

# LÉO PICARD

Pre-doctoral research assistant in Economics

Areas of interest: political economy, international trade, text as data.

E-mail: [leo.picard@gess.ethz.ch](mailto:leo.picard@gess.ethz.ch)

Website: [leopicard.net](http://leopicard.net)

Updated: January 30, 2020

## EDUCATION

---

**University of Lausanne (HEC)** 2017 - 2019

Master of Science (MSc.) in Economics

Fall 2018: Exchange semester at the University of Mannheim, Germany

Spring 2019: Master's thesis: "The smell of trouble: natural gas dependence and interstate conflicts"

**University of Lausanne (HEC)** 2013 - 2017

Bachelor of Science (BSc.) in Economics

## RELEVANT WORK EXPERIENCE

---

**ETH Zürich** since February 2020

*Scientific Assistant*

- Data collection, database management: high-dimensional panels, web scrapping, postgresQL queries.
- Data cleaning: merging and reshaping datasets, plain text pre-processing.
- Causal analysis: applied microeconometrics, natural language processing and machine learning for academic research in law and political economy.
- Paper revisions: answering referees questions for the re-submission of three research papers.

**UNCTAD, United Nations Office at Geneva** August 2019 - January 2020

*Intern, Research and Policy Analysis*

- Participation in the drafting of a report on illicit financial flows, capital flight and structural transformation in Africa. Data collection, cleaning, analysis and policy recommendations. [[link to PDF](#)]

**University of Lausanne (HEC)** February 2018 - August 2019

*Research Assistant*

- Building a text database of political speeches in the United States.
- Building a georeferenced dataset of the natural gas network on ArcGIS.
- Other data cleaning tasks and analysis on Stata and Python.

## TEACHING EXPERIENCE

---

**University of Lausanne (HEC)**

*Teaching assistant*

- Statistics and Applied Econometrics: Introduction (undergraduate, in french) Spring 2019
  - Teaching Stata programming at the computer lab, from the basics to advanced regressions in econometrics (Diff-in-Diff, RDD designs).
  - Updating slides on LaTeX, answering students questions during dedicated sessions and by e-mail.
  - Correction and grading of the end-term group projects.

## TECHNICAL SKILLS

---

<b>Programming languages</b>	Stata, Python, R, SQL, LaTeX, Bash scripting
<b>Frameworks &amp; environments</b>	Linux and remote servers, batch system for high performance computing, version control (Git and GitHub), Shiny (R), Regular Expressions (Python), Jupyter notebooks
<b>Softwares</b>	MS Office, ArcGIS (basics)

## LANGUAGES

---

<b>French</b>	mother tongue
<b>English</b>	fluent
<b>German</b>	intermediate (B1/B2)

## RESEARCH PAPERS

---

Slany A, Chérel-Robson M and Picard L (2020). *Illicit financial flows and sustainable development: Panel-data evidence for Africa*. Background paper for Economic Development in Africa Report 2020. UNCTAD. [[link to PDF](#)]

*The political economy of Covid-19 in Switzerland: evidence using text as data*. Co-authoring with Prof. Elliott Ash (ETHZ), Prof. Beatrix Eugster (U. St-Gallen) and Prof. Sergio Galletta (U. Bergamo and ETHZ). Work in progress.

## EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

---

### **Uthink Lausanne (2017-2019)**

4 semesters of active membership in the student association. Organization of seminars on various topics of academic research, with a focus on neutrality of information and critical thinking. Realization of an interactive application on Swiss popular initiatives.

### **Student mentor (2016-2017)**

This optional program, organized by the Deanship and the HEC Lausanne Students' Committee, aims to support the inclusion of new students in the School. First year students who wish to join the program are put in touch with students in the 2nd or 3rd year of the Bachelor's course who wish to share their experience and give advice.

### **oikos Lausanne (2014-2016)**

5 semesters of active membership in the student association. Member of the executive committee for one year (2016). Organization of conferences on topics of corporate sustainability and business ethics. Organization of the biannual second hand book fair. Other tasks include sponsoring, graphic design and public speaking.