GRÉGOIRE DARCY

PhD Candidate in Cognitive Science
Institut Jean Nicod (CNRS, ENS-PSL, EHESS) · École normale supérieure, Paris

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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.

SOCIAL COGNITION · TRUST AND COOPERATION · MORAL AND SOCIAL NORMS · FOLK THEORIES OF HUMAN NATURE · MISINFORMATION · BEHAVIORAL PUBLIC POLICY

EDUCATION

2024–2027 **PhD in Cognitive Science (expected September 2027)**
ENS-PSL, Institut Jean Nicod (CNRS, ENS-PSL, EHESS), Evolution and Social Cognition team
Thesis (working title): *(Mis)judging others: Folk beliefs about human nature, from cognition to policy*
Supervisors: Jean-Baptiste André (CNRS) and Nicolas Baumard (CNRS)
Thesis committee: Lou Safra (Sciences Po), Elise Huillery (Université Paris Dauphine-PSL), Jean-Pierre Menanteau (Inspectorate General of Finance)

2024–2025 **Certificate in Data Science and Artificial Intelligence**
Université PSL, 30 ECTS

2023–2024 **Master's in Private Law and Legal Theory**
Université Paris 1 Panthéon-Sorbonne, after a Master's year 1 in Business Law (2021–2022)

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 (salaried trainee civil servant)**
École normale supérieure (ENS) de Rennes, a highly selective French grande école

2018–2021 **Bachelor's Degrees**

- **Law**, Université Paris II Panthéon-Assas (years 1–2) and Université de Rennes 1 (year 3), 2018–2021; ranked 1st in cohort in years 1 and 2, 2nd of 36 in year 3
- **Economics and Management**, Université Paris-Saclay (final year, 2020–2021), highest honors
- **Law, Economics and Management (DEM)**, ENS Rennes and Université de Rennes 1 (2020–2021), part of the Magistère honors program

2018–2020 **Preparatory Classes for the ENS Entrance Exam (Law and Economics)**
Lycée Blomet, Paris; two-year intensive program (classe préparatoire); ranked 1st in class in year 2

RESEARCH POSITIONS

2025–present **Axis Assistant, Democracy Evaluation Axis**
Sciences Po, Laboratory for Interdisciplinary Evaluation of Public Policies (LIEPP)
With Lou Safra and Patrick Le Lidec

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2023–2024 **Research Intern**
École normale supérieure – PSL, Paris; Institut Jean Nicod
With Nicolas Baumard and Hugo Mercier: decision-making, moral psychology and evolutionary anthropology

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*.

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., & Chevallier, C. (in preparation). *Naive theories of human nature: How folk beliefs about human behavior shape policy preferences among French citizens*.

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). *Going intranational: Mapping misinformation vulnerability across 1,165 EU regions*.

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

BOOK CHAPTER

2023 **Darcy, G.** (2023). Vieillir avant de s'enrichir ? Perspectives et enjeux économiques du vieillissement de la population en Thaïlande, au Vietnam et en Malaisie [Growing old before getting rich? Economic prospects and challenges of population ageing in Thailand, Vietnam and Malaysia]. In G. Facal & J. Samuel (Eds.), *L'Asie du Sud-Est 2023 : bilan, enjeux et perspectives* [Southeast Asia 2023: Review, challenges and prospects] (pp. 49–71). Research Institute on Contemporary Southeast Asia (IRASEC). https://doi.org/10.4000/books.irasec.6321

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POLICY REPORTS AND NOTES

2025 **Darcy, G.** (2025). *Lutter contre la désinformation : penser autrement l'action publique à l'aune des sciences cognitives* [Fighting disinformation: Rethinking public action in light of the cognitive sciences] (H. Mercier, A. Mari, G. Origgi, L. Yahia, & R. Casati, Eds.) [Policy brief]. Institut Jean Nicod. https://doi.org/10.31219/osf.io/fu9cz_v1

2025 **Darcy, G.** (2025). *Combattre la désinformation : l'apport des sciences cognitives à une action publique efficace pour un écosystème cognitif et informationnel plus résilient* [Combating disinformation: How the cognitive sciences can make public action more effective] [Policy note]. Office of the President of the French Republic (Cabinet du Président de la République).

2025 **Darcy, G.** (2025). *Promouvoir la participation des femmes dans les filières scientifiques : politiques comportementales et structurelles pour renforcer l'accès, le maintien et la progression des femmes en STEM* [Promoting women's participation in science: Behavioral and structural policies for women in STEM] [Policy note]. Office of the President of the French Republic.

GRANTS, AWARDS AND DISTINCTIONS

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

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

2021 Grand Prix de la Pédagogie Économique (national economics education prize), 1st prize (€2,000), with L. Gicquel

2020 Ranked 1st nationally, ENS competitive entrance exam (Law and Economics)

PRESENTATIONS

INVITED 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.

2026 **Darcy, G.** (2026). *Intelligence émotionnelle et IA affective : défis scientifiques et éthiques* [Emotional intelligence and affective AI: Scientific and ethical challenges] [Panel presentation]. Institut Louis Bachelier – Collège de France, Paris, France.

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

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.

2026 **Darcy, G.** (2026). *Peut-on faire confiance à la confiance ? Erreurs dans la calibration de la confiance à travers les cultures et les classes sociales* [Can we trust trust? Errors in trust calibration across cultures and social classes] [Conference presentation]. Cognitive Perspectives on Participatory Democracy, LIEPP, Sciences Po, Paris, France.

2025 **Darcy, G.** (2025). *From lab to law: Harnessing experimental jurisprudence in legislative drafting* [Conference presentation]. La notion de légistique en question(s) [Legislative drafting in question], ENS Rennes & Université de Rennes, Rennes, France.

2025 **Darcy, G.**, Fitouchi, L., André, J.-B., & Baumard, N. (2025). *The paradox of cultural tightness: Low-cooperation individuals promote high-cooperation norms* [Conference presentation]. Annual Conference of the European Human Behaviour and Evolution Association (EHBEA).

2024 **Darcy, G.**, Karabegovic, M., & Mercier, H. (2024). *What's the property in intellectual property? Ideas can be shared, but not reputation* [Conference presentation]. 5th Annual Conference of the French Network for the Evolutionary Study of Humans (FRESH), Lausanne, Switzerland.

TEACHING

COURSES TAUGHT

2025–present **Public Policies Against Disinformation**
ENS-PSL, CIPCEA Master's program, second year (joint ENS – Paris 1 program)
Seminar director: geopolitics, psychology and public policy of disinformation

2024–present **Psychology of Public Policy**
ENS-PSL, CIPCEA Master's program, second year (since 2024)
Also taught in the Public Affairs Master's program at Université Paris Dauphine-PSL (since 2024) and at Master's level at Sciences Po Paris (since 2025)

2026 **Psychology of Policies, Politicians and Politics**
Sciences Po Paris
Extended course, distinct from Psychology of Public Policy

2024 **Cognitive Science Applied to Information Warfare**
French Army: EMSST (higher scientific and technical education) and École de Guerre – Terre (EDG-T, Army War College)
Course for French Army officers (captains and majors)

2022–present **Economic and Social Issues**
EMSST (French Army higher scientific and technical education)
Economics, sociology and social psychology for officers preparing the Army's technical diploma exam (DT)

INVITED LECTURES

Autumn 2026 **Law and Cognition**
Sciences Po Paris, invited lecture for Master's students

Spring 2026 **Using Psychology to Understand Policy Support and Political Preferences**
Sciences Po Paris, Research Master; invited by Lou Safra (CEVIPOF)

Autumn 2025 **Trust and Cooperation: From Environments to Institutions and Back**
ENS-PSL, Master's in Cognitive Science (second year), Social Cognition course; invited by Jean-Baptiste André

Winter 2025 **Political Psychology: The Psychology of Politics, Politicians and Policies**
Université PSL, Master's in AI and Society; 6-hour course, invited by Edgar Dubourg and Nicolas Baumard

Winter 2025 **The Psychology of Idea Ownership**
Université PSL, CPES multidisciplinary Bachelor's program; invited by Edgar Dubourg

TEACHING ASSISTANTSHIPS

Spring 2026 **Econometrics** (Marc Gurgand), ENS-PSL & EHESS, Cognitive Science Master's, year 1

Autumn 2025 **Social Cognition** (Jean-Baptiste André), ENS-PSL & EHESS, Cognitive Science Master's, year 2

POLICY EXPERTISE

2026 **Hearing**, French Digital Council (Conseil national du numérique): democratic resilience in the age of AI

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

2025 **Contribution to a government report:** contributed directly to the evidence review on countering information manipulation by the Interministerial Directorate for Public Transformation (DITP), which also builds on my Institut Jean Nicod report

2024–present **Training, expertise and consulting missions** for VIGINUM (French agency against foreign digital interference), the French Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs, ARCOM (audiovisual and digital regulator) and ARCEP (telecoms regulator)

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Summer 2022 **Intern, Regional Economic Service for Thailand and Myanmar**
French Treasury, French Embassy in Bangkok
Economic analysis, monitoring and facilitation of French–Thai partnerships

Summer 2021 **Intern, Retail Investor Relations Directorate (DREP)**
Autorité des Marchés Financiers (AMF), France's financial markets regulator
Cognitive and behavioral approaches to the design and evaluation of nudge interventions

MEDIA AND SCIENCE COMMUNICATION

Sep 2026 **Darcy, G.** (2026, September 20). Grégoire Darcy : « La désinformation fait douter des croyances existantes » [Grégoire Darcy: "Disinformation makes people doubt existing beliefs"] [Interview by A. de Rochegonde]. *Stratégies*.

Jun 2026 **Darcy, G.** (2026, June 4). *Aux racines de la désinformation* [At the roots of disinformation] [Public lecture]. Bibliothèque de la Part-Dieu, Lyon, France.

Mar 2026 **Darcy, G.** (2026, March 27). *Repenser la lutte contre la désinformation à l'aune des sciences cognitives* [Rethinking the fight against disinformation in light of the cognitive sciences] [Radio interview]. In *Les dessous de l'infox*. RFI.

2026 **Darcy, G.** (2026). *Désinformation : une plongée dans les mécanismes cognitifs, sociaux et technologiques qui la façonnent* [Disinformation: A deep dive into the cognitive, social, and technological mechanisms that shape it] [Radio interview]. In *Tendances Première : Le dossier*. RTBF.

2025 **Darcy, G.**, & Marie, A. (2025). Désinformation : soigner le mal à la racine par des réponses structurelles [Disinformation: Treating the problem at its root through structural responses]. *Diplomatie – Les Grands Dossiers*, (87).

2025 **Darcy, G.** (2025). Guerre de l'information : et si nous regardions du mauvais côté ? [Information warfare: What if we are looking in the wrong direction?]. *Revue Conflits*.

2025 **Darcy, G.** (2025). Interview sur la désinformation, la mésinformation et la malinformation [Interview on disinformation, misinformation, and malinformation]. *Jeunes IHEDN*.

2021 **Darcy, G.**, & Gicquel, L. (2021). *Et si la BCE annulait la dette publique ?* [What if the ECB cancelled the public debt?] [Comic]. La Finance pour Tous.

2021 **Darcy, G.** (2021). Les essais contrôlés randomisés en économie [Randomized controlled trials in economics]. *Oeconomicus*.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

METHODS Experimental design, cross-cultural surveys, behavioral modeling, preregistration and registered reports; R, Python, Qualtrics

LANGUAGES French (native), English (fluent)

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

THEATRE Playwright and actor in mock literary trials, Théâtre de Poche-Montparnasse, Paris (since 2024): 10+ performances, including with Sylvain Tesson and Michel Zink (Académie française)

REFERENCES

Jean-Baptiste André
CNRS, Institut Jean Nicod
PhD supervisor

Nicolas Baumard
CNRS, Institut Jean Nicod
PhD supervisor

Lou Safra
Sciences Po, CEVIPOF
Thesis committee member

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