

### THE SCHOLARSHIP JOURNEY IN THE PANDEMIC

How are we to navigate the times of the covid-19? How are we to keep our focus on our work when everything – life and death, no less – pulls us away from the concentration and the doggedness necessary for scholarship? When, even when we manage, we may feel guilty about our seemingly egotistic pursuit? Should we even follow this lengthy journey, when the world grapples with urgent matters?

These are the questions that preoccupy the PhD students, as reported in a survey conducted by the PhD office in early June. Questions of meaning that are less amenable to scientific inquiry than the research questions asked in academic papers. Questions whose answers are strongly shaped by students' close relationships: family, friends, colleagues, and advisors. Questions whose answers emerge through an internal journey of reflection and introspection.

Like the PhD journey, the pandemic-driven one has been fraught with uncertainty and anxiety – this time about the state of the world, the fate of loved ones, the ability to focus on work. But unlike the scholarship journey, the pandemic one was not chosen, not expected, not prepared, and, therefore, infuriating.

Throughout Spring, the two journeys progressed in a frustrating, exasperating double helix. However, students' resilience was at least as strong. In most cases, the scholarship journey, while disrupted by the pandemic, was not interrupted. In some cases, to everyone's surprise, the pandemic journey even spurred students' productivity, sparked their insights, prompted their initiatives. Prelims were passed successfully, papers were completed and submitted, mentorship relationships were strengthened. Some students have taken a pro-active stance about the all-too-stressful job market; e.g., Bruno Noisette, 4<sup>th</sup> year Management

student, is one of the co-organizers of the Academy of Management's new series 'Thursdays with OMT (organization and management theory)', which provides information about the 2020 job market.

Outside of the pandemic, the 2019-20 year has been a good one, as you'll see in the other pages of this newsletter. A big accomplishment has been the financing of 5th year students, a necessary measure given the average time to graduate, and which brings us in line with comparable programs. An important step toward the creation of a Spring Methods Camp was the creation of a Machine Learning course by prof. Workiewicz; offered for the first time during the first weeks of the lockdown, the course attracted numerous participants, including prominent faculty at top schools.

Every two years, the ESSEC Foundation bestows a PhD Award to the best pair – graduate and advisor(s) – for the best dissertation and dissertation outcomes (publications). Shemuel Lampronti (currently an assistant professor at Warwick University), and his advisors Elisa Operti and Stoyan Sgourev were chosen this year. A main reason for this choice was that the three co-authored a paper published in one of the best management journals.

Since the last PhD newsletter a year ago 14 students defended – all successfully – their dissertations: 2 Accounting & Auditing, 2 Economics, 4 Finance, 3 Management, 2 Marketing, 1 Operations and Data Analytics. All these graduates have jobs (Skema Business School, EDHEC, KU Leuven, Audencia, Neoma Business School, Durham University Business School, IIM Raipur, HUST Wuhan).

The network of our program, and by extension of our school, continues to expand, with several PhD students having spent several months in Penn State University, Emory University, George Mason University, IESE. Others are preparing next year's visiting

positions, in spite of the uncertainties related to the health situation. Currently there are two students on the Singapore campus, working with our faculty.

At the traditional Poster session in December 16 students presented their work, from the third year to those close to graduation. The Dean of Faculty Michel Baroni and the Dean of Research Jose Miguel Gaspar were present and handed the prizes. Bravo to the winners: Yingting (Marketing), Mohsen (Finance), and Obinna (Management)! A special thanks to the 3 students – Mouna, Arslan, and Caecilia – who volunteered their time and energy to organize the event.

At the time this newsletter goes into print, the admissions process for 2020-21 is being finalized. We expect 15 students to join us in Fall. The improved package and the track record of our graduates have attracted high-quality applicants, and have persuaded most of our top choices to accept our offers.

The Welcome ceremony is scheduled on August 28<sup>th</sup> – it will be in person or online, pending developments on the health situation. Do join us if you can.

I hope we will soon be able to see one another in person!



**Anca Metiu,**  
Associate Dean  
metiu@essec.edu

## PHD FACTS 2019-2020

### ■ August 2019 Welcome meeting for the new PhD cohort.



■ **ALEAHMAD Yosra**  
Management, *Iranian*

■ **LONG Quan**  
Accounting & Auditing, *Chinese*

■ **SONG Yujie**  
Finance, *Chinese*

■ **BISWAS Debajyoti**  
Operations & Data Analytics, *Indian*

■ **LONG Xin**  
Economics, *Chinese*

■ **TANG Patrick**  
Operations & Data Analytics, *Austrian*

■ **ÇELIK Hazal**  
Marketing, *Turkish*

■ **PARAPPATHODI Javaiz**  
Operations & Data Analytics, *Indian*

■ **VIJAYARAGAVAN Narendran**  
Management, *Indian*

■ **GHOSH Rajarshi**  
Economics, *Indian*

■ **PAVLYUCHENKO Roman**  
Marketing, *Russian*

■ **WANG Mo**  
Finance, *Chinese*

■ **LI Ang**  
Accounting & Auditing, *Chinese*

■ **SINGH Shubham**  
Management, *Indian*

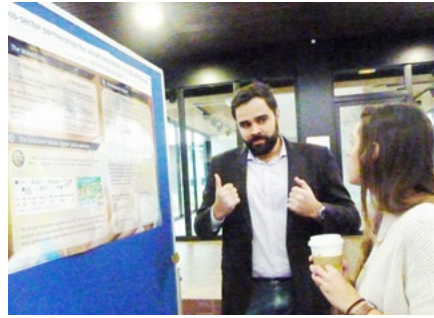
■ **ZHANG Xiaowei**  
Economics, *Chinese*

### ■ October 2019 Graduation ceremony.

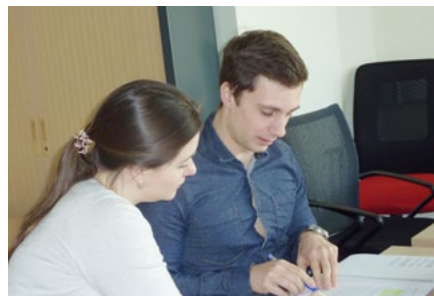


## SOME KEY MOMENTS IN THE PHD PROGRAM

### December 2019 Research Highlights in the Poster Session.



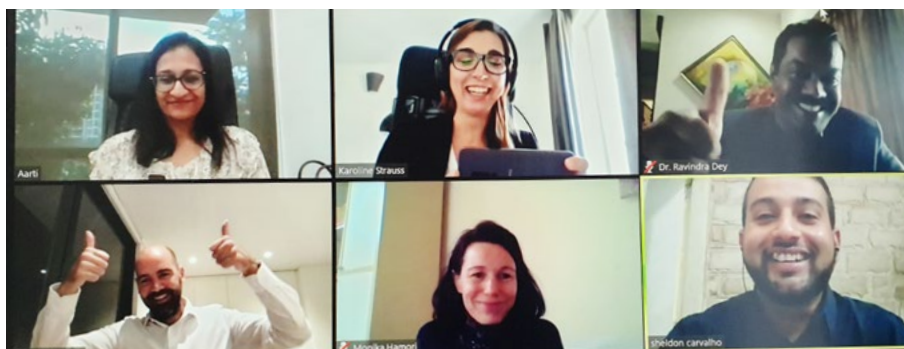
Obinna Chinewubeze (Management), Mohsen Ghanadzadeh (Finance) and Yingting Wen (Marketing) congratulated for Best Paper Content, Best Paper Design, Best Paper Presentation.



January 2020 Open Day at ESSEC.

- Visited institutions by ESSEC PhD students this year: University of Michigan, Penn State University, George Mason College, Warwick Business School, PUC-Rio de Janeiro, IESE Business School.

- Some conferences attended by ESSEC PhDs: AFA/ASSA Annual meeting, San Diego, Paris December Finance meeting / Eurofidai, EFA/EEA Conference, Rotterdam, The 11th Production and Operations Management Society (POMS), Hong Kong, 2019 Informs Annual Conference, Seattle, AOM Specialized conferences, Bled, Strategic Management Society, Minneapolis, EARIE 2019, Barcelona, AOM (Academy of Management) Annual Meeting 2020.



■ **First virtual PhD Defense on April 1<sup>st</sup>, 2020 by Sheldon Carvalho.**

## PHD GRADUATES SINCE LAST NEWSLETTER



**Runqing Wan**  
(Finance)  
Assistant professor  
Capital University  
of Economics and  
Business, Beijing, *China*



**Svetoslav Covachev**  
(Finance)  
Risk Data Scientist  
UniCredit Bulbank,  
Sofia, *Bulgaria*



**Joonsuk Kwon**  
(Economics)  
Economist  
The Bank of Korea,  
Seoul, *South Korea*



**Sabra Khajehnejad**  
(Management Control)  
Assistant Professor  
KU Leuven, *Belgium*



**Xiao Jia**  
(Finance)  
Assistant professor  
School of Economics,  
Huazhong University of  
Science and Technology  
("HUST"), Wuhan, *China*



**Subhadeep Datta**  
(Management)  
Assistant professor  
NEOMA Business School,  
Rouen, *France*



**Tista Kundu**  
(Economics)  
Postdoctoral Research  
Associate  
Centre des Sciences  
Humaines, New Delhi,  
*India*



**Sheldon Carvalho**  
(Management)  
Assistant Professor  
Indian Institute of  
Management, Raipur,  
*India*



**Wissam El Hachem**  
(Operations and Data  
Analytics)  
Assistant professor  
Université Catholique de  
Lyon, *France*



**Sourjo Mukherjee**  
(Marketing)  
Assistant professor  
AUDENCIA Nantes,  
*France*



**Nhung Hoang Thi Hong**  
(Accounting and  
Auditing)  
Assistant professor  
SKEMA Business School,  
Paris, *France*



**Yenee Kim**  
(Marketing)  
Assistant professor  
EDHEC Lille, *France*



**Bastien Buchwalter**  
(Finance)  
Assistant professor  
SKEMA Business School,  
Paris, *France*

## ALUMNI ACCOMPLISHMENTS

■ **Shemuel Lampronti**  
(PhD18) Winner of the ESSEC  
Foundation PhD Award 2020 for  
his thesis 'Multi-level networks  
and organizational outcomes  
in the sienese context'.

■ **Lisa Karasiewicz Baudot**  
(PhD14) nominated Professor  
of the Year at the Florida  
Central University.

■ **Alireza Ahmadsimab**  
(PhD15) one of the most-  
nominated junior professors  
at HEC Montreal.

■ **Ionela Andreicovici** (PhD19),  
**Nava Cohen** (PhD18) and  
**Alessandro Ghio** (PhD18)  
published in the Journal for  
Business Ethics <https://link.springer.com/article/10.1007/s10551-020-04475-8>.

■ **Bingxu Fang, Ole-Kristian Hope, Zhongwei Huang**  
(PhD15), and **Rucsandra Moldovan**(PhD15). 2020. "The  
Effects of MiFID II on Sell-Side  
Analysts, Buy-Side Analysts,  
and Firms." Accepted at Review  
of Accounting Studies.

■ **Lisa Baudot** (PhD14),  
**Zhongwei Huang** (PhD15),  
and Dana Wallace. 2020.  
"Stakeholder Perceptions  
of Risk in Mandatory  
Corporate Responsibility  
Disclosure." Forthcoming at  
Journal of Business Ethics.  
<https://doi.org/10.1007/s10551-020-04476-7>.