

Étienne Peillard

Associate Professor - IMT Atlantique

IMT Atlantique, DAPI - PACCE team, LS2N (UMR CNRS 6004)
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Researcher in Virtual and Augmented Reality, Human-Computer Interaction, and human factors. My work examines spatial and body perception, augmented affordances, embodied interaction, and cooperation between humans and autonomous systems.

Academic appointments

Since Aug. 2026 - Associate Professor, DAPI department, IMT Atlantique (Nantes); PACCE team, LS2N (UMR CNRS 6004); associate member, CNRS IRL CROSSING.
Dec. 2020-Jul. 2026 - Associate Professor, IMT Atlantique (Brest); INUIT team, Lab-STICC; scientific lead for the CEXI-HA experimental platform.
2017-2020 - Doctoral researcher, Centrale Nantes / Inria / AAU-CRENAU; perception and interaction in Mixed Reality.

Education and qualifications

PhD, 2020 - Centrale Nantes / Inria / AAU-CRENAU. Perceptual biases and distance misperception in Mixed Reality.
Engineering degree, 2017 - Centrale Nantes, Virtual Reality and Research majors.
HDR - In preparation; defense planned for late 2026 / early 2027.

Research leadership and projects

ANR JCJC PAEIAR (2025-2028) - Principal investigator; perception of affordances and embodied interaction in Augmented Reality, with the University of Western Brittany.
CEXI-HA experimental platform (2021-present) - Scientific lead and project manager for IMT Atlantique's immersive interaction, human factors, and augmented-human platform.
ANR ASTRAL (2024-2027) - Avatars in Augmented Reality, with Clarté, Inria Rennes, and Centrale Nantes.
Body Perception and Morphology in Augmented Reality (2024-2027) - Body perception, morphology, embodiment, and body-image applications in Augmented Reality.

Selected publications

- Étienne Peillard, Marie-Cécile Léculier, Malena Joly, Nathalie Le Bigot (2026). Investigating Self-Body Perception and its Effect on Affordance in Augmented Reality. ACM Transactions on Applied Perception, 23(3), 1-20. doi:10.1145/3807944
- Min Ni, Étienne Peillard, Gilles Coppin, Tim Chen (2026). How Opacity and Background Affect Surface Contact Perception in Optical See-Through AR. IEEE Transactions on Visualization and Computer Graphics.
- Yutaro Tanaka, Juri Yoneyama, Nathalie Le Bigot, Guillaume Moreau, Gilles Coppin, Étienne Peillard (2026). Modulating Perceived Affordances in Augmented Reality Through Object Physicality and Thermal Appearance. IEEE Transactions on Visualization and Computer Graphics.
- Aymeric Hénard, Étienne Peillard, Jérémy Rivière, Sébastien Kubicki, Gilles Coppin (2025). Towards Augmented Reality Support for Swarm Monitoring: Evaluating Visual Cues to Prevent Fragmentation. IEEE Transactions on Visualization and Computer Graphics. doi:10.1109/TVCG.2025.3616840
- Étienne Peillard, Thomas Thebaud, Jean-Marie Normand, Ferran Argelaguet, Guillaume Moreau, Anatole Lécuyer (2019). Virtual Objects Look Farther on the Sides : The Anisotropy of Distance Perception in Virtual Reality. IEEE Virtual Reality Conference. doi:10.1109/VR.2019.8797826

Publication metrics

Journal articles	Conference papers	Other outputs
9	23	4
h-index (Google Scholar)	Citations (Google Scholar)	Updated
6	208	1 Sep. 2026

Research profile

Virtual and Augmented Reality; Human-Computer Interaction; human factors; spatial and body perception; augmented affordances; embodied interaction; cooperation between humans and autonomous systems.

Awards

IEEE VR 2019 Best Conference Paper Award; 1st prize, IEEE VR 2019 3DUI Contest.

Doctoral and research supervision

7 ongoing and 3 completed PhD co-supervisions; 2 active research engineers; 2 post-doctoral researchers and 22 Master's placements supervised since 2021.

Ongoing PhD co-supervisions

Kingsley Stephens - Jun. 2024-May 2027
 Juri Yoneyama - Oct. 2024-Sep. 2027
 Nazial Kadir - Oct. 2024-Sep. 2027
 Marie-Cécile Léculier - Nov. 2024-Oct. 2027
 Min Ni - Feb. 2025-Jan. 2028
 Anthony Le Gourriérec - May 2025-May 2028
 Yutaro Tanaka - Jan. 2026-Feb. 2029

Completed PhD co-supervisions

Aymeric Hénard - defended 5 Dec. 2024
 Julien Cauquis - defended 2 Jul. 2025
 Thi Thanh Hoa Tran - defended 16 Feb. 2026

Research staff

Marie Jarrell - Nov. 2021-Oct. 2023
 Anjara Nobby Rakotoarivelo - Jan.-Dec. 2023
 Jérémie Donjat - Dec. 2022-May 2023
 Pierre Fayol - Feb.-Dec. 2024
 Aymeric Hénard - Dec. 2024-Nov. 2027
 Julien Ganne - Jun. 2026-May 2027

Teaching

- IMT Atlantique, Nantes (since 2026): DAPI department; Front track lead for the FIL apprenticeship program; HCI, interface design, and interactive systems.
- IMT Atlantique, Brest (2021-2026): responsible or co-responsible for six teaching units; VR/AR, HCI, human factors, experimental methods, and project-based learning.
- Centrale Nantes (2017-2020) and École Polytechnique (2020): programming, computer vision, AR, Unity, and advanced VR.

Recent Master's placements

- 2026: Yutaro Tanaka, Guilhem Mas, Ewan Durand, Efflam Rol, Samuel Lallemand.
- 2025: Lilas Privateer, Titouan Aline, Ewan Durand, Gauthier Bertram, Yutaro Tanaka.
- 2024: Georges Simbe, Taha Lamine, Marie-Cécile Léculier, Clémence Cunin, Lory Somphonphakdy, Lucas Thomesse.
- 2023-2021: Nolwenn Paluet, Clément Jézéquel, Ambre Daigremont, Daniel Ledoussal, Hugo Da Maña, Lucas Bernin, and Gyllian Gomez.

Additional research projects

Urban night-lighting perception (2025-2028) - CIFRE PhD project with L'Observatoire de la Nuit, AAU-CRENAU, and Lab-STICC.
 AR perception: laboratory to real-world applications (2025-2028) - CROSSING cotutelle PhD with the University of Adelaide; MSCA COFUND AUFRAUNDE.
 ASPIRE Seamless (2023-2027) - Perceptual continuity between physical reality and AR, with the University of Tokyo.
 Deep-space rover teleoperation (2024-2027) - AI perceptive assistance; CROSSING joint PhD with the University of Adelaide, MSCA COFUND SEED.
 UniSA / Naval Group PhD project (2024-2027) - CROSSING joint PhD on 4D narrative visualizations for marine-drone mission reporting.

Publication and project highlights

Recent work spans self-body perception and affordances in AR, optical see-through perception, robot-swarm monitoring, human-object interaction, and teleoperation support.

International collaborations

- Adelaide University: cotutelle, PhD, and internship supervision through MSCA COFUND AUFRAUNDE and SEED; AR, autonomous-systems trust, marine-drone visualization, and CNRS IRL CROSSING partnership.
- University of Tokyo / Institute of Science Tokyo: long-standing collaboration with Yuta Itoh; ASPIRE Seamless; PHC Sakura; six-month research stay.
- Beijing Institute of Technology: AR perception and virtual-shadow research with Yue Liu and Yuan Gao.
- AAU-CRENAU and L'Observatoire de la Nuit: spatial perception, urban digital models, and CIFRE PhD partnership.

Academic service

- IEEE VR: reviewer since 2020; Program Committee since 2021; Tutorial Chair in 2025 and 2026.
- IEEE ISMAR: reviewer since 2019; Program Committee since 2020; organizing committee member in 2017.
- Program Committees: ICAT-EGVE, ACM VRST, and ACM SAP; reviewer for Presence, IEEE TVCG, Computers & Graphics, ACM TAP, and Frontiers in Virtual Reality.
- Organizer of PERCXR, Seamless Reality workshops, and NII Shonan Meeting No. 242; facilitator of the CNRS IRL CROSSING Interaction working group.

Institutional roles and outreach

- Scientific lead and project manager for CEXI-HA; co-deputy for teaching in the Computer Science department (2023-2026); co-responsible for RVSI and RVRA (2022-2026).
- Student and doctoral representative on Centrale Nantes boards (2014-2020); AAU Laboratory Council member (2019-2020).
- Public engagement: Pint of Science 2018; Innovatives SHS 2019 presentation of the Coraulis project.

Additional information

Research interests include spatial and body perception, augmented affordances, embodied interaction, and trust in autonomous systems.
 Personal interests: fencing; Go (French federation instructor and president of the Brest club); travel; photography.