

# Stefan Pfattheicher

Department of Psychology and Behavioural Sciences

Aarhus University

Bartholins Allé 11, Building 1350, Room 522

8000, Aarhus C, Denmark

Tel.: +45 8716 5785

Mail: sp@psy.au.dk

Web: www.au.dk/en/sp@psy

## Professional experience & education

---

2023 –	Professor at the Department of Psychology and Behavioural Sciences, Aarhus University
2020 –	Director of the Centre for Integrative Business Psychology at Aarhus BSS
2020 –	Research Affiliate at the Center for the Science of Moral Understanding at the University of North Carolina, United States
2018 – 2023	Associate professor at the Department of Psychology and Behavioural Sciences, Aarhus University
2014 – 2018	Postdoctoral fellow at the Department of Social Psychology, Ulm University, Germany
2009 – 2014	PhD student at the Department of Social Psychology, Ulm University, Germany
2004 – 2009	Academic studies at Mannheim University, Germany and Newcastle University, UK; Graduation: Diploma in Social Sciences

## Keys scientific areas

---

- Human prosociality (including empathy and its friends)
- Human destructiveness (including sadism and its enemies)
- The emotional experience and motivational consequences of boredom
- Punishment and cooperation in social dilemma situations

---

 Research funding as principal investigator (total sum: ~9.600.000 kr.)
 

---

- “The experience and consequences of boredom” funded by the Velux Foundation, 2022-2024, sum: 5.678.666 kr.
- “Starting Grant” funded by the Aarhus Universitets Forskningsfond, 2019-2022, sum: 1.800.000 kr.
- “A social psychological perspective on punishment, reward, and reputation in social dilemmas” funded by the German Research Foundation (DFG), 2017-2020, sum: 221 282 Euro (~1.650.000 kr.)
- “Supporting and preventing factors of antisocial punishment in social dilemmas” funded by the “Baden-Württemberg Foundation”, 2017-2020, sum: 68 000 Euro (~507.000 kr.)

---

 Full list of peer-reviewed publications
 

---

in press

1. Nielsen, Y. A., & **Pfattheicher, S.** (2024). Separating individual and group-level cooperation in the public goods game. *PNAS Nexus*.
2. Nielsen, Y. A., **Pfattheicher, S.**, & Thielmann, I. (in press). How much can personality predict prosocial behavior? *European Journal of Personality*.
3. Tønnesen, M. H., Elbæk, C. T., **Pfattheicher, S.**, & Mitkidis, P. (in press). Communication increases collaborative corruption. *Journal of Experimental Social Psychology*.
4. Nielsen, Y. A., Thielmann, I., & **Pfattheicher, S.** (in press). Beyond the mean: Can we improve the predictive power of psychometric scales? *Advances in Methods and Practices in Psychological Science*.
5. Vlasceanu, Doell, **et al.** (in press). Addressing climate change with behavioral science: A global intervention tournament in 63 Countries. *Science Advances*.
6. Woide, M., Damm, N., Kraus, J., **Pfattheicher, S.**, & Baumann, M. (in press). Interdependence theory in humans’ interaction with automated vehicles: The impact of perceived situational factors on trust and cooperation. *International Journal of Human - Computer Studies*.
7. Sassenrath, C., Keller, J., Stöckle, D., Kesberg, R., Nielsen, Y. A., & **Pfattheicher, S.** (in press). I like it because it hurts you: On the association of everyday sadism, sadistic pleasure, and victim blaming. *Journal of Personality and Social Psychology*.

2023

8. Ścigala, K. A., Arkoudi, I., Schild, C., **Pfattheicher, S.**, Zettler, I. (2023). The relation between Honesty-Humility and moral concerns as expressed in language. *Journal of Research in Personality, 103*, 104351.
9. **Pfattheicher, S.**, Lazarevic, L., Nielsen, Y. A., Krstić, K., Westgate, E., & Schindler, S. (2023). I enjoy hurting my classmates: On the relation of boredom and sadism in schools. *Journal of School Psychology, 96*, 41-56.
10. Nockur, L., **Pfattheicher, S.**, & Keller, J. (2023). From asymmetric to symmetric consumption opportunities: Extractions from common resources by privileged and underprivileged group members. *Group Processes & Intergroup Relations, 26*, 1819-1840.
11. Schindler, S., Hilgard, J., Fritsche, I., Burke, B., **Pfattheicher, S.** (2023). Do salient social norms moderate mortality salience effects? A (challenging) meta-analysis of terror management studies. *Personality and Social Psychology Review, 27*, 195-225.
12. Schindler, S., & **Pfattheicher, S.** (2023). When it really counts: Investigating the relation between trait mindfulness and actual prosocial behavior. *Current Psychology, 42*, 5357–5365.

2022

13. **Pfattheicher, S.\***, Nielsen, Y. A.\*, & Thielmann, I. (2022). Prosocial behavior and altruism: A review of concepts and definitions. *Current Opinion in Psychology, 44*, 124–129 \*Shared first authorship
14. Ścigala, K., Ruhara, N., Nitschke, J., & **Pfattheicher, S.** (2022). Honesty-Humility and criminal behavior among imprisoned criminal offenders. *Journal of Research in Personality, 101*, 104289.
15. Nielsen, Y. A., & Thielmann, I., Zettler, I., & **Pfattheicher, S.** (2022). Sharing money with humans versus computers: On the role of Honesty-Humility and (non-)social preferences. *Social Psychological and Personality Science, 13*, 1058–1068.
16. Nockur, L., Kesberg, R., **Pfattheicher, S.**, & Keller, J. (2022). Why do we punish? On retribution, deterrence, and the moderating role of punishment system. *Zeitschrift für Psychologie, 230*, 104–113.
17. **Pfattheicher, S.**, Petersen, M. B., & Böhm, R. (2022). Information about herd immunity through vaccination and empathy promote COVID-19 vaccination intentions. *Health Psychology, 41*, 85–93.
18. Sassenrath, C., Diefenbacher, S., **Pfattheicher, S.**, & Keller, J. (2022). The potential and limitations of empathy in changing health-relevant affect, cognition and behaviour. *European Review of Social Psychology, 33*, 255–288.

19. Nockur, L., Nielsen, Y. A., Pfattheicher, S. (2022). Setting an example: The effect of unequal endowments on cooperation in sequential public goods games. *Current Research in Ecological and Social Psychology*, 3, 100059.
20. Nielsen, Y. A., **Pfattheicher, S.**, & Keijsers, M. (in press). Prosocial behavior towards machines. *Current Opinion in Psychology*, 43, 260–265.

2021

21. **Pfattheicher, S.**, Lazarevic, L., Westgate, E., & Schindler, S. (2021). On the relation of boredom and sadistic aggression. *Journal of Personality and Social Psychology*, 121, 573–600.
22. Nockur, L., **Pfattheicher, S.**, Keller, J. (2021). Different punishment systems in a public goods game with asymmetric endowments. *Journal of Experimental Social Psychology*, 94, article 104096.
23. Woide, M., Stiegemeier, D., **Pfattheicher, S.**, & Baumann, M. (2021). Measuring driver-vehicle cooperation: Development and validation of the Human-Machine-Interaction-Interdependence Questionnaire (HMII). *Transportation Research Part F: Traffic Psychology and Behaviour*, 83, 424–439.
24. Schindler, S., Wagner, L.K., Reinhard, M., Ruhara, N., **Pfattheicher, S.** & Nitschke, J. (2021). Are criminals better lie detectors? Investigating offenders' abilities in the context of deception detection. *Applied Cognitive Psychology*, 35, 203–214.
25. Ścigala, K. A., Schild, C., Moshagen, M., Lilleholt, L., Stücker, A., Zettler, I., & **Pfattheicher, S.** (2021). Aversive personality and COVID-19: A first review and meta-analysis. *European Psychologist*, 26, 348–358.
26. Venema, T. A. G. & **Pfattheicher, S.** (2021). Perceived susceptibility to COVID-19 infection and narcissistic traits. *Personality and Individual Differences*, 175, article 110696.
27. Thomsen, D.K., **Pfattheicher, S.**, & Dunlop, W. (2021). Authoring esteem: Writing about vicarious and personal life story chapters boosts state self-esteem. *Personality Science*, 2, e7017.
28. Nockur, L. & **Pfattheicher, S.** (2021). The beautiful complexity of human prosociality: On the interplay of Honesty-Humility, intuition, and a reward system. *Social Psychological and Personality Science*, 12, 877–886.
29. Schindler, J., Schindler, S. & **Pfattheicher, S.** (2021). The role of intuition in vaccination attitudes. *Journal of Health Psychology*, 26, 2950–2957.

2020

30. **Pfattheicher, S.**, Nockur, L., Böhm, R., Sassenrath, C., & Petersen, M. B. (2020). The emotional path to action: Empathy promotes physical distancing during the COVID-19 pandemic. *Psychological Science*, *31*, 1363–1373.
31. Nockur, L., Arndt, L., Keller, J., & **Pfattheicher, S.** (2020). Collective choice fosters sustainable resource management in the presence of asymmetric opportunities. *Scientific Reports*, *10*, Article 10724.
32. Ozer, S., Obaidi, M., Pfattheicher, P. (2020). Group membership and radicalization: A cross-national investigation of collective self-esteem underlying extremism. *Group Processes & Intergroup Relations*, *23*, 1230–1248.
33. Neumann, H., Thielmann, I., & **Pfattheicher, S.** (2020). Labelling affects agreement with political statements of right-wing populist parties. *PLoS one*, *15*, e0239772.
34. Diefenbacher, S., **Pfattheicher, S.**, & Keller, J. (2020). On the role of habit in self-reported and observed hand hygiene behavior. *Applied Psychology: Health & Well-Being*, *12*, 125–143.
35. Nockur, L. & **Pfattheicher, S.** (2020). Fostering sustainable behavior through group competition. *Journal of Environmental Psychology*, *71*, Article 101493.
36. Nockur, L. & **Pfattheicher, S.** (2020). Intuitive decision-making promotes rewarding prosocial others independent from the personality trait Honesty-Humility. *Scientific Reports*, *10*, Article 18579.
37. Lui, L.F., Sassenrath, C., & **Pfattheicher, S.** (2020). When is your pain my gain? The use of perspective taking by everyday sadists. *Personality and Individual Differences*, *167*, Article 110213.
38. Burger, A. M., **Pfattheicher, S.**, & Jauch, M. (2020). The role of motivation in the association of political ideology with cognitive performance. *Cognition*, *195*, Article 104124.

2019

39. **Pfattheicher, S.**, Sassenrath, C., & Keller, J. (2019). Compassion magnifies third-party punishment. *Journal of Personality and Social Psychology*, *117*, 124–141.
40. Schindler, S., **Pfattheicher, S.**, & Reinhard, M. (2019). Potential negative consequences of mindfulness in the moral domain. *European Journal of Social Psychology*, *49*, 1055–1069.
41. Scholl, A., Sassenberg, K., & **Pfattheicher, S.** (2019). Pressured to be excellent? Social identification prevents negative affect from high university excellence norms. *Journal of Experimental Social Psychology*, *81*, Article 103796.

42. Schindler, S., **Pfattheicher, S.**, Reinhard, M., & Greenberg, J. (2019). 'Heroes aren't always so great!' – Heroic perceptions under mortality salience. *Social Influence, 14*, 77-91.
43. Kesberg, R., & **Pfattheicher, S.** (2019). Democracy matters: A psychological perspective on the beneficial impact of democratic punishment systems in social dilemmas. *Palgrave Communications, 5*, Article 44.
44. Muris, P., Otgaar, H., & **Pfattheicher, S.** (2019). Stripping the forest from the rotten trees: Compassionate self-responding is a way of coping, but reduced uncompassionate self-responding mainly reflects psychopathology. *Mindfulness, 10*, 196–199.
45. **Pfattheicher, S.**, Keller, J., & Knezevic, G. (2019). Destroying things for pleasure: On the relation of sadism and vandalism. *Personality and Individual Differences, 140*, 52–56.
46. **Pfattheicher, S.**, Schindler, S., & Nockur, L. (2019). On the impact of Honesty-Humility and a cue of being watched on cheating behavior. *Journal of Economic Psychology, 71*, 159–174.

2018

47. **Pfattheicher, S.** & Böhm, R. (2018). Honesty-humility under threat: Self-uncertainty destroys trust among the nice guys. *Journal of Personality and Social Psychology, 114*, 179–194.
48. Geiger, M., **Pfattheicher, S.**, Hartung, J., Weiss, S., Schindler, S., & Wilhelm, O. (2018). Self-Compassion as a facet of neuroticism? A reply to the comments of Neff, Tóth-Király, and Colosimo (2018). *European Journal of Personality, 32*, 393–404.
49. **Pfattheicher, S.**, Böhm, R., & Kesberg, R. (2018). The advantage of democratic peer punishment in sustaining cooperation within groups. *Journal of Behavioral Decision Making, 31*, 4, 562–571.
50. **Pfattheicher, S.**, Strauch, C., Diefenbacher, S. & Schnuerch, R. (2018). A field study on watching eyes and hand hygiene compliance in a public restroom. *Journal of Applied Social Psychology, 48*, 188–194.
51. Schnuerch R. & **Pfattheicher, S.** (2018). Motivated malleability: Frontal cortical asymmetry predicts the susceptibility to social influence. *Social Neuroscience, 13*, 480–494.

2017

52. Steinmetz, J. & **Pfattheicher, S.** (2017). Beyond social facilitation: A review of the far-reaching effects of social attention. *Social Cognition, 35*, 585–599.
53. **Pfattheicher, S.** & Keller, J. (2017). A motivational perspective on punishment in social dilemmas. *European Review of Social Psychology, 28*, 257–287.

54. **Pfattheicher, S.**, Geiger, M., Hartung, J., Weiß, S., & Schindler, S. (2017). Old wine in new bottles? The case of self-compassion and neuroticism. *European Journal of Personality, 31*, 160–169.
55. **Pfattheicher, S.** (2017). Illuminating the dual-hormone hypothesis: About chronic dominance and the interaction of cortisol and testosterone. *Aggressive Behavior, 1*, 85–92.
56. **Pfattheicher, S.**, Keller, J., & Knezevic, G. (2017). Sadism, the intuitive system, and antisocial punishment in the public goods game. *Personality and Social Psychology Bulletin, 43*, 337–346.
57. Schindler, S. & **Pfattheicher, S.** (2017). The frame of the game: Loss-framing increases deceptive behavior. *Journal of Experimental Social Psychology, 69*, 172–177.
58. Sassenrath, C., **Pfattheicher, S.**, & Keller, J. (2017). I might ease your pain, but only if you're sad: The moderating role of empathized emotion in the empathy-helping association. *Motivation and Emotion, 41*, 96–106.

2016

59. Sassenrath, C., Hodges, S. D., & **Pfattheicher, S.** (2016). It's all about the self: When perspective taking backfires. *Current Directions in Psychological Science, 25*, 405–410.
60. **Pfattheicher, S.** (2016). Testosterone, cortisol and the Dark Triad: Narcissism (but not Machiavellianism or psychopathy) is positively related to basal testosterone and cortisol. *Personality and Individual Differences, 97*, 115–119.
61. **Pfattheicher, S.**, Sassenrath, C., & Schindler, S. (2016). Feelings for the suffering of others and the environment: Compassion fosters proenvironmental tendencies. *Environment and Behavior, 48*, 929–945.
62. **Pfattheicher, S.**, & Schindler, S. (2016). Misperceiving bullshit as profound is associated with favorable views of Cruz, Rubio, Trump and conservatism. *PLoS ONE, 11*, Article e0153419.
63. Bösch, C., Erb, B., Kargl, F., Kopp, H., & **Pfattheicher, S.** (2016). Tales from the dark side: Privacy dark strategies and privacy dark patterns. *Proceedings on Privacy Enhancing Technologies, 4*, 237–254.

2015

64. **Pfattheicher, S.** (2015). A regulatory focus perspective on reputational concerns: The impact of prevention-focused self-regulation. *Motivation and Emotion, 39*, 932–942.
65. **Pfattheicher, S.**, & Schindler, S. (2015). Understanding the dark side of costly punishment: The impact of individual differences in everyday sadism and existential threat. *European Journal of Personality, 29*, 498–505.

66. **Pfattheicher, S.**, & Keller, J. (2015). The watching eyes phenomenon: The role of a sense of being seen and public self-awareness. *European Journal of Social Psychology*, *45*, 560–566.
67. Keller, J., Mayo, R., Greifeneder, R., & **Pfattheicher, S.** (2015). Regulatory focus and generalized trust: The impact of prevention-focused self-regulation on trusting others. *Frontiers in Psychology*, Article 254.

#### 2014 and before

68. **Pfattheicher, S.**, & Sassenrath, C. (2014). A regulatory focus perspective on eating behavior: How promotion and prevention focus relates to emotional, external, and restrained eating. *Frontiers in Psychology*, Article 1314.
69. **Pfattheicher, S.**, Landhäuser, A., & Keller, J. (2014). Individual differences in antisocial punishment in public goods situations: The interplay of cortisol with testosterone and dominance. *Journal of Behavioral Decision Making*, *27*, 340–348.
70. **Pfattheicher, S.**, & Keller, J. (2014). Towards a biopsychological understanding of costly punishment: The role of basal cortisol. *PLoS one*, *9*, article e85691.
71. Keller, J., & **Pfattheicher, S.** (2013). The Compassion-hostility-paradox: The interplay of vigilant, prevention-focused self-regulation, compassion and hostility. *Personality and Social Psychology Bulletin*, *39*, 1518–1529.
72. **Pfattheicher, S.**, & Keller, J. (2013). Vigilant self-regulation and costly punishment in public goods situations. *European Journal of Personality*, *27*, 346–354.
73. Keller, J., & **Pfattheicher, S.** (2011). Vigilant self-regulation, cues of being watched and cooperativeness. *European Journal of Personality*, *25*, 363–372.

#### Book chapters, comments/letters, editorials, and miscellaneous

---

74. **Pfattheicher, S.** (2024). *The Transparent and Open Science Game*. Aarhus University. [Link](#) to the open access game material.
75. Artak, C. E. T., & **Pfattheicher, S.** (2024). On the relation of boredom and aggression. In *The Routledge International Handbook of Boredom* (1st ed.). Routledge.
76. Bieleke, M. et al. (2024). Overview of current directions in boredom research. In *The Routledge International Handbook of Boredom* (1st ed.). Routledge.
77. Nielsen, Y. A., Ścigała, K.A., Nockur, L., Venema, T.A.G. & **Pfattheicher, S.** (2022). A cautious note on the relationship between social mindfulness and concern with environmental protection. *PNAS*, *119*, article e2120348119. (Letter)
78. Thielmann, I., & **Pfattheicher, S.** (2022). Current and New Directions in the Study of Prosociality. *Current Opinion in Psychology*, *47*, article 101355. (Editorial)



79. Sassenrath, C., **Pfattheicher, S.**, & Hodges, S. D. (2020). Introduction to British Journal of Social Psychology special section on ‘The bright and dark sides of empathy.’ *The British Journal of Social Psychology*, 59, 714. (Editorial)
80. Schindler, S., Greenberg, J., & **Pfattheicher, S.** (2018). An existential perspective on the psychological function of shamans. *Behavioral and Brain Sciences*, 41, 85. (Comment)
81. **Pfattheicher S.**, & Böhm R. (2017). Mechanisms to detect and punish cheaters. In: Shackelford T., Weekes-Shackelford V. (Eds.) *Encyclopedia of Evolutionary Psychological Science*. Springer. (Book chapter)

#### Editorial and reviewer service

---

##### *Editorial board member*

Personality and Social Psychology Review (2022—)

##### *Special issue editor (#2)*

British Journal of Social Psychology (2020) on ”The bright and dark sides of empathy”  
 Current Opinion in Psychology (in 2022) on “Prosociality”

##### *Reviewer for science foundations (#5)*

Austrian Science Fund (FWF) / German Science Foundation (DFG) / Israel Science Foundation (ISF)  
 / National Science Foundation (NSF) / Swiss National Science Foundation (SNSF)

##### *Ad hoc reviewer for journals (#73)*

Aggressive Behavior / Applied Cognitive Psychology / Biological Psychology / British Journal of Social Psychology / Cognition / Collabra: Psychology / Comprehensive Psychiatry / Current Directions in Psychological Science / Current Research in Ecological and Social Psychology / Diabetic Medicine / Emotion / European Journal of Personality / European Journal of Social Psychology / European Psychologist / Evolutionary Psychology / Experimental Psychology / Food Quality and Preference / Frontiers in Psychology / Games / Group Processes & Intergroup Relations / Health Psychology / Hormones and Behavior / In-Mind / International Journal of Psychology / International Journal of Sport and Exercise Psychology / Journal of Child and Family Studies / Journal of Economic Behavior & Organization / Journal of Economic Psychology / Journal of Environmental Psychology / Journal of Experimental Criminology / Journal of Experimental Psychology: Applied / Journal of Experimental Psychology: General / Journal of Experimental Social Psychology / Journal of Family Violence / Journal of Individual Differences / Journal of Neuroscience / Journal of Personality / Journal of Personality and Social Psychology / Journal of Personality Assessment / Journal of Research in Personality / Journal of School Violence / Judgment and Decision Making / Management Science / Motivation and Emotion / Nature Communications / Nature Human Behaviour / Neuroscience & Biobehavioral Reviews / PeerJ / Personality and Individual Differences / Personality and Social

Psychology Bulletin / Personality and Social Psychology Review / Personality Science / PLoS ONE / Political Psychology / PNAS / PNAS Nexus / Psychological Bulletin / Psychology and Economics / Psihologija / Psychoneuroendocrinology / Psychological Science / Royal Society Open Science / Sage Open / Scandinavian Journal of Psychology / Scientific Reports / Self and Identity / Social and Personality Psychology Compass / Social Psychological and Personality Science / Social Justice Research / Social Neuroscience / Social Psychology / The Physician and Sportsmedicine / Thinking & Reasoning / Zeitschrift für Psychologie