



# GIREP-EPEC

Transforming physics learning via Research & Practice  
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## **Draw a Scientist: Development of student drawings in middle schools within a four-year STEM engagement project**

*Monday 30 June 2025 16:30 (1 hour)*

Students' conceptions of scientists influence their attitudes towards science and job aspirations. Within a four-year project of the Kaiserschild-Foundation for STEM engagement in Austrian rural middle schools, we collected drawings of 240 students. To find out how these drawings developed over time, we analysed these drawings and complemented this analysis with twelve semi-structured interviews. The first analysis shows that the drawings tend to show two kinds of scientists: The stereotypical person in a laboratory and a naturalist, studying plants and animals. Over time less drawings show a naturalist and more drawings show a person in a laboratory.

### **Education level**

Age 12-15 (Secondary education)

### **Physics topic**

Other

### **Research focus**

Student conceptions / Preconceptions / Misconceptions

### **Research method**

Mixed method (qualitative & quantitative)

### **Organizing preference criteria**

Research focus

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**Session Classification:** Poster session

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