**Bio. –– Stéphane Thomas**

Financial engineer, entrepreneur and R&D leader, Stéphane is Director and North American Head of the Research & Analytics center of expertise at Chappuis Halder & Co., an international management consulting firm dedicated to the Financial Services industry. Stéphane has a fundamental understanding of the banking and investment industries, on a cross-asset scope and at the quantitative, business and technical levels. He specializes in Model Risk Management, Model Thinking and Artificial Intelligence.

He has been a member of Montreal’s PRMIA Executive Board since March 2019 where he helps grow the risk community and promote sound practices throughout the ecosystem, a role that he already embraces daily for his clients. Stéphane is also deeply involved in the Fintech and AI community, initiating partnerships with local Fintech, offering Chappuis Halder’s expertise at Finance Montreal’s Station Fintech and acting as mentor for PRMIA’s and IVADO Fin-ML’s mentorship programme.

For the past 15 years, he has developed a strong practice of challenges within operational and organizational processes and an ability to straddle business and technical domains through digital banking solutions. He holds a PhD in Finance from Paris Pantheon-Sorbonne where he taught Quantitative Finance for 10 years and has published several academic and working papers in risk management and portfolio optimization. His current researches look at the application of Reinforcement Learning to Finance and advanced analytics for risk management and business intelligence.