GRÉGOIRE DARCY

PhD Candidate in Cognitive Science
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RESEARCH SUMMARY

Why do we so often misjudge other people, and what does it cost our institutions? I study the intuitive theories people hold about human nature (how trustworthy, cooperative and self-controlled others are), why these beliefs are systematically miscalibrated, and how they shape the norms and policies we support. Combining cross-cultural surveys, behavioral experiments and an evolutionary approach to social cognition, my work shows that trust is miscalibrated across cultures and social classes, and that people who cooperate less are the ones who push for stricter cooperative norms. A second line of research, which has informed French public policy, examines misinformation: who falls for it, how the professionals fighting it perceive the threat, and which public responses actually work.

EDUCATION

2024–2027 **PhD in Cognitive Science**
ENS-PSL, Institut Jean Nicod (CNRS, ENS-PSL, EHESS)
Thesis (working title): *(Mis)judging others: Folk beliefs about human nature, from cognition to policy*.
Expected September 2027.
Supervisors: Jean-Baptiste André and Nicolas Baumard (CNRS)

2023–2024 **Master's in Private Law and Legal Theory**, Université Paris 1

2022–2024 **Master's in Cognitive Science**, ENS-PSL, EHESS and Université Paris Cité

2020–2024 **Master's in Public Administration and Public Policy**, ENS Rennes and Sciences Po Rennes

2020–2024 **Élève normalien**, ENS Rennes (selective grande école); ranked 1st nationally at entrance

RESEARCH POSITIONS

2025–present **Axis Assistant**, Sciences Po, LIEPP (Democracy Evaluation Axis)

2023–2024 **Research Intern**, ENS-PSL, Paris, with Nicolas Baumard and Hugo Mercier

SELECTED PUBLICATIONS

BOOK

2026 **Darcy, G.** (2026). *La désinformation* [Disinformation]. La Découverte.

PEER-REVIEWED JOURNAL ARTICLES

2026 **Darcy, G.**, Karabegovic, M., & Mercier, H. (2026). The property in intellectual property: Reputation is harder to share than ideas. *Cognitive Science, 50*, Article e70192. https://doi.org/10.1111/cogs.70192

2026 **Darcy, G.**, & Altay, S. (2026). Disinformation in practice: Threats, actors, mechanisms, and constraints according to practitioners. *Harvard Kennedy School (HKS) Misinformation Review*. https://doi.org/10.37016/mr-2020-213

2026 **Darcy, G.** (2026). Du laboratoire à la loi : la jurisprudence expérimentale au service de la légistique [From lab to law: Experimental jurisprudence in the service of legislative drafting]. *Revue Droit-Économie-Management*, (1).

MANUSCRIPTS UNDER REVIEW

2025 **Darcy, G.**, Fitouchi, L., Thouzeau, V., André, J.-B., & Chevallier, C. (2025). *Trust miscalibration across cultures and social classes* [Manuscript submitted for publication]. PsyArXiv. Under review at *Nature Communications*.

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2026 Dubourg, E., Thouzeau, V., Freynet, R., **Darcy, G.**, Beuchot, T., Noël, N., Chevallier, C., & Baumard, N. (2026). *Personality structure predicts story preferences across 23 countries* [Manuscript submitted for publication]. PsyArXiv.

MANUSCRIPTS IN PREPARATION

In prep. **Darcy, G.**, Fitouchi, L., André, J.-B., & Baumard, N. (in preparation). *The paradox of cultural tightness: Low-cooperation individuals promote high-cooperation norms*. Presented at EHBEA 2025.

In prep. **Darcy, G.**, Baumard, N., & André, J.-B. (in preparation). *Politicians' naive theories of human nature and support for coercive policy*. Registered report, pre-data collection.

In prep. **Darcy, G.** (in preparation). *Misinformation susceptibility in the armed forces: News discernment among French military personnel*.

OTHER ARTICLES

2026 **Darcy, G.** (2026). Désinformation en France : sortir de la spirale de la défiance [Disinformation in France: Escaping the spiral of mistrust]. *Futuribles*, (474), 21–44. https://doi.org/10.3917/futur.474.0021

GRANTS AND AWARDS

2024 Three-year salaried doctoral contract reserved for ENS students, ENS Rennes

2024 Be-sample competitive research grant for a cross-cultural behavioral study

2021 Grand Prix de la Pédagogie Économique (national prize for economics education), 1st prize

SELECTED TALKS

2026 **Darcy, G.** (2026). *Quelles politiques publiques pour lutter contre la désinformation ?* [Which public policies can counter disinformation?] [Invited talk]. Office of the President of the French Republic, Élysée Palace, Paris, France.

2026 **Darcy, G.** (2026). *Désinformation : anatomie d'une notion* [Disinformation: Anatomy of a concept] [Invited talk]. Forum for Information Integrity (Forum pour l'intégrité informationnelle), French Senate, Paris, France.

May 2026 **Darcy, G.** (2026, May). *Trust miscalibration across cultures and social classes* [Conference presentation]. 37th Annual Meeting of the Human Behavior and Evolution Society (HBES), Mohammed VI Polytechnic University (UM6P), Rabat, Morocco.

May 2026 **Darcy, G.**, Karabegovic, M., & Mercier, H. (2026, May). *The property in intellectual property* [Conference presentation]. Cultural Evolution Society Conference, held jointly with HBES, UM6P, Rabat, Morocco.

TEACHING

2025–present **Public Policies Against Disinformation**, ENS-PSL, CIPCEA Master's program (seminar director)

2024–present **Psychology of Public Policy**, Master's level, ENS-PSL, Paris Dauphine-PSL and Sciences Po

2026 **Psychology of Policies, Politicians and Politics** (extended course), Sciences Po

2022–present **Economic and Social Issues**; **Cognitive Science Applied to Information Warfare**, French Army (EMSST, EDG-T)

2025–2026 Invited lectures at Sciences Po (Master's and Research Master's) and ENS-PSL (Master's)

POLICY EXPERTISE

2026 Hearing by the French Digital Council on democratic resilience in the age of AI

2025–2026 Policy notes and an invited talk for the Office of the President of the French Republic

2024–present Expert missions for VIGINUM, the Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs, ARCOM and ARCEP

LANGUAGES AND MEMBERSHIPS

LANGUAGES French (native), English (fluent)

SOCIETIES Human Behavior and Evolution Society (HBES); Cultural Evolution Society (CES), 2026

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