

Alexandr Ten

Postdoc

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Experience

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| Hector Research Institute of Education Sciences and Psychology , Postdoc
• Supervisors: Kou Murayama, Michiko Sakaki | Tübingen, Germany
June 2022 – present |
| Inria / Flowers Lab , Research Intern
• Supervisor: Pierre-Yves Oudeyer | Talence, France
Feb 2018 – Aug 2018 |
| Self-employment , Software consultant
Developed interactive pedagogical tools for learning about connectionist networks
(for "PSYCH 209: Neural Network Models of Cognition: Principles and Applications")
• Supervisor: James L. McClelland | Remote
2016 — 2017 |

Education

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| Ph. D. Inria / University of Bordeaux , Computer Science
• Thesis: Role of Progress-Based Intrinsic Motivation in Learning: Evidence from Human Behavior and Future Directions
• Advisor: Dr. Pierre-Yves Oudeyer
• Co-advisor: Prof. Jacqueline Gottlieb | Talence, France
Sept 2018 – May 2022 |
| M. Sc. Birkbeck, University of London , Cognition and Computation
• Thesis: A Comparison of Recurrent Neural Network Architectures in Resolving Long-Distance Dependencies
• Advisor: Michael. S. C. Thomas
• Kenway Scholarship Recipient | London, United Kingdom
Sept 2016 – Aug 2017 |
| B. Sc. TMC Academy / University of Greenwich , Psychology with Counseling
• Thesis: Differentiation of Basic-Level Personality-Trait Categories
• Advisor: C. M. Hew D. Gill
• First-class honours
• TMC Merit Award (S\$1000 prize) | Singapore
Fall 2013 — Spring 2015 |
| B.A. KIMEP University , Marketing (major) & Accounting (minor) | Almaty, Kazakhstan
Sept 2009 – Aug 2013 |

Publications and preprints

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| The Role of Prior Knowledge in Epistemic Curiosity Across Adulthood
Mats Abrahamse, Kou Murayama, <i>Alexandr Ten</i> , Michiko Sakaki
(Psychology of Aging) | in press |
| The Curious U: Integrating theories linking knowledge and information-seeking behavior
<i>Alexandr Ten</i> , Pierre-Yves Oudeyer, Michiko Sakaki, Kou Murayama
https://doi.org/10.1162/OPMI.a.41 (Open Mind) | Oct 2025 |

In search of lost memories: Modeling exploration with forgetful generalization <i>Alexandr Ten, Michiko Sakaki, Sebastian Breit, Aswath Chandrasekaran, Kou Murayama, Charley M. Wu</i> https://doi.org/10.31234/osf.io/hupq5_v1 (Preprint)	Oct 2025
Role of metacognitive confidence judgments in curiosity: different effects of confidence on curiosity across epistemic and perceptual domains <i>Michiko Sakaki, Alexandr Ten, Hannah Stone, Kou Murayama</i> https://doi.org/10.1111/cogs.13474 (Cognitive Science)	June 2024
Curiosity-driven exploration: Diversity of mechanisms and functions <i>Alexandr Ten, Pierre-Yves Oudeyer, Clément Moulin-Frier</i> https://doi.org/10.1017/9781009026949 (The Drive for Knowledge: The Science of Human Information Seeking (Cambridge University Press))	May 2022
Intrinsic rewards in human curiosity-driven exploration: An empirical study <i>Alexandr Ten, Jacqueline Gottlieb, Pierre-Yves Oudeyer</i> escholarship.org/uc/item/13b6p5ms (Proceedings of the Annual Meeting of the Cognitive Science Society, vol. 43)	July 2021
Humans monitor learning progress in curiosity-driven exploration <i>Alexandr Ten, Pramod Kaushik, Pierre-Yves Oudeyer, Jacqueline Gottlieb</i> https://doi.org/10.1038/s41467-021-26196-w (Nature Communications)	Oct 2021

Teaching

Understanding Learning Processes through Experiments I

Master's project seminar @ Hector Institute

- Winter 2026 (Oct 2026 – present)
- Winter 2025
- Winter 2024
- Winter 2023

Understanding Learning Processes through Experiments II

Master's project seminar @ Hector Institute

- Summer 2026
- Summer 2025
- Summer 2024

Curiosity and Epistemic Emotions I

Master's project seminar @ Hector Institute

- Winter 2022

Curiosity and Epistemic Emotions II

Master's project seminar @ Hector Institute

- Summer 2023

Supervision

Johanna Messner

Master's thesis: *Psychological Mechanisms of State Curiosity: Testing Competing Accounts of Uncertainty-Driven Information Seeking*

University of Tübingen
2025 – 2025

Jan Thiele

Bachelor's thesis: *The Effect of Uncertainty on Expected Learning Progress in Curiosity-Driven Learning*

University of Tübingen
2023 – 2024

Sebastian Breit

Master's thesis: *In Search of Lost Memories: Modeling Forgetful Generalization*

University of Tübingen

2022 – 2023

Maxime Balan

Master's thesis: *Remote Experimentation to Investigate the Relationship between Learning, Intrinsic Motivation, and Metacognition*

University of Bordeaux

2020 – 2021

Memberships

Curiosity in Development (CiD) international research hub: a grassroots organization for researchers interested in curiosity across the lifespan. Here, I volunteer as a Communications Committee leader, which entails organization of regular newsletters and forum administration.

Postdoctoral Academy for Research on Education (PACE): a professional development organization aiming to help its postdoc members acquire crucial skills in grant writing, applying for academic jobs, and networking.

LEAD Graduate School & Research Network: a large and vibrant network of researchers, practitioners, and funding agencies in education.

Invited Talks and Presentations

Forgetful generalization and exploration

- [Poster] Computational Psychiatry Conference (CPC) (July 2025)
- [Poster] Tübingen pre-CogSci workshop (July 2025)

The Curious U Integrating Theories Linking Knowledge and Information-Seeking Behaviour

- [Presentation] Reinforcement Learning and Decision Making (RLDM) conference; PIMBAA workshop (June 2025)
- [Invited talk] INRIA / Flowers Lab (April 2024)
- [Invited talk] Tübingen AI Center / Human & Machine Cognition Lab (March 2024)

Humans monitor learning progress in curiosity-driven exploration

- [Invited talk] Max Planck Institute for Biological Cybernetics (March 2023)

In search of origins of curiosity

- [Poster] Tübingen Week on Education, Motivation, Meta-Cognition, Personality, and Self-Regulation (TEMMPS) (July 2024)

Skills

Languages: Julia, Python, R, JavaScript

Online experiments: JATOS, Labjs, jsPsych, Open Sesame, Prolific

Methods: computational modeling, frequentist and bayesian statistics

Reviewing activity

I have reviewed for Child Development, Cognition, CogSci Proceedings, Emotion, Nature Scientific Reports, and Peer Community In Registered Reports (PCI RR), Psychonomic Bulletin and Review