

Thomas BOYER-KASSEM

(born BOYER)

Associate Professor in Logic and Philosophy of Science

Philosophy Department, Lab. MAPP

Université de Poitiers

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- **Junior Member of the IUF** (2025-2030)
HDR in Philosophy (Univ. Paris 1, 2024)
PhD in Philosophy (Univ. Paris 1, 2011),
“Agrégé” in Physics (2006).
Former student of the ÉNS de Cachan (2003).
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<http://thomasboyerkassem.yolasite.com/> (*publications can be downloaded from this website*)
[ORCID](#) | [Academia](#) | [ResearchGate](#) | [GoogleScholar](#) | [HAL](#)
- Born on 21 April 1984. French nationality. Married, four children (2015, 2016, 2018, 2020).
- **Areas Of Specialization** : philosophy of science, philosophy of physics, social epistemology, formal epistemology, decision theory.
- **Areas Of Competence** : epistemology, history and philosophy of science, logic, history of analytic philosophy, physics.

Academic positions

- 2018-... **Associate Professor** (Maître de Conférences) in **Logic and Philosophy of Science**,
Université de Poitiers, Philosophy Department.
(on parental leave for 2021-2023)
- 2017-2018 **Assistant Professor** (ATER) in **Philosophy**, **Université Grenoble Alpes**, Philosophy Department.
- 2015-2017 **Post-doctoral researcher** AXA Research Fellow, **TiLPS**, **Tilburg University**, The Netherlands.
- 2014-2015 **Post-doctoral researcher**, **Archives H. Poincaré**, Nancy.
- 2013-2014 **Assistant Professor** (ATER) in **Philosophy**, **Université Lille 3**, Philosophy Department.
- 2012-2013 **Assistant Professor** (ATER) in **History and Philosophy of Science**, **Université Lille 1**, Physics Department.
- 2012 **Post-doctoral researcher**, **MSH Lorraine**, Nancy.
- 9-12/2010 **Invited scholar**, **Columbia University**, USA, Philosophy Department (P. KITCHER).
- 2008-2011 **Graduate student**, **Université de Paris 1 Panthéon-Sorbonne**, at the IHPST lab.

Education

- 2024 **Habilitation to Direct Research in Philosophy, University of Paris 1 Panthéon-Sorbonne.** Thesis: “Science, expertise and decision”. [pdf] Committee: Paul BARTHA (Prof., Univ. British Columbia, Canada), Mikaël COZIC (Prof., Univ. Lyon 3), Maximilian KISTLER (Prof., Univ. Paris 1), Rida LARAKI (DR CNRS, Univ. Dauphine and UM6P, Maroc), Stéphanie RUPHY (Prof., ENS) and Dunja ŠEŠELJA (Prof., Ruhr Univ. Bochum, Germany).
- 2011 **PhD in Philosophy, University of Paris 1 Panthéon-Sorbonne,** grade “With Highest Honors”. Thesis (in French): “The plurality of interpretations of a scientific theory: the case of quantum mechanics” [abstract & pdf], Supervision: Jacques DUBUCS (Research Director, IHPST) and Anouk BARBEROUSSE (Full Professor, Université Lille 1). Committee: Alexandre GUAY (Associate Professor, Université de Bourgogne), Franck LALOË (Research Director, ÉNS), Stéphanie RUPHY (Associate Professor HDR, Université de Provence). Report by Philip KITCHER (Full Professor, Columbia University, États-Unis).
- 2010 **Course on Philosophy of Quantum Mechanics** (*graduate students*), Columbia University, USA.
- 2009 **Summer School on Philosophy of Quantum Mechanics** “GSSPP09”, Geneva University, Switzerland.
- 2003-2008 **Student at the École Normale Supérieure de Cachan, 2nd.** (*The ÉNS de Cachan is a highly competitive “Grande École”, distinct from universities. Students are civil servants.*)
- 2008 **Master in Philosophy,** specialty Philosophy of Science, Université de Paris 1 Panthéon-Sorbonne. **Grade Very Good.** Thesis (in French): “Quantum mechanics and path integral: does the interpretation of a theory change with its mathematical formulation?”, directed by A. Barberousse (IHPST) and G. Cohen-Tannoudji (CEA). Grade: **18/20.**
- 2007 **Licence in Philosophy,** Université de Toulouse 2.
- 2006 **“Agrégation” in Physics, 21st** (135 admitted, 1700 applicants). (*French highest competitive exam to be able to teach in highschools or universities*)
- 2005 **Master 1 in Physics,** Université de Paris 6. **Grade Good.** 4-months research internship at the Physics Institute, Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin (Germany).
- 2004 **Licence in Physics,** Université de Paris 6. **Grade Very Good.**
- 2003 **Admitted at the ÉNS de Cachan,** Physics department. **2nd at the competitive exam École Polytechnique & ÉNS de Cachan** (PSI track).
- 2001-2003 Scientific “classes préparatoires”, lycée Louis-le-Grand, Paris. (*intensive classes to prepare for competitive exams*)

Research grants

Research grants (PI)

2026-2029	ANR-DFG project QUALIGRASCI [www] (co-PI D. ŠEŠELJA, Bochum, et M. WANG, LMU Munich) “Qualitative Grading in Science — Rationality, Aggregation, and Applications”	906 k€
2026-2029	Projet PIA4 Univ. Poitiers DECIMED “Towards a better collective decision in medical expertise committees”	23 k€ + 1/2 doct.
2025-2030	Junior member of the Institut Universitaire de France [www] “A new philosophical framework for collective knowledge”	75 k€
2024-2027	Projets PIA4 Univ. Poitiers RISPREDMED “Rationality and precaution: an effect of meditation?”	36 k€
2020	Projet MSHS Poitiers & CNRS “Decision, risk, meditation”	10 k€
2019	Projet MSHS Poitiers “Precaution in health and environment”	4 k€
2018-2021	Junior Excellence Chair , Idex Bordeaux (<i>declined</i>)	320 k€
2018-2020	Marie Skłodowska-Curie Grant , London School of Economics (<i>declined</i>)	200 k€
2015-2017	Post-doctoral Grant Axa Research Fund	120 k€

Member of research projects

2026-2030	ANR project “GRASP” (resp. C. IMBERT, CNRS, Nancy).
2020-2023	ANR project “CRISP” (resp. S. RUPHY, ENS). [www]
2020-2023	Nouvelle-Aquitaine region project “PhiBioMed” (resp. M. LEMOINE, U. Bordeaux).
2021-2022	ANR project “Respire” (resp. B. Ventelou, Aix-Marseille U.) [www]
2020-2021	ANR Flash COVID-19 project “ConfinObs” (resp. M. Willinger, U. Montpellier) [www]
2019-...	PhilInBioMed network, Université de Bordeaux (resp. T. PRADEU, CNRS, Bordeaux).
2018-2022	Project “Collaborative space: crossing knowledge with all” (GIS Participation and Democracy: ATD Fourth World, CNAM, CNRS) [www]
2017	Idex Jedi project , Univ. Côte d’Azur, “Quantum Cognition” (resp. É. GUERCI, U. Nice).
2016-2017	CPER Univ. Lorraine project “D3CTRIX ” (resp. C. IMBERT, CNRS, Nancy).
2015	CNRS PEPS project “D3CTRIX” (resp. C. IMBERT, CNRS, Nancy).
2015	CNRS PEPS project “Quantumtest” (resp. É. GUERCI, U. Nice).
2011-2014	MSH Lorraine project “Colestia” (resp. C. IMBERT, CNRS, Nancy).
2009-2011	ANR project “Compuphys” (resp. A. BARBEROUSSE, CNRS, Paris).

Prizes

2021-2025	Bonus for Graduate Student Direction and Research (PEDR).
2013	Young Researcher Prize of the French Philosophy of Science Society (SPS) [www]

Publications

Please note that my name was BOYER before 2014, and BOYER-KASSEM afterwards.

Book

- [A.1] BOYER-KASSEM, Thomas (2015), *Qu'est-ce que la Mécanique Quantique ? (What is Quantum Mechanics?)*, Paris: Vrin, Coll. "Chemins Philosophiques", 128 p. [\[pdf\]](#)

Reviewed in *L'Œil de Minerve*.

Edited book

- [B.1] BOYER-KASSEM, Thomas, Conor MAYO-WILSON and Michael WEISBERG (éds.) (2017), *Scientific Collaboration and Collective Knowledge*, New York: Oxford University Press. [\[pdf\]](#) [\[www\]](#)

Reviewed in *BJPS Review of Books*, *Lato Sensu*, *Notre Dame Philosophical Reviews*, *Philosophy of Science*.

Articles in international journals

- [C.16] BOYER-KASSEM, Thomas and Sébastien DUCHÊNE (2025), "Reasonable precaution or unjust discrimination? Applying a lexical utility model of the precautionary principle to moral choices", *Journal of Business Ethics* 200, p. 175-188. [\[pdf\]](#) [\[doi\]](#)
- [C.15] IMBERT, Cyrille, and Thomas BOYER-KASSEM (2024), "Explaining scientific collaboration: a general functional account", *The British Journal for the Philosophy of Science* 75 (4) : 993-1017. [\[pdf\]](#) [\[doi\]](#)
- [C.14] BOYER-KASSEM, Thomas, Sébastien DUCHÊNE and Ismaël RAFAÏ (2024), "Compliance with Covid-19 sanitary measures: don't forget the precautionary principle" *Santé Publique* 36 (5) : I-XII. [\[pdf\]](#) [\[www\]](#). "Respect des mesures sanitaires contre le Covid-19 : n'oublions pas le principe de précaution", *Santé Publique* 36 (5) : 37-48. [\[pdf\]](#) [\[www\]](#) [\[doi\]](#)
- [C.13] IMBERT, Cyrille, Thomas BOYER-KASSEM, Vincent CHEVRIER and Christine BOURJOT (2020), "Improving deliberations by reducing misrepresentation effects", *Episteme* 17(4), 403-419. [\[pdf\]](#) [\[doi\]](#)
- [C.12] BOYER-KASSEM, Thomas and Sébastien DUCHÊNE (2020), "On discrimination in health insurance", *Social Choice and Welfare*, 55(1), 5-23. [\[pdf\]](#) [\[doi\]](#)
- [C.11] BOYER-KASSEM, Thomas (2019), "Comment: The Precautionary Principle and Judgment Aggregation", *Risk Analysis*, 39(6):1225-1226. [\[pdf\]](#) [\[doi\]](#)
- [C.10] BOYER-KASSEM, Thomas (2019), "Scientific expertise and risk aggregation", *Philosophy of Science* 86(1) : 124-144. [\[pdf\]](#) [\[doi\]](#)
- [C.9] BOYER-KASSEM, Thomas (2017), "The Precautionary Principle has not been shown to be incoherent: A reply to Peterson", *Risk Analysis* 37(11): 2039–2040. [\[pdf\]](#) [\[doi\]](#)
- [C.8] BOYER-KASSEM, Thomas (2017), "Is the Precautionary Principle really incoherent?", *Risk Analysis* 37(11): 2026–2034. [\[pdf\]](#) [\[doi\]](#)
- [C.7] DUCHÊNE, Sébastien, Thomas BOYER-KASSEM and Éric GUERCI (2017), "Une nouvelle approche expérimentale pour tester les modèles quantiques de l'erreur de conjonction" ("A new experimental approach to test quantum models of the conjunction error"), *Revue Économique*, vol. 5, p. 16-31 (proceedings of the annual conference of the ASFEE 2015). [\[pdf\]](#) [\[doi\]](#)
- [C.6] BOYER-KASSEM, Thomas, Sébastien DUCHÊNE and Éric GUERCI (2016), "Quantum-like models

cannot account for the conjunction fallacy”, *Theory and Decision*, 81(4): 479-510. [\[pdf\]](#) [\[doi\]](#)

- [C.5] BOYER-KASSEM, Thomas, Sébastien DUCHÊNE and Éric GUERCI, (2016) “Testing quantum-like models of judgment for question order effect”, *Mathematical Social Sciences* 80 : 33-46. [\[pdf\]](#) [\[doi\]](#)
- [C.4] BOYER-KASSEM, Thomas and Cyrille IMBERT (2015), “Scientific collaboration: do two heads need to be more than twice better than one?”, *Philosophy of Science* 82(4): 667-688. [\[pdf\]](#) [\[jstor\]](#) [\[doi\]](#)
- [C.3] BOYER-KASSEM, Thomas (2014), “Layers of Models in Computer Simulations ”, *International Studies in the Philosophy of Science*, 28(4): 417-436. [\[pdf\]](#) [\[doi\]](#)
- [C.2] BOYER, Thomas (2014), “Is a bird in the hand worth two in the bush? Or, whether scientists should publish their intermediate results”, *Synthese*, 191 (1): 17–35. [\[pdf\]](#) [\[doi\]](#). (**Prix SPS Jeunes Chercheurs 2013**)
- [C.1] BOYER, Thomas, Wolfgang BIETENHOLZ and Jair WUILLOUD (2007), “Spin chain simulations with a meron cluster algorithm”, *International Journal of Modern Physics C* 18: 1497–1511. [\[pdf\]](#) [\[doi\]](#)

Articles in national journals

- [D.3] BOYER-KASSEM, Thomas (2017), “Le principe de précaution” (“The Precautionary Principle), in M. Kristanek (ed.), *L’Encyclopédie Philosophique*. [\[www\]](#)
- [D.2] BOYER-KASSEM, Thomas (2015), “Les interprétations de la mécanique quantique : une vue d’ensemble introductive” (“Quantum interpretations: an introductive overview”), *Implications Philosophiques*, Sept. 2015. [\[pdf\]](#) [\[www\]](#)
- [D.1] BOYER, Thomas and Anouk BARBEROUSSE (2013), “Interpréter une théorie physique” (“Interpreting a physical theory”), *Methodos*, 13|2013, online 11 March 2013. [\[pdf\]](#) [\[doi\]](#)

Book chapters

- [E.4] BOYER-KASSEM, Thomas (2026), “Une critique de la position de Dirac concernant le choix entre des interprétations quantiques”, in F. Laguens (ed.), *La Philosophie des physiciens, XXe-XXIe siècles*, Éditions Matériologiques. [\[pdf\]](#) [\[www\]](#)
- [E.3] BOYER-KASSEM, Thomas (2024), “L’acceptabilité du risque dans les groupes” (“Risk acceptability in groups”), in M. AUDIFFREN and I. DE LA VILLE (eds.), *De l’identification à l’acceptabilité sociale des risques. Une approche interdisciplinaire et multiniveaux*, Presses Universitaires de Rennes, coll. SHS. [\[pdf\]](#) [\[www\]](#)
- [E.2] BOYER-KASSEM, Thomas (2020), “Physique quantique” (“Quantum physics”), in J. GAYON (ed.), *Dictionnaire Encyclopédique de l’Identité (Encyclopedic Dictionary of Identity)*, Gallimard, coll. Folio Essais. [\[pdf\]](#)
- [E.1] BOYER-KASSEM, Thomas, Conor MAYO-WILSON and Michael WEISBERG (2017), “Introduction”, in T. BOYER-KASSEM, C. MAYO-WILSON and M. WEISBERG (eds.), *Scientific Collaboration and Collective Knowledge*, New York: Oxford University Press, p. xi-xix.

Translations (from English to French)

- [F.2] BOYER-KASSEM, Thomas (forthcoming), translation of “The Division of Cognitive Labor”, P. Kitcher, in BONNAY, D. and GALINON, H. (eds.), *Textes clés de l’épistémologie sociale (Essential readings in social epistemology)*, Paris: Vrin. [\[pdf\]](#)
- [F.1] BOYER-KASSEM, Thomas (2018), translation of “Dispelling the Quantum Spooks — a Clue that Einstein Missed?”, H. Price and K. Wharton, in BOUTON, C. and HUNEMAN, P. (eds.), *Temps de*

la nature et nature du temps (The time of nature and the nature of time), Paris: CNRS éditions.
[\[pdf\]](#)

Book reviews

- [G.2] BOYER-KASSEM, Thomas (2019), “ Review of Daniel Steel (2015), *Philosophy and the Precautionary Principle*”, *Ethics, Policy & Environment* 22(1): 103–105. [\[pdf\]](#) [\[doi\]](#)
- [G.1] BOYER-KASSEM, Thomas (2016), “Le principe de précaution est-il bien raisonnable ?” (“Is the precautionary principle reasonable?”) (review of Steel 2015, *Philosophy and the Precautionary Principle*), *La Vie des Idées*, 25 July 2016. [\[www\]](#)

Working papers

- [J.7] “Mindfulness Interventions and Precautionary Behavior: Experimental Evidence on Health, Environmental, and Risk Decisions” (avec Olga Tatarnikova, Wael Bousselmi, Sébastien Duchêne, Phu Nguyen-Van) (10 000 mots)
- [J.6] “Theory choice with ordinal grading (or: Kuhn meets Majority Judgment)” (4 500 mots)
- [J.5] “How to properly measure moral universalism” (avec Sébastien Duchêne) (2 300 mots)
- [J.4] “Les degrés de l’ignorance, de l’individuel au collectif” (7 000 mots)
- [J.3] “ Majority Judgment for Collective Beliefs and Science ” (10 000 mots)
- [J.2] “A Week of Meditation Boosts Prosociality: A Lab Experiment ” (avec Wael Bousselmi, Sébastien Duchêne, Phu Nguyen-Van, Olga Tatarnikova) (12 000 mots)
- [J.1] “Group-Decision Making With Balanced Procedures” (avec Cyrille IMBERT) (10 000 mots)

Administration and research activities

Pedagogical responsibilities

- 2025-... Director of Undergraduate Studies for **Philosophy** and **Philosophy & Law**
- 2018-2021 Director of Undergraduate Studies in Philosophy, Université de Poitiers.
- 2018-2021 Handicap referent for the Philosophy department, Université de Poitiers.

Research management

Graduate student supervision:

- 2026-... Issam ALDAHMAN, “*Judgment aggregation and deliberation involving qualitative judgments — a computational study*”, co-sup. with D. ŠEŠELJA (Ruhr Univ. Bochum, Germany).
- 2021-2026 Sara MARTOUZET, “*Making a collective decision in front of ethical dilemmas: analysis of organ donation of a Maastricht III kind*”, co-sup. with E. Rusch (Univ. Tours).

Member of a PhD committee:

- 2025 Omer Billy NDANGANG NGONGANG, “*Larry Laudan’s scientific axiology: a critical study in history and philosophy of science*”, Université de Lille and Institut Catholique de Paris (sup. G. Denis and P. Uzan).
- 2020 André Sarrazin, “*Causality between physics and metaphysics*”, Université de Poitiers and Institut Catholique de Paris, 9 Dec. 2020. (sup. Sylvain Roux and Camille Riquier)
- 2019 Daniel Mateo Ramirez, “*Determinism and indeterminism: Bergson’s philosophy and the analysis of physical problems*”, Université de Poitiers, 17 Dec. 2019. (Director: Sylvain Roux)

Editorial responsibilities, expertise

Member of scientific committees:

- Classiques Garnier editions, coll. “History and Philosophy of Science”, Paris (since 2009).
- *Philosophia Scientiæ*, Paris: Kimé (since 2015).

Reviewer for journals:

- **philosophical:**
 - *Analysis*,
 - *Dialogue*,
 - *Erkenntnis*,
 - *European Journal for Phil. of Science*,
 - *L’Encyclopédie Philosophique*,
 - *Journal of Philosophy*,
 - *Lato Sensu* (×4),
 - *Perspectives on Science*,
 - *Philosophers’ Imprint*,
 - *Philosophia Scientiæ* (×2),
 - *Philosophy & Technology*,
 - *Philosophy of Science* (×2),
 - *Studies in History and Phil. of Science*,
 - *Synthese* (×6),
 - *The British J. for the Philos. of Science*.
- **scientific or interdisciplinary:**
 - *Axioms*,
 - *Environ. Management: Eco. & Policy*,
 - *Ethics, Policy and Environment*,
 - *Historical Social Research*,
 - *Journal of Mathematical Psychology*,
 - *Participations*,
 - *Politics, Philosophy & Economics*,
 - *Revue des Questions Scientifiques*,
 - *Risk Analysis*.

Scientific expert for research grants: Agence Nationale de la Recherche (2021), FNRS, Belgium (2025), FWO, Belgium (2019, 2025), European Science Foundation (2016-2022), Quantum Engineering, Université Grenoble Alpes (2018, 2019), City of Paris (2015), Île-de-France Region (2012).

Scientific expert for assessing institutions: AÉRES (2013).

Organization of workshops and seminars

- 2025 “Epistemic values and their scales”,
Université de Poitiers, 18-19 Nov. (with D. ŠEŠELJA).
- 2019-2023 *Social and formal epistemology seminar*,
Paris Sorbonne, monthly (co-org. with C. IMBERT, I. DROUET, C. PATERNOTTE).
- 2019 “Precaution” seminar, Poitiers, monthly.
- 2017 “Group decision-making in scientific expert committees”,
Tilburg University (Pays-Bas), 12-13 April. (co-org. with D. KLEIN). [[www](#)]
- 2016 “Modélisation and Simulation in Social Sciences and Humanities”,
Université de Lorraine, Nancy, 13-14 Oct. (co-org. with C. BOURJOT, V. CHEVRIER, C. IMBERT).
“Philosophy of the Precautionary Principle”,
Tilburg University (The Netherlands), 3 May. (co-org. with J. SPRENGER) [[www](#)]
- 2015 “Modélisation of collective decisions: interdisciplinary perspectives”,
MSH Lorraine, Nancy, 17-18 Nov. (co-org with C. IMBERT)
“Quantum models of cognition”,
MSHS South East, Nice, 8 Jan. (co-org. with S. DUCHÊNE and É. GUERCI). [[www](#)]
- 2013 “Modeling epistemic and scientific groups: interdisciplinary perspectives”,
MSH Lorraine, Nancy, 25-26 Nov. (co-org. with H. GALINON and C. IMBERT). [[www](#)]
- 2012 “Epistemic groups and collaborative research in science”,
Archives H. Poincaré, 17-19 Dec. (co-org. with C. IMBERT). [[www](#)]

Member of the program committee:

- 2019 — European Philosophy of Science Association 2019 Conference, Geneva (Switzerland), 11-14 Sept. [[www](#)]
— “Formal Epistemology Workshop 2019”, University of Turin (Italy), 19-21 June.
- 2018 — “Is there a future for progress?”, Universcience / Cité des Sciences, Paris, May.
- 2017 — “Formal Epistemology Workshop 2017”, Washington Univ. (Seattle, USA), 26-28 May
- 2016 — “René Descartes Lectures”, Tilburg University (Pays-Bas), 5-7 Sept.
- 2014 — “Agent-based modeling in philosophy”, LMU Munich (Allemagne), 11-13 Dec.

Member of a recruitment committee

- 2020 Position of Associate Professor “Philosophy of technics: contemporary approaches”,
Univ. Paris 10 Nanterre.

Other services to the community

- 2026-... Member of the Medical Ethical Committee, Guadeloupe Hospital.
- 2025-... Member of the “Non-Discrimination Counsel” of the Société de Philosophie des Sciences.