

RESILIENCE, COMRADESHIP, RESILIENCE: THE PHD JOURNEY IN PANDEMIC TIMES (DOCTORAT AU TEMPS DE LA PANDÉMIE)

Dear readers,

No, the repetition of ‘resilience’ in the title is not a mistake. It is to emphasize the quality that I feel best captures the attitude the PhD students, their faculty, and the staff had during the past year.

In spite of the dangers brought about abruptly by the pandemic, none of our students quit and no course was cancelled. In spite of the worries about their and their loved ones’ health, students remained in good mental health. In spite of the dim prospects of the job market, they kept working on their dissertations and papers.

This resilience was made possible largely by the camaraderie of the student group. And what a fitting name ‘camaraderie’ is for the support students have given one another throughout the year! The etymology of the word indicates ‘roommates’ as it traces back to the Latin camera (chamber). Indeed, the ties forged in the close proximity, in the residence, in classrooms, in the cafeteria, in group outings in Paris, have held during this trying time.

These ties of comradeship were strengthened by the initiatives taken at the program, concentration, or individual level – whereby groups of students and faculty meet regularly, online, for intellectual and emotional support. And to simply hang out. An important pillar in sustaining the community was the unwavering support of Mrs. Lina Prevost and Christine Gil, who answered each and every student request promptly and kindly.

The ties among our PhD community held to the extent that all of the 14 first year students who joined us in September, most vulnerable given their lack of pre-existing relationships and friendships, have also traversed this year unscathed. Luckily the Welcome meeting at the end of August 2020 could take place in normal conditions, just before the second lockdown.

Of course, there have been consequences of isolation and lockdowns. Some of the damage was visible: conferences were cancelled or held online, thus without the benefit of the valuable informal interactions, and of the immersion in the academic community; for the first time in 8 years, we could not hold the Poster session; plans to visit other universities had to be postponed; seminar speakers could only connect via zoom, which led to less rich interactions with the PhD students.

Some of the damage might have been invisible, though, so potentially more perilous. Depression, feelings of isolation and worthlessness could creep in, sometimes without the person’s full awareness that this is the case. Students and advisors have been vigilant, reaching out when they felt someone was avoiding contact, or ‘slipping away.’

The end result was that students have gone on with their projects, they collected data, they analyzed them, they wrote and submitted papers to journals and conferences.

From July 2020, five students defended their dissertations (Arash Talebi, Yanlu Zhao, Nima Fazeli, Zoe Ziani-Francllet, and Caecilia Drujon d’Astros), with two more (Himanshu Bhatt and Junqi Liu) to do so before the end of June 2021. The recent graduates got jobs at King’s College, Toulouse Business School, EDHEC Business School, Durham Business School, and Paris Business School.

Some of our students (Alborz Hassanzadeh, Quynh Nga Nguyen) published papers in good journals, some won awards for their research (Mouna El-Mansouri), and many of our alumni continue to publish in prestigious journals. We are expecting you all for the hybrid graduation ceremony on June 26, 2021. By then the PhD program will have a new dean, who will know how to continue to foster excellence and resilience-generating camaraderie.

Warm wishes to everyone!



Anca Metiu,
Associate Dean
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PHD FACTS 2020-2021

■ August 2020 Welcome meeting for the new PhD cohort.



■ MA Hao

Accounting & Auditing, *Chinese*

■ TAN Hui

Accounting & Auditing, *Chinese*

■ MA Zipeng

Economics, *Chinese*

■ LASHKARBOLOOKIE Mohammad

Economics, *Iranian*

■ DE LIMA SUSPIRO Miguel

Finance, *Portuguese*

■ NA Menglong

Finance, *Chinese*

■ TRÖBINGER Matthias

Management, *Italian*

■ KRAVCHENKO Anna

Management, *Kazakh*

■ TYULYUPO Aleksey

Management, *Russian*

■ ARORA Madhav

Marketing, *Indian*

■ WANG Danhan

Marketing, *Chinese*

■ LI Yuanyuan

Operations & Data Analytics, *Chinese*

■ RAMEZANPOUR SHALMANI Shaghayegh

Operations & Data Analytics, *Iranian*

■ DING Yuanpei

Operations & Data Analytics, *Chinese*



SOME KEY MOMENTS IN THE PHD PROGRAM

■ October 2020: DocNet virtual recruiting event with PhD students



Emeline Deneuve (PhD3)



Patrick Tang (PhD2)

■ Mouna El Mansouri (PhD4) and Karoline Strauss won the Best Student Paper: “Resistance to Proactive Behavior: Impact on Proactive Individuals’ Emotions and Subsequent Behaviors” At EMONET XII, TWELFTH INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON EMOTIONS AND WORKLIFE

■ Alborz Hassanzadeh (PhD3) with Laurent Alfandari and Ivana Ljubic “An Exact Method for Assortment Optimization Under the Nested Logit Model” *European Journal of Operational Research*, https://papers.ssrn.com/sol3/papers.cfm?abstract_id=3529996

■ Quynh Nga Nguyen (PhD3) with Sofiane Aboura, Julien Chevallier, Lyuyuan Zhang and Bangshu Zhu “Local Gaussian correlations in financial and commodity markets” *European Journal of Operational Research* <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ejor.2020.01.023>

■ A few conferences attended by ESSEC PhDs: AFA/ASSA Annual meeting, SMS Conference, SJDM 2020 Conference, EBES Conference Madrid, EconWorld2020@Tbilisi XII. International Conference in Economics, ACR 2020 Conference, AOM (Academy of Management) Annual Meeting 2020, AMA Conference, SCP Marketing annual conference, AFA/ASSA Annual meeting, European Economic Association Job Market Meeting, DRUID Academic Conference.



Last gathering for the traditional galette des rois before the first lockdown (January 2020)



Emeline at the flute (January 2020)



Machine Learning class with Professor Workiewicz (April 2020)



Café break between lockdowns (June 2020)



■ **Semi-virtual PhD Defense by Yanlu Zhao on August 28, 2020.**

SOME ALUMNI PUBLICATIONS

- **Anatoli COLICEV** (PhD16) “How Main Street Drives Wall Street: Customer (Dis)satisfaction, Short Sellers, and Abnormal Returns” *Journal of Marketing Research*, <https://doi.org/10.1177/0022243720954373>

- **Shemuel LAMPRONTI** (PhD18) “Hold Your Horses: Temporal Multiplexity and Conflict Moderation in the Palio di Siena (1743–2010)” *Organization Science*, <https://doi.org/10.1287/orsc.2019.1283>

- **Sourjo MUKHERJEE** (PhD20) and Niek Althuisen “Brand activism: Does courting controversy help or hurt a brand?” *International Journal of Research in Marketing*, <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ijresmar.2020.02.008>

- **Oana PEIA** (PhD16) and Anna Bayona “Financial contagion and the wealth effect: An experimental study” *Journal of the Association for Information Systems*, <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jebs.2020.08.001>

- **Aljona ZORINA** (PhD12) and Stan Karanasios “When IT Evolves Beyond Community Needs: Coevolution of Bottom-Up IT Innovation and Communities” *Journal of the Association for Information Systems*, <https://aisel.aisnet.org/jais/forthcoming>.

- **Aljona ZORINA** (PhD12) and William H. Dutton “Theorizing Actor Interactions Shaping Innovation in Digital Infrastructures: The Case of Residential Internet Development in Belarus” *Organization Science*, <https://doi.org/10.1287/orsc.2020.1389>

PHD GRADUATES SINCE LAST NEWSLETTER



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