

Dr. Dr. Niels Skovgaard-Olsen



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Prinzenstr. 6, 37073 Göttingen,
Germany
Date of birth: 30.07.1985
Køge, Denmark
Danish citizen

Research Interests

Empirical and theoretical rationality research (psychology, philosophy).
Pragmatics and Semantics (linguistics).
Psychology of Reasoning. Empirical and theoretical research on norms and agency.
Computational methods and statistical modelling.

Education and Positions

- 2017 - PostDoc. Department of Cognitive and Decision Psychology. University of Göttingen.
- 2014-2017 PostDoc. DFG Project: *Reason Relations, Argumentation, and Conditionals: Applying Ranking Theory to Psychology of Reasoning*.
- 2014-2017 Dr. rer. nat. (psychology), Faculty of Economics and Behavioral Sciences, University of Freiburg. Supervisor: Professor Dr. Karl Christoph Klauer.
Dissertation defended with *summa cum laude* (“highest honour”).
- 2012-2014 Dr. phil. (philosophy), Faculty of Humanities, University of Konstanz.
Supervisor: Professor Dr. Wolfgang Spohn.
Dissertation defended with *summa cum laude* (“highest honour”).
- 2011-2012 Studies in psychology, University of Konstanz.
- 2010 MA, philosophy, University of Copenhagen.

Visiting Positions

- 2016-2017 Research visits at *Munich Center for Mathematical Philosophy* and *Birkbeck University* to collaborate with Prof. Dr. Ulrike Hahn.
- 2015 Visiting Scholar at Berkeley University. (Invitation from Prof. Dr. John MacFarlane)

Other Experiences

- 2020 Selected for the final interview phase of Junior Research Group Leader Grant (ca. 1 mio Euro) by the Volkswagen, Freigeist Fellowship. Funding not received.
- 2014- Associate, *What if* – an interdisciplinary research group on conditionals and thought experiments with researchers from the fields of philosophy, linguistics, and history. <https://whatifkn.wordpress.com/>
- 2016 Participant in International Rationality Summer Institute 2016
- 2014 Grant application and project administration for 3 year PostDoc project awarded by DFG to Prof. Dr. Wolfgang Spohn (ca. 210.000 €).
- 2012 Scholarship from *New Frameworks of Rationality*, DFG.
- 2012 - Member of *New Frameworks of Rationality*, DFG Priority Program SPP1516, which encompasses 14 projects in different parts of Germany from philosophy, psychology, and computer science. <http://www.spp1516.de/en/index.html>

Awards

- 2018 Best Student paper, *New Frameworks of Rationality*. (Prize for one of the chapters of my psychology dissertation.)
- 2015 Preis des Landkreises Konstanz zur Förderung des wissenschaftlichen Nachwuchses an der Universität Konstanz. (Award for excellent dissertations in philosophy and history.)
- 2013 Scholarship, *New Frameworks of Rationality*.

Scientific Talks

- Invited Talks*
- Skovgaard-Olsen, N.** *Inferentialism and Causality*. Symposium on Inferentialism. ICT-2021 (International Conference of Thinking), Paris. (June 23, 2021).
- Skovgaard-Olsen, N.** *Normative Pluralism and Might Statements*. Symposium on normative pluralism. ICT-2021 (International Conference of Thinking), Paris. (June, 21, 2021).
- Skovgaard-Olsen, N.**, Stephan, S., and Waldmann, M. (2020). *Conditionals and the Hierarchy of Causal Queries*. University of Amsterdam, Holland (March 15, 2021).
- Skovgaard-Olsen, N.**, Stephan, S., and Waldmann, M. (2020). *Conditionals and the Hierarchy of Causal Queries*. "If ifs and ands were pots and pans ...": Qualitative and quantitative approaches to reasoning and conditionals (August 28, 2020). Regensburg, Germany.

- Skovgaard-Olsen, N.**, Stephan, S., and Waldmann, M. (2020). *Conditionals and the Hierarchy of Causal Queries*. Neuroscience Online Seminar, University of Göttingen (June 22, 2020). Göttingen, Germany.
- Skovgaard-Olsen, N.**, Stephan, S., and Waldmann, M. (2019). *Conditional Probabilities and Causal Power*. London Reasoning Workshop (July 18, 2019). London, UK.
- Skovgaard-Olsen, N.** (2019). *The Dialogical Entailment Task*. Dagstuhl Seminar, (January 14, 2019). Dagstuhl, Germany.
- Raidl, E. and **Skovgaard-Olsen, N.** (2018). *Ranking Theoretic Semantics for Conditionals and the Psychology of Reasoning*. What If, Closing Conference (October 12, 2018). Konstanz, Germany.
- Skovgaard-Olsen, N.**, Kellen, D., Hahn, U. and Klauer, K. C. (2018). *Norm Conflicts and Conditionals*. European Society for Philosophy and Psychology, Invited Symposium: Normative and descriptive approaches to human reasoning. (September 13, 2018). Rijeka, Croatia.
- Skovgaard-Olsen, N.** (2018). *A Synoptic View on Relevance Effects*. New Perspectives on Conditionals and Reasoning. (September 5, 2018). Regensburg, Germany.
- Skovgaard-Olsen, N.** (2018). *Relevance and Conditionals*. London Reasoning Workshop. (July 25, 2018). London, UK.
- Skovgaard-Olsen, N.**, Collins, P., Krzyzanowska, K., Hahn, U., and Klauer, C. K. (2018). *Cancellation, Negation, and Rejection*. Annual Meeting of New Frameworks of Rationality. (February 19, 2018). Etelsen, Germany.
- Skovgaard-Olsen, N.** (2018). *A Synoptic View on Relevance Effects*. What if, Scientific Retreat. (January 12, 2018). Konstanz, Germany.
- Skovgaard-Olsen, N.**, Kellen, D., Hahn, U. and Klauer, K. C. (2017). *Norm Conflicts and Conditionals*. Annual Meeting of New Frameworks of Rationality. (March 7, 2017). Etelsen, Germany.
- Skovgaard-Olsen, N.**, Kellen, D., Krahl, H., Klauer, K. C. (2016). *Relevance differently affects the truth, acceptability, and probability evaluations of 'and', 'but', 'therefore', and 'if then'*. Symposium with Igor Douven, On "the epistemology of conditionals". (June 10, 2016). Konstanz, Germany.
- Skovgaard-Olsen, N.**, Kellen, D., Krahl, H., Klauer, K. C. (2016). *Putting the Relevance Approach and the Suppositional Theory to the Test*. Annual Meeting of New Frameworks of Rationality. (March 22, 2016). Etelsen, Germany.
- Skovgaard-Olsen, N.** (2016). *Compositional Reason Relation Semantics*. What-if research group, University of Konstanz. (January 12, 2016) Konstanz, Germany.
- Skovgaard-Olsen, N.**, Singmann, H., and Klauer, K. C. (2015). *Perceived Relevance and Reason Relations*. What-if research group, University of Konstanz. (July 10, 2015). Konstanz, Germany.
- Skovgaard-Olsen, N.**, Singmann, H., and Klauer, K. C. (2015). *Perceived Relevance and Reason Relations*. Annual Meeting of New Frameworks of Rationality. (March 16, 2015). Etelsen, Germany.
- Skovgaard-Olsen, N.**, Singmann H., and Klauer K. C. (2015). *The Relevance Effect and Conditionals*. Berkeley, Working Group in the History and Philosophy of Logic, Mathematics and Science. (September 23, 2015). Berkeley, USA.

Skovgaard-Olsen, N., Singmann, H., and Klauer, K. C. (2015). *Relevance and Reason Relations*. Gießener Abendgespräche Kognition und Gehirn. (June 10, 2015). Gießen, Germany.

Skovgaard-Olsen, N., Spohn, W., and Klauer, K. C. (2014). *On how to make ranking theory useful for Psychology of Reasoning*. Annual Meeting of New Frameworks of Rationality. (March 10, 2014). Etelsen, Germany.

Skovgaard-Olsen, N. (2013). *VAT, Representations, and Perceptual Experiences*. University of Konstanz. (Juni 6, 2013). Konstanz, Germany.

Conferences

Skovgaard-Olsen, N., and Collins, P. (2021). *Indicatives, Subjunctives, and the Falsity of the Antecedent*. 43rd Annual Conference of the German Linguistic Society (DGfs). Workshop SPOCC. (February 25, 2021). Freiburg, Germany.

Skovgaard-Olsen, N., Stephan, S., and Waldmann, M. (2019). *Conditionals, Reason Relations, and Causality*. EuroCogSci. (September 2, 2019). Bochum, Germany.

Skovgaard-Olsen, N., Kellen, D., Hahn, U. and Klauer, K. C. (2017). *Norm Conflicts and Conditionals*. Second Workshop of the Experimental Philosophy Group Germany. (November 17, 2017). Osnabrück, Germany.

Skovgaard-Olsen, N., Collins, P., Krzyzanowska, K., Hahn, U., and Klauer, C. K. (2017). *Relevance and Conditionals*. ECAP9, European Congress of Analytic Philosophy. (August 22, 2017). München, Germany.

Skovgaard-Olsen, N., David Kellen, Ulrike Hahn, and Karl Christoph Klauer (2017). *Conditionals, Individual Variation, and the Scorekeeping Task*. Annual Meeting of the Cognitive Science Society (July 27, 2017). London, UK.

Skovgaard-Olsen, N., Kellen, D., Hahn, U. and Klauer, K. C. (2017). *Norm Conflicts and Conditionals*. Reasoning Club. (May 19, 2017). Turin, Italy.

Skovgaard-Olsen, N., Kellen, D., Hahn, U. and Klauer, K. C. (2016). *Norm Conflicts and Conditionals*. International Conference of Thinking at Brown University. (August 5, 2016) Providence, USA.

Skovgaard-Olsen, N., Singmann, H., and Klauer, K. C. (2015). *Perceived Relevance and Reason Relations*. Danish annual meeting of philosophy, University of Aarhus. (March 7, 2015). Aarhus, Denmark.

Skovgaard-Olsen, N. (2014). *Logical Omniscience and Acknowledged vs. Consequential Commitments*. AISB50 (Society for the Study of Artificial Intelligence and Simulation for Behaviour), Goldsmiths, University of London. (April 3, 2014) London, UK.

Skovgaard-Olsen, N. (2013). *On how to make Philosophical Theories useful for Scientific Purposes*. Danish annual meeting of philosophy, Syddansk Universitet. (March 9, 2013) Odense, Denmark.

Skovgaard-Olsen, N. (2012). *Brandom, TCA, and the Social Foundation of Objectivity*. Danish annual meeting of philosophy, Roskilde Universitet. (March 2, 2012) Roskilde, Denmark.

Teaching Experience

Seminars and Lectures Taught in German

- 2021 Learning Theory. Three parallel seminars. Undergraduate psychology, University of Göttingen. Hybrid teaching. One online seminar and two classroom seminars with occasional hybrid participation via Zoom.
- 2021 Judgment and Decision Making. Online Seminar and Lecture (with Prof. Dr. Michael Waldmann), University of Göttingen. Taught via Zoom and BBB.
- 2020 Learning Theory. Three parallel seminars. Undergraduate psychology, University of Göttingen. Taught via Zoom.
- 2020 Judgment and Decision Making. Online Seminar and Lecture (with Prof. Dr. Michael Waldmann), University of Göttingen. Taught via Zoom and BBB.
- 2019 Learning Theory. Three parallel seminars. Undergraduate psychology, University of Göttingen.
- 2019 Judgment and Decision Making. Seminar and Lecture (with Prof. Dr. Michael Waldmann), University of Göttingen.
- 2018 Learning Theory. Three parallel seminars. Undergraduate psychology, University of Göttingen.
- 2018 Judgment and Decision Making. Seminar and Lecture (with Dr. Ralf Mayrhofer), University of Göttingen.
- 2017 Learning Theory. Three parallel seminars. Undergraduate psychology, University of Göttingen.
- 2016 Conditionals in Philosophy and Psychology (with Dr. Eric Raidl). BA seminar, University of Konstanz. (Taught in English.)
- 2015, 2017 Sessions on Rationality and Psychology of Reasoning for MSc students, University of Freiburg.

Supervision

- 2018-2021 University of Göttingen
- MSc. project (Sina Lau)
 - BSc. project (Nico Vowinkel)
 - BSc. project (Daniel Ewert-Schönstein)
 - BSc. project (Katharina von Zitzewitz)
 - BSc. project (Tania Widyastuti)
 - BSc. project (Jonas Matthias Fry)
 - BSc. project (Luca Stahlmann)
 - BSc. project (Heewong Kang)
 - Research internship (Alison Scheel)

2015-2017 University of Freiburg
 BSc. project (Dennis Heiler)
 Research internship (Hannes Krahl)
 Experimental practice (Mareike Makosch, Johanna Weymann)

Peer Review

Review Editor of *Frontiers in Psychology: Theoretical and Philosophical Psychology*.

Ad hoc reviewer:

Journals:	<i>Journal of Behavioral Decision Making,</i>	<i>Axiomathes,</i>
	<i>Journal of Cognitive Psychology,</i>	<i>Mind & Language,</i>
	<i>Journal of Experimental Psychology,</i>	<i>Episteme,</i>
	<i>Journal of Logic, Language, and Information,</i>	<i>Erkenntnis,</i>
	<i>Journal of Memory and Learning,</i>	<i>Logique et Analyse,</i>
	<i>Memory and Cognition,</i>	<i>Pragmatics and Philosophy,</i>
	<i>Psychological Review,</i>	<i>Synthese,</i>
	<i>Thinking & Reasoning,</i>	<i>Review of Philosophy and Psychology,</i>
	<i>Cognition</i>	<i>Quarterly Journal of Experimental Psychology</i>
	<i>Philosophical Transactions of the Royal Society</i>	
Book chap.:	<i>Routledge,</i>	<i>The MIT Press.</i>
Conferences:	<i>The Annual Conference of the German Linguistic Society.</i>	
	<i>The Annual Meeting of the Cognitive Science Society.</i>	

Organization

2019 Organization of Symposium ‘The Logic and Cognitive Science of Inferential Conditionals’ for EuroCogSci, Bochum University.

2016 Organization of Symposium ‘Normativity and Rationality’ with Prof. Dr. Shira Elqayam for the International Conference of Thinking (ICT2016) Brown University.

2013 Organization of 1) Journal Club and 2) Reading Group for PhD-Students and Post-Docs at University of Konstanz with Dr. Johannes Schmitt and Dr. Giuliano Bacigalupo.

Skovgaard-Olsen, N. and Collins, P. (2021). Indicatives, Subjunctives, and the Falsity of the Antecedent.

Cognitive Science, 45(11).

<https://doi.org/10.1111/cogs.13058>

Skovgaard-Olsen, N., Stephan, S., and Waldmann, M. (2021).

Conditionals and the Hierarchy of Causal Queries. *Journal of Experimental Psychology: General*, 150(12), 2472–2505.

Skovgaard-Olsen, N. (2019). The Dialogical Entailment Task. *Cognition*, 193.

Skovgaard-Olsen, N., Kellen, D., Hahn, U., and Klauer, K. C. (2019). Norm Conflicts and Conditionals. *Psychological Review*, 126(5), 611-633.

Skovgaard-Olsen, N., Collins, P., Krzyzanowska, K., Hahn, U., and Klauer, C. K. (2019). Cancellation, Negation, and Rejection. *Cognitive Psychology*, 108, 42-71.

Skovgaard-Olsen, N., Kellen, D., Krahl, H., and Klauer, K. C. (2017). Relevance differently affects the truth, acceptability, and probability evaluations of ‘And’, ‘But’, ‘Therefore’, and ‘If Then’. *Thinking and Reasoning*, 23(4), 449-482.

Skovgaard-Olsen, N., Kellen, D., Hahn, U., and Klauer, K. C. (2017). Conditionals, Individual Variation, and the Scorekeeping Task. In: M. Gunzelmann, A. Howes, T. Tenbrink, & E. Davelaar (Eds.), *Proceedings of the 39th Annual Meeting of the Cognitive Science Society*. London, UK: Cognitive Science Society.

Skovgaard-Olsen, N., Singmann, H., and Klauer, K. C. (2017). Relevance and Reason Relations. *Cognitive Science*, 41(S5), 1202-1215.

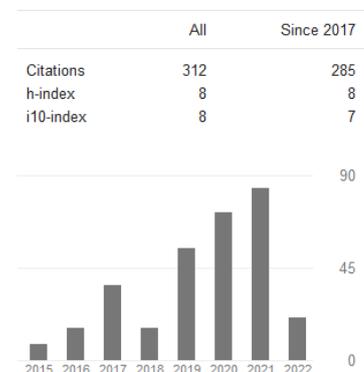
Raidl, E. and **Skovgaard-Olsen, N.** (2016). Bridging Ranking Theory and the Stability Theory of Belief. *Journal of Philosophical Logic*, 46(6), 577-609.

Skovgaard-Olsen, N. (2016). Motivating the Relevance Approach to Conditionals. *Mind & Language*, 31(5), 555-79.

Skovgaard-Olsen, N., Singmann, H., and Klauer, K. C. (2016). The Relevance Effect and Conditionals. *Cognition*, 150, 26-36.

Skovgaard-Olsen, N. (2015a). Ranking Theory and Conditional Reasoning. *Cognitive Science*. 40(4), 848-880.

Skovgaard-Olsen, N. (2015b). The problem of logical Omniscience, the preface paradox, and doxastic commitments. *Synthese*, 194(3), 917-939.



- Skovgaard-Olsen, N.** (2014). Logical Omniscience and Acknowledged vs. Consequential Commitments. In: *Proceedings of AISB50*. London, UK: Society for the Study of Artificial Intelligence and Simulation of Behavior.
- Olsen, N. S.** (2014). Philosophical Theory-Construction and the Self-Image of Philosophy. *Open Journal of Philosophy*.
- Olsen, N. S.** (2010). Reinterpreting Sellars in the Light of Brandom, McDowell, and A. D. Smith. *European Journal of Philosophy*, 18(4), 510-38.

In Preparation

- Skovgaard-Olsen, N.** and John Cantwell (*in preparation*). Norm conflicts and Epistemic Modals.

Book Chapters

- Skovgaard-Olsen, N.** (2020). Relevance and Conditionals: A Synopsis of Open Pragmatic and Semantic Issues. In: Elqayam, S., Douven, I., Cruz, N., Evans, J. (eds.), *Logic and Uncertainty in the Human Mind*, Routledge (pp. 192-206).
- Kern-Isberner, G., **Skovgaard-Olsen, N.**, and Spohn, W. (2021). Ranking Theory and Cognitive Science. In: Knauff, M. & Spohn, W. (eds.), *Handbook of Rationality* (pp. 337-345). The MIT Press.

Dissertations

- Skovgaard-Olsen, N.** (2017). *Putting Inferentialism and the Suppositional Theory of Conditionals to the Test*. (Psychology Dissertation, University of Freiburg)
- Olsen, N. S.** (2014). *Making Ranking Theory useful for Psychology of Reasoning*. (Philosophy Dissertation, University of Konstanz)

Book Reviews

- Skovgaard-Olsen, N.** (2017). Sellars and His Legacy Ed. By James O'Shea (Book Review). In: *Journal of the History of Philosophy*, 55 (2), 358-59.

Media Appearances

Skovgaard-Olsen, N. (2016). Rationality Summer Institute, September 4-16.

The Reasoner, 10(10), p. 84.

Interview on rationality research for Danish psychology journal in: (2017), Fornuft og følelse. *P:*

Psykologernes fagmagasin, 7(3), p. 23.

Languages

Danish, native language.

English, fluent in speech and writing.

German, fluent in speech and writing with minor errors.

Spanish, beginner.

R, Html, CSS, javascript.

References

Prof. Dr. Wolfgang Spohn,

Department of Philosophy,

University of Konstanz,

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Prof. Dr. Karl Christoph Klauer,

Department of Psychology,

University of Freiburg,

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Prof. Dr. Michael Waldmann,

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