowship at the Digital Democracy Centre (DDC) for the project "Online harassment of scientists: Investigating bystander perceptions and developing evidence-informed countermeasures through experimental research and co-creation"

01/23 – 06/25 **Senior Research and Teaching Associate**
Department of Communication and Media Research, University of Zurich, Switzerland
Science Communication Division and survey project "Science Barometer Switzerland"

06/24 – 08/24 **Visiting Researcher**
Queensland University of Technology, Australia
Visiting Researcher at the Digital Media Research Centre (DMRC), hosted by Prof. Dr. Axel Bruns

05/23 – 08/23 **Visiting Research Fellow**
University of Oxford, United Kingdom
Visiting Researcher at the Oxford Internet Institute (OII), hosted by Prof. Dr. Ralph Schroeder

07/22 – 12/22 **Postdoctoral Researcher**
Department of Communication and Media Research, University of Zurich, Switzerland
Science Communication Division and survey project "Science Barometer Switzerland"

10/18 – 06/22 **Research and Teaching Assistant**
Department of Communication and Media Research, University of Zurich, Switzerland
Science Communication Division and survey project "Science Barometer Switzerland"

03/22 – 05/22 **Visiting Scholar**
University of Wisconsin—Madison, United States
Honorary Associate in the Research Group "Science, Media and the Public", Department of Life Sciences Communication led by Prof. Dr. Dietram Scheufele and Prof. Dr. Dominique Brossard

06/13 – 12/21 **Freelance Researcher**
Université Libre de Bruxelles, Bern University of Applied Sciences, Berlin-Brandenburg Academy of Sciences and Humanities, GfK, Media in Cooperation and Transition
Survey data analyses, qualitative interviews, UX research, expert reports, meta-analyses

EDUCATION

10/18 – 06/22 **Ph.D., Communication and Media Research (summa cum laude)**
University of Zurich, Switzerland
Thesis: "Science-related populism: Conceptualization, empirical investigation, and implications for science communication"
Supervisor: Prof. Dr. Mike S. Schäfer, co-supervisor: Prof. Dr. Frank Esser

10/16 – 09/18 **M.A., Communication Science (with distinction)**
University of Münster, Germany
Including advanced extracurricular seminars on data analysis (e.g., multivariate statistics)

10/12 – 03/16 **B.A., Media Management (with distinction)**
Hanover University of Music, Drama and Media, Germany
Including exchange semester at Örebro University, Sweden

GRANTS AND FUNDING

09/26 **Consolidating the Evidence: Meta-Analyses on Science Communication, 2027-2030**
Swiss National Science Foundation (Co-PI with Mike S. Schäfer; 480,000 USD)

10/24 **DDC × TrygFonden Fellowship, 2025**
University of Southern Denmark (28,500 USD)

09/24 **Science Barometer Switzerland, 2025-2031**
Swiss National Science Foundation, Gebert Rüf Foundation, Swiss Academies of Arts and Sciences, ETH Board, U of Zurich (Co-PI with Mike S. Schäfer and Julia Metag; 440,000 USD)

06/24 **Travel grants for research visit at Queensland University of Technology**
University of Zurich and Swiss Academy of Humanities and Social Sciences (4,450 USD)

05/24 **Kickstart grant for 1-day retreat and workshop "Well-Being in Academia"**
Department of Communication and Media Research, University of Zurich (5,380 USD)

05/23 **SNSF Scientific Exchanges grant for research visit at the University of Oxford**
Swiss National Science Foundation (14,630 USD)

05/23 **Kickstart grant for research project on 2023 Swiss Federal Election**
Department of Communication and Media Research, University of Zurich (5,500 USD)

10/22 **Acquisition of 239 international collaborators for the TISP project, 2022-2023**
Collaborators' funds (Co-PI, with Viktoria Cologna; 140,000 USD)

03/22 **Competitive travel grant for research visit at the University of Wisconsin—Madison**
University of Zurich (3,630 USD)

11/20 **Kickstart grant for Open Science workshop**
Department of Communication and Media Research, University of Zurich (2,670 USD)

10/16 **Deutschlandstipendium**
Germany Federal Ministry of Education and Research (8,220 USD)

01/15 **Erasmus+ grant**
European Community Action Scheme for the Mobility of University Student of the European Commission (2,670 USD)

AWARDS

06/26	Society for Improving Psychological Science (SIPS) Commendation for *Collabra* article "The Advantage of Big Team Science: Lessons Learned from Cognitive Science"
02/26	2026 Young Scholar Award of the Netherlands – Flanders Communication Association (NeFCA)
11/25	Shortlisted for the 2025 National Open Research Data Prize of the Swiss Academies of Arts and Sciences (with Viktoria Cologna)
10/24	Postdoc Team Award of the University of Zurich (with Viktoria Cologna; 17,400 USD)
09/23	2023 MRS Operations Award "Best Data Collection: Quantitative" (with Bilendi & Respondi and Viktoria Cologna)
04/23	2023 Dissertation Award of the Swiss Association of Communication and Media Research (3,300 USD)

PUBLICATIONS

59 in total; 51 Open Access, 29 Open Data, 30 Open Materials, 15 Preregistered

Thesis

1. **Mede, N. G.** (2022). *Science-related populism: Conceptualization, empirical investigation, and implications for science communication* [Cumulative dissertation]. University of Zurich, Zurich, Switzerland. doi: 10.5167/uzh-219776

Journal Articles (Peer-Reviewed)

46. **Mede, N. G.**, Schäfer, M. S., & Tedaldi, E. (2026). Why research on science communication needs more meta-analyses. *Public Understanding of Science*, Article 09636625261489946. Advance online publication. doi: 10.1177/09636625261489946

45. Egelhofer, J. L., **Mede, N. G.**, Medvecky, F., Carruthers, T. J., Fleerackers, A., Garcia-Guerrero, M., & Okebe, B. (2026). Walking the line: balancing benefits of public engagement against the risks of harassment and attack. *JCOM –Journal of Science Communication*, *25*(4), Article 3677. doi: 10.22323/367720260408065209

44. Fähnrich, B., Almeida, C., Blümel, C. D., Edler, D., Fecher, B., **Mede, N. G.**, & Sokolovska, N. (2026). Scholars under attack — Navigating the dark side of public engagement and science communication in a politicised (online) environment. *JCOM –Journal of Science Communication*, *25*(4), Article 4115. doi: 10.22323/411520260607074432

43. Schäfer, M. S., Füchslin, T., **Mede, N. G.**, & Dvorzhitskaia, D. (2026). One and done? Testing a one-item measure to distinguish audiences of science communication. *Science Communication*, Article 10755470261457074. Advance online publication. doi: 10.1177/10755470261457074

42. **Mede, N. G.**, & Volk, S. C. (2026). Public backlash against science communicators: Conceptualization and qualitative analysis of perceptions, effects, responses, and contextual factors. *Public Understanding of Science*. Advance online publication. doi: 10.1177/09636625261452891

41. Hawkins, I., **Mede, N. G.,** & Chinn, S. (2026). Fertile ground to problematic views? How dark and mainstream social media relate to conspiracy beliefs and fake news. *Humanities and Social Sciences Communications.* Advance online publication. doi: 10.1057/s41599-026-07147-6

40. Vaidis, D. C., Miranda, J. F., Buchanan, E. M., Yang, Y. F., Kowal, M., Schmidt, K., Topor, M., Misiak, M., Miller, R., Protzko, J., Gjoneska, B., Miller, J. K., Exner, A., Azevedo, F., Paruzel-Czachura, M., Mushtaq, F., Oliveira, C., Wagge, J. R., Moor, D. de, **Mede, N.G.**, . . . Pronizius, E. (2026). The advantage of big team science:

Lessons learned from cognitive science. *Collabra: Psychology*, *12*(1), Article 160129. doi: 10.1525/collabra.160129

39. van Lill, M., Joubert, M., Botes, M., **Mede, N. G.**, Guenther, L., Rödder, S., & Cologna, V. (2026). Honesty, transparency, and rigour: A study of public trust in scientists in South Africa. *South African Journal of Science*, *122*(3/4). https://doi.org/10.17159/sajs.2026/21970

38. Rosenberg, Y., Teschner, N., **Mede, N. G.**, & Baram-Tsabari, A. (2026). אמון מועט במדענים, אמון ממוצע במדעני אקלים: עמדות הישראלים בהשוואה בין-לאומית: [Low trust in scientists, average trust in climate scientists: Israelis' attitudes compared internationally]. *אקולוגיה וסביבה [Ecology & Environment]*, *16*(1). Available at: https://magazine.isees.org.il/?p=62052

37. Zils, L., Metag, J., **Mede, N. G.**, & Schäfer, M. S. (2026). Long-term media effects on public attitudes toward science in Switzerland: A panel survey of the Swiss population. *Public Understanding of Science*, *35*(4), 421–433. doi: 10.1177/09636625251400658

36. Pfänder, J., **Mede, N. G.**, & Cologna, V. (2025). Global studies on trust in science suggest new theoretical and methodological directions. *Current Opinion in Psychology*, *67*. doi: 10.1016/j.copsyc.2025.102215

35. **Mede, N. G.**, Cologna, V., Berger, S., C. Besley, J., Brick, C., Joubert, M., W. Maibach, E., Mihelj, S., Oreskes, N., S. Schäfer, M., van der Linden, S., Abdul Aziz, N. I., Abdulsalam, S., Abu Shamsi, N., Aczel, B., Adinugroho, I., Alabrese, E., Aldoh, A., Alfano, M., . . . Zwaan, R. A. (2025). Public communication about science in 68 countries: Global evidence on how people encounter and engage with information about science. *Science Communication*. Advance online publication. doi: 10.1177/10755470251376615

34. Law, K. F., Wang, Z., Elbaek, C. T., Fage-Butler, A., Mitkidis, P., Gkinopoulos, T., Szumowska, E., Czarnek, G., Wojcik, A. D., Fulgsang, S., Jurgiel, D., Dzimińska, M., Warwas, I., Parzuchowski, M., Bialobrzeska, O., Paruzel-Czachura, M., Pypno-Blajda, K., Pantazi, M., Lits, G., . . . **Mede, N. G.** , . . . , Syropoulos, S. (2025). Responsibility for future generations and climate change mitigation: A cross-national study of predictors of pro-environmentalism in Europe. *Journal of Environmental Psychology*, *106*. doi: 10.1016/j.jenvp.2025.102729

33. Stanley, S. K., Ghasemi, O., Kerr, J. R., Ross, R. M., Marques, M. D., Mede, N. G., Berger, S., Alfano, M., Levy, N., Ferreira, M., & Cologna, V. (2025). Community attitudes towards advancing climate justice with climate aid. *Journal of Environmental Psychology*, *106*. doi: 10.1016/j.jenvp.2025.102679

32. Toribio-Flórez, D., Altenmüller, M. S., Douglas, K., Gollwitzer, M., Adinugroho, I., Alfano, M., Apriliawati, D., Azevedo, F., Bertsou, E., Betsch, C., …, **Mede, N. G.**, …, & Wojcik, A. D. (2025). Victims of conspiracies? An examination of the relationship between conspiracy beliefs and dispositional individual victimhood. *European Journal of Social Psychology*. doi: 10.1002/ejsp.70008

31. Cologna, V., Meiler, S., Kropf, C. M., Lüthi, S., **Mede, N. G.**, Bresch, D. N., Lecuona, O., Berger, S., Besley, J., Brick, C., Joubert, M., Maibach, E. W., Mihelj, S., Oreskes, N., Schäfer, M. S., van der Linden, S., . . . Zenklusen, A. (2025). Extreme weather event attribution predicts climate policy support across the world. *Nature Climate Change.* doi: 10.1038/s41558-025-02372-4

30. **Mede, N. G.**, Kobilke, L., Fawzi, N., & Zerback, T. (2025). The climate change generation: Vocal but overconfident? How young adults who overestimate their climate knowledge use social media and engage with others. *Social Media + Society*, *11*(2). doi: 10.1177/20563051251341792

29. Ghasemi, O., Cologna, V., **Mede, N. G.**, Stanley, S. K., Strahm, N., Ross, R., Alfano, M., Kerr, J. R., Marques, M. D., Berger, S., Besley, J. C., Brick, C., Joubert, M., Maibach, E., Mihelj, S., Newell, B. R., Oreskes, N., & Schäfer, M. S. (2025). Gaps in public trust between scientists and climate scientists: a 68 country study. *Environmental Research Letters*, *20*(6), 61002. doi: 10.1088/1748-9326/add1f9

28. Roche, J., Hurley, M., Fowler, K., McConville, A., Taylor, A., **Mede, N. G.**, & Cologna, V. (2025). Science and society in Ireland: examining public trust in scientists against a global background. *Irish Educational Studies*. doi: 10.1080/03323315.2025.2488804

27. **Mede, N. G.**, Villanueva, I. I., & Chen, K. (2025). Communicating scientific norms in the hybrid media environment: A mixed-method analysis of social media engagement with watchdog science journalism. *Journalism & Mass Communication Quarterly*. doi: 10.1177/10776990251334112

26. Zils, L., Wintterlin, F., Metag, J., **Mede, N. G.**, & Schäfer, M. S. (2025). Literate and critical? Characterizing users of alternative scientific media. *Science Communication.* doi: 10.1177/10755470251323525

25. **Mede, N. G.**, Howell, E. L., Schäfer, M. S., Metag, J., Beets, B., & Brossard, D. (2025). Measuring science literacy in a digital world: Development and validation of a multi-dimensional survey scale. *Science Communication*. doi: 10.1177/10755470251317379

24. Stanley, S. K., Ghasemi, O., Ross, R. M., Kerr, J. R., Marques, M. D., **Mede, N. G.**, Berger, S., Alfano, M., Levy, N., Ferreira, M., & Cologna, V. (2025). Anticipatory solastalgia in the Antipodes: Evidence of future-oriented distress about environmental change in Australia and New Zealand. *The Journal of Climate Change and Health*, 100415. doi: 10.1016/j.joclim.2025.100415

23. Cologna, V., **Mede, N. G.**, Berger, S., Besley, J., Brick, C., Joubert, M., Maibach, E. W., Mihelj, S., Oreskes, N., Schäfer, M. S., van der Linden, S., Abdul Aziz, N. I., Abdulsalam, S., Abu Shamsi, N., Aczel, B., Adinugroho, I., Alabrese, E., Aldoh, A., Alfano, M., . . . Zwaan, R. A. (2025). Trust in scientists and their role in society across 68 countries. *Nature Human Behaviour.* doi: 10.1038/s41562-024-02090-5

22. **Mede, N. G.***, Cologna, V.*, Berger, S., Besley, J., Brick, C., Joubert, M., Maibach, E. W., Mihelj, S., Oreskes, N., Schäfer, M. S., van der Linden, S., Abdul Aziz, N. I., Abdulsalam, S., Abu Shamsi, N., Aczel, B., Adinugroho, I., Alabrese, E., Aldoh, A., Alfano, M., . . . Zwaan, R. A. (2025). Perceptions of science, science communication, and climate change attitudes in 68 countries – the TISP dataset. *Scientific Data*, *12*(1), 114. doi: 10.1038/s41597-024-04100-7 **Authors contributed equally*

21. Cologna, V., Freundt, J., **Mede, N. G.**, Howe, L., Bertsou, E.*, Gloor, J.*, Oreskes, N., Knutti, R., & Schäfer, M. S. (2025). How scientists' collective climate advocacy affects public trust in scientists and voting behavior. *Environmental Research Letters*, *20*(1). doi: 10.1088/1748-9326/ad984c **Authors contributed equally*

20. Schäfer, M. S., Kremer, B., **Mede, N. G.**, & Fischer, L. (2024). Trust in science, trust in ChatGPT? How Germans think about Generative AI as a source in science communication. *Journal of Science Communication*, *23*(9), Article A04. doi: 10.22323/2.23090204

19. **Mede, N. G.**, Schäfer, M. S., & Metag, J. (2024). Cognitio populi – Vox populi: Implications of science-related populism for communication behavior. *Communications*, *49*(4), 645–668. doi: 10.1515/commun-2022-0059

18. **Mede, N. G.** (2024). Variations of science-related populism in comparative perspective: A multilevel segmentation analysis of supporters and opponents of populist demands toward science. *International Journal of Comparative Sociology*, *65*(5), 636–663. doi: 10.1177/00207152231200188

17. Cologna, V., Kotcher, J., **Mede, N. G.**, Besley, J., Maibach, E. W., & Oreskes, N. (2024). Trust in climate science and climate scientists: A narrative review. *PloS Climate*, *3*(5). doi: 10.1371/journal.pclm.0000400

16. Bulian, J., Schäfer, M. S., Amini, A., Lam, H., Ciaramita, M., Gaiarin, B., Huebscher, M. C., Buck, C., **Mede, N. G.**, Leippold, M., & Strauss, N. (2024). Assessing large language models on climate information. *Proceedings of the 41st International Conference on Machine Learning, Vienna, Austria*, *PMLR 235*. doi: 10.48550/arXiv.2310.02932

15. **Mede, N. G.,** & Schroeder, R. (2024). The "Greta Effect" on social media: A systematic review of research on Thunberg's impact on digital climate change communication. *Environmental Communication*. Advance online publication. doi: 10.1080/17524032.2024.2314028

14. **Mede, N. G.**, Rauchfleisch, A., Metag, J., & Schäfer, M. S. (2024). The interplay of knowledge overestimation, social media use, and populist ideas: Cross-sectional and experimental evidence from Germany and Taiwan. *Communication Research*. Advance online publication. doi: 10.1177/00936502241230203

13. **Mede, N. G.** (2023). Science-related populism: Conceptualization, empirical investigation, and implications for science communication (dissertation summary). *Studies in Communication Sciences, 23*(2), 383-390. doi: 10.24434/j.scoms.2023.03.4403

12. Eberl, J.-M., Huber, R. A., **Mede, N. G.**, & Greussing, E. (2023). Populist attitudes towards politics and science: How do they differ? *Political Research Exchange, 5*(1). doi: 10.1080/2474736X.2022.2159847

11. **Mede, N. G.,** Schäfer, M. S., Metag, J., & Klinger, K. (2022). Who supports science-related populism? A nationally representative survey on the prevalence and explanatory factors of populist attitudes toward science in Switzerland. *PloS One*, *17*(8). doi: 10.1371/journal.pone.0271204

10. **Mede, N. G.** (2022). Science communication in the face of skepticism, populism, and ignorance: What Don't Look Up tells us about science denial — and what it doesn't. *JCOM –Journal of Science Communication*, *21*(5), C05. doi: 10.22323/2.21050305

9. Bromme, R., **Mede, N. G.**, Thomm, E., Kremer, B., & Ziegler, R. (2022). An anchor in troubled times: Trust in science before and within the COVID-19 pandemic in Germany. *PLoS One, 17*(2). doi: 10.1371/journal.pone.0262823

8. **Mede, N. G.** (2022). Legacy media as inhibitors and drivers of public reservations against science: Global survey evidence on the link between media use and anti-science attitudes. *Humanities & Social Sciences Communications*. doi: 10.1057/s41599-022-01058-y

7. Klinger, K., Metag, J., Schäfer, M. S., Füchslin, T., & **Mede, N. G.** (2022). Are science communication audiences becoming more critical? Reconstructing migration between audience segments based on Swiss panel data. *Public Understanding of Science, 31(5), 553–562.* doi: 10.1177/09636625211057379

6. Wintterlin, F., Hendriks, F., **Mede, N. G.**, Bromme, R., Metag, J., & Schäfer, M. S. (2022). Predicting public trust in science: The role of basic orientations toward science, perceived trustworthiness of scientists, and experiences with science. *Frontiers in Communication*. doi: 10.3389/fcomm.2021.822757

5. **Mede, N. G.,** & Schäfer, M. S. (2022). Science-related populism declining during the COVID-19 pandemic: A panel survey of the Swiss population before and after the Coronavirus outbreak. *Public Understanding of Science, 31*(2), 211–222. doi: 10.1177/09636625211056871

4. **Mede, N. G.**, Schäfer, M. S., & Füchslin, T. (2021). The SciPop Scale for measuring science-related populist attitudes in surveys: Development, test, and validation. *International Journal of Public Opinion Research*, *33*(2), 273–293. doi: 10.1093/ijpor/edaa026

3. **Mede, N. G.**, Schäfer, M. S., Ziegler, R., & Weißkopf, M. (2021). The "replication crisis" in the public eye: Germans' awareness and perceptions of the (ir)reproducibility of scientific research. *Public Understanding of Science, 30(1), 91-102*. doi: 10.1177/0963662520954370

2. **Mede, N. G.**, & Schäfer, M. S. (2020). Science-related populism: Conceptualizing populist demands toward science. *Public Understanding of Science*, *29*(5), 473–491. doi: 10.1177/0963662520924259

1. Kessler, S. H., **Mede, N. G.**, & Schäfer, M. S. (2020). Eyeing CRISPR gene editing: Using eye tracking to assess what lay audiences look for to learn more about CRISPR and genetic engineering on Wikipedia. *Environmental Communication*, *14*(7), 886–903. doi: 10.1080/17524032.2020.1723668

Book Chapters (Editorial Review)

6. Zils, L., Wintterlin, F., Metag, J., **Mede, N. G.**, & Schäfer, M. S. (2026). Capturing alternative news use through surveys: Measurement challenges and implications. In E. Mayerhöffer, M. K. Brems, T. U. Figenschou, & K. A. Ihlebæk (Eds.), *Alternative media in European contexts* (pp. 207–226). Cham, Springer.

5. **Mede, N. G.** (2026). Misinformation and disinformation about science. In D. Fahy & T. P. Newman (Eds.), *Essential concepts of science communication: An A–Z guide* (pp. 124–130). New York, Routledge.

4. **Mede, N. G.** (2021). *Charakteristika der Forschung zu Wirkungen digitaler Wissenschaftskommunikation: Ein Systematic Review der Fachliteratur [Characteristics of research on the effects of digital science*

communication: A systematic literature review]. Wissenschaftspolitik im Dialog No. 17. Berlin, Germany. Berlin-Brandenburg Academy of Sciences and Humanities (BBAW).

3. **Mede, N. G.**, Brucklachner, A., & Heim, M. (2021). Versagen des Journalismus? Medienskepsis und Journalismuswahrnehmung. [Failure of journalism? Media skepticism and perceptions of journalism]. In B. Blöbaum, T. Hanitzsch, & L. Badura (Eds.), *Medienskepsis in Deutschland: Ursachen, Ausprägungen und Konsequenzen* [*Media skepticism in Germany: causes, manifestations and consequences*] (pp. 87–112). Wiesbaden, Germany: Springer VS.

2. **Mede, N. G.**, & Schäfer, M. S. (2020). Kritik der Wissenschaftskommunikation und ihrer Analyse: PUS, PEST, Politisierung und wissenschaftsbezogener Populismus. [Critique of science communication and its analysis: PUS, PEST, politicization and science-related populism]. In H.-J. Bucher (Ed.), *Medienkritik zwischen ideologischer Instrumentalisierung und kritischer Aufklärung* [*Media critique: Between ideological instrumentalization and critical enlightenment*] (pp. 297–314). Cologne: Herbert von Halem.

1. Frischlich, L., **Mede, N. G.**, & Quandt, T. (2020). The markets of manipulation: The trading of social bots on clearnet and darknet markets. In C. Grimme, M. Preuss, & F. W. Takes (Eds.), *Disinformation in Open Online Media: MISDOOM 2019, Hamburg, Germany, February 27 – March 1, 2019, Revised Selected Papers* (pp. 89–100). Cham: Springer. doi: 10.1007/978-3-030-39627-5_8

Reports

1. **Mede, N. G.** (2026). *Attacked, harassed, intimidated: A narrative review of research and action on public backlash against scientists in the Netherlands and beyond.* WetenschapVeilig, Universiteiten van Nederland. doi: 10.5281/zenodo.20446311

Book reviews

1. **Mede, N. G.** (2024). Book review of: Broer et al. (2023). The science-media interface: On the relation between internal and external science communication. De Gruyter. doi: 10.1515/9783110776546. *Medien & Kommunikationswissenschaft*, *72*(2), 213–225. doi: 10.5771/1615-634X-2024-2-213

Recent Preprints

4. **Mede, N. G.**, Metag, J., & Schäfer, M. S. (2026). *Scrutiny, sanctions, and attacks on scholars: Public acceptance and perceived deservingness in Switzerland.* Available at: https://doi.org/10.31235/osf.io/43h8n_v1

3. **Mede, N. G.**, & Frischlich, L. (2026). *Hate speech against scientists can backfire – but so can counterspeech: Evidence from a four-country experiment.* https://doi.org/10.31235/osf.io/7rbaz_v1

2. Siemiątkowski, M., Syropoulos, S., Toribio-Flórez, D., Altenmüller, M. S., Douglas, K., Gollwitzer, M., Bilewicz, M., Cologna, V., Mede, N. G., Adinugroho, I., Apriliawati, D., Betsch, C., Bialobrzeska, O., Calero Valdez, A. S., Czarnek, G., Doell, K. C., Dohle, S., Dubrov, D., Dzimińska, M., . . . **Mede, N. G.** , . . . , Gkinopoulos, T. (2025). *Cultural tightness predicts higher levels of generic and content-specific conspiracy beliefs: Cross-country, correlational and experimental evidence.* Available at: https://doi.org/10.31219/osf.io/6trma_v1

1. Bilewicz, M., Siemiątkowski, M., Soral, W., Marcinkowska, K., **Mede, N. G.**, & Cologna, V. (2024). *The long shadow of war: Assessing the historical effects of World War II losses on contemporary conspiratorial beliefs*. Available at: https://ssrn.com/abstract=4948250

Manuscripts in preparation (draft available upon request)

3. Fawzi, N., Zerback, T., Kobilke, L., **& Mede, N. G.**: Heating up the (opinion) climate? Young adults' perceptions of false balance and media slant as amplifiers of perceived polarization in the climate change debate.

2. Kobilke, L., Fawzi, N., **Mede, N. G.**, & Zerback, T.: Eco-informational media use, media-induced eco-emotions, and climate change activism: What drives the political engagement of the climate change generation?

1. Stubenvoll, M., Schäfer, M. S., **Mede, N. G.**, & Metag, J.: Coping with science-related disinformation: Prevalence and predictors of avoidance, resilience, and counteraction.

INVITED TALKS

26. **Mede, N. G.**, & Cologna, V. (2026). *Public trust in scientists: Insights from a global survey and learnings for Switzerland*. Invited talk at the Lecture Series of the Center for Higher Education and Science Studies (CHESS), 26 November 2026, Zurich, Switzerland.

25. **Mede, N. G.** (2026). *Global Attitudes to Science: Evidence from the TISP Many Labs project and implications for climate policy and prosocial behavior*. Invited talk at the Leibniz Institute for Economic Research (RWI), 22 September 2026, Essen, Germany.

24. **Mede, N. G.** (2026). *Trust in science and science communication across the world*. Invited talk at the Expertsessies of the Nationaal Expertisecentrum Wetenschap en Samenleving (NEWS), 17 May 2026, Utrecht, Netherlands.

23. **Mede, N. G.** (2026). *Public opinion and communication about science: Global evidence from a 68-country survey*. Invited talk at the Centre for Science and Technology Studies (CWTS), Leiden University, 23 January 2026, Leiden, Netherlands.

22. **Mede, N. G.** (2025). *The science-society nexus under public scrutiny: Public perceptions of scientists and their role in society and policy-making*. Invited talk at the Estonian Science for Policy Mini Conference 2025, 11 November 2025, Tallinn, Estonia.

21. Cologna, V., & **Mede, N. G.** (2025). *Is the proclaimed crisis of public trust in science real? Trust in scientists and their role in society across 68 countries*. Invited talk for the Swiss Universities Relations and Information Officers Conference (SUPRIO), 7 March 2025, online.

20. **Mede, N. G.** (2025). *Trust in scientists, their role in society, and public engagement with science across 68 countries*. Invited talk for the Science of Science Communication Scientific Interest Group (SIG) of the National Institutes of Health (NIH), 6 March 2025, online.

19. **Mede, N. G.**, & Cologna, V. (2025). *Trust in scientists and their role in society: A 68-country survey*. Presentation at the Center for Reproducible Science (CRS) at the University of Zurich, 6 March 2025, Zurich, Switzerland.

18. **Mede, N. G.** (2024). *Scientists under attack: Challenges to science communication and ways to respond to them*. Invited talk and panel discussion at the symposium "Academe in the Age of Social Media: Scholarly Inquiry at Risk?" at the Annenberg School for Communication, University of Pennsylvania, 5-6 December 2024, Philadelphia, United States.

17. **Mede, N. G.** (2024). *Digital climate communication: Identifying and addressing challenges across countries and platforms*. Invited talk at the Center for Climate Change Communication at George Mason University, 3 December 2024, Fairfax, United States.

16. **Mede, N. G.** (2024). *Communicating science in digital media: Challenges and potentials across countries and contexts*. Invited talk at the Digital Media Research Centre (DMRC) of the Queensland University of Technology (QUT), 11 July 2024, Brisbane, Australia.

15. **Mede, N. G.** (2024). *The populist challenge to science communication: Comparative evidence from a 67-country survey and potential remedies*. Invited talk in the London Public Understanding of Science Seminar Series of the London School of Economics and Political Science (LSE), 31 January 2024, London, UK.

14. **Mede, N. G.** (2024). *Populistische Kritik an Wissenschaft: Ländervergleichende Befragungsforschung im Many-Labs-Projekt „Trust in Science and Science-Related Populism" (TISP) [Populist criticism of science: Comparative survey research in the Many Labs project "Trust in Science and Science-Related Populism" (TISP)]*. Guest lecture at the University of Münster, 15 January 2024, Münster, Germany.

13. **Mede, N. G.** (2023). *Populist attitudes towards science and how they relate to media use and communication behaviour: Global survey evidence from the TISP Many Labs project*. Invited talk at the Cambridge Social Decision-Making Lab (CSDMLab) of the Department of Psychology at the University of Cambridge, 18 October 2023, online.

12. **Mede, N. G.** (2023). *Populist attitudes towards science across the world: Global survey evidence on communicative antecedents and correlates.* Invited talk at the School of Psychology of the University of Kent, 19 July 2023, Canterbury, UK.

11. **Mede, N. G.** (2023). *Communicating climate change in digital spaces: How sceptical views of science and knowledge overconfidence challenge science communication on social media*. Invited talk at the Oxford Internet Institute of the University of Oxford, 22 June 2023, Oxford, UK. Video recording available at: https://www.oii.ox.ac.uk/news-events/videos/communicating-climate-change-in-digital-spaces-how-sceptical-views-of-science-and-knowledge-overconfidence-challenge-science-communication-on-social-media/

10. **Mede, N. G.** (2023). *The Science Barometer Switzerland: Latest results and new methodological challenges.* Invited talk at the Advisory Board Meeting of the Science Barometer Germany, 31 May 2023, Berlin, Germany.

9. Schäfer, M. S., & **Mede, N. G.** (2023). *Public knowledge and trust in science*. Invited talk at the SNSF Corona Research Conference, 22 March 2023, Thun, Switzerland.

8. **Mede, N. G.** (2022). *Populism scholarship – where are we going, where should we be going, how can we get there?* Invited talk at the symposium "Populism, Polarization, Propaganda in Times of Crisis", 18 October 2022, Zurich, Switzerland.

7. Cologna, V., & **Mede, N. G.** (2022). *Trust in science and science-related populism across the world: Implications for science communication*. Presentation at the Health and Risk Communication Center of the Michigan State University, 9 May 2022, East Lansing, United States.

6. **Mede, N. G.** (2022). *Criticism, skepticism, populism: Public resentments against science and implications for science communication*. Presentation at the Department of Life Sciences Communication, University of Wisconsin—Madison, 29 April 2022, Madison, United States.

5. Cologna, V., & **Mede, N. G.** (2022). *Trust in science and science-related populism: Implications for the role of science in politics and society*. Presentation at the Department of Political Science of the University of Toronto, 25 April 2022, online.

4. **Mede, N. G.** (2021). *Was denkt die Schweiz über die Rolle der Wissenschaft in der Corona-Pandemie? Forschungsbefunde zu öffentlicher Wahrnehmung von Wissenschaft in Krisenzeiten*. [*How does Switzerland view the role of science during the COVID-19 pandemic? Findings on public perceptions of science in times of crisis*]. Presentation at a panel discussion with PD Dr. Christian Althaus at Paulus Academy Zurich, 28 April 2021, online.

3. **Mede, N. G.** (2020). *Social Media im Dialog von Wissenschaft und Gesellschaft: Neue Chancen und hohe Erwartungen. [Social media for dialogue between science and society: New opportunities and high expectations].* Presentation at the Social Media Webinar 2020 of the Swiss Academy of Sciences (SCNAT), 29 October 2020, online.

2. **Mede, N. G.** (2020). *The "replication crisis" in the public eye: Germans' awareness and perceptions of the (ir)reproducibility of scientific research*. Presentation at the ReproducibiliTea Journal Club of the Center for Reproducible Science (CRS) at the University of Zurich, 1 October 2020, online.

1. Kessler, S. H., & **Mede, N. G.** (2019). *Quelle: Wikipedia. Wissenschaftliche Befunde zur digitalen Informationssuche* [*Source: Wikipedia. Scientific findings on digital information search behavior*].

Presentation at the Winterkongress der Digitalen Gesellschaft Schweiz (DigiGes), 23 February 2019, Zurich, Switzerland.

PUBLIC OUTREACH AND ENGAGEMENT (SELECTION)

25. Wissenschaftskommunikation.de (2026). „Antiwissenschaftliche Ansichten können systemische Folgen haben“ [“Anti-science attitudes can have systemic consequences”]. *Interview with **Niels G. Mede***. Available at: https://www.wissenschaftskommunikation.de/antiwissenschaftliche-ansichten-koennen-systemische-folgen-haben-97439/

24. Novaator (2025). Teaduskommunikatsiooni uurija: täielik usaldus nullib demokraatia mõtte [“Science communication researcher: complete trust undermines the idea of democracy”]. *Interview with **Niels G. Mede***. Available at: https://novaator.err.ee/1609858761/teaduskommunikatsiooni-uurija-taielik-usaldus-nullib-demokraatia-motte

23. Wissenschaftskommunikation.de (2025). „Vertrauen ist ein komplexes Konstrukt“ [“Trust is a complex construct”]. *Interview with **Niels G. Mede**.* Available at: https://www.wissenschaftskommunikation.de/vertrauen-ist-ein-komplexes-konstrukt-83223/

22. Mede, N.G. (2025). Niels Mede, University of Zurich – Is there a crisis of trust in science? Audio essay for the National Public Radio (NPR) show “The Academic Minute”. Available at: https://academicminute.org/niels-mede-university-of-zurich-is-there-a-crisis-of-trust-in-science/

21. Joubert, M., **Mede, N. G.**, Cologna, V., & Ansah, P. O. (2025). A positive picture of Africans’ trust in scientists. *Nature Africa.* Available at: https://www.nature.com/articles/d44148-025-00058-9

20. Marques, M., **Mede, N. G.**, Cologna, V., & Leviston, Z. (2025). Most of us trust scientists, shows a survey of nearly 72,000 people worldwide. *Article for The Conversation*. Available at: https://theconversation.com/most-of-us-trust-scientists-shows-a-survey-of-nearly-72-000-people-worldwide-246252

19. SciComm Conversations (2024). Measuring trust in scientists. Guests: Dr Viktoria Cologna and Dr **Niels Mede**. *Podcast interview for the official podcast of the EU-funded project COALESCE*. Available at: https://coalesceproject.eu/2024/12/11/scicomm-conversations-s01e05/

18. Read Them Sideways (2024). Episode 8: Science-related populism with **Niels Mede**. *Podcast interview for the official podcast of the Digital Media Research Centre at Queensland University of Technology*. Available at: https://open.spotify.com/episode/5YMzcIAAZWppGfEh03beJf?si=b0d9878eafa44466

17. **Mede, N. G.** (2024). My science communication recommendation: AI-based climate communication with “Climate Answers” by the Washington Post. *Article* for *DUZ – Magazin für Wissenschaft und Gesellschaft*, *8*, 41.

16. **Mede, N. G.**, & Hendriks, F. (2024). „Auch die Forschung zur Wissenschaftskommunikation verdient Gehör!“ [“Science communication research deserves to be heard!”]. *Article for wissenschaftskommunikation.de.* Available at: https://www.wissenschaftskommunikation.de/auch-die-forschung-zur-wissenschaftskommunikation-verdient-gehoer-76731/

15. Elephant in the Lab (2023). Populism, science and public discourse. *Interview with **Niels G. Mede**.* Available at: https://elephantinthelab.org/populism-science-and-public-discourse-an-interview-with-niels-mede/

14. Wissenschaft im Dialog (2023). Nachgefragt bei Niels G. Mede. Nachgefragt: 17 Fragen und 17 Antworten an Wissenschaftskommunikator*innen. *Interview with **Niels G. Mede**.* Available at: https://wissenschaft-im-dialog.de/blog/nachgefragt-bei-niels-mede/

13. **Mede, N. G.** (2023). Rethink science communication for the post-pandemic era. *Article for the UNESCO Inclusive Policy Lab.* Available at: https://en.unesco.org/inclusivepolicylab/analytics/rethink-science-communication-post-pandemic-era

12. Wissenschaftskommunikation.de (2022). „Das öffentliche Vertrauen in Wissenschaft ist in Deutschland und der Schweiz hoch“ [“Public trust in science in Germany and Switzerland is high”]. *Interview with **Niels G. Mede** and Prof. Dr. Julia Metag.* Available at: https://www.wissenschaftskommunikation.de/das-oeffentliche-vertrauen-in-wissenschaft-ist-in-deutschland-und-der-schweiz-hoch-63833/

11. Fast Forward Science (2022). Fake it until you make it?! – Über Desinformationen, Social Media & Wisskomm. [Fake it until you make it?! – On disinformation, social media and science communication]. *Twitter Spaces Discussion with **Niels G. Mede**, Teresa Weikmann, and Jacob Beautemps*. Available at: https://fastforwardscience.de/en/2022/12/fake-it-until-you-make-it-ueber-desinformationen-social-media-wisskomm/

10. **Mede, N. G.** (2022). Wer braucht schon die Experten? Wissenschaft in Zeiten von Populismus, Falschinformationen und Verschwörungstheorien. [Who needs experts? Science in times of populism, misinformation, and conspiracy theories]. *Keynote lecture at the “Nature of Science Week” at the Rämibühl Realgymnasium (secondary school)*, 3 October 2022, Zurich, Switzerland.

9. Radio SRF 2 Kultur (2022). SRF Wissenschaftsmagazin: Twitter – Exodus der Wissenschaft [SRF science magazine: Twitter – science’s exodus]. *Interview with **Niels G. Mede***. Available at: https://www.srf.ch/audio/wissenschaftsmagazin/ausgetwittert?id=12289825?t=6m04s

8. **Mede, N. G.** (2022). Partizipative Wissenschaftskommunikation: Promises and Pitfalls [Participatory science communication: Promises and pitfalls]. *Article for wissenschaftskommunikation.de*. Available at: https://www.wissenschaftskommunikation.de/partizipative-wissenschaftskommunikation-promises-and-pitfalls-56581/

7. Hendriks, F., Hoffmann, E., Ziegler, R., & **Mede, N. G.** (2021). Das Wisskomm-Quartett, Episode 8. Das Wissenschaftsbarometer 2021 [The science communication quartet, episode 8. The Science Barometer 2021]. *Podcast of Wissenschaft im Dialog.* Available at: https://www.wissenschaft-im-dialog.de/projekte/wisskomm-quartett/folge-8-wissenschaftsbarometer/

6. Rádio Renascença (2021). Negacionistas podem tomar “teorias da conspiração como conhecimento científico legítimo” [Denialists can consider “conspiracy theories as legitimate scientific knowledge”]. *Interview with **Niels G. Mede***. Available at: https://rr.sapo.pt/especial/pais/2021/08/12/negacionistas-podem-confiar-na-ciencia-mas-talvez-entendam-teorias-da-conspiracao-como-conhecimento-cientifico-legitimo/249243/

5. Eberl, J.-M., Greussing, E., Huber, R. A., & **Mede, N. G.** (2021). Wissenschaftsbezogener Populismus: Eine österreichische Bestandsaufnahme. [Science-related populism in Austria: Taking stock]. *Article for the Vienna Center for Electoral Research blog.* Available at https://viecer.univie.ac.at/corona-blog/corona-blog-beitraege/blog124/

4. **Mede, N. G.**, & Schäfer, M. S. (2020). Wohlwollende Bewertung: Befragungsergebnisse zur öffentlichen Wahrnehmung der „Replikationskrise“ in Deutschland. [Favorable evaluation: Survey results on public perceptions of the “replication crisis” in Germany]. *Article in Forschung & Lehre* (12), 990–991.

3. **Mede, N. G.** (2020). “The people have had enough of experts!” How to understand populist challenges to science. *Article for the Public Understanding of Science Blog.* Available at: https://sagepus.blogspot.com/2020/06/the-people-have-had-enough-of-experts.html

2. **Mede, N. G.** et al. (2019). Exhibition booth “Between fact and fake: Communication in the digital age” at science fair “Scientifica – Zürcher Wissenschaftstage”. *Lead responsibility (development of interactive games, information material, multimedia presentation, supervision of booth personnel)*. 30 August – 1 September 2019, Zurich, Switzerland.

1. Wissenschaftskommunikation.de (2019). „Es wird immer bedeutsamer zuzuhören“ [“It is becoming increasingly important to listen”]. *Interview with **Niels G. Mede***. Available at: https://www.wissenschaftskommunikation.de/es-wird-immer-bedeutsamer-zuzuhoeren-24453/

MEDIA COVERAGE (SELECTION)

Knack (1 October 2026). Is er toch nog vertrouwen in de wetenschap? 'Tijdens de pandemie werd er onvoldoende rekening gehouden met twijfels bij het publiek'. Available at: https://www.knack.be/nieuws/wetenschap/is-er-dan-toch-nog-vertrouwen-in-de-wetenschap/

Science & Vie (12 July 2026). La confiance dans la science reste élevée dans le monde, mais elle se fissure chez les électeurs de droite. Available at: https://www.science-et-vie.com/societe/contrairement-aux-idees-recues-la-confiance-dans-la-science-ne-se-serait-pas-effondree-revele-une-etude-sur-72-000-personnes-248717.html

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Times Higher Education (16 April 2026). Increase support for public-facing academics, universities urged. Available at: https://www.timeshighereducation.com/news/increase-support-public-facing-academics-universities-urged

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Forbes (24 August 2025). The clash between science and common sense through a weather lens. Available at: https://www.forbes.com/sites/marshallshepherd/2025/08/24/the-clash-between-science-and-common-sense-through-a-weather-lens/

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The Conversation (3 July 2025).Experiencing extreme weather and disasters is not enough to change views on climate action, study shows. Available at: https://theconversation.com/experiencing-extreme-weather-and-disasters-is-not-enough-to-change-views-on-climate-action-study-shows-260308

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TEACHING AND SUPERVISION

2026	PhD Co-Supervision *Summer V. Skillen, Wageningen University & Research*
2026	"Risk Communication" *Course coordinator, Bachelor level, Wageningen University & Research*
	"Life Sciences for Communication Scientists" *Course coordinator, Bachelor level, Wageningen University & Research*
	"Applied Consumer Studies" *Tutor and examiner, Bachelor level, Wageningen University & Research*
	"Science Communication: Promises and Pitfalls in the Digital World" *Course coordinator, Bachelor level elective, Wageningen University & Research*
	Thesis supervision *Master level (3 students), University of Amsterdam*
2025	"Applied Consumer Studies" *Tutor and examiner, Bachelor level, Wageningen University & Research*
	Thesis supervision *Bachelor level (7 students) and Master level (1 student), University of Zurich*
2024 – present	PhD Co-Supervision *Daria Dvorzhitskaia, University of Zurich*
2024	"Comparing science communication across countries: Secondary analyses of population surveys" *Bachelor-level research seminar, University of Zurich*
	"Reception and effects of digital science communication" *Master-level lecture, University of Zurich*
	Thesis supervision *Master level (2 students), University of Zurich*
2023	"Hate speech in digital media" *Master-level research seminar, University of Zurich*
	Thesis supervision (5 students) *Bachelor level (5 students) and Master level (2 students), University of Zurich*
2022	"Science communicators' views of public criticism of science" *Bachelor-level research seminar, University of Zurich*
	Thesis supervision *Bachelor level (7 students) and Master level (1 student), University of Zurich*
2021	"Media use and public opinion during the COVID-19 pandemic" *Bachelor-level research seminar, University of Zurich*
	Thesis supervision *Bachelor level (5 students), University of Zurich*

2020	"What does the public think about science? Secondary analyses of population surveys" *Bachelor-level research seminar, University of Zurich*
	Thesis supervision *Bachelor level (7 students), University of Zurich*
2019	"Science communication and populism" *Bachelor-level research seminar, University of Zurich*
	"The relationship of science and journalism in times of alternative facts and fake science" *Bachelor-level seminar, University of Zurich*

SERVICE TO PROFESSION

06/26 – present	Member of Sounding Board "Impact Evaluation" at Nationaal Expertisecentrum Wetenschap en Samenleving (NEWS)
02/26 – present	Associate Editor of *Environmental Communication*
02/26 – present	Member of the Wageningen Young Academy (WYA)
11/25 – present	Data Steward of the Strategic Communication Group at Wageningen University & Research
09/25 – present	Fellow of the Wageningen School of Social Sciences (WASS)
07/25	Invited expert at the Engagement Labs workshop, hosted by Wellcome Trust
06/25 – present	Secretary of the Environmental Communication Division of the International Communication Association
05/25 – present	Member of advisory board of SCM – Studies in Communication and Media
05/25 – present	Vice Chair of the Science Communication Section of the German Communication Association
04/25 – present	Organizing committee member for the Annual Meetings of the Science Communication Working Group "Siggener Kreis"
11/24	Invited expert at co-creation workshop within Horizon Europe Project VERITY
09/23 – present	Expert respondent at the PhD workshops of the Science Communication Section of the German Communication Association
09/23 – 06/25	Member of the admissions committee of the Master program "Internet & Society" of the Department of Communication and Media Research (IKMZ) of the University of Zurich
05/23 – 06/25	Social media manager of the Department of Communication and Media Research (IKMZ) of the University of Zurich
05/23 – 04/25	Chair of the Science Communication Section of the German Communication Association
09/22	Invited expert at roundtable on "Confidence in Research 2022", a collaborative research project by Economist Impact and Elsevier, hosted by the Körber-Stiftung
01/22 – present	Member of the ORCID Researcher Advisory Council
09/20 – present	Fellow of the Center for Reproducible Science and Research Synthesis (CRS), University of Zurich
09/21 – 07/22	Co-Organizer of PhD Clubs at Department of Communication and Media Research (IKMZ), University of Zurich
02/19 – 05/23	Early Career Representative of the Science Communication Section of the German Communication Association (with Dr. Sarah Kohler)

Award jury member for the *2024 Best Article Award of Studies in Communication Sciences (SComS)*, *2025 Best Paper Award of SCM – Studies in Communication and Media*, *2026 Zukunftswerkstatt Workshop of the Rhine-Main Universities*, *2026 Top Paper Awards of the ICA Environmental Communication Division*

Reviewer for *Annals of the International Communication Association; Big Data & Society; BMC Medical Ethics; British J of Politics and International Relations; Climatic Change; Communication Research; Czech Science Foundation (GAČR), German Communication Association (DGPuK); Environmental Communication; Environmental Psychology Research; European J of Health Communication; Harvard Kennedy School Disinformation Review; Humanities & Social Sciences Communications; International Communication Association (ICA); Information, Communication & Society; International J of Communication; International J of Comparative Sociology; International J of Health Policy and Management; International J of Public Opinion Research; Journalism; J of Applied Social Psychology; JCOM – Journal of Science Communication; J of Behavioral Medicine; Journalism; Mass Communication and Society; Media and Communication; Medien Journal; Nature Climate Change; Nature Communications; Nature Human Behaviour; Netherlands–Flanders Communication Association (NeFCA); PLOS One; Politics and Governance; Pubic Understanding of Science; Science Communication; SCM – Studies in Communication and Media; Social Media + Society; Swiss National Science Foundation (SNSF); Swiss Political Science Review; Trends in Cognitive Sciences*

Member of the *International Communication Association (ICA), European Communication Research and Education Association (ECREA), Public Communication of Science & Technology Network (PCST), Netherlands–Flanders Communication Association (NeFCA), German Communication Association (DGPuK), Society for the Psychological Study of Social Issues (SPSSI), Global Media Studies Network, Many Labs Climate Consortium, Digital Society Initiative at the University of Zurich (DSI), Open Science Community Wageningen at Wageningen University & Research (WUR)*

Wageningen, 23 November 2026 *Niels G. Mede*