

# Sjoerd van Steenkiste

Email: sjoerdvansteenkiste@gmail.com

## PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

**Senior Research Scientist**, Google Research, 2025–*present*

**Research Scientist**, Google Research, 2021–2025

- Current focus: Gemini post-training (Thinking) / Foundational research on (V)LMs
- Technical leadership and internal impact.

Co-led a research team of 6, and a broader sub-effort on generative modeling, within a 30+ person long-term research effort in GDM focused on learning representations of 4D scenes, resulting in 4 papers (Co-)hosted 6 interns and student researchers, currently active as a mentor to 2 RS and 1 SWE

- Research impact, representative papers by topic (see also: Google Scholar)

Foundations of Large Language Models

*Bayesian Teaching Enables Probabilistic Reasoning in Large Language Models* (In Review)

*How Does Code Pretraining Affect Language Model Task Performance?* (TMLR 2024)

*A Systematic Comparison of Syllogistic Reasoning in Humans and Language Models* (NAACL 2024)

Representation Learning for Video

*Moving Off-the-Grid: Scene-Grounded Video Representations* (NeurIPS 2024)

*Towards End-to-End Object-Centric Learning from Real-World Videos* (NeurIPS 2022)

Generative Models

*Direct Motion Models for Assessing Generated Videos* (ICML 2025)

*DORSal: Diffusion for Object-centric Representations of Scenes et al.* (ICLR 2024)

**Postdoctoral Researcher**, Dalle Molle Institute for Artificial Intelligence (IDSIA), 2021

- Gave direction to the implementation of our grant “NEUSYM” (SNF project 200021\_192356), which I previously co-developed and that was awarded by the Swiss National Science Foundation (~670'000 CHF)

## EDUCATION

PhD in Informatics (Artificial Intelligence), 2020

Thesis: “Learning Structured Neural Representations for Visual Reasoning”  
Dalle Molle Institute for Artificial Intelligence (IDSIA)

MSc *summa cum laude* in Artificial Intelligence, 2016

MSc *summa cum laude* in Operations Research, 2015

BSc *cum laude* in Knowledge Engineering, 2013

Maastricht University, Netherlands

## SERVICE

Senior Area Chair, ICLR 2025, ICLR 2026

Area Chair, ICLR 2024, ICML 2024, NeurIPS 2024 (D&B Track), ICML 2025, NeurIPS 2025

Grant Reviewer, NSC Poland PRELUDIUM 2021, Swiss AI Initiative 2025

Workshop Organizer, ICML 2020, NeurIPS 2020