

## Curriculum Vitae

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### Andrea Samson, PhD

Associate Professor in Psychology

Director of the chEERS Lab

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## Research Topics

- Affective processes such as positive emotions, humor, emotion regulation
  - Neurodevelopmental disorders, including Autism Spectrum Disorders and Williams syndrome
  - Developing tools such as psycho-educative training programs and board games to promote emotional competencies, including virtual reality
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## Professional Experience

Since February 2020	Associate Professor in Psychology, UniDistance Suisse, Brig, Switzerland
Since February 2020	Associate Professor in Psychology, UniDistance Suisse, Brig, Switzerland
Since Sept 2018	SNSF Professorship Institute of Special Education, University of Fribourg, Switzerland
Jan 2018-Jan 2022	Co-responsible of the French Master's program in Psychology, Unidistance Suisse
Jan 2018-Jan2020	Assistant Professor in Psychology, UniDistance Suisse
Jan 2017-2018	Scientific Advisor, Departments of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences, Stanford School of Medicine, Stanford University, CA, USA
Jan-Dec 2016	Consulting Assistant Professor, Departments of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences, Stanford School of Medicine, Stanford University, CA, USA
Sep 2015-Aug 2018	Ambizione Fellowship awarded by the Swiss National Science Foundation Swiss Center for Affective Sciences, University of Geneva, Switzerland
Feb 2015-Aug 2015	Return Fellowship from the Swiss National Science Foundation Swiss Center for Affective Sciences, University of Geneva, Switzerland

Feb 2010-Jan 2015	Postdoctoral Position Department of Psychology, Stanford University
Nov 2009-Jan 2010	Visiting scholar at the Institute of Neuroscience, Trinity College, Dublin, Ireland (part-time for 3 months)
2009	Postdoctoral Position Department of Psychology, University of Fribourg, Switzerland
Aug 2005	Visiting Scientist Max-Planck-Institute of Human Cognitive and Brain Sciences, Leipzig, Germany
2003 – 2008	PhD student and assistant Department of Psychology University of Fribourg, Switzerland

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## Education

May 29, 2017	Habilitation Defense at the University of Fribourg “Should emotions be taught in schools? Possible avenues for promoting emotional competences through board games” (Supervisor: Prof. Valerie Camos)
December 2016	Submission of written part of the Cumulative Habilitation at the Faculty of Philosophy, University of Fribourg, Switzerland: “Emotion Dysregulation in Individuals with Autism Spectrum Disorder” (Supervisor: Prof. Valerie Camos)
Dec 10, 2008	PhD thesis (summa cum laude) at the Department of Psychology, University of Fribourg, Switzerland: “Cognitive and Neural Humor Processing: Stimulus characteristics and Theory of Mind” (Supervisor: Prof. Oswald Huber, Prof. Willibald Ruch)
1998 – 2003	University of Fribourg (Switzerland) and University of Bern (Switzerland): General Psychology, Clinical Psychology and Neurobiology (Lizentiat ~Masters) Empirical Thesis: “Humor und Cartoons: Der Einfluss des Geschlechtes auf die Stilelemente von Cartoonisten und Cartoonistinnen” [Humor and cartoons: gender differences in structural elements of cartoons] (Supervisor: Prof. Oswald Huber)

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## Funding

### Approved Research projects and Fellowships (>CHF 2'953'000)

#### Swiss National Science Foundation

2018-2023	SNSF Professorship PP00P1_176722 The Differential Roles of Positive Emotions and Emotion Regulation for Socio-Emotional Processes in Developmental Disabilities: Insights for Future Interventions
2016-2017	120% Support Grant (13 months)
2015-2018	Ambizione Fellowship; PZ00P1_154937 (36 months) Emotion Dysregulation in Psychopathology: Pathway to an Innovative Neuroconnectivity-Informed Intervention
2015	Return Fellowship for Advanced Researchers; PA00P1_136380 (granted for 12 months, but used 6 months only) Emotion Reactivity and Regulation in Autism Spectrum Disorders
2011-2015	Fellowship for Advanced Researchers; PA00P1_136380 (40 months) Emotion Reactivity and Regulation in Autism Spectrum Disorders
2010-2011	Fellowship for Prospective Researchers; PBFRP1-127896 (18 months) Humor and Emotion Regulation

### **NCCR of Affective Sciences**

2016-2017	NCCR of Affective Sciences Research Funding (Co-PI with David Sander) A Novel Positive Emotion Regulation Intervention for Young Children: Emotional Learning in the School Context
2015-2016	NCCR of Affective Sciences Research Support (PI)

### **UniDistance – Research Fund (as PI)**

2018	Assessment of socio-emotional competencies in developmental and intellectual disabilities
2018-2020	Development of a VR Game for the Assessment of Socio-Emotional Processes in Intellectual Disability
2019-2020	Emotion Regulation Study
2020-2021	Board Game Development and Production
2021	COVID19 study on families with children with special educational needs (SENCOP-ING19 project)
2021	Extension of Board Game Development and Production

### **Swiss Center for Affective Sciences**

2018	Incentive Funding awarded by Swiss Center for Affective Sciences (co-PI with David Rudrauf) for hiring a VR developer
2018	Incentive Funding awarded by Swiss Center for Affective Sciences (PI)

### **Stanford Center for Cognitive and Neurobiological Imaging: Research awards**

2013	Emotion Dysregulation in Autism Spectrum Disorders revisited – an fMRI study
2012	Neural Correlates of Emotion Regulation in Young Adults with Autism Spectrum Disorders
2011-12	Neural Correlates of Emotional Reactivity and Regulation in Autism Spectrum Disorder
2012	Sex Differences in Qualitative Emotion Regulation
2011	Neural Correlates of Qualitative Emotion Regulation

### **University of Fribourg, Research Foundation, Switzerland**

2009	Humor processing in individuals with Asperger's Syndrome, Co-PI (with Prof. Oswald Huber)
2009	Cognitive humor processing and social cognition in individuals with Asperger's Syndrome – an fMRI study, Co-PI (with Prof. Oswald Huber)
2001-2003	Cognitive humor processing: an fMRI study – research stay at the Max-Planck Institute for Human Cognitive and Brain Sciences, Leipzig, Germany, Co-PI (with Prof. Oswald Huber)

### **European Federation Williams Syndrome (FEWS)**

2020-21	Research Funds for COVID-19 project (co-PI with Daniel Dukes, Jo Van Herwegen, Fionnula Tynan, Lenka Hrnčirova)
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## **Supervision of PhD theses**

Alexandra Zaharia (since 09/2018, University of Fribourg and UniDistance Suisse)  
Nicolas Bressoud (since 09/2018, University of Fribourg)  
Noémie Treichel (since 09/2018, University of Fribourg)  
Lina Stallmann (since 03/2019, University of Fribourg)  
Aikaterini Giannadou (since 2016, Sheffield University, UK, co-supervision avec Dr. Elizabeth Milne)