

# The Springtime of Critical Thinking (Le Printemps de l'esprit critique), 20th March to 3rd April 2025: a national event of growing public

**20 March to 3rd April 2025**

at the **Cit  des Sciences et de l'Industrie**,  
at **Les  tincelles du Palais de la D couverte**  
and on **leblob.fr**

Since its launch by Universcience in 2022, **The Springtime of Critical Thinking has grown into a national event**. More than **120 actors** will be taking part in the initiative this year, working within the wider community to promote critical thinking: the crucial skill of sorting, assessing and using information to develop our own informed opinions.

Amid the spread of fake news, and with moderation under attack, in a world where science is more vital than ever, developing critical thinking is a shared civic responsibility — one we must address together.

**From 20 March to 3rd April 2025, a programme of 250 events will be organised in 120 national and international venues, including the Cit  des Sciences et de l'Industrie, Les  tincelles du Palais de la D couverte, and online at leblob.fr.**

Each year, the Springtime of Critical Thinking kicks off with the publication of the findings of the Critical Thinking Barometer: a Universcience survey that examines the attitudes of French people towards science, information sources and critical thinking. Every year, the Barometer also explores a current theme. Past topics include vaccination in 2022, global warming in 2023 and artificial intelligence in 2024. In 2025, the focus was food. The theme of food will therefore be a central concern for many of those taking part in this year's Springtime of Critical Thinking.

## The Springtime of Critical Thinking at the Cit  des Sciences et de l'Industrie

At the Cit  des Sciences et de l'Industrie, visitors can follow The Main Path, six demonstrations on 'Critical Thinking and Food', encouraging them to hone their critical thinking skills and learn how to differentiate between fact and belief, identify cognitive biases, and assess the relevance of information or nutritional advice.

Other **events targeted at the general public, school groups and professionals** will also be organised in the Library, the Digital Hub<sup>2</sup>, the Cit 's demonstration areas, and within its  cole de la M diation (School for Scientific Demonstrations). Here are just a few examples:



**#PrintempsEspritCritique**  
**#Barom treEspritCritique**

Find the complete programme on [The Spring of Critical Thinking website](#).

With the support of **AMCSTI**, the professional network for scientific, technical and industrial cultures.

**amcsti**

- **Meet the Researchers**

By bringing together the public, researchers and PhD students through quizzes, games, documentaries and mini-reports, the French National Institute of Health and Medical Research (INSERM) and the French National Research Institute for Agriculture, Food and Environment (INRAE) help visitors better navigate the information landscape and distinguish food fact from fiction.

- **Sugar Rush: A Bitter Pill to Swallow**

Sugar is everywhere — not just in yoghurts and biscuits, but also in savoury foods like pizzas and processed ham. Can we live without it? Are we being too hard on this tasty ingredient? Don't our bodies 'need sugar'? Explore the findings of a joint investigation by journalist Alexandre Pihen and students from the École supérieure de journalisme de Lille, in the Science Actualités area from 25 March 2025 and on leblob.fr.

- **The Deep Dive- What We Eat, What We Believe**

→ at the Cité des Sciences et de l'Industrie and via a live stream on YouTube  
To mark the fourth Springtime of Critical Thinking, La Tronche en Biais and the Association pour la science et la transmission de l'esprit critique will help visitors reflect on the beliefs, common misconceptions and scientific facts that influence our relationship with food. Participants can look forward to expert panels, interactive quizzes and many more surprises, both at the Cité des Sciences et de l'Industrie auditorium and via a live stream on La Tronche en Biais YouTube channel.

## The Springtime of Critical Thinking

### at Les Étincelles du Palais de la Découverte

Les Étincelles du Palais de la découverte is organising a series of presentations on the scientific method and the experimental approach, which are essential for developing our critical thinking skills.

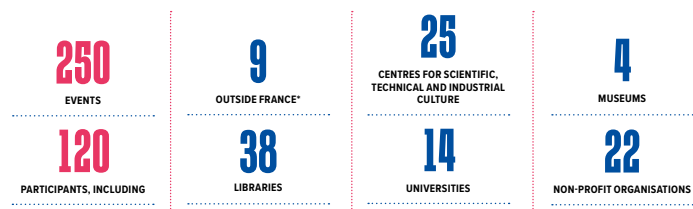
## The Springtime of Critical Thinking

### on leblob.fr

You can also find critical thinking videos, resources and interviews with experts in a special section of Universcience's science news platform leblob.fr.

## The Springtime of Critical Thinking

### a national and international event



\* Including Luxembourg, Tanzania, Canada, Chile, Germany, Malta, Malaysia and Tunisia.

The fourth Springtime of Critical Thinking will feature a packed schedule of festivals, workshops, debates, lectures, shows and exhibitions, courtesy of its 120 participants, many focusing on food.

## Participants in The Springtime of Critical Thinking:

- **Accustica** (Reims, Champagne-Ardenne)
- **Agence nationale de sécurité du médicament et des produits de santé** (Saint-Denis, Île-de-France)
- **Agence nationale de sécurité sanitaire de l'alimentation, de l'environnement et du travail (Anses)** (Maisons-Alfort, Île-de-France)
- **Ambassade de France en Malaisie** (Kuala Lumpur, Malaisie)
- **Arbre des connaissances** (Paris, Île-de-France)
- **Archives départementales de la Mayenne** (Laval, Pays de la Loire)
- **À seconde vue** (Paris, Île-de-France)
- **Association des directeurs et personnels de direction des bibliothèques universitaires et de la documentation** (Paris, Île-de-France)
- **Association française pour l'information scientifique** (Grenoble, Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes)
- **Association française d'astronomie** (Paris, Île-de-France)
- **Association Film, recherche et développement durable (FRéDD)** (Toulouse, Occitanie)
- **Association Lecture Jeunesse** (Paris, Île-de-France)
- **Association des Amis des Études celtiques** (Foussais-Payré, Pays de la Loire)
- **Atome et Carbone**
- **Bibliothèque départementale des Hautes-Alpes** (Gap, Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur)
- **Bibliothèque des Champs libres** (Rennes, Bretagne)
- **Bibliothèque du Haillan** (Bordeaux, Nouvelle-Aquitaine)
- **Bibliothèque Méjanes-Allumettes** (Aix-en-Provence, Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur)
- **Bibliothèque municipale de Dijon** (Dijon, Bourgogne-Franche-Comté)
- **Bibliothèque Renaud-Barrault** (Avignon, Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur)
- **Bibliothèque universitaire de CY Cergy Paris université** (Cergy, Île-de-France)
- **Bibliothèque universitaire de l'université de Bretagne occidentale** (Brest, Bretagne)
- **Bibliothèque universitaire de Sciences Po Lyon** (Lyon, Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes)
- **Bibliothèque universitaire Le Havre Normandie**
- **Cap Sciences** (Bordeaux, Nouvelle-Aquitaine)
- **Casa di e Scenze** (Bastia, Corse)
- **Caisse d'aide sociale de l'Éducation nationale** (Champs-sur-Marne, Île-de-France)
- **Centre culturel Camille Claudel** (Château-Thierry, Hauts-de-France)
- **Centre de recherche et d'innovation de l'Institut LYFE** (Lyon, Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes)
- **Cité des Sciences** (Tunis, Tunisie)
- **Cité des Télécoms** (Plémur-Bodou, Bretagne)
- **Collectif Les Pieds dans le plat** (Coursac, Nouvelle-Aquitaine)
- **Communauté d'agglomération Lisieux Normandie**
- **Communauté de communes Val'Eyrieux** (Le Cheylard, Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes)
- **Conseil départemental du Val-de-Marne** (Créteil, Île-de-France)
- **Centre permanent d'Initiatives pour l'environnement** (Corte, Corse)
- **Cercle zététique du Languedoc Roussillon** (Montpellier, Occitanie)
- **Drop of curiosity** (Montpellier, Occitanie)
- **École de la deuxième chance** (Val d'Oise, Île-de-France)
- **École nationale supérieure des sciences de l'information et des bibliothèques** (Lyon, Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes)
- **École supérieure de commerce de Paris**
- **École supérieure de journalisme de Lille** (Hauts-de-France)
- **Esplora Interactive Science Centre** (Malte)
- **Francas** (Paris, Île-de-France)
- **France Assos Santé Île-de-France** (Paris)
- **Gap Sciences animation** (Gap, Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur)
- **Institut français de recherche pour l'exploitation de la mer** (Plouzané, Bretagne)
- **Ikigai Games** (Paris, Île-de-France)
- **Institut national de recherche pour l'agriculture, l'alimentation et l'environnement (Inrae)** (Paris, Île-de-France)
- **Institut national de la santé et de la recherche médicale (Inserm)** (Paris, Île-de-France)
- **Institut universitaire de technologie** (Toulouse, Occitanie)
- **Jardin des sciences de l'université de Strasbourg** (Grand Est)
- **La Rotonde** (Saint-Étienne, Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes)
- **Le Dôme** (Caen, Normandie)
- **Le Vaisseau** (Strasbourg, Grand Est)
- **L'école comestible** (Paris, Île-de-France)
- **L'esprit critique** (Paris, Île-de-France)
- **Les bibliothèques du Conservatoire national des arts et métiers** (Paris, Île-de-France)
- **LILLIAD Learning center Innovation** (Villeneuve-d'Ascq, Hauts-de-France)
- **Lumières sur l'info** (Paris, Île-de-France)
- **Lycée Louis Lachenal – Centre de documentation et d'information** (Argonay, Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes)
- **Maine Sciences** (Sablé-sur-Sarthe, Pays de la Loire)
- **Médiathèque communautaire Gustave-Ansart** (Trith-Saint-Léger, Hauts-de-France)
- **Médiathèque Croix-Rouge** (Reims, Grand Est)
- **Médiathèque de Bailleul** (Hauts-de-France)
- **Médiathèque de Kervénanec** (Lorient, Bretagne)
- **Médiathèque départementale de Labège** (Occitanie)
- **Médiathèque départementale de la Haute-Garonne** (Toulouse, Occitanie)
- **Médiathèque de l'Eure** (Évreux, Normandie)
- **Médiathèque départementale de l'Oise** (Beauvais, Hauts-de-France)
- **Médiathèque départementale des Vosges** (Épinal, Grand Est)
- **Médiathèque François-Mitterrand** (Lorient, Bretagne)
- **Médiathèque intercommunale Gilbert Dalet** (Crolles, Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes)
- **Médiathèque Le Relais** (Juvigny-les-Vallées, Normandie)
- **Médiathèque Marcel Pagnol** (Aubagne, Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur)
- **Médiathèque municipale François-Mitterrand – Les Capucins** (Brest, Bretagne)
- **Musée archéologique du Val d'Oise et Musée de l'outil** (Guiry-en-Vexin, Île-de-France)

- **Musée de la civilisation** (Québec, Canada)
- **Museo Interactivo Mirador** (Santiago, Chili)
- **Muséum d'Orléans pour la biodiversité et l'environnement** (Orléans, Centre-Val de Loire)
- **Mythodologie** (Grenoble, Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes)
- **Neanderthal Museum** (Mettmann, Allemagne)
- **Observatoire national des alimentations végétales** (Paris, Île-de-France)
- **Océanopolis** (Brest, Bretagne)
- **Opinions sur rue** (Massy, Île-de-France)
- **Planétarium de Bretagne** (Pleumeur-Bodou, Bretagne)
- **Quai des Savoirs** (Toulouse, Occitanie)
- **Radio Brume** (Lyon, Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes)
- **Récréasciences, Centre de culture scientifique technique et industrielle de Limoges** (Nouvelle-Aquitaine)
- **Rencontres de l'esprit critique** (Toulouse, Occitanie)
- **Reporters d'Espoirs** (Paris, Île-de-France)
- **Réseau de lecture publique du Réolais en sud Gironde** (Nouvelle-Aquitaine)
- **Réseau des bibliothèques Ville de Paris** (Île-de-France)
- **Réseau des médiathèques de Montpellier** (Occitanie)
- **Réseau des médiathèques de Plaine Commune** (Île-de-France)
- **Réseau des médiathèques de Saint-Quentin-en-Yvelines** (Île-de-France)
- **Réseau NACRe** (Paris, Île-de-France)
- **Rouen bibliothèques** (Rouen, Normandie)
- **Savoir devenir** (Paris, Île-de-France)
- **Science Nord** (Grand Sudbury, Canada)
- **Service commun de documentation Université Le Havre Normandie**
- **Service commun de documentation de l'université de Toulouse** (Occitanie)
- **Service lecture publique de Colombes** (Île-de-France)
- **Service national de la jeunesse** (Luxembourg)
- **Société des amis du Palais de la découverte** (Paris, Île-de-France)
- **Sorbonne université** (Paris, Île-de-France)
- **Stem Park** (Dar es Salaam, Tanzanie)
- **Teragir** (Paris, Île-de-France)
- **Territoire de sciences** (Grenoble, Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes)
- **Universcience** (Paris, Île-de-France)
- **Université Côte d'Azur** (Nice, Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur)
- **Université de Montpellier** (Occitanie)
- **Université de technologie de Troyes** (Grand Est)
- **Université Paris Sorbonne Nord** (Paris, Île-de-France)

List as of 13th March 2025

## The Barometer and The Springtime of Critical Thinking 2025 are overseen by a scientific committee composed of:

- **Michel Dubois**, Director of Research at the French National Centre for Scientific Research (CNRS)
- **Pauline Ducrot**, Expertise Officer, Prevention and Health Promotion at the French Agency for Public Health, Santé publique France
- **Emiliano Grossman**, Associate Professor at Sciences Po, affiliated with the Centre for European Studies and Comparative Politics, and Director of the Centre for Socio-Political Data
- **Irène Margaritis** Assistant Director of Food, Animal and Plant Health Risk Assessment at the French Agency for Food, Environmental and Occupational Health & Safety (ANSES)
- **Elena Pasquinelli**, Associate Member of the Jean-Nicod Research Institute, Research and Evaluation Director at the La Main à la pâte educational foundation, Member of the French National Education Scientific Council (CSEN) and Member of the Universcience Scientific Council
- **Magda Tomasini**, Director of Evaluation, Foresight and Performance at the French Ministry of National Education, Higher Education and Research, Member of the Universcience Scientific Council
- **Mathilde Touvier**, Director of the Nutritional Epidemiology Research Team, Centre for Research in Epidemiology and Statistics (CRESS) at the National Institute of Health and Medical Research (INSERM)
- **Michel Wieviorka**, Director of Studies at the School for Advanced Studies in the Social Sciences (EHESS), member of the Universcience Scientific Council

→ The findings of the fourth Critical Thinking Barometer will be presented in the presence of members of its scientific committee:

**Thursday 20 March from 9 am  
at the Cité des Sciences et de l'Industrie**

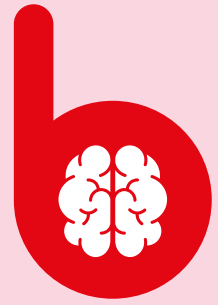
→ The panel discussion will be moderated by Natacha Triou (France Culture)

→ How do French people view and engage with science? Which media do they use for information? How much trust do they place in them? When forming their opinions, do they tend to rely on their intuition or the views of others?

What are French people's eating habits? What are the common misconceptions about food? With so much food advice on social media, how do we decide what to eat?

→ Two representative samples of the French population were surveyed: 2,000 individuals aged 18 and over and 610 individuals aged 15 to 24.

[Sign up here!](#)



THE BAROMETER OF  
**CRITICAL  
THINKING**

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