Dr. Jana Lasser

Curriculum Vitae

Research Group: https://idea-lab.uni-graz.at/en/our-researchers/data-analysis/
Google Scholar: https://scholar.google.de/citations?user=vVrhdaOAAAAJ
ORCID: https://orcid.org/0000-0002-4274-4580
BlueSky: https://bsky.app/profile/janalasser.bsky.social
GitHub: https://github.com/JanaLasser
Website: https://janalasser.at

Career summary

2026–present **Director of Research**, *IDea_Lab, University of Graz*.
Graz, Austria

2024–present **Professor for Data Analysis**, *IDea_Lab at the University of Graz*, leading the research group Complex Social & Computational Systems $(CS)^2$.
Graz, Austria

WiSe 2023/24 **Professor for Computational Social Sciences and Humanities (interim, W3)**, *RWTH Aachen*.
Aachen, Germany

2021-2023 **Marie Curie Fellow**, *TU Graz, Institute for Interactive Systems and Data Science, Computational Social Science Lab*.
Graz, Austria

Jan 2020 – Mar 2021 **Postdoctoral researcher**, *Complexity Science Hub (CSH), Medical University Vienna*.
Vienna, Austria

2019 **Postdoctoral researcher**, *Max Planck Institute for Dynamics and Self-Organization (MPIDS), Department of Complex Fluids and Georg-August-University, Centre for Statistics*.
Göttingen, Germany

2015–2018 **Doctoral researcher**, *MPIDS, Department of Complex Fluids, Goehring lab*.
Göttingen, Germany

Education

2023 **Habilitation in Applied Computer Science**, *TU Graz*.
Thesis: Computational Modelling of Complex Social Systems

2015–2018 **Dr. rer. nat. Physics**, *Georg-August-University and Göttingen Graduate School for Neurosciences, Biophysics, and Molecular Biosciences (GGNB)*, Göttingen, Germany.
Advisor: Prof. Lucas Goehring
Thesis: *Geophysical pattern formation of salt playa*
Grade: magna cum laude

2013–2015 **M.Sc. Physics**, *Georg-August-University and MPIDS*, Göttingen, Germany.
Advisor: Prof. Eleni Katifori
Thesis: *Network analysis and hidden phenotypes in large biological datasets*
Grade: 1.1

2009–2013 **B.Sc. Physics**, *Georg-August-University and MPIDS*, Göttingen, Germany.
Advisor: Prof. Eleni Katifori
Thesis: *Computational analysis framework for vascular network images*
Grade 2.4

2009 **Matura**, *Realgymnasium Dreierschützengasse*, Graz, Austria.
Grade: 1.0

Additional qualifications

2023 **Summer School**, *Complex Systems Summer School, Santa Fe Institute*, research of complex behavior in mathematical, physical, living, and social systems.
160 hours

2022–2024 **Leadership training**, *Leading Women TU Graz*, advanced leadership competencies in academic contexts.

2022 **Didactics module "basic"**, *Teaching Academy TU Graz*, Qualification for independent teaching at higher education institutions.
40 hours

2021 **Summer School**, *Oxford Machine Learning Summer School*, Latest developments in computer vision, graph ML, natural language processing and ML for health applications.
80 hours

2021 **Summer School**, *Summer Institutes in Computational Social Science (SICSS) in Helsinki*, Network analysis, simulations and complex systems, validity and reliability of CSS, research ethics for CSS.
80 hours

2019 **Leadership training**, *German Physical Society program "Leading for Tomorrow"*, core competencies of leadership and management in industrial and higher education contexts.
56 hours

Service

2022–present **Young Science Ambassador**, *OeAD*.

2022–present **Selection committee**, *CZS Wildcard, Carl Zeiss foundation*, member.

2021–present **Network against Abuse of Power in Science**, *(MaWi)*, member.

2020–2024 **COST action**, *"Researcher Mental Health"*, management committee, leader survey working group.

2022–2024 **Senate**, *TU Graz*, member.

2022–2024 **Ethics commission**, *TU Graz*, member.

2022–2024 **Data protection board**, *TU Graz*, member.

2021–2024 **Studienkommission**, *Master's programme Computational Social Systems at TU Graz*, vice chair.

2019–2023 **N**^{2}, *network of German non-university PhD representations*, advisory board member.

2019–2023 **International Young Physicists' Tournament**, *(IYPT)*, juror.

2018 **Max Planck PhDnet**, *representation of doctoral researchers of the Max Planck Society*, president.

Reviewing activity

- **Journals:** Nature, Nature Communications, PNAS, EPJ Data Science, Journal of Social Computing, Cliodynamics, Epidemics, Journal of Science Communication, npj Complexity
- **Conferences:** The Web Conference 2021, Open Science Conference 2021, NetSci 2023

Memberships and affiliations

since 2025 **Member**, *Austrian Young Academy*.

since 2021 **Associate faculty**, *Complexity Science Hub Vienna*.

since 2009 **Member**, *German Physical Society*.

Prizes

2024	**Forschungspreise des Landes Steiermark** from the *state of Styria*.	**12 000 €**
2024	**Kardinal Innitzer Förderungspreis**, from the *Kardinal Innitzer Studienfonds*.	**2 000 €**
2023	**Netidee Science Prize** for the project "Orientation in Conspiration" (ORION), funding agency: *FWF & Internetstiftung grant No. P 37280-N*.	**413 507 €**
2022	**Mind the Gap diversity award** from *TU Graz*, for the project "(Wen) regt Frauenfußball auf?", with M. Pellert.	**450 €**
2018	**Data literacy education award**, funding agency: *Stifterverband & Heinz-Nixdorf Foundation* to realise the project "Daten Lesen Lernen", with T. Kneib, B. Säfken, A. Silbersdorff, W. Radenbach and D. Manik.	**250 000 €**
2015	**Outstanding master thesis prize** from the *University of Göttingen*.	

Grants and fellowships

2025	**Grant** US-APART fellowship for PostDocs from the US, funding agency: *ÖAW*, role: sponsor.	**400 000 €**
2024	**Grant** "Designing Social Media Recommendation Algorithms for Societal Good" (DeSiRe), funding agency: *European Commission, ERC Starting Grant No. 101160928*, role: PI.	**2 037 464 €**
2024	**Grant** "Valuing Public Goods in a Populist World: A Comparative Analysis of Network Dynamics and Societal Outcomes" (VALPOP), funding agency: *Horizon Europe, grant No. 101177310*, role: PI.	**607 975 €**
2021	**Fellowship** "Staying at home - the interplay between behavioural synchronisation and physical distancing in prosocial behaviour" (STAY), funding agency: *European Commission, Marie Skłodowska-Curie Fellowship*, *grant No. 101026507*.	**174 167 €**
2021	**Grant** "Joint online course" for the "Summer Institutes for Computational Social Science" (SICSS) in Graz & Aachen, funding agency: *TU Graz*, role: PI.	**15 000 €**
2020–2024	**Grant** "Researcher mental health observatory", funding agency: *European Commission*, COST action no. CA19117, role: co-proposer.	**472 000 €**
2019–2020	**Fellowship** "Freies Wissen", funding agency: *Wikimedia Foundation*.	**10 000 €**
2019	**Grant** "Daten Lesen Lernen – connecting 4 Data Literacy", funding agency: *Lower Saxony Ministry for Science and Culture*, role: proposer, with T. Kneib, B. Säfken, A. Silbersdorff and W. Radenbach.	**48 630 €**
2017–2018	**Grant** to realise a field study on geophysical pattern formation in salt deserts in California, funding agency: *DAAD*, role: PI.	**10 000 €**
2015–2017	**Fellowship** to realise my dissertation project on geophysical pattern formation in salt playa, funding agency: *GGNB*.	**40 000 €**

Selected media reactions

- *Moderierte Social-Media-Feeds wären gesund für die Gesellschaft*, Podcast COMMITed – kritische Medienkompetenz im Fokus, Community Medien Institut, 2025.
- *Über Empfehlungsalgorithmen, die gut für die Gesellschaft sind*, Süddeutsche Zeitung, 2025.
- *Social Media Algorithmen: Riskiert ein Tweet die Menschenwürde?*, die Furche, 2024.
- *Grazer Forscherin entwickelt Algorithmen gegen Online-Hass*, Kleine Zeitung, 2024.
- *Donald Trump's truth: why liars might sometimes be considered honest – new research*, The Conversation, 2023.
- *Conspiracy theories on the digital circuit* (German translation), Scilog – The Science Magazine, 2023.

- *Sarkasmus & Co: Strategien, um digitalen Hass zu bändigen*, Kleine Zeitung, 2023.
- *Ausgezwitschert*, Falter, 2023.
- *Why Death Valley Is Full of Polygons*, Physics, 2023.
- *Schweigen ist Gold? Von Wegen!*, Die Presse, 2023.
- *Republicans are increasingly sharing misinformation, research finds*, The Washington Post – Monkey Cage, 2022.
- *US politicians tweet far more misinformation than those in the UK and Germany – new research*, The Conversation, 2022.
- *Stresstest zur Ärzteversorgung zeigt große regionale Unterschiede*, Die Presse, 2022.
- *Warum der Blick in die Zukunft so schwierig ist*, Der Standard, 2022.
- *Von Kuh-Daten und Menschen*, Ö1, 2022.
- *Omikron erschwert Pandemiebekämpfung an Schulen*, Der Standard, 2022.
- *Zur Praxis der Modellierung*, Technopolitics, 2021.
- *Richtiges Testen kann Corona-Ausbrüche in Altersheimen unterbinden [The right testing strategy can prevent Corona outbreaks in nursing homes]*, Der Standard, 2021.
- *Gut gemachte Apps können bei der Krisenbewältigung helfen*, Kurier 2020.
- *Making a difference*, Physics World, 2019.
- *Facetten der Macht: Abhängigkeiten und Machtstrukturen in der Wissenschaft*, Deutschlandfunk, 2020.
- *Göttinger Studierende lernen das Auswerten von Datensätzen*, Göttinger Tageblatt, 2019.
- *Q&A: Doctoral students at Germany's Max Planck Society say recent troubles highlight need for change*, Science Magazine, 2018