

THE LUXURY OF TIME IN A WORLD ON FIRE

By the Associate Dean of the PhD Program, ESSEC Business School

We are living in a state of near-constant interruption. Wars rage. Ecosystems falter. Democracies wobble. Our newsfeeds refresh by the second, each headline elbowing the last into oblivion. In this relentless churn, attention is currency, and distraction is the default.

And yet, here we are. PhD students, scholars, advisors. People who, against this backdrop of urgency and noise, have chosen (or been fortunate enough) to devote years of their lives to thinking. Deeply. Carefully. Slowly. What a strange, radical, almost counter-cultural act that is.

At ESSEC, we pride ourselves on our engagement with the world. We are not removed from the crises that shape our time. On the contrary, we are expected to engage with them, to study their causes, to shape their solutions. Our recent #1 ranking by ChangeNOW for commitment to ecological transition and social change is a testament to this institutional mission. But being “engaged” doesn’t mean being constantly reactive. It means holding space for difficult questions, entertaining unpopular thoughts, and resisting the pull of instant answers.

This is not easy. Our profession is full of pressure: pressure to publish, to perform, to secure funding, and to impress our peers. We often speak of “productivity” as though we were machines. But research, at its best, is not just production. It’s exploration. Doubt. Frustration. Wonder. The work we do is hard. And it is worth doing well, not just fast.

I want to offer a gentle reminder to all of us, be it faculty, students, prospective researchers: protect your time. Carve out hours for real thinking, unencumbered by emails or metrics. Respect your

capacity for focus as the rare and precious resource it is. And just as importantly, don’t do it alone. Find colleagues with whom you can talk openly, not only about ideas, but about the messiness of academic life. Build trust and relationships, not just networks. You’ll need them all.

This isn’t a call to retreat from the world. It’s an invitation to rise to the challenge of understanding it fully, rigorously, and with care. We have the privilege and the responsibility to think. Let’s not waste it.

This newsletter captures just a glimpse of what our PhD community has accomplished this year. From thought-provoking seminars and international conference presentations to well-earned dissertation defenses, prestigious job placements, and awards that recognize academic excellence. There is much to celebrate. It is a testament to the quiet persistence and intellectual courage that define this program. Take a moment to read through, to be proud of your peers and mentors, and to appreciate the collective momentum we’re building.

One deep thought at a time.



Arnaud DE BRUYN,
Associate Dean
debruyne@essec.edu

August 2024: Welcome meeting for the new PhD cohort



ZHANG He, Accounting & Auditing, Chinese 🇨🇳

GARG Vaishnav, Data Analytics, Indian 🇮🇳

SIMONETTI Viola, Data Analytics, Italian 🇮🇹

PROKHORSKOI, Iaroslav Economics, Russian 🇷🇺

XU, Yuxuan Economics, Chinese 🇨🇳

CHEN, Siying Finance, Chinese 🇨🇳

DAGHER, Jean Michel Finance, Lebanese 🇱🇧

MADHAVAN, Supriya Management (OB), Indian 🇮🇳

HU Xiao (Karina), Management (OB), Chinese 🇨🇳

GHADERI Yousef, Management (Strategy), Iranian 🇮🇷

ELLUL Juliette, Management (Strategy), French 🇫🇷

JU Han, Management Control, Chinese 🇨🇳

FEI Mingyu, Management Control, Chinese 🇨🇳

HAJIGHASEMI Alireza, Management (Information Systems), Iranian 🇮🇷

KIRJAVAINEN Emma, Marketing, Finnish 🇫🇮

JURNALI Irene, Marketing, Indonesian 🇮🇩



SOME KEY MOMENTS IN THE PHD PROGRAM

February 2025: Research Highlights during the Research Day



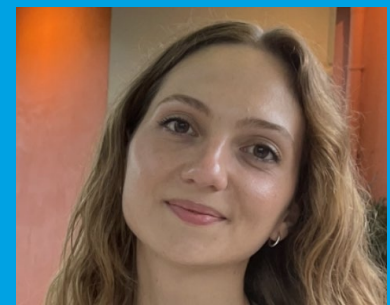
ESSEC RESEARCH DAY – February 2025

The Essec Research Center (CERESSEC) organized a new edition of Research Day. A day-long conference dedicated to research excellence. Essec professors and invited guest from CY Cergy-Paris Université and Ecole supérieure shared their work with their peers, covering topics from leadership, to geopolitics, to machine learning, and much more. There were academic presentations, a round-table discussion on the importance of scientific integrity and a poster session showcasing the ongoing work of Essec PhD students.

POSTER SESSION WINNERS DURING THE RESEARCH DAY



Best content poster
Yaroslav Prokhorskoï,
first year PhD student in Economics



Best presentation poster
Rachel Paya,
third year PhD student in Finance



Best design poster
Abhay Bhargava,
third year PhD student in Management
Information Systems

A few conferences attended by ESSEC PhDs in 24-25:

2025 Academy Annual Meeting (AOM), US 🇺🇸

2025 Consumer culture theory conference, London, UK 🇬🇧

Academy of Management Annual Meeting 2025, Copenhagen, Denmark 🇩🇰

Nottingham International trade summer school, Nottingham, UK 🇬🇧

Nottingham International trade summer school, Nottingham, UK 🇬🇧

LAGV 2025 conference, Marseille, France 🇫🇷

2025 Consumer culture theory confrence, London, United kingdom 🇬🇧

Consumption Theory : Theorizing doctoral seminar series, Odense, Denmark 🇩🇰

64th Southwestern Finance Association (SWFA) Annual Conference, San Antoni, US 🇺🇸

14th Conference on new directions in management accounting, Milan, Italy 🇮🇹

SIKS Symposium on Decision Diagrams for Optimization, Delft, The Netherlands 🇳🇱

► MAY 2025 : GRADUATION CEREMONY AT THE PHILHARMONY OF PARIS



► AWARDS

Taeho Kwak, PhD student in fourth year in Management, has been awarded a 2024 Strategy research Foundation (SRF) Will Mitchell Dissertation Research Grant. This grant, managed by the Strategic Management Society, supports research in strategic management.



Taeho's proposal was selected by a panel of senior faculty for its contribution to the field. Congratulations to him on this recognition.

► PHD GRADUATES SINCE LAST NEWSLETTER



Si Cheng
(Management)
Assistant professor
Copenhagen Business
School, Denmark



Yosra Aleahmad
(Management Control)
Assistant professor
Norwegian School of
Economics (NHH), Norway



Thomas Rowley
(Economics)
Assistant professor
Institute for European
Policymaking, Bocconi
University, Italy



Minakshi Punam Mandal
(Operations Management &
Research)
Assistant professor Indian
Institute Of Management–
Bangalore (IIM–Bangalore), India



Cong Tao
(Accounting & Auditing)
Assistant professor
Lancaster University, UK



Melanie Marten
(Economics)



Sumon Chaudhuri
(Marketing)
Assistant professor
WU Vienna, Austria



Dong Nghi Pham
(Management)
Assistant professor
ESADE, Spain



Yujie Song
(Finance)
Assistant professor
Wenzhou-Kean
University, China

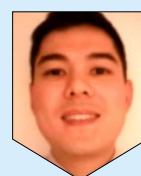


Alexey Tyulyupo
(Management)
Post-doc
Yale University, US



Ahmet Benlialper
(Economics)
Assistant professor
Corvinus University of
Budapest, Hungary

UPCOMING DEFENSES



Yerlan Kuzbakov
Operations Management
& Operations Research
on Monday June 2nd, 2025



Mo Wang
Finance on Friday,
June 13th, 2025



Matthias Trobinger
Management on Monday,
June 16th, 2025



Hui Tan
Accounting & Auditing on
Monday, July 7th, 2025



Yuanyuan Li
Operations Management
& Operations Research on
Wednesday, July 9th 2025



Hao Ma
Accounting & Auditing
on July 2025