

THE NEW NORMAL

Over the last two years, in the midst of the COVID pandemic, we have learned a few things about the world and about ourselves. We have learned that we can adapt exceptionally quickly and demonstrate remarkable resilience in unusual circumstances. We have learned that our social relationships and workplace environment, most of which were shattered during the numerous confinements, were critical to our well-being and mental health. Some of us, forced into working from home, finding ourselves free of constant interruptions and office distractions, saw our research productivity surge. Others, stuck at home with young kids or in unfavorable work conditions, saw it plummet to unexpected lows. Finally, we discovered – sometimes to our own surprise – that teaching face-to-face remained highly valuable to our students and to ourselves, and that face-time in the classroom was not simply “a thing of the past that some academic dinosaurs try to cling on.” However, online teaching is here to stay in some form or another, and online meetings – in small dosage – could even be a blessing.

During these two years of crisis, Ph.D. students, like so many others, have been deeply affected, both professionally and emotionally. Productive research requires concentration and deep work, and deep work often requires a healthy dose of isolation. However, it is a vastly different world when that isolation is imposed on you 24/7 for weeks on end. My heart goes in particular to our international Ph.D. students, separated from their families, barred from traveling, who had barely any opportunity to build a support network before the confinements hit. In addition to the difficulties of interacting with fellow students, advisors, and faculty,

the job market was largely disrupted in 2020, with many universities and business schools not hiring new recruits at all that year. This situation led to many candidates postponing their job market search to the next year, and 2021 saw a flood of Ph.D. candidates facing a still limited number of open positions, adding to the stress of an already difficult situation.

In the midst of that two-year-long crisis, any success, achievement, or accomplishment is to be celebrated with particular pride. This is to those accomplishments and good news that this newsletter is dedicated.

Despite the uncertainty of the pandemic, the school managed to attract and recruit 13 new Ph.D. students this year. We expect a significantly larger cohort this year.

The graduation ceremony, which was initially postponed, took place in October 2021. A total of nineteen Ph.D. student graduates and nineteen graduates of the M.S. in Business Administration Research opened the ceremonies and received their diplomas at the prestigious Philharmonie de Paris. The ceremony was broadcasted live online and translated in real-time into both French and English.

In December 2021, we organized the now-traditional poster session, where students have an opportunity to present their research in an “elevator speech” format to a broad audience of fellow students and faculty. My congratulations to the winners of the three awards this year: Minakshi Punam Mandal (operations management), Gabrielle Gambuli (economics), and Javaiz Parappathodi (operations management).

Every two years, the ESSEC Foundation bestows a Ph.D. Award for the best dissertation and dissertation outcomes (e.g., publications). Yanlu Zhao (currently an assistant professor at Durham University, U.K.) was chosen this year for his outstanding work in operations research and management. The award also recognizes that nothing grand is ever accomplished alone and salutes Yanlu’s advisors as well, Félix Papier and Laurent Alfandari, for their invaluable contribution and involvement.

Finally, six of our students defended their dissertations this academic year, with a few more about to do so in the coming weeks.

I wish you all the best in this “new normal.”



Arnaud DE BRUYN,
Associate Dean
debruyn@essec.edu

■ August 2021 - Welcome meeting for the new PhD cohort.



■ **MENARD Romain**
Economics, *French*

■ **SOLTANI Roya**
Finance, *Iranian*

■ **CHEN Liying**
Management (Strategy),
Chinese

■ **BERROU Maxime**
Economics (International
Economics), *French*

■ **QUINTO Nelberto Nichola**
Economics Industrial
Organization, *Filipino*

■ **HAJIGHASEMI
Mohammadhesam**
Marketing, *Iranian*

■ **ALAEI Saideh**
Management (Information
Systems), *Iranian*

■ **DE VILLENEUVE
BARGEMON Mahaut**
Economics (International
Economics), *French*

■ **SHI Ke Economics**
Public Economics, *Chinese*

■ **ZHAO WENZE,**
Marketing, *Chinese*

■ **YAN Wenjin**
Operations & Data Analytics,
Chinese

■ **DONG Jiachen**
Finance, *Chinese*

■ **KWAK TaeHo**
Management (OB), *South Korea*

■ **MUKHERJEE Subhabrata**
Operations & Data Analytics,
Indian

■ **HUANG Huilin**
Finance, *Chinese*

■ **NIVA Evgeny**
Management (OB), *Russian*



SOME KEY MOMENTS IN THE PHD PROGRAM

October 2021: Graduation Ceremony



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


December 2021 Research Highlights in the Poster Session




Celebrating the end of the year




POSTER SESSION WINNERS



Minakshi PUNAM MANDAL
(Operations Management)
Best poster content & design



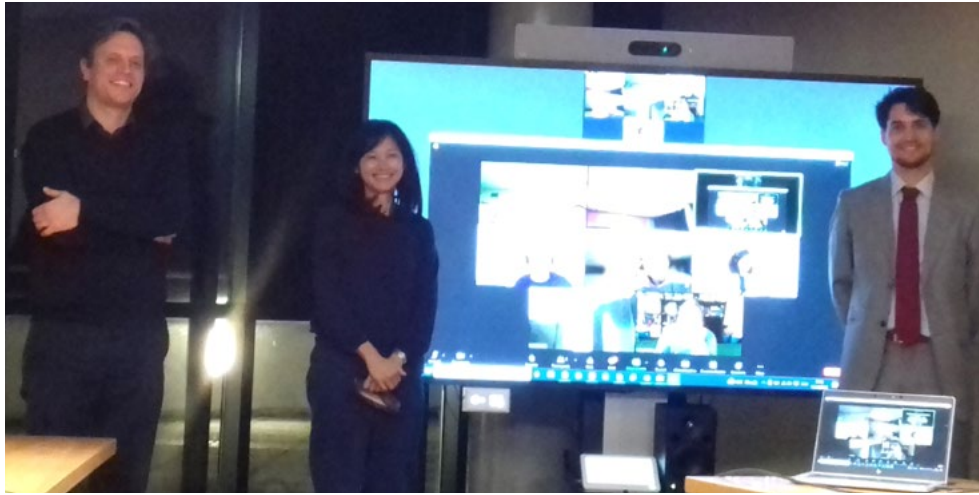
Gabrielle GAMBULI
(Economics)
Best poster pitch



Javaiz PARAPPATHODI
(Operations Management)
Best poster pitch

■ **A few conferences attended by ESSEC PhDs:** AOM (Academy of Management) Annual Meeting 2021, American Finance Association (AFA) annual meeting 2021, Strategy Science Doctoral Conference, Annual ITFA Conference, EAA Doctoral Colloquium and the EAA 2021, EFMA (European Financial Management Association) 2021 Annual Meeting, European Association for Research in Industrial Economics (EARIES), Strategic Management Society (SMS) conference, AAA Auditing section midyear meeting, POMS conference - 32 annual Conference, 44th Annual Congress of the European Accounting Association.

■ **Last PhD Defense on December 15, 2021 - Bruno NOISETTE (Management)**



2022 ESSEC
FOUNDATION AWARDS



AVRIL 2022

The PhD Award to Yanlu ZHAO
(Operations Management and
Operations Research)

PhD supervisors:
Félix Papier et Laurent Alfandari

A FEW PUBLICATIONS

- **Sourjo MUKHERJEE (PhD 14)** with Reetika Gupta, K. Jayarajah: "Role of group cohesiveness in targeted mobile promotions", Journal of Business Research, 127 (2021).
- **Yanlu ZHAO (PhD 15)** with Furini, Fabio, Ljubic, Ivana, San Segundo, Pablo: "A branch-and-cut algorithm for the Edge Interdiction Clique Problem". European Journal of Operational Research (2021).
- **Caecilia DRUJON D'ASTROS (PhD 15)** with Chandana Alawattage, Diane-Laure Arjaliès, Mereana Barrett, Julie Bernard, Sílvia Pereira de Castro Casa Nova, Charles H. Cho, Christine Cooper, Mercy Denedo, Russell Evans, Amanze Ejiogu, Lex Frieden, Alessandro Ghio, Nicholas McGuigan, Yi Luo, Erica Pimentel, Lisa Powell, Paula Andrea Navarro Pérez, Paolo Quattrone, Andrea M. Romi, Stewart Smyth, Joanne Sopt, Matthew Sorola - "Opening accounting: a Manifesto", Accounting Forum (2021).
- **Alborz HASSANZADEH (PhD17)** with Laurent Alfandari and Ivana Ljubic - publication in the European Journal of Operational Research: "An exact method for assortment optimization under the nested logit model" (2021).
- **Alborz HASSANZADEH (PhD17)** with Sara Rezaee Vessa and Pietro De Giovanni - publication in the European Journal of Operational Research: "Technology and service investments in the presence of feature fatigue and word-of-mouth" (2021).
- **Mouna EL MANSOURI (PhD16)** with Barclay, L. J., Kiefer, T. "Navigating the era of disruption: How emotions can prompt job crafting behaviors. Human Resource Management" (2022).
- **Quynh NGA NGUYEN (PhD18)** with Sofiane Aboura, Julien Chevallier, Lyuyuan Zhang, Bangzhu Zhu "Local Gaussian correlations in financial and commodity markets" in the European Journal of Operational Research (2020).

A FEW AWARDS

- **Nina-Birte SCHIRRMACHER (PhD 16)** "Kauffman Best Paper Award Runner-Up at International Conference of Information Systems 2021" (Dec. 2021).
- **Mouna EL MANSOURI (PhD 16)** and Karoline Strauss won the Best Student Paper Award at the Twelfth International Conference on Emotions and Organisational Life 'EMONET XII' (June 2020).
- **Shubham SINGH (PhD 19)** won Best Reviewer Award from the Academy of Management's Annual Meeting (AOM) (2021).

PHD GRADUATES SINCE LAST NEWSLETTER



Junqi LIU
(Accounting & Auditing)
Assistant professor
Xiamen University, *China*



Himanshu BHATT
(Management Strategy)
Assistant professor
King's Business School, *London, United Kingdom*



Nina-Birte SCHIRRMACHER
(Management Information Systems)
Postdoctoral Research Fellow in
Information Systems & Analytics
National University of Singapore,
Singapore



Hyunwoo SHIM
(Economics)
Director Foreign Exchange Policy
Ministry of Economy & Finance,
Korean Government, *South Korea*



Mailys GEORGE
(Management Organizational
Behavior)
Postdoctoral Research Fellow
IESE, Barcelona, *Spain*



Bruno NOISETTE
(Management Organizational
Behavior)