

Aline Potiron

Postdoctoral Researcher

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🌐 <https://apotiron.github.io>

Profiles

 **LinkedIn**

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ORCID

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Languages

French

Native speaker



English

C1



German

B1



Spanish

A2



Chinese

A1



Trained as a philosopher of science and a microbiologist, I aim to investigate the conceptual foundations and societal implications of microbiology.

Work Experience

Utrecht University	Utrecht, Netherlands
Postdoctoral Researcher	2024-Present
Johannes Kepler University	Linz, Austria
University Assistant pre-doc	2020-2024
Château Seguin & Château Brown	Canéjan & Léognan, France
Vineyard and Cellar worker	2019-2020
National Institute for Agricultural Food and Environmental Research	
Jouy-en-Josas, France	
PhD candidate	2014-2017

Education in Philosophy

Johannes Kepler University	PhD
Philosophy of Science	Linz, Austria • 2020-2024
Thesis title: Data, Measurement, and Causality: Challenges from Modern Microbiology	
Supervisors: Julian Reiss and Emanuele Ratti	
Sorbonne University	Master • summa cum laude
Logic, Philosophy of Science and Knowledge	Paris, France • 2018-2019
Thesis title: Scientific Misconducts	
Supervisor: Anouk Barberousse	

Education in Biology

Paris-Saclay University	PhD
Microbiology	Saclay, France • 2014-2017
Thesis title: Cholesterol conversion into coprostanol by bacteria from human gut microbiota and its impact on cholesterolemia	
Supervisors: Philippe Gérard and Moez Rhimi	
L'Institut Agro Dijon	Master in Food Engineering
Microbiology & Biotechnologies	Dijon, France • 2011-2014
Lycée Henri IV	Paris, France • 2009-2011
Mathematics, Biology, Chemistry, Physics and Earth Sciences	
Two-year undergraduate intensive course to prepare for nationwide competitive examination	

Skills

Analysis & Synthesis

State of The Art, Critical Analysis, Contextualising Research Topics

Project Management

Organisation & Planning, Coordination, Co-organisation of conferences

Interdisciplinarity

Collaboration - 2 teams, Contribution - 2 accepted Symposiums in Philosophy

Leadership

Team Leader - Vineyard, Rugby Captain

Advanced Qualitative Research Methods

Case-study Research Method, Gioia Methodology

R & RStudio

Statistical Analysis

Experimental

Microbiology, Molecular Biology, Histology, Mice Experimentation

Teaching and Supervision Experience

History and Philosophy of the Modern Life Sciences 2026

Teaching Assistant/Lecturer

Philosophy of Science 2025-2026

Teaching Assistant

History and Philosophy of Biology* 2025-2026

Teaching Assistant/Lecturer

Dilemmas of the Scientist 2025

Lecturer

Selected Topics in Practical Philosophy 2021-2024

Instructor

Philosophy of Science 2024

Instructor

Fundamentals of Philosophy in Medicine 2023-2024

Instructor

Gender and Diversity in Computer Science and Engineering: Perspectives from Sociocultural Studies and Ethics 2023

Instructor

Château Seguin 2019 (3 months)

Co-supervision of trainees in the wine tourism bachelor's program

National Institute for Agricultural Food and Environmental Research 2015-2017

Supervision of BTS and Biology Bachelor students in developing laboratory skills (molecular biology and microbiology), transmission of techniques (gnotobiotic mice, anaerobic microbiology and histology) to PhD students and Assistant Engineer.

Engineering and Biology Internships

Proxis Développement Noyant, France

Research and development internship 2014 (6 months)

Optimisation of fermentation and freeze-drying conditions for probiotic bacterial strains.

Institut Universitaire de la Vigne et du Vin Dijon, France

Laboratory internship 2014 (6 months)

Cloning of genes from *Oenococcus oeni* and study of the enzymatic activity of the product of the expression of these genes in *Lactobacillus plantarum*.

Stellenbosch University Stellenbosch, South Africa

Laboratory internship 2013 (6 months)

Identification and functional characterisation of two putative terpene synthase genes in grapevine

Eurial La Chapelle-Thireuil, France

Food industry (cheese) worker 2012 (2 months)

Frozen products productions line and packaging

Lejay Dijon, France

Food industry (beverage) worker 2012 (1 month)

Production line, packaging, hygiene and security training

Outreach Activities

Long Night of Research

Linz, Austria

Design of a poster and animations to explain my philosophical research to a wide public.

2022

Engage your audience!*

Valencia, Spain

Summary of my scientific research in 180 seconds.

2017

Paris International Agricultural Show

Paris, France

Presentation of the INRAE including fun activities for children and adults.

2016

Open Days of INRA

Jouy-en-Josas, France

Design of small experiments and creation of simple fact sheets for a wide public audience.

2015

Service

Referee

2026

Postcolonial Studies, Philosophy of Science, General Philosophy of Science

Special Issue - The human diversity dilemma: Navigating the intersection of microbiomes, ethics and society in Africa

2026-2027

Guest co-editor

South African Journal of Science

<https://sajs.co.za/call-human-diversity-dilemma>

Student committee

International Society for the History, Philosophy and Social Studies of Biology

Active member

2021-2025

Doctoral Student Association Board (Doc'J)

National Institute for Agricultural Food and Environmental Research

Treasurer and Events organisation

2016-2017

Education committee

Master Logic, Philosophy of Science and Philosophy of Knowledge

Student Representative

2018

Workshop and Conference Organisation

The Human Diversity Dilemma: Navigating the Intersection of Microbes, Ethics, and Society in Africa

Cape Town, South Africa

Organizing Committee

October 2025

Workshop followed by a writeshop

Causality in Epidemiology (EpiCause)

Linz, Austria

Organizing committee

May 2024

CitS Conference series

Postgenomic Intersections: Epistemology and Ethics for the Exposome and Microbiome

Milano, Italy

Organizing Committee

March 2026

Workshop

Publications

- Rethinking microbiome health through functional dynamics** 2026
Cell Host & Microbes
[A. Potiron](#), J. Francken, and S. El Aidy
<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.chom.2026.03.005>
- Beyond the microscope: Rethinking microbial diversity measurement with the model-based account** 2025
European Journal for Philosophy of Science
A. Potiron
<https://doi.org/10.1007/s13194-025-00660-6>
- Different kinds of data: samples and the relational framework*** 2024
Biology and Philosophy
A. Potiron
<https://doi.org/10.1007/s10539-024-09962-0>
- Microbial impact on cholesterol and bile acid metabolism: current status and future prospects** 2019
Journal of Lipid Research
A. Kriaa, M. Bourgin, [A. Potiron](#), H. Mkaouar, A. Jablaoui, P. Gérard, E. Maguin, and M. Rhim
<https://doi.org/10.1194/jlr.R088989>
- Recent patents on hypocholesterolemic therapeutic strategies: an update** 2015
Recent Advances in DNA and Gene Sequences
[A. Potiron](#), P. Gérard, T. Le Roy, P. Lesnik, E. Maguin, and M. Rhim
<https://www.eurekaselect.com/article/72538>

Invited Talk

- Measurement of the human gut microbiome** Amsterdam, Netherlands
Institute for Advanced Study Festival 19-05-2026
As part of the session "Beyond the Numbers: Rethinking How We Measure What Matters" with van der Kolk, B. and Truijens, F. organized by Francken, J.
- Microbiome Research and the Myth of Ethno-racial Categories** Bogota, Colombia
Colloquium Philosophy Department of Universidad de los Andes 17-04-2026
- Microbes, medicine, and the environment** Egmond aan Zee, Netherlands
39th Nederlands Instituut voor Biologie (NIBI) Conference 14-11-2025
- L'héritage divisé du microbiome humain** Online
Ateliers de la société d'histoire et d'épistémologie des sciences de la vie 07-11-2025
- Microbiome and Philosophy: Origins, Causality, and Human Categorizations** Amsterdam, Netherlands
Microbiome Engineering - El Aidy Lab 07-2025
- Microbiome foundations and faultlines through the lens of history and philosophy** Bochum, Germany (Online)
ROTO Lecture Series, Ruhr-University Bochum 05-2025
- Challenging the philosophical definition of data using amplicon sequencing** Bangor, Wales (Online)
Molecular Ecology and Evolution Seminar Autumn/Winter 2021, Bangor University 25-11-2021
- How the conversion of cholesterol into coprostanol by intestinal bacteria can modulate host cholesterol metabolism?**
Valencia, Spain
Institute of Agrochemistry and Food Technology (IATA) 07-2017
[A. Potiron](#), A. Kriaa, S. Boudebouze, A. Bruneau, M. Lhomme, P. Lesnik, E. Maguin, M. Rhimi, and P. Gerard

Presentations

How to create output that matters and can empower the 'Local South'? A. Potiron and A. Nieves Delgado Workshop: "Integrating Qualitative and Quantitative Data in Microbiome Research and Postgenomics: Toward an Interdisciplinary Dialogue"	Venice, Italy 25-05-2026
Microbiome Research in the Local South: Implications for Exposomics E. Schure, A. Potiron, and A. Nieves Delgado Workshop: "Postgenomic Intersections: Epistemology and Ethics for the Exposome and Microbiome"	Milan, Italy 02-03-2026
Unearthing the ecological roots of microbiome studies EPSA Biennial Meeting 2025	Groningen, Netherlands 27-08-2025
Unearthing the ecological roots of microbiome studies International Society for Microbial Ecology in Latin America (ISME-Lat) 2025	Merida, Mexico 07-08-2025
Epistemic pluralism for a better microbiome research practice? ISHPSSB Biennial Meeting 2025 Roundtable with D. Kenis, N. Morar, A. Nieves-Delgado, C. Pauvert, and E. Schure	Porto, Portugal 22-07-2025
Microbiome Research and the Myth of Ethno-racial Categories Philosophy of Science in a Forest	Leusden, Netherlands 30-05-2025
Diversity Measurement in Microbial Ecology Philosophy of Science Association (PSA) Biennial Meeting Symposium co-organized with V. Keiser, D. Beiting, and J. Wallis	New Orleans, USA 11-2024
Practice-first approach: from biological cases to philosophical issues XXV World Congress of Philosophy Symposium co-organized with S. Haas, M. Casali, and F. Rheinhardt	Rome, Italy 05-08-2024
A new light on causes in human health-associated microbiome studies by unearthing its ecological roots Linz, Austria Causality in Epidemiology - CitS conference series	02-05-2024
Species is a unit of measurement European Philosophy of Science Association (EPSA) Biennial Meeting	Belgrade, Serbia 19-09-2023
Towards an Integrative view of explanation in human gut microbiome ISHPSSB Biennial Meeting	Toronto, Canada 13-07-2023
How does the history of microbiology call for a more integrative view of explanation in human gut microbiome research? Columbia, USA Integrated History and Philosophy of Science (&HPS9)	16-03-2023
Human gut microbiomes research: what are the benefits of the mechanistic causal account? London, England (Online) The Philosophy Exchange Philosophy of Science Graduate Conference (PSGC2021): From Theory to Practice 30-10-2021	
How can highly contextual data such as metabarcoding data relate to the world? ISHPSSB Biennial Meeting	Laurel Hollow, USA (Online) 15-07-2021
New insight in cholesterol metabolism by human gut microbiota 26th Forum of the Tunisian Association of Biological Sciences (ATSB) A. Potiron , A. Kriaa, T. Le Roy, H. Mkaouar, S. Boudebhouze, P. Lesnik, P. Gerard, E. Maguin, and M. Rhimi	Monastir, Tunisia 03-2015

Grants

Seed Money Descartes Center

2026

5000€

with A. Nieves Delgado and F. Russo

Dutch Research Council (NWO) Aspasia Programme

2025

1500€

International Society for the History, Philosophy and Social Studies of Biology (ISHPSSB)

2023 and 2025

1000\$ and 600\$

Philosophy of Science Association (PSA)

2024

210\$

French Doctoral School Agriculture Food Biology Environment Health (ABIES)

2017

1000€

French Society of Nutrition

2017

800€

French Association of Microbial Ecology

2017

350€

Poster

Not everything is data: A revision of the relational framework of data

Bordeaux, France

08-09-2022

Sixth European Advanced School in the Philosophy of the Life Sciences (EASPLS)

Cholesterol conversion into coprostanol by bacterial strains isolated from the human gut microbiota can modify host cholesterol metabolism

Valencia, Spain

07-20217

A. Potiron, A. Kriaa, S. Boudebouze, A. Bruneau, M. Lhomme, P. Lesnik, E. Maguin, M. Rhimi, and P. Gerard

7th Congress of the Federation of European Microbiological Societies (FEMS)

Bridging the gap between the grapevine terpene synthase gene family and volatile terpenes found in the berry and wine

Stellenbosch, South Africa

09-2026

I. Bezuidenhout, P. R. Young, D. Jacobson, S. J. Smit, A. Potiron, and M. Vivier

Macrowine 2014

Awards

*Faculty Innovation Award

2025

Johannes Kepler University and Linz University Fund

The Faculty of Social Sciences, Economics & Business (SOWI, JKU) recognised the originality and innovative aspects of the paper: "Different kinds of data: samples and the relational framework"

*Teaching Award

2025

Biology Students and Coordinators

Our History and Philosophy of Biology course (with Abigail Nieves Delgado and Elian Schure) was awarded the highest evaluation in Biology year 3 (Bachelor).

*Engage your Audience!

2017

Federation of European Microbiological Societies

My peer recognised my science communication skills by awarding me 1st place, alongside Lavanya Vasudevan, in this contest to present our research in 3 minutes to a large audience.

National Resistance and Deportation Competition (CNRD)

2009

French Ministry of National Education

A national jury examines an essay written in 3 hours without documents. I won 1st place alongside three other high school students on the theme "Children and adolescents in the Nazi concentration camp system."