

**Areas of Specialization:** Philosophy of Animal Minds, Animal Communication, Philosophy of Mind, Methods in Comparative Psychology

**Areas of competence:** Philosophy of Language, Philosophy of Science

- **PERSONAL INFORMATION**

Family name, First name: Sievers, Christine

Nationality: German

Google scholar: [https://scholar.google.ch/citations?view\\_op=list\\_works&hl=de&user=wxh1h\\_EAAAAJ](https://scholar.google.ch/citations?view_op=list_works&hl=de&user=wxh1h_EAAAAJ)

- **EDUCATION**

December 2017                      PhD in Philosophy, defense: 10<sup>th</sup> of April 2018, summa cum laude (with excellence)  
Philosophy Seminar, University of Basel, Basel, Switzerland, Supervisors: Markus  
Wild (Philosophy), Klaus Zuberbühler (Comparative Cognition)

March 2013                              Master in Philosophy, University of Erfurt, Erfurt, Germany

- **CURRENT POSITION**

August 2021-                              Junior Fellow at the **Walter Benjamin Kolleg, University of Bern, Switzerland**  
January 2022

- **PREVIOUS POSITIONS**

November 2020-                              Research Associate,  
July 2021                                      Swiss Center for Affective Sciences  
**University of Geneva, Switzerland**

February 2019-                              Postdoctoral research fellow at  
October 2020                                      the Research Chair for Animal Minds,  
**Department of Philosophy, York University, Toronto,**  
Canada, Advisors: Kristin Andrews & Friederike Range

September 2018-                              Teaching Fellow (50 %) at the Chair of Philosophy,  
January 2019                                      Theoretical Philosophy Seminar, **University of Basel,**  
**Basel, Switzerland**

May 2016 –                                      Teaching Assistant (50%) at the Chair of Theoretical Philosophy  
August 2018                                      Philosophy Seminar, University of Basel, Basel, Switzerland  
Advisor: Markus Wild

September 2014 –                              PhD researcher (100%) within the SNSF Professorship Project “Biosemantics and  
April 2016                                      Normative Pragmatism”, University of Basel, Basel, Switzerland, Advisor:  
Markus Wild

December 2013–                              Teaching Assistant (50%) at the Chair of Theoretical Philosophy  
August 2014                                      Philosophy Seminar, University of Basel, Basel, Switzerland, Advisor: Markus  
Wild

January 2012–                                      Student Teaching Assistant (25%) at the Chair of Theoretical Philosophy,  
February 2013                                      University of Erfurt, Erfurt, Germany, Advisor: Alex Burri

- **INSTITUTIONAL RESPONSABILITIES**

- 2016–2018                      Organization Student-Information- days representing the Philosophy Seminar each year; Organization First Semester Students welcome day at the Philosophy Seminar every autumn semester, University of Basel, Basel, Switzerland
- 2014- 2016                      Students' counseling at the Philosophy Department, University of Bern

- **APPROVED RESEARCH PROJECTS & FELLOWSHIPS**

- **Swiss National Science Foundation (SNSF) Early Postdoc Mobility Grant for the project “Negotiation of conflicts of interest in dogs and wolves”** (2019; 73 800 CHF)
- **Swiss National Science Foundation (SNSF) Mobility Grant for doctoral students in research projects funded by the SNSF** (2016; 5290 CHF)
- **Freiwillige Akademische Gesellschaft (FAG)** support for the workshop entitled “*Functional Reference in Animal Communication*” (2015; 1330 CHF) obtained with Dr. Rebekka Hufendiek (University of Basel).

- **TEACHING ACTIVITIES**

**York University, Toronto, Canada**

- 2020                      Department of Philosophy (as SNSF research fellow), Introductory & Field Course, jointly with Kristin Andrews, Introduction into *Animal Communication – Theory and empirical methods (canceled due to Covid19)*

**University of Basel, Basel, Switzerland**

- 2014                      Philosophy Seminar, BA course, *Sagen und Meinen: Die Sprachphilosophie von H.P. Grice (28h)*
- 2014                      Philosophy Seminar, BA course, *Thinking Animals: An Introduction to the Animal Minds Discussion (28h)*
- 2016                      Philosophy Seminar, MA course jointly with Dr. Rebekka Hufendiek, *What is culture? - Discussing methods into the investigation of the evolution of human culture in Comparative Cognition and Anthropology (56h)*
- 2017                      Philosophy Seminar, BA course, *Theory of Mind in human and nonhuman animals (28h)*
- 2018                      Philosophy Seminar, BA course, *Intentionality: From Brentano to naturalistic approaches (28h)*
- 2018                      Philosophy Seminar, BA course, *Naturalizing the mind: Dretske's Philosophy of Mind and Epistemology (28h)*

**University of Erfurt, Erfurt, Germany**

- 2012-2013                      Philosophy Seminar, Exercise, *Introduction to Logic (28h x 2)*

- **EDITORIAL RESPONSABILITIES**

Ad-hoc reviewer for Biological Theory (BTHE), Biological Reviews and Animal Behavior And Cognition

- **MEMBERSHIPS OF SCIENTIFIC SOCIETIES**

- 2015–                      Member, Society for the Philosophy of Animal Minds

- **ORGANISATION OF SCIENTIFIC MEETINGS**

- 2015                      **Workshop “Functional Reference in Animal Communication”**, with Dr. Rebekka Hufendiek, Basel, Switzerland.

- **PUBLICATIONS**

- **Publications in peer-reviewed scientific journals**

**Sievers, C.** (accepted). Ostensive intentional communication and the myth of a fullblown Theory of Mind-requirement. *Philosophical Transaction of the Royal Society B*.

Dezecache, G., **Sievers, C.** & Gruber, T. (accepted) What non-humans can teach us about the role of emotions in cultural evolution. *Emotion Review*.

Gruber, T., Bazhydai, M., **Sievers, C.**, Clément, F., & Dukes, D. (accepted). The ABC of social learning: Affect, Behaviour and Cognition. *Psychological Reviews*.

**Sievers, C.** & Gruber, T. (2020). Can nonhuman primate signals be arbitrarily meaningful like human words? An affective approach. *Animal Behavior and Cognition*.

Fröhlich, M., **Sievers, C.**, Townsend, S. & van Schaik, C. (2019) Multimodal communication and language origins: integrating gestures and vocalizations. *Biological Reviews*, 5, 1809-1829.

**Sievers, C.** & Gruber, T. (2016) Reference in human and nonhuman primates: What does it take to refer? *Animal Cognition*, 19, 759-768.

Townsend, S. & **Sievers, C.** (2015) Commentary on T. C. Scott-Phillips' "Nonhuman Primate Communication, Pragmatics and the Origins of Language". *Current Anthropology*, 56, 72-73.

- **Contributions to books**

Gruber, T. & **Sievers, C.** (2019) A chimpanzee view on ASL: the emotional side of cultural learning in primates. In: D. Dukes and F. Clement (eds) *Foundations of Affective Social Learning: conceptualising the transmission of social value*. Cambridge University Press.

**Sievers, C.**, Wild, M. & Gruber, T. (2017) Intentionality and flexibility in animal communication. In: K. Andrews & J. Beck (eds.) *The Routledge Handbook of Philosophy of Animal Minds*. Routledge, 333-342.

- **Book reviews**

**Sievers, C.** (2020). Vom Umgang mit der empirischen Forschung in der Tier- und Sprachphilosophie. *Deutsche Zeitschrift für Philosophie*.

- **TALKS**

- **Do nonhuman animals have a mind?**

May 2021, Philosophische Gesellschaft Bern, Universität Bern, invited speaker

- **Misconceptions about intentional communication: Why cooperative communication never required shared intentionality but social attention & tolerance**

April 2020, Conference: EvoLang XIII, Vrije University of Brussels, Belgium, invited speaker

- **Tolerance may foster ostensive communication, not an inclination for metarepresentational processes**

September 2019, Workshop: Animal Minds: Agency, Thought and Communication, University of Zurich, Switzerland, invited speaker

- **The importance of context and interaction for the extraction of information from unknown signals**

September 2019, Symposium: Human understanding of primate signals, University of Oxford, UK, invited speaker

- **The myth of 4<sup>th</sup> order intentionality: What does it take to be an ostensive communicator?**

April 2019, Conference of the Cognitive Science Center, University of Neuchâtel, Switzerland, invited speaker

- **Negotiations of conflicts in dogs and wolves**

March 2019, Wolf Science Center, Ernstbrunn, Austria, invited speaker

- **The informative value of communicator disagreement in great apes for the study of the evolution of human intentional communication**

April 2018, Torun/ Poland, EvoLang Conference XII, peer-reviewed talk.

- **The informative value of recipient and signaler disagreement for the study of intentional communication in wild chimpanzees**

August 2017, Strasbourg/France, European Federation for Primatology meeting, peer-reviewed talk.

- **Reply to Carel van Schaik's "Orangutan skill sets and exploration tendency depend on access to tolerant experts: The more the better!"**

June 2017, Affective Social Learning Symposium, Neuchâtel/Switzerland, joint talk with Coralie Debracque, peer-reviewed.

- **Reference in nonhuman primate communication: What does it take to refer?**

August 2016, peer-reviewed talk, European Society for Philosophy and Psychology (ESPP), University of St. Andrews/UK

- **A perception- based account of communication vs. an inferential account of communication**

May 2016, Workshop „Biosemantics and Unicepts, Language, and Natural Information“ with Ruth Millikan, Basel/Switzerland.

- **Reference in nonhuman primate communication: What does it take to refer?**

February 2016, NeuZü: joint conference between the behavior and cognition labs at the University of Zürich and University of Neuchâtel/Switzerland.

- **Reference in nonhuman primate communication: What does it take to refer?**

February 2016, 11th Annual Meeting of the Ethological Society, Göttingen, DPZ/Germany, peer-reviewed talk.

- **Intentional communication in travel initiation contexts in wild chimpanzees**

November 2015, invited speaker Linguistics Kolloquium University of Basel.

- **Functional reference, semantics and pragmatics**

March 2015, workshop "Functional reference in animal communication", University of Basel/Switzerland, talk.

- **Flexible interaction between signaler and recipient as an indicator for intentional communication**

March 2015, Behaviour and Cognition, student conference, University of Zürich/Switzerland, peer-reviewed talk.

- **What does it take to communicate intentionally? - A theoretical perspective on the interpretation of communicative interactions in nonhuman primates**

January 2015, Eco-Ethology and Comparative Cognition joint lab meeting, University of Neuchâtel, invited speaker

- **Identifying features of intentional communication in nonhuman animals**

November 2014, Philosophy Kolloquium, University of Basel, invited speaker