

Dr. Karin M. Fikkers - Assistant professor

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ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

- Jan 2019 - Present **Assistant professor**
Department of Languages, Literature, and Communication
Institute for Language Sciences
Utrecht University
- Sept 2015 -2018 **Postdoctoral researcher**
Center for research on Children, Adolescents, and the Media (CcaM)
Amsterdam School of Communication Research (ASCoR)
University of Amsterdam
- 2011 - August 2015 **PhD candidate**
Center for research on Children, Adolescents, and the Media (CcaM)
Amsterdam School of Communication Research (ASCoR)
University of Amsterdam
- Jan-March 2014 **Visiting scholar**
Annenberg Public Policy Center and the Annenberg School for
Communication, University of Pennsylvania, PA.
- 2009 - 2010 **Lecturer**
Radboud University Nijmegen

EDUCATION & PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

- 2022 Six-month training "How to communicate and lead with impact for Assistant Professors" (Utrecht University and GITP)
- 2011 - 2015 **PhD Degree**, Department of Communication, University of Amsterdam
Dissertation title: *A different(ial) perspective: How social context influences the media violence-aggression relationship among early adolescents*. Available at <http://dare.uva.nl/record/1/512223>. Date of defense: February 25, 2016 (**cum laude**).
- 2014 **University teaching qualification** (Basis Kwalificatie Onderwijs)
The Amsterdam Institute for Lifelong Learning in Education
- 2007 - 2010 **Research Master Degree** in Language and Communication (**cum laude**)
Radboud University Nijmegen and University of Tilburg

2004 - 2007	Bachelor's Degree in Business Communication Radboud University Nijmegen
2005 - 2007	Honours Program Degree Interdisciplinary Honours Program, Radboud University Nijmegen
1998 - 2004	Gymnasium Degree Candea College, Duiven

AWARDS & RECOGNITIONS

May 2022	Winner of the Best Published Article award of the Children, Adolescents, and the Media division of the International Communication Association, for the paper " <i>More Than Just a Laughing Matter: A Coding Framework of Humor in Media Entertainment for Tweens and Teens</i> ", authored by Van der Wal, Piotrowski, Fikkers & Valkenburg.
May 2020	Winner of the Best Published Article award of the Children, Adolescents, and the Media division of the International Communication Association, for the paper " <i>Child's Play? Assessing the Bi-Directional Longitudinal Relationship between Gaming and Intelligence in Early Childhood</i> ", authored by Fikkers, Piotrowski & Valkenburg.
June 2018	Winner of the ASCoR Baschwitz Article of the Year award , for the article " <i>Assessing the reliability and validity of television and game violence exposure measures</i> ", authored by Fikkers, Piotrowski & Valkenburg.
May 2018	Recipient of Top Student Paper Award at the Children, Adolescents, and the Media division of the International Communication Association, for the paper " <i>What's in it for them? Teens' Differential Preferences for Types and Contexts of Televised Aggression</i> ", authored by van der Wal, Fikkers, & Valkenburg.
December 2017	Nominated for department-wide special-themed Collegiality Award at the Department of Communication Science, University of Amsterdam
May 2017	Winner of the Kyoon Hur Dissertation Award of the Mass Communication division of the International Communication Association.
March 2017	Nominated for Lecturer of the Year at the Faculty of Social and Behavioral Sciences, University of Amsterdam
December 2016	Nominated for the Praemium Erasmianum Dissertation Award for top dissertations in the humanities and social sciences in the Netherlands.
Oct 2016	Shortlisted for the Klokhuis Wetenschapsprijs 2016 for a research project conducted in the Nemo Science Museum (August 2016).
June 2013	Winner of Teaching Award from the College of Communication at the University of Amsterdam ("Excellent working group instructor and internship supervisor")

GRANT PROPOSALS (ACCEPTED & REJECTED)

February 2022	Team member on NWO Open Competition SSH proposal (rejected). Project title: "Gut feelings about a message's convincingness: Where do they come from and when can they be trusted?" Main applicants: Hans Hoeken and Jos van Berkum (UU).
October 2021	Co-applicant on NWO Open Science Fund (awarded 50.000 euro) for the project " Open Science Escape Room (OSER) ". Main applicant: Anita Eerland. Co- applicants: Karin Fikkers, Victor van Doorn and Francine Boon (Sherlocked).
May 2021	Co-applicant on seed fund proposal (rejected) of UU strategic theme 'Pathways to Sustainability', titled "Tipping the narrative: co-developing new food system narratives for an Arctic community in the Bering Sea". Main applicant: Brian Dermody (UU, Copernicus Institute of Sustainable Development, Geosciences).
2021	Advisory board member on proposal for PDI-SSH Call (rejected) for a project on the development of tools for survey experiments. Main applicants Bert Bakker and Gijs Schumacher (University of Amsterdam, Communication Science).
January 2020	Co-applicant on invigoration grant (awarded 26.000 euro) of UU strategic theme 'Dynamics of Youth', for a project on reliable measurement of smartphone use with teenagers. Main applicants: Helen Vossen and Ina Koning (UU Pedagogical Sciences).
2020	Co-applicant on proposal for PDI-SSH Call for digital infrastructure (rejected), titled "CoLab: An Interdisciplinary Infrastructure Bridging Science and Practice to Meet Media Literacy Challenges of the Digital Information Society". Main applicant Michael Hameleers (University of Amsterdam, Communication Science).
January 2020	Main applicant on NWO Veni proposal (rejected) titled "Stories for sustainability: Using interactive narratives to encourage pro-environmental behavior among young adults".
October 2019	Main applicant on acceleration grant (awarded 5.000 euro) of UU strategic theme 'Pathways to Sustainability', to organize an international network meeting on empirical ecocriticism. Co-applicants: Frank Hakemulder (UU Media & Culture), Helen Vossen (UU Pedagogical Sciences).
January 2018	Main applicant on NWO Veni proposal (rejected) titled "In the eye of the beholder: Individual interpretation of violent entertainment and effects on young people's behavior".

TEACHING & SUPERVISION

Utrecht University

- Bachelor Communicatie- en Informatiewetenschappen
 - Multimodale communicatie
 - Communicatie, media, en interactie
 - Psychologie van de communicator
 - Bachelor eindwerkstuk
- Master Communicatie en Organisatie
 - Data-analyse en visualisatie
 - Master seminar (thesis research)

MA and PhD supervision

- 2023 onwards: Co-promotor of PhD candidate on project “The relationship between linguistic factors that affect text comprehension and processing fluency and the acceptance of (in)accurate information” (together with Marloes van Moort, Hans Hoeken, Antal van den Bosch)
- 2019-2022: Member of the committee of PhD candidate Sarah Devos, Leuven University
- 2016-2018: Co-promotor of PhD candidate Amber van der Wal (University of Amsterdam)
- 2018: MA thesis supervision of Joost Kamer and Daria Kanter (University of Amsterdam)

PUBLICATIONS

- Hoeken, J.A.L., **Fikkers, K.M.**, Eerland, A., Holleman, B., van Berkum, J., & Pander Maat, H. (2022). The Perceived Convincingness Model: Why and When Processing Fluency and Emotions are Valid Indicators of a Message’s Perceived Convincingness. *Communication Theory*, 32(4), 488-496. doi:10.1093/ct/qtac019
- Vossen, H.G.M., & **Fikkers, K.M.** (2021). The Mediating Role of Sympathy in the Relationship between Media Violence and Adolescents’ Social Behaviors. *Journal of Children and Media*, 15(3), 389-409. doi:10.1080/17482798.2020.1828118
- Van der Wal, A., Piotrowski, J. T., Fikkers, K. M., & Valkenburg, P. M. (2020). More than just a laughing matter: A coding framework of humor in media entertainment for tweens and teens. *Journal of Broadcasting & Electronic Media*, 64(3), 478-498. doi:10.1080/08838151.2020.1796389
- Fikkers, K.M.** & Piotrowski, J.T. (2019). Content and Person Effects in Media Research: Studying Differences in Cognitive, Emotional, and Arousal Responses to Media Content. *Media Psychology*, 23(4), 493-520. doi:10.1080/15213269.2019.1608257

- Fikkers, K.M.**, Piotrowski, J.T., & Valkenburg, P.M. (2019). Child's Play? Assessing the Bi-Directional Longitudinal Relationship between Gaming and Intelligence in Early Childhood. *Journal of Communication*. doi:10.1093/joc/jqz003
- Van der Wal, A., **Fikkers, K.M.**, & Valkenburg, P.M. (2019). What's in it for them? Teens' Differential Preferences for Types and Contexts of Televised Aggression. *Communication Research*. doi:10.1177/0093650219832231
- Piotrowski, J.T. & **Fikkers, K.M.** (2019). Media Violence and Aggression. In M.B. Oliver, A. Raney, & J. Bryant (Eds.), *Media Effects: Advances in Theory and Research* (4th ed., pp. 211-226). New York, NY: Routledge.
- Fikkers, K.M.**, Piotrowski, J.T., & Valkenburg, P.M. (2017). A matter of style? The differential effects of parental mediation on early adolescents' media violence exposure and aggression. *Computers in Human Behavior*, 70, 407-415. doi:10.1016/j.chb.2017.01.029
- Fikkers, K.M.**, Piotrowski, J.T., & Valkenburg, P.M. (2017). Assessing the reliability and validity of television and game violence exposure measures. *Communication Research*, 44, 1, 117-143. doi:10.1177/0093650215573863
- Fikkers, K.M.**, Piotrowski, J.T., & Valkenburg, P.M. (2016). Beyond the lab: Investigating early adolescents' cognitive, emotional, and arousal responses to violent games. *Computers in Human Behavior*, 60, 542-549. doi:10.1016/j.chb.2016.02.055
- Fikkers, K.M.**, Piotrowski, J.T., Lugtig, P., & Valkenburg, P.M. (2016). The role of perceived peer norms in the relationship between media violence exposure and adolescents' aggression. *Media Psychology*, 19, 4-26. doi:10.1080/15213269.2015.1037960
- Hoeken, H., & **Fikkers, K.M.** (2014). Issue-relevant thinking and identification as mechanisms of narrative persuasion. *Poetics*, 44, 84-99. doi: 10.1016/j.poetic.2014.05.001
- Fikkers, K.M.**, Piotrowski, J.T., Weeda, W.D., Vossen, H.G.M., & Valkenburg, P.M. (2013). Double dose: High family conflict enhances the effect of media violence exposure on adolescents' aggression. *Societies*, 3, 280-292. doi: 10.3390/soc3030280
- Fikkers, K.M.**, & Valkenburg, P.M. (2013). Reasons for Consuming Violent Entertainment. In M.S. Eastin (Ed.), *Encyclopedia of Media Violence*, pp 318-320. SAGE Publications.
- Theijssen, D., van Halteren, H., **Fikkers, K.M.**, Groothoff, F., Hoof, L. V., Sande, E. V. D., ... & Zande, P.V.D. (2009). A regression model for the English benefactive alternation: An efficient, practical, actually usable approach. *LOT Occasional Series*, 14, 115-130.

PEER-REVIEWED PRESENTATIONS

- Van Enschot, R., **Fikkers, K.M.**, & Prins, J. (2023). Narrative persuasion using an audiovisual interactive narrative about climate change. *Paper presented at Etnaal van de Communicatiewetenschap, Enschede, the Netherlands.*
- Ebbinkhuijsen, M., **Fikkers, K. M.**, & Kleemans, M. (2022). Exploring perceived negativity of news, news skepticism, and news overload as predictors of intentional news avoidance

- in children and their parents. *Presented in the Journalism Division at the online Etmaal van de Communicatiewetenschap (VU Brussel).*
- van der Wal, A., Valkenburg, P. M., Piotrowski, J., & **Fikkers, K. M.** (2020). More than just a laughing matter: A content analysis of different humor types in teens' favorite television shows. *Paper presented at the 70th annual conference of the International Communication Association.*
- Fikkers, K.M.** & Middendorp, L. (2020, February). The future is now: The effect of gain/loss framing in climate stories on hope, fear, and climate policy support. *Paper presented at Etmaal van de Communicatiewetenschap, Amsterdam, the Netherlands.*
- van der Wal, A., Valkenburg, P. M., Piotrowski, J., & **Fikkers, K. M.** (2019). Not simply a laughing matter: A content analysis of different humor types in teens' favorite television shows. *Paper presented at Etmaal van de Communicatiewetenschap, Nijmegen.*
- Fikkers, K.M.**, Piotrowski, J.T., & Valkenburg, P.M. (2018, June). Child's Play? Assessing the Bi-Directional Longitudinal Relationship between Gaming and Intelligence in Early Childhood. *Paper presented at the 48th annual meeting of the Jean Piaget Society, Amsterdam, the Netherlands.*
- Fikkers, K.M.** & Piotrowski, J.T. (2018, May). Person vis-à-vis Content Effects: Individual Differences in Cognitive, Emotional, and Arousal Responses to Media Content. *Paper presented at the 68th annual conference of the International Communication Association, Prague, Czech Republic.*
- Fikkers, K.M.**, Piotrowski, J.T., & Valkenburg, P.M. (2018, May). Child's Play? Assessing the Bi-Directional Longitudinal Relationship between Gaming and Intelligence in Early Childhood. *Paper presented at the 68th annual conference of the International Communication Association, Prague, Czech Republic.*
- van der Wal, A., **Fikkers, K.M.**, & Valkenburg, P.M. (2018, May). What's in it for them? Teens' Differential Preferences for Types and Contexts of Televised Aggression. *Paper presented at the 68th annual conference of the International Communication Association, Prague, Czech Republic.*
- Fikkers, K.M.** & Piotrowski, J.T. (2018, February). Investigating Individual Differences in Youths' Cognitive, Emotional, and Arousal Responses to Entertainment. *Paper presented at Etmaal van de Communicatiewetenschap, Ghent, Belgium.*
- Vossen, H.G.M., & **Fikkers, K.M.** (2017, May). The Mediating Role of Sympathy in the Relationship between Media Violence and Adolescents' Social Behaviors. *Paper presented at the 67th annual conference of the International Communication Association, San Diego, CA.*
- van der Wal, A., **Fikkers, K.M.**, & Valkenburg, P.M. (2017, January). Adolescent's Selective Exposure to Different Types of Violent Television Entertainment. *Paper presented at Etmaal van de Communicatiewetenschap, Tilburg, The Netherlands.*
- Vossen, H.G.M., & **Fikkers, K.M.** (2017, January). The Mediating Role of Sympathy in the Relationship between Media Violence and Adolescents' Social Behaviors. *Paper presented at Etmaal van de Communicatiewetenschap, Tilburg, The Netherlands.*

- Fikkers, K.M., Piotrowski, J.T., & Valkenburg, P.M.** (2016, June). Beyond the lab: Investigating early adolescents' cognitive, emotional, and arousal responses to violent games. *Paper presented at the 66st annual conference of the International Communication Association, Fukuoka, Japan.*
- Fikkers, K.M., Piotrowski, J.T., & Valkenburg, P.M.** (2016, June). A matter of style? The differential effects of parental mediation on early adolescents' media violence exposure and aggression. *Paper presented at the 66st annual conference of the International Communication Association, Fukuoka, Japan.*
- Fikkers, K.M., Piotrowski, J.T., & Valkenburg, P.M.** (2016, February). Beyond the lab: Investigating early adolescents' cognitive, emotional, and arousal responses to violent games. *Paper presented at Etmaal van de Communicatiewetenschap, Amsterdam, The Netherlands.*
- Fikkers, K.M., Piotrowski, J.T., & Valkenburg, P.M.** (2016, February). A matter of style? The differential effects of parental mediation on early adolescents' media violence exposure and aggression. *Paper presented at Etmaal van de Communicatiewetenschap, Amsterdam, The Netherlands.*
- Fikkers, K.M., Piotrowski, J.T., Lugtig, P., & Valkenburg, P.M.** (2015, May). The Role of Perceived Peer Norms in the Relationship Between Media Violence Exposure and Adolescents' Aggression. *Paper presented at the 65th annual conference of the International Communication Association (ICA), San Juan, Puerto Rico.*
- Fikkers, K.M., Piotrowski, J.T., & Valkenburg, P.M.** (2014, May). Validity and Reliability of Media Violence Exposure Measures. *Paper presented at the 64th annual conference of the International Communication Association (ICA), Seattle, WA.*
- Fikkers, K.M., Piotrowski, J.T., Vossen, H.G.M., & Valkenburg, P.M.** (2013, June 19). How Family Conflict Moderates the Relationship between Media Violence and Adolescents' Aggression. *Paper presented at the 63rd annual conference of the International Communication Association (ICA), London, England.*
- Fikkers, K.M., Piotrowski, J.T., Weeda, W.D., Vossen, H.G.M., & Valkenburg, P.M.** (2013, June 15). Double dose: The joint effect of media violence and family conflict on adolescents' aggression. *Paper presented at the 3rd George Gerbner Conference, Budapest, Hungary.*
- Fikkers, K.M., Piotrowski, J.T., Vossen, H.G.M., & Valkenburg, P.M.** (2013, February). Double dose: How violent media exposure and family conflict interact to predict adolescents' aggression. *Paper presented at Etmaal van de Communicatiewetenschap, Rotterdam, The Netherlands.*
- Fikkers, K. M., Valkenburg, P. M., & Vossen, H. G. M.** (2012, May). Validity of Adolescents' Direct Estimates of Their Exposure to Media Violence in Three Types of Media. *Poster presented at the 62nd annual conference of the International Communication Association (ICA), Phoenix, AZ.*
- Fikkers, K. M., Valkenburg, P. M., & Vossen, H. G. M.** (2012, February). Short and Sweet. The Validity of Adolescents' Direct Estimates of Their Exposure to Media Violence in Three

- Types of Media. *Paper presented at Etmaal van de Communicatiewetenschap, Leuven, Belgium.*
- Hoeken, H., & Fikkers, K. M. (2011, June). Scrutinizing Fictional Characters' Arguments. *Paper presented at the 61st annual conference of the International Communication Association (ICA), Boston, MA.*
- Fikkers, K. M., & Hoeken, H. (2011, January). Scrutinizing Fictional Characters' Arguments: The Role of Cognitive Responses and Identification in Narrative Persuasion. *Paper presented at Etmaal van de Communicatiewetenschap, Enschede, the Netherlands.*
- Fikkers, K. M., & Hoeken, H. (2010, June). Scrutinizing Fictional Characters' Arguments: The Role of Cognitive Responses and Identification in Narrative Persuasion. *Paper presented at the Conference for the Internationale Gesellschaft für Empirische Literaturwissenschaft (IGEL), Utrecht, the Netherlands.*

INVITED LECTURES

- Fikkers, K.M. & van Enschoot, R. (2022, July). De strategische kansen van interactieve verhalen. Online seminar for Logeion. <https://www.logeion.nl/bijeenkomsten/detail/1537/de-strategische-kansen-van-interactieve-verhalen>
- Fikkers, K.M. (2018, February). Individual differences in the effects of violent media entertainment. Hogeschool Utrecht.
- Fikkers, K.M. (2017, November). Studying the relationship between violent entertainment and youths' aggression: A different(ial) perspective. Utrecht University.
- Fikkers, K.M. (2017, November). Effects of violent entertainment on youth: A different(ial) perspective. Hubbard School of Journalism and Mass Communication, University of Minnesota.
- Fikkers, K.M. (2017, September). Individuele verschillen in effecten van mediageweld. Hogeschool Utrecht.
- Fikkers, K.M. (2016, September). Mediageweld en agressie: Een differentieel perspectief. University of Leuven.
- Fikkers, K.M. (2016, April). Mediageweld en agressie: Een differentieel perspectief. University of Leuven.
- Fikkers, K.M. (2016, April). Mediageweld en agressief gedrag van kinderen: Een één-op-één relatie? Proost op de Wetenschap, SPUI 25.
- Fikkers, K. M. (2015, October). De media-omgeving van kinderen. Expert meeting at Cinekid for professionals.
- Fikkers, K.M. (2014, October). The Reliability and Validity of Media Violence Exposure Measures. University of Amsterdam.

ACADEMIC ACTIVITIES

September 2022	Research participant during Betweter Festival, with the research project 'What's your story?' on interactive narratives. Together with Renske van Enschoot (Tilburg University) and Christian Roth (Utrecht University of the Arts)
Sept 2022 - Present	Chair of Curriculum Committee for the Bachelor Communication and Information Sciences (Utrecht University)
June 2022	Organizer of international workshop on Empirical Eco-criticism, together with Frank Hakemulder
Jan 2021 - Present	Editorial board member of <i>Media Psychology</i>
Sept 2020 - Aug 2022	Member of Curriculum Committee for the Bachelor Communication and Information Sciences (Utrecht University)
August 2019 - Present	Editorial board member of <i>Journal of Children and Media</i>
January 2017 - May 2020	Social media editor of the <i>Journal of Children and Media</i>
May 2017	Co-organizer of preconference "Invention & Intervention: Blending Research with Practice to Develop Effective Media for Youth", a preconference by the Children, Adolescents, and the Media division at the 2017 annual conference of the ICA.
January 2017	Co-organizer of preconference "Moving beyond self-report: Measuring arousal, emotional, and cognitive responses to media through physiological measures" at the Etmaal van de Communicatiewetenschap, on behalf of the Media Psychology division
May 2015 - May 2017	Member of the Students and Early Career Advisory Committee (SECAC) of the International Communication Association
May 2014 - June 2016	Secretary of the Children, Adolescents, and the Media (CAM) division of the International Communication Association.
July 2014	Participant in LERU (League of European Research Universities) Summer School, Helsinki, Finland. Topic: "Doing the right things right - Research Integrity in a Complex Society."

Dec 2013 - June 2014 Member of the working group "Innovation of measures" for the Consortium on Individual Development (a consortium of seven Dutch universities funded by the Dutch Gravitation subsidy)

Feb 2012 - Feb 2014 Co-founder and co-chair of the Young Scholars Network, a division of
the Netherlands-Flanders Communication Association (NeFCA)

Conference reviewer for the annual conferences of the International Communication Association and the Etmaal van de Communicatiewetenschap. Ad-hoc reviewer for, e.g., *Pediatrics*, *Journal of Media Psychology*, *Journal of Communication*, *Communication Methods & Measures*.