

CV (of Failures)
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The idea of publicly documenting failures is not mine. I remember seeing a post by my colleague Thibaud Gruber in which he showed a slide listing all of his unsuccessful grant applications alongside his successful ones. He described the resulting narrative not as a success story, but as a perseverance story.

More recently, during one of our regular morning chats, Bill McGrew mentioned, and subsequently shared, an article that he had received from one of his colleagues. In that article, published more than 15 years ago, Melanie I. Stefan argued for keeping a "CV of Failures". As Stefan wrote, such a record "will remind you of the missing truths, some of the essential parts of what it means to be a scientist", and may even "inspire a colleague to shake off a rejection and start again".

Although these rejections were all more or less painful at the time, compiling them into a single document turned out to be rather enjoyable. This CV has been compiled largely from memory and is therefore unlikely to be entirely accurate with respect to dates and details. It also omits a substantial amount of information, particularly concerning manuscript submissions and publication-related rejections.

Degree never completed and scholarships not awarded

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|------|---|
| 2016 | PhD Scholarship
School of Psychology, Philosophy and Language
University of Edinburgh |
| 2016 | PhD Position
Institute of Biology and Institute of Work and Organizational Psychology (IPTO)
University of Neuchâtel, Switzerland |
| 2013 | MSc in Cognitive Science (Cogmaster)
ENS-PSL & EHESS, France
I dropped out after 2 months and I still think I should have gotten a distinction for this very speedy drop out. |

Academic non-appointments

2026	Chargé de Recherche CNRS CNRS, France Shortlisted but no offer
2026	Associate Professor in Developmental and Educational Psychology University of Oxford, UK Not shortlisted
2025	Lecturer in Cognitive Neuroscience/Psychology University of Glasgow, UK Not shortlisted
2025	Assistant Professor in Developmental Psychology University of Luzern, Switzerland Not shortlisted
2024	Assistant Professor in Human Development University of Basel, Switzerland Not shortlisted
2023	Lecturer in Psychology University of Stirling, UK Shortlisted but no offer
2023	Lecturer in Developmental Psychology University of Lancaster, UK Not shortlisted
2022	Postdoctoral Researcher Position Utrecht University, the Netherlands Not shortlisted
2022	Lecturer in Psychology Queen's University Belfast, UK Shortlisted but no offer (got ranked 2 nd though)
2021	Postdoctoral Researcher Position University of Exeter, UK Shortlisted but no offer

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|------|---|
| 2021 | Postdoctoral Researcher Positions (2 – two different PIs)
University of York, UK
Shortlisted but no offer |
| 2020 | Postdoctoral Researcher Position,
University of Geneva, Switzerland
Shortlisted but no offer |

Fellowships and Grants not awarded

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|------|---|
| 2025 | Research Fellowship Program
Jacobs Foundation, Switzerland |
| 2024 | Research Fellowship Program
Jacobs Foundation, Switzerland |
| 2024 | Future Leader Fellowship (School level selection)
University of St Andrews, UK |
| 2024 | Scotland Seed Funding Award Scheme
British Academy Early Career Researcher Network, UK |
| 2023 | Newton International Fellowship
Royal Society, UK |
| 2022 | Bourse de Fonctionnement/Equipement
Foundation Léon Frédéricq, Belgium |
| 2022 | British Academy Postdoctoral Fellowships
British Academy, UK |
| 2022 | Vice-Chancellor Fellowship
University of Edinburgh, UK |
| 2022 | Swiss Postdoctoral Fellowship
Swiss National Funds, Switzerland |

Awards...not awarded

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|------|--|
| 2025 | Watson-Arnott Award for Research Excellence
(Outstanding Early Career Researcher)
University of St Andrews, UK |
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My normal CV includes the nomination (which I am very delighted with), which ultimately means that I did not get the award in the end

Publications

I am starting this record on 11 August 2026 because, frankly, I can no longer keep track.

Most recently, the paper Frick, A., Belletier, C., Tan, W., Meng, N., Zhou, Q., Christie, S., & Camos, V. (2025). The effects of an unfamiliar experimenter on proactive and reactive control in children. *Scientific Reports*, 15(1), 5860, had the privilege of undertaking a Grand Tour¹ of developmental psychology journals, having been rejected in succession by *Child Development*, *Developmental Science*, *Developmental Psychology*, *Journal of Cognition and Development*, *Cognitive Development*, and *Journal of Experimental Child Psychology*.

Others

- | | |
|------|---|
| 2025 | DNF ² Pentland Skyline
Edinburgh, UK
I get injured for one year instead. |
| 2008 | Double a class in high school
Lycée Jacques Monod, St Jean de Braye, France)
Some teachers said they saw me only once or twice during the whole year –
bless I was 17 years old. |

¹ Borrowing this expression from my colleague Cal Cook

² DNF means Did Not Finish