

Benjamin Lebrun

PhD Candidate in Psychology

in LinkedIn  ResearchGate  GoogleScholar  ORCID

📍 University of Canterbury, New Zealand ✉ benjamin.lebrun@pg.canterbury.ac.nz

Profile

French neuropsychologist and PhD candidate in Psychology. My research explores how people perceive phantom costs in HRI, including attributions of negative intentions and risks. I specialise in cognitive and social psychology, with a background in neuropsychocognitive psychology. My career goal is to become a University Professor.

Academic Experience

Teaching Assistant in Psychology <i>University of Canterbury</i>	<i>Christchurch, NZ</i>
◦ “Cognition” (200-level paper)	<i>2023 – 2024</i>
◦ “Introductory Cognitive and Behavioural Neuroscience” (200-level paper)	<i>2024</i>
◦ “Neuroscience and Neurological Disorders” (300-level paper)	<i>2025</i>
Research Engineer <i>SCALab</i>	<i>Lille, France</i> <i>2021 – 2022</i>
◦ Study design for SOBARAG project.	
Research Internship <i>SCALab</i>	<i>Lille, France</i> <i>2021 - 2022</i>
◦ Project: physiological variations during the observation of different types of gestures.	
◦ Responsibilities: Managed experimental setup, conducted physiological data collection using BIOPAC and EYELINK, and performed data correction.	

Clinical Experience

Neuropsychologist <i>Hospital of Boulogne-sur-Mer</i>	<i>Boulogne-sur-Mer, France</i> <i>Sept. – Oct. 2022</i>
◦ Geriatric population. Neuropsychological assessments.	
Clinical Internship <i>Department of Pediatric Oncology, Gustave Roussy Institute</i>	<i>Villejuif, France</i> <i>2021 – 2022</i>
◦ Young population with brain tumors. Neuropsychological assessments.	
Clinical Internship <i>Memory Consultations, Hospital of Douai</i>	<i>Douai, France</i> <i>2021 – 2022</i>
◦ Geriatric population. Neuropsychological assessments.	

Education

PhD Candidate in Psychology <i>University of Canterbury</i>	<i>New Zealand</i> <i>2023 – 2026</i>
◦ Supervisors: Andrew Vonasch and Christoph Bartneck.	
◦ Project: Phantom Costs Perception and Perceived Plausibility in HRI.	
Master of Integrated Psychology <i>University of Minho</i>	<i>Portugal</i> <i>2020 – 2022</i>
◦ GPA: 4.0/4.0 or 9.0/9.0	

- Focus on research in cognitive and social psychology using physiological data. Use of PsychoPy.
- Supervisors: Tatjana Nazir and Adriana Sampaio.
- Project: Perceiving Social Beings in Artificial Agents.

Master of Psychology of Neurocognitive Processes and Affective Sciences
University of Lille

France
2020 – 2022

- GPA: 3.85/4.0 or 8.432/9.0 ([certificate link](#))
- Supervisor: Tatjana Nazir.
- Project: Perceiving Social Beings in Artificial Agents.

Bachelor of Psychology
University of Lille

France
2018 – 2020

- Highest honours ([certificate link](#))
- Supervisor: Loris Schiaratura.
- Project (2020): Emotional Facial Micro-Expressions in Alzheimer's Disease.

School of Medicine
University of Lille

France
2016 – 2018

Publications

- [1] **Benjamin Lebrun**, Christoph Bartneck, and Andrew Vonasch. “Phantom Costs in Human-Robot Interaction: A Replication Study”. In: *Proceedings of the 2025 ACM/IEEE International Conference on Human-Robot Interaction*. HRI '25. Melbourne, Australia: IEEE Press, 2025, pp. 1037–1041.
- [2] **Benjamin Lebrun**, Sharon Temtsin, Andrew Vonasch, and Christoph Bartneck. “Detecting the corruption of online questionnaires by artificial intelligence”. In: *Frontiers in Robotics and AI* 10 (2024). ISSN: 2296-9144. DOI: [10.3389/frobt.2023.1277635](https://doi.org/10.3389/frobt.2023.1277635). URL: <https://www.frontiersin.org/journals/robotics-and-ai/articles/10.3389/frobt.2023.1277635>.
- [3] **Benjamin Lebrun**, Andrew Vonasch, and Christoph Bartneck. *Too good to be true: People reject free gifts from robots because they infer bad intentions*. 2024. arXiv: [2404.07409](https://arxiv.org/abs/2404.07409) [cs.HC]. URL: <https://arxiv.org/abs/2404.07409>.
- [4] Tatjana A. Nazir, **Benjamin Lebrun**, and Bing Li. “Improving the acceptability of social robots: Make them look different from humans”. In: *PLOS ONE* 18.11 (2023), e0287507. ISSN: 1932-6203. DOI: [10.1371/journal.pone.0287507](https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0287507). URL: <https://dx.plos.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0287507>.

Presentations

HRI 2025 Conference

[Short talk + Poster] Phantom Costs in HRI: a Replication Study.

Melbourne, Australia
March 2025

New Zealand Psychological Society Conference

[Poster] Too good to be true: People reject free gifts from robots because they infer bad intentions.

Christchurch, NZ
September 2024

Exhibit your Thesis - University of Canterbury

[Poster] Epistemic vigilance in HRI.

Christchurch, NZ
August 2024

European Society for Cognitive Psychology and Conference of Embodied and Situated Language Processing (ESLP)

[Poster] Improving the acceptability of social robots: make them look different from humans.

Lille, France
August 2022

Service to the Community

Conference Organisation

- **HRI 2025** - Student Volunteer Chair *Melbourne, Australia*
- **HRI 2024** - Student Volunteer Chair *Denver, Colorado, USA*
- **ESLP 2022** - Support STAFF *Lille, France*

Reviews

- **International Conference on HRI**: 3
- **International Conference on HAI**: 2
- **International Journal of Social Robotics**: 4
- **Australian Conference on HCI (OzCHI)**: 1
- **International Conference on Affective Computing and Intelligent Interaction (ACII)**: 1

Academic Leadership

- **Alumni President** *2021 – 2022*
University of Lille, France
- **Presentation of Master's** *March 2022*
Cognitive Science Forum, France

Skills

Languages: French (native) English (fluent), Portuguese (good), German (previously fluent)

Certificate: Introduction to Programming with MatLab

Coding: HTML, E-Prime, PsychoPy, R

Fundings, Grants, and Scholarships

2023 - 2026: University Doctoral Scholarship

2022: Research Mobility Grant supported by the French Government through the Program “Investissements d’avenir”

Prizes and Awards

2025 – Honorable Mention | HRI’25

Pioneer Paper: “Skepticism about Robots’ Implausible Statements” (unpublished)

2025 – Research Student Publication Prize | University of Canterbury

Hobbies

Meteorites, fossils, minerals (Société Astronomique de France ex-member) | Running | Coffee latte art

Referees

Andrew Vonasch

PhD Thesis Main Supervisor
University of Canterbury
Psychology, Speech, and Hearing
[Email](#)

Christoph bartneck

PhD Thesis Co-Supervisor
University of Canterbury
Computer Science & Software Eng.
[Email](#)

Tatjana Nazir

Master’s Thesis Supervisor
University of Lille
SCALab
[Email](#)