

EDITORIAL



Anca Metiu
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In Praise of Kindness

Dear Ph.D. students,

As you must have noticed, getting a Ph.D. relies, in large part, on kindness; which is the quality of being friendly, generous, and considerate. There is the close circle of colleagues, faculty, significant others, family, friends. And the larger circle of all those we may never meet in person, the strangers whose kind advice and insights propels us forward: conference attendees and reviewers, faraway correspondents, long dead scholars and thinkers. All of these, close-by or faraway, form the community that nurtures you and to which you aim to contribute too, soon.

The great sociologist Robert K. Merton, in his influential 1942 *The Normative Structure of Science*, listed 'communalism' among the four sets of institutional imperatives that comprise the ethos of modern science (the other three being universalism, disinterestedness, and organized skepticism). The communalism Merton referred to was about the common ownership of scientific goods and about collective collaboration. The collaboration of close-by and faraway community of scholars, the community that sociologist Diana Crane deemed *Invisible Colleges* (1972). The norm of communalism effectively institutionalizes, among members of the scientific community, generosity and kindness.

And yet, and yet... As you undoubtedly must have also noticed, the process of getting a PhD is not kind; sometimes it can be the quite the opposite, fraught with hostility and indifference. Some colleague or faculty discourages you, some audience member in a conference puts you down, a reviewer writes needlessly harsh comments - they sting. Add to this the formidable struggle you all experience, to extricate new knowledge, and to express it in a way that the community will understand. The whole process may be best captured by fairy tales, of the hero who prevails against the odds, who kills the beast, who brings home the prize.

Your trophy is not the head, or the mane, or the paw of some terrifying monster. It is a p value, a set of concepts, a new model, even a correlation or a moderator. To get to those, you have to do battle: appropriate the knowledge in your field, dominate your fears, claim an intellectual territory, defend against criticism, persuade others to concede it.

And the kindness in this process? Maybe less evident than the din of battle, but indispensable nonetheless. Even in old legends and fairy tales, it is through kindness that the heroes get their prize. The fairy who overturns the bad omens, the old woman (really a good witch) who bestows life-saving counsel, the magical creature who carries the hero to safety, are only a few of the ways in which help was given and kindness offered; in which the game's odds were overturned, the world's equilibrium reestablished.

Similarly, you heroes of today, and indeed all of us members of invisible colleges depend on one another's kindness. We take less bizarre forms than the helpers in fairy tales of course. And rightly so, simply because all our helpers are kin. As that great instructor, etymology, teaches us, the word kindness comes from *kinned*, and means *one of the same kind*. Which reminds us that we are members of the same tribe, the scholarly one. And that those who are of the same kin should be kind.

So, let's be friendly, generous, and considerate, my heroes!

Kindly yours,

Anca

PhD Facts 2017-2018

► Incoming Class, 2017-2018



• August 2017 Welcome meeting for the new PhD cohort

XING Bingxin	Finance	China
RIVA Camillo	Finance	Italy
WEN Yingting	Marketing	China
JHALA Nitasha	Marketing	India
SARKAR Mainak	Marketing	India
ROCHA GALO Marco Antonio	Management	Brazil
CHINEWUBEZE Obinna	Management	Nigeria
GUNJAL Rounak	Management	India
BOYI Victor	Management	Nigeria
NANNETTI Francesca	Management	Italy
DUFURRENA Seamus	Management	USA
QIU Yuying	Operations Management	China
HASSANZADEH Alborz	Operations Management	Iran



• April 2018, gathering of professors and PhD students at the Management department



Some key moments in the PhD Program

► October 21, 2017 Graduation ceremony



► December 7, 2017 Research Highlights: What's New in ESSEC Doctoral Studies – Poster session

• **Graciela Carrasco, Yenee Kim** and **Sourjo Mukherjee** (all Marketing track) congratulated for Best Paper Content, Best Paper Design, Best Paper Presentation.

• **Amit Kumar** and **Elisa Operti** – Winners of the Best Paper Award at ASAC Montreal <http://www.asac.ca/> 2017

• **Amit Kumar** – Winner of the Best Student paper Award in Strategy track at ASAC Montreal <http://www.asac.ca/> 2017

• **Anatoli Colicev** (PhD16), Winner of the ESSEC Foundation PhD Award 2018 for his thesis 'Valuing Social Media'.

• **Visited institutions by ESSEC PhD students this year** are University of Houston, Bauer College of Business, Houston, Tuck School of Business at Dartmouth, Hanover, International Labour Office, Geneva, National University of Singapore, Aalto University, Institute of Strategy and Venturing, Helsinki.

• **Some conferences attended by ESSEC PhDs:** American Finance Association Conference, ASSA Annual Meeting, EAA Annual Congress, EMAC 2017 Conference, AFFI International Conference, Informs Marketing Conference, EGOS 2017, AAA Annual meeting, AOM 2017, ICIS, ACR, MIT Asia Conference.



PhD Graduates since last newsletter



Helen Etchanchu Schneider (*Management Str.*),
Assistant professor,
Montpellier Business School,
France



Damien Lambert (*Accounting & Auditing*),
Assistant professor,
Monash University,
Melbourne, Australia



Oana Peia (*Economics*)
Assistant professor,
University College Dublin,
Ireland.



Victoire Garnier Denoyel (*OMDS*)



Aakanksha Gaur (*Management IS*)



Juan Carlos Espinosa Garcia (*OMDS*),
Assistant Professor,
Tecnologico de Monterrey,
Mexico



Kushal Sharma (*Management HR*),
SolBridge International School of Business,
Daejeon, South Korea.



Giovanni Pagliardi (*Finance*),
Post doctoral position,
University of Cyprus,
Cyprus



Marie Kerveillant (*Management Ctrl*),
Post doctoral position,
ESCP Europe,
Paris, France.



Archita Sarmah (*Management str.*)



Joanne Sopt (*Accounting & Auditing*),
Assistant professor,
Temple University,
Philadelphia, USA.



Sumingyue Wang (*Finance*),
Assistant professor,
Shangai University of Finance and Economics,
China

PhD Defenses in June-July 2018

June 19 th	Maurice Mc Court (Finance)
June 19 th	Shemuel Lampronti (Management)
June 20 th	Nava Cohen (Accounting & Auditing)
June 22 nd	Jiaying Wei (Finance)
June 29 th	Donoxti Baylon (Management)
July 6 th	Alessandro Ghio (Accounting & Auditing)