

### THE NEW NORMAL

The Ph.D. Program has quite a few good news to share with the ESSEC community this year.

In August, we welcomed sixteen first-year Ph.D. students in the program, while nine of our existing students have graduated at the time of this writing (although many more are scheduled to defend within the next few weeks). This newsletter also lists several awards received by our students, as well as a few prestigious publications.

With the support of our Dean, Vincenzo Vinzi, and our Chief Financial Officer, Jean-Luc Renson, the annual scholarship we award to our Ph.D. students has been increased to 25,2K€. This change has been applied to our fifth-year students, too.

After several years of COVID and restrictions, we have also reconnected with the long-standing tradition of the "Galette des Rois," and re-instated the election of Ph.D. representatives to facilitate exchanges of ideas and receive more timely feedback. Congratulations to Roman and Yuanyuan for being chosen by their peers.

While the Ph.D. Office is working on multiple initiatives, I would like to highlight one in particular. Next year, and pending confirmation, a new "research track" will open in the Master in Management program. The objective of this track is to promote a career in academic research and encourage some of our brilliant Master students to pursue a Ph.D., either at ESSEC Business School or in a different institution.

The track is designed to coach students and help them apply to the best Ph.D. programs in the world (including the one at ESSEC, although those students would need to go through the same rigorous selection

process as any applicant) and give them a head start in their Ph.D. journey. Academic research is a rewarding path for those who are self-driven, hard-working, and wish to work in-depth on interesting research topics of their choosing. And while highly competitive, a career in academia can be fulfilling and intellectually stimulating for the right individuals. It also provides a level of freedom and independence that few professions offer.

Yet, many students in our Master's program are oblivious to that career path and fear committing to a Ph.D. program. Our objective with this research track is to open the door to a few highly-qualified and meticulously-selected students who will have the opportunity to follow a couple of Ph.D. courses, and work as Research Assistants for ESSEC faculty, learning the craft through research projects.

While recent developments are rather positive, a few challenges remain top of mind for us.

The first one is the funding of sixth-year Ph.D. students in a world where an increasing number of competitors, in particular in the U.S., are prolonging their doctoral studies to beef up students' resumes before hitting the job market. While this trend is worrisome for our profession as a whole, it is a reality that our graduates face today.

The second challenge is the rise of mental health issues Ph.D. students have faced recently. The pressure to produce original research, meet deadlines, go to the job market before funding expires, and manage competing demands on students' time can lead to stress and anxiety. Furthermore, the isolation and lack of structure associated with independent research can exacerbate personal challenges.

It is crucial for Ph.D. students to seek help and support when needed. Seeking help can be a difficult and stigmatized process, but there are many resources available to students, including counseling services. In particular, Dr. Boris Haguenaer (haguenaer@essec.edu) and Ms Vanessa Ntakabanyura (ntakabanyura@essec.edu, 06 13 03 10 39) are trained counselors available for all ESSEC personnel and students. Students should also feel empowered to advocate for themselves and their mental health needs, whether by setting clear boundaries with supervisors or taking time off when necessary.

A recent study showed that more than 40% of Ph.D. students met the criteria for moderate to severe depression or anxiety. In contrast, this figure ranges between 26% and 32% for working professionals. Anxiety and stress are often perceived as a "badge of honor" for successful Ph.D. studies. While graduating from a top Ph.D. program is a challenging endeavor, one's mental health should never be the price to pay.

Rest, breathe, and enjoy life.



**Arnaud DE BRUYN,**  
Associate Dean  
debruyne@essec.edu



"This project is supported by France 2030"

August 2022 Welcome meeting for the new PhD cohort



**LI Yilan**, Accounting & Auditing, *Chinese* 🇨🇳

**JAIN Mayank**, Economics (Industrial Organization), *Indian* 🇮🇳

**CHENG Zijun**, Economics (International Economics), *Chinese* 🇨🇳

**MESNARD Marie**, Economics (International Economics), *French* 🇫🇷

**PAYA Rachel**, Finance, *French* 🇫🇷

**AGGARVAL Arushi**, Management (OB), *Indian* 🇮🇳

**XIAO Chuning**, Management (OB), *Chinese* 🇨🇳

**QUINTO Nelberto Nicholas**, Management (Strategy), *Filipo* 🇵🇭

**TAN Marselia**, Management (Strategy), *Indonesian* 🇮🇩

**LIAN Hengyu**, Management Control, *Chinese* 🇨🇳

**BHARGAVA Abhay**, Management (Information Systems), *Indian* 🇮🇳

**QUE Yiran**, Management (Information Systems), *Chinese* 🇨🇳

**MARFAVI Samaneh**, Marketing, *Iranian* 🇮🇷

**KHRIBCH El Mahdi**, Data Analytics, *Morocco* 🇲🇷

**FANG Lihan**, Data Analytics, *Chinese* 🇨🇳

**MESRAR Sara**, Operations Management & Research, *Morocco* 🇲🇷





## SOME KEY MOMENTS IN THE PHD PROGRAM

### June 2022: Graduation Ceremony



### October 2022: Graduation Ceremony



Ceremony at the Philharmonie de Paris: Congratulations to PhD and MS BAR graduates!

### December 2022: Research Highlights in the Poster Session



### A few conferences attended by ESSEC

**PhDs in 22-23:** Euro Conference 2022 (Espoo, Finland), POMS International Conference 2022 (Budapest, Hungary), AAA Annual Conference (San Diego, US), AOM (Academy of Management) Annual Meeting 2022 (Seattle, US), Advances in Decision Analysis Conference (Washington DC, US), International Conference on European Studies (Milan, Italy), Conference on "Evolving Challenges in European Economies" (Tallinn, Estonia), CAAA Annual Conference (Saskatoon, Canada), NHH Norwegian School of Economics (Bergen, Norway), AERE Association of Environmental & Resource Economists Annual Summer Conference (Miami, US), American Finance Association (AFA) annual meeting 2022, European Association for Research in Industrial Economics (EARIES), Strategic Management Society (SMS) conference, IOBC Conference (Tel Aviv, Israel), ALP Pop 2023 Conference (La Thuile, Italy), EGOS (Cagliari, Italy), Marketing Science Conference (Miami, US), EMAC Annual Conference 2023 (Odense, Denmark).

### POSTER SESSION WINNERS



**Mahaut DE VILLENEUVE BARGEMON**  
(Economics) Best Content Poster



**Nelberto Nichola QUINTO**  
(Management) Best Design and Presentation Poster







January 2023: Gathering for our traditional Galette des rois.

## A FEW PUBLICATIONS AND AWARDS

- **Lidiia Pletneva (5<sup>th</sup> year)** 2022 MOC Best Student-Led Paper Award, AoM, Management of Organizational Cognition Best Student-Led Paper Award. Best Student Paper Award at the 13<sup>th</sup> International Conference on Emotions and Worklife 'EMONET XIII', UK, 2022.
- **Si Cheng (5<sup>th</sup> year)** AoM Finalist of the International Management Division Georgetown Best Paper in International Business and Policy. SMS Award award of Stakeholder Strategy IG Best Proposal.
- **Emeline Deneuve (5<sup>th</sup> year)** Academic presentation at the 2022 CAAA Craft of Accounting Workshop – Best Presentations Job market at HEC Montréal. Best Reviewer Award from the IAS midyear meeting 2023 (January 2023).
- **Debajyoti Biswas (4<sup>th</sup> year)** published in European Journal of Operational Research with L. Alfandari (2022) "Designing an optimal sequence of non-pharmaceutical interventions for controlling COVID-19."
- **Debajyoti Biswas (4<sup>th</sup> year)** published in European Journal of Operational Research with D., Jalali, H., Ansaripoor, A. H., & De Giovanni, "Traceability vs. sustainability in supply chains: The implications of blockchain."

*Congratulations to PhD Award winners, and publishers!*

## STUDENT RESEARCH SEMINARS: JANUARY TO APRIL 2023



The PhD students from second year to fourth year are invited to present their research under the supervision of their academic advisor.

## PHD GRADUATES SINCE LAST NEWSLETTER



**Heesang Ryu**  
(Economics)  
Research fellow  
Bocconi University, Italy



**Mohsen Ghanadzadeh**  
(Finance)  
Lecturer finance  
Han International School of  
Business, The Netherlands



**Jin Sui**  
(Economics)



**Mainak Sarkar**  
(Marketing)  
Assistant professor  
University of Stavanger  
Business School, Norway



**Yingting Wen**  
(Marketing)  
Assistant professor  
EM Lyon, France



**Shehryar Amin**  
(Finance)



**Mouna El Mansouri**  
(Management)  
Assistant professor  
Ecole de Management  
Leonard De Vinci –  
EMLV, France



**Seamus Dufurrena**  
(Management Control)  
Assistant professor  
Toulouse Business  
School, France



**Quynh Nguyen**  
(Economics)