Bárbara Tauffner (they/them)

tauffner@ucsd.edu

PERSONAL INFORMATION

I am a fourth-year PhD Candidate in Communication & Science Studies at UCSD, originally from Southeast Brazil. I have research experience in qualitative and quantitative methods, especially in discourse analysis and social network analysis, with an interest in disinformation, science studies, populism, public opinion, and climate change.

EDUCATION

2023-present	**Ph.D., University of California, San Diego (UCSD)** Communication & Science Studies (expected graduation date: September 2028)
2023-2025	**M.A., University of California, San Diego (UCSD)** Communication
2021–2023	**M.A., Federal University of Rio Grande do Sul (UFRGS)** Science Education
2015–2021	**B.A., Federal University of Rio Grande do Sul (UFRGS)** Chemistry (Teaching degree)

SCHOLARSHIPS, GRANTS & AWARDS

2026	GPSA Spring Travel Grant Award 25/26
2026	2nd Annual Disinformation Summer Institute, IslandWood Retreat, Bainbridge Island, WA
2025	Research Travel Grant 2025/2026, UCSD
2025	Brazil Initiation Scholarship, Brazilian Studies Association (BRASA)
2023	Diversity Research Funding, UCSD
2021	Scholarship for Social Demand Program, Coordination for the Improvement of Higher Education Personnel (CAPES), Ministry of Education, Brazil
2021	Internal Teaching Assistantship (TA) in Science Education, UFRGS
2018–2019	Internal Improvement Assistantship, Nucleus of Unit Evaluation (Chemistry Institute), Secretariat for Institutional Evaluation, UFRGS
2017	Internal Teaching Assistantship (TA), Undergraduate Support Program, UFRGS
2017	Internal Research Assistantship, Liquid Crystals Laboratory for Biological Application, UFRGS
2017	Awarded with Distinction of Section and Indicated for the Young Researcher Award at the XXIX Scientific Initiation Meeting, UFRGS.*
2016	Internal Outreach Assistantship granted for the "Open Labs Project", UFRGS
2015	Internal Research Assistantship, Liquid Crystals Laboratory for Biological Application, UFRGS

GRADUATE EXPERIENCE

Research experience

2022–present	Laboratory of Research in Media, Discourse and Network Analysis (MIDIARS/UFRGS & Federal University of Pelotas). Advisor: Professor Raquel C. Recuero Contributions: Literary review, discussion groups, theoretical seminars, academic writing.
2021–2023	Nucleus of Studies in Curriculum and Subjectivities (NECS/UFRGS). Advisor: Professor Rochele Q. Loguercio, Doctor in Biochemistry Master's thesis: *Discursive clashes between science communication and misinformation*.

Teaching experience

2026	Introduction to Media Industries (COMM 106). TA.

2026 Advertising and Society (COMM 106M). TA.
2026 Communication, Institutions, and Power (COMM 100C). TA.
2025 Communication, Culture & Representation (COMM100B). TA.
2025 Introduction to Communication (COMM10). TA.
2024 Introduction to Communication (COMM10). TA.
2022 Projects of Chemical Education: Scientific Culture (QUI01169). TA.

UNDERGRADUATE EXPERIENCE

Research experience

2020–2021 Nucleus of Studies in Curriculum and Subjectivities (NECS/UFRGS).
Advisor: Professor Rochele Q. Loguercio, Doctor in Biochemistry
Undergraduate thesis: *Discursive clashes between science communication and fake news*.

2015–2017 Liquid Crystals Laboratory for Biological Application (UFRGS).
Advisor: Professor Fernanda Poletto, Doctor in Chemistry
Contributions: Chemical analysis, academic writing, and literary review.

Teaching experience

2017 Theoretical General Chemistry (QUI01004). TA. (UFRGS)

Outreach experience

2016 Open Labs Project. Outreach Assistant. (UFRGS/Citizen Alternative Educational Project)

PUBLICATIONS

Peer-reviewed journal articles

2025 Tauffner, B. The Classification of Environmental Racism: A Case Study on Disinformation, Digital Performance, and Ideological Disputes in Brazilian Political Discourse. Contracampo Journal. Brazil.

2024 Tauffner, B., Loguercio, R. Platformization of Truth: Covid-19 Vaccination Discursive Groups on Twitter. Brazilian Journal of Research in Science Education. Brazil.

2024 Tauffner, B., Loguercio, R. Fake news and the COVID kit: an analysis of discursive practices of science communicators and misinformation on Twitter. Journal of the Meeting of Communication in Science and Culture. Brazil, 2024.

2020 Donida, B., Raabe, M., Tauffner, B., Farias, M., Machado, A., Timm, F., Kessler, R., Hammerschmidt, T., Reinhardt, L., Brito, V., Portugal, R., Bernardi, A., Frozza, R., Moura, D., Giugliani, R., Poletto, F., & Vargas, C. Nanoparticles containing β-cyclodextrin potentially useful for the treatment of Niemann-Pick C. *JOURNAL OF INHERITED METABOLIC DISEASE*, (43).

2018 Donida, B., Tauffner, B., Raabe, M., Immich, M., De Farias, M., De Sá Coutinho, D., Machado, A., Kessler, R., Portugal, R., Bernardi, A., Frozza, R., Moura, D., Poletto, F., & Vargas, C. Monoolein-based nanoparticles for drug delivery to the central nervous system: A platform for lysosomal storage disorder treatment. *EUROPEAN JOURNAL OF PHARMACEUTICS AND BIOPHARMACEUTICS*, (133).

CONFERENCE ACTIVITY

2026 Cousin, C., Tauffner, B., Katrein, L. Cross-Platform Discourse and Soft Denialism: branded content about fossil fuels in Brazil. *AOIR 2026 - Association of Internet Researchers Conference*. Mexico City, MX. (Not Attended).

2026 Tauffner, B. Contradições Discursivas: Saúde Planetária e Petro-Política no Cenário Amazônico da COP30. *XVIII Congress of the Brazilian Studies Association*. Salvador, BA, BR.

2026 Tauffner, B. Performing Contradiction: How Brazilian and U.S. Media Legitimate Amazonian Oil Exploration Ahead of COP30. *76th Annual International Communication Association (ICA) conference*. Cape Town, ZA.

2025 Tauffner, B. Capturing the Messenger- How Scientific Influencers Enable Soft Climate Denialism. *50th Annual Meeting of the Society for Social Studies of Science (4S): Reverberations*. Seattle, WA, USA.

2024 Tauffner, B. Infodemic regulation: a critical discursive analysis of Brazil's plenary discussion of the fake news bill. *EASST-4S 2024 Amsterdam: Making and Doing Transformations*. Amsterdam, NL.

2024 Tauffner, B. Mapping a Disinformation Landscape: COVID-19 Vaccine Discourses on Twitter (X) in Brazil. *Science Studies Program Grad Student Symposium (UC San Diego)*. La Jolla, CA, USA.

2022 Tauffner, B., &, Dadico, M. Planetary Health and decolonization: a systematic review (in Portuguese). *VIII International Symposium of Inequality, Rights and Public Policies*. Brazil.

2022 Tauffner, B., & Loguercio, R. Misinformation, denialism and COVID-19: disputes for the truths (in Portuguese). *Proceedings of the 41st Debate Meeting on Education in Chemistry.* Brazil.

2022 Tauffner, B., & Loguercio, R. Fake news and kit covid: an analysis of science communicators' discursive practices and misinformation on Twitter (in Portuguese). *Proceedings of the 9th Meeting of Communication in Science and Culture*. Brazil.

2022 Tauffner, B., & Loguercio, R. Discursive clashes between science communication and misinformation (in Portuguese). *Proceedings of the I Interinstitutional Meeting of the Science Education Graduate Programs*. Brazil. (in press).

2021 Tauffner, B., Gaier, A., Pazinato, M., Raupp, D., & Simon, N. Problem-based learning on the theme of fires in Brazil for the approach of chemical reactions in the context of a Community Prep Course (in Portuguese). *Proceedings of the XVII Meeting on Research in School: Experiences, dialogues and (re)writing in networks.*

2019 Tauffner, B., Charqueiro, D., Soares, M., Passos, C., Pazinato, M., & Neto, C. Defining priorities in the evaluation project of NAU (in Portuguese). *Proceedings of the XV Teaching Meeting (UFRGS)*. Brazil.

2018 Donida, B., Raabe, M., Tauffner, B., Vargas, C., Moura, D., & Poletto, F. Fluorescent nanoparticles as a platform to treat and imaging inflamed brain regions (in Portuguese). *Proceedings of the II Latin American Congress of Clinical and Laboratorial Toxicology*. Brazil.

2017 Tauffner, B., Donida, B., Bernardi, A., & Poletto, F. Mangiferin inclusion complex loaded to monoolein-based nanoparticles (in Portuguese). *Proceedings of the XVI Brazilian Material Research Society Meeting*. Brazil.

2017 *Tauffner, B., & Poletto, F. Incorporation of the mangiferin@cyclodextrin in nanoparticles monoolein (in Portuguese). *Proceedings of the XXIX Scientific Initiation Meeting (UFRGS)*. Brazil.

2016 Tauffner, B., & Poletto, F. Development of monoolein nanosponges (L_3) for potential application in the treatment of Niemann-Pick C (in Portuguese). *Proceedings of the XXVIII Scientific Initiation Meeting (UFRGS)*. Brazil.

INVITED TALKS

2024	Multimedia Production Course SENAC RS University Center. "*Disinformation as Narratives"*
2021	I Teaching Chemistry in Focus. Panel. *"Planning and Affectivity"*.
2021	I Teaching Chemistry in Focus. Panel. *"Contextualizing teaching Chemistry"*.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

2022	Secretariat Office of the Science Education Department Secretary: Planning departmental meetings, administrative work for the program and faculty evaluation, financial requests, fellowship implementation, etc.
2020	Carolina de Jesus Community Prep Course for the National High School Exam Professional internship: Planning lessons and giving lectures for adult students.
2019	Rio Branco State Institute, Public School Professional internship: Planning lessons and lectures for high school students.
2018–2020	Porto Alegre City Hall, Young Adults Education Program "Sharing Project" Paid internship: Planning lessons and lectures, pedagogical instruction for faculty, and administrative work.

VOLUNTEER & PUBLIC SERVICE

2021–2022	Graduate Student Representative in the Science Education Graduate Program Facilitating connections between graduate students' demands and faculty, organizing and conducting graduate seminars and conferences.
2020–2022	Carolina de Jesus Community Prep Course for the National High School Exam An educational collective of professionals and undergraduates instructing youth who do not have the financial means to attend private prep courses. Position: Pedagogical Coordinator
2016–2017	Chemistry Undergraduate Student Union (DAQ) Center of student political organization in the undergraduate Chemistry program with a focus on micro and macro social demands. Position: President (2017) and Councilwoman (2016).
2016	University Occupation, UFRGS A nationwide student-led movement to occupy public universities in protest against the Constitutional Amendment Proposal 55/2016, which imposed cuts in investments in public education for 20 years.

LANGUAGES

Portuguese. Native.
English. Advanced.