

Patrick S. Forscher, PhD

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Employment and professional experience

Senior Behavioral Scientist, Busara, Nairobi, Kenya, 2026 – Present

- Helped develop Busara’s 2026-2028 organizational strategy, which aims to respond to the changes in the development sector by strengthening Busara’s core operations while positioning Busara as a thought leader in locally-led development
- Created “lighthouse projects” to showcase the value of behavioral science in development for such topics as the way relationships between funders, research organizations, and enumerators might support or undermine evidence quality
- Owned relationships between such partners as UNICEF, the WHO Behavioural Insights Unit, the Gates Foundation Immunization Team, and Busara’s Scientific Committee
- Safeguarded and innovated in Busara’s behavioral science methods, overseeing the development of a new participatory method called “citizen ethnography”, workflows for systematic reviews, and a new framework for community engagement

Director, Busara, Nairobi, Kenya, 2023 – Present

- Refocused the team toward a portfolio on “developmental meta-research”, a new sub-area that uses research on how research works to improve its use in global development
- Developed and executed a team strategy to develop and grow internal and external audiences for developmental meta-research through internal engagements, talks, including a keynote at one of the main scientific societies for meta-research (AIMOS), an investigative article on RCTs in Kenya in *The Economist*, two conferences co-hosted by Busara (SIPS 2024 and ESA 2025), and a 20-chapter, 75,000+ word edited book
- Oversaw the development of new tools and frameworks to improve research in Busara, including the development of uniform data management policies and the creation of a dedicated Busara ethics review board
- Served as the final holder of responsibility for portfolio sales and revenue, growing the portfolio from \$146K in sales on 15 submissions and a 33% win-rate in 2023 to \$467K in sales on 13 submissions and a 54% win-rate in 2024

Associate Director, Busara, Nairobi, Kenya, 2021 – 2023

- Managed a portfolio of projects related to improving functions and operations of the Busara Lab, the largest behavioral science lab in Africa, including one project that became the cornerstone of an ongoing initiative to improve participant experience
- Developed and executed a team strategy focused on merging my personal networks in psychology with existing Busara networks in behavioral science
- Managed a team of between one and three Research Specialists by overseeing their projects, mentoring them on research methods, public engagements, and business development, and completing all hiring and performance management processes
- Successfully navigated the team through an organizational transition from separate research and advisory divisions to a single, portfolio-based division

Funding Lead, the Psychological Science Accelerator, Stanford, US, 2019 – 2021

- Planned and executed the Accelerator’s first funding strategy, securing \$220k+ in funding and successfully funding four “big team science” studies
- Interfaced with leading science journalists to advance the Accelerator’s brand, securing coverage of the organization in *Vox* and *Buzzfeed News*
- Created blueprints, policies, and infrastructure to structure the organization’s development, including a shared filing system, data and materials sharing templates, a financial management system, and a report that spurred member diversity initiatives
- Wrote the definitive article on the style of project known as “big team science” in psychology (Forscher, Wagenmakers, et al., 2023). The article became a guidepost for big team science organizations such as the PSA, ManyBabies, and ManyDogs

Research Scientist, Université Grenoble Alpes, Grenoble, France, 2019 – 2021

Assistant Professor, University of Arkansas, Fayetteville, US, 2017 – 2019

Postdoctoral Researcher, Devine Lab, Madison, US, 2016 – 2017

Graduate Researcher, Devine Lab, Madison, US, 2008 – 2016

Teaching Assistant, University of Wisconsin – Madison, Madison, US, 2009 – 2013

Education

2008 – 2016	PhD, Social Psychology University of Wisconsin – Madison Advisor: Patricia G. Devine
2004 – 2008	BA, Psychology and Asian Studies <i>summa cum laude</i> Macalester College

Writing

Selected academic publications (full list [here](#))

Singh, J., Mody, F., Schmidt, M., Shari, S., Wambua, J., Wilkinson, D., & **Forscher, P. S.** (2025). Comparing expert assessments of research quality between the Global North and East Africa. *Philosophical Transactions of the Royal Society B: Biological Sciences*, 380, 20240275. <https://doi.org/10.1098/rstb.2024.0275>

McNamee, B., **Forscher, P. S.**, & Lenczner, M. (2025). Open science in impact evaluation: What impact evaluators can learn from the replication crisis in social. *New Directions for Evaluation*, 184, 29-34. <https://doi.org/10.1002/ev.20624>

Forscher, P. S. & Schmidt, M. (Eds). (2024). *A better how: notes on developmental meta-research*. Busara. <https://www.busara.global/our-works/a-better-how-notes-on-developmental-meta-research/>

Mughogho, W., Adhiambo, J., & **Forscher, P. S.** African researchers must be full participants in the behavioral science research conversation. *Nature Human Behaviour*, 7, 297-299.

- Forscher, P. S.**, Wagenmakers, E.-J., Coles, N. A., Silan, M. A., Dutra, N., Basnight-Brown, D., & IJzerman, H. The Benefits, Barriers, and Risks of Big Team Science. (2023). *Perspectives on Psychological Science*, 18, 607-623. Preprint: <https://psyarxiv.com/2mdxh>
- Adetula, A., **Forscher, P. S.**, Basnight-Brown, D., Azouaghe, S., & IJzerman, H. (2022). Psychology should generalize from—not just to—Africa. *Nature Reviews Psychology*, 1, 370-371. Preprint: <https://osf.io/preprints/africarxiv/xd269/>
- IJzerman, H., Lewis Jr., N., Weinstein, N., DeBruine, L., Ritchie, S. J., Vazire, S., **Forscher, P. S.**, Morey, R. D., Ivory, J. D., Anvari, F. & Przybylski, A. (2020). Use Caution When Applying Behavioral Science to Policy. *Nature Human Behaviour*, 4, 1092-1094. Preprint: <https://psyarxiv.com/whds4/>
- Forscher, P. S.**, & Kteily, N. (2020). A psychological profile of the alt-right. *Perspectives on Psychological Science*, 15, 91-116. Preprint: <https://psyarxiv.com/c9uvw/>
- Forscher, P. S.***, Lai, C. K.* , Ebersole, C., Axt, J., Herman, M., Devine, P. G., & Nosek, B. A. (2019). A Meta-Analysis of Procedures to Change Implicit Measures. *Journal of Personality and Social Psychology*, 117, 522-559. Preprint: <https://psyarxiv.com/dv8tu/>
- Forscher, P. S.**, Cox, W. T. L., Brauer, M., & Devine, P. G. (2019). Little race or gender bias in an experiment of initial review of NIH R01 grant proposals. *Nature Human Behaviour*, 3, 257-264. Preprint: <https://psyarxiv.com/r2xvb>

*Authors contributed equally

Selected public writing

- Silan, M., Zelkowitz, A., Titus, B., **Forscher, P. S.**, Gennari, F., Hickler, B., & Terer, M. Behavioral Insights in the Global South. *Psychology Observer*. <https://www.psychologicalscience.org/observer/gs-behavioral-insights-global-south>
- Forscher, P. S.**, Basnight-Brown, D. M., Dutra, N., Adetula, A., Silan, M., & IJzerman, H. (2021, Dec 29). Psychological Science Needs the Entire Globe, Part 3: Does Psychological Science Deserve Brilliant Researchers From Outside North America and Europe? *Psychology Observer*. <https://www.psychologicalscience.org/observer/entire-globe-part-3>