

The UNIGE scooter “Lucie”

How do you choose to name someone - or something? Names carry meaning. They shape identity and become central to how we are seen and remembered.

As a mother of two young children, I've recently had the privilege (and responsibility) of choosing my children's names. Like any parent, I hoped their names would resonate with who they are and who they might become.

So, when the Printing Office at our university (#UNIGE) contacted me to ask whether I would agree to name their newly acquired electric scooter “Lucie,” I was not only honored—I was blown away. The University wants to name a scooter after... *me*? My first thoughts were: “*But who am I?*” and “*How do they even know I exist?*”

Mr. Frédéric Sierro, Head of the Printing Office at UNIGE, kindly explained the choice. He shared that the Office wanted to honor a female researcher, highlighting that women remain underrepresented in both the printing industry and my own field of neuroscience. He drew connections to “Lucy,” the famous Australopithecus, a symbol of humanity’s evolutionary journey and the pursuit of knowledge. And finally, he mentioned the etymology of “Lucie,” meaning “light” – a well-fitting metaphor for printing, which uses subtractive color synthesis, filtering light through inks to create meaning and form.

I was speechless. My thoughts went immediately to my parents and the name they gave me - one I have come to cherish and identify with deeply. Then I thought about my research, which focuses on the sense of self and memory in patients with Alzheimer’s disease (#*GeriatricPsychiatry*, *UNIGE*). Many of these individuals slowly lose their self-related memories, eventually forgetting even their own names.

This kind gesture of the *#Printing office at UNIGE* reminded me of how powerful names can be - not just as labels, but as symbols of connection, continuity, and recognition. In some small way, I hope that this scooter named “Lucie” carries light, memory, and moves us forward - just as we try to do in science and life.

After all, memory and printing are not so different. Both leave traces. Both imprint. Both help us remember who we are.

Because, in the end, we all have names.
We all carry an identity.
And we all deserve to be seen and remembered.

So... what is your name?

#*UNIGE* #*service* #*prevention* #*Psychiatry* #*memory* #*printing*

<https://neurocenter-unige.ch/research-groups/lucie-brechet/>