Thomas 'Orlando' Da Costa

Personal Academic Website
Github page

French citizen, 24 years old
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Last updated: November 2025

Research Interests

Biodiversity loss, ecosystem services & natural capital — Ecology–economy interactions — Climate change, land use & agricultural systems — Inequality & welfare — Dynamic & stochastic modeling.

Education

2020 – 2026 **ENS degree (M.A. equivalent) in Environmental Sciences and Policy**
École Normale Supérieure de la rue d'Ulm (ENS-PSL)
French highest "*Grande École*"; dual degree with AgroParisTech; macroeconomics courses at the Paris School of Economics (PSE).
All the courses I have taken.

2025 – 2026 **Visiting Exchange Student in Ecology and Evolutionary Biology**
Princeton University

2024 – 2025 **M.Sc. in Environmental Economics, Spe. Prospective Modeling**
AgroParisTech - Paris-Saclay University (Paris XI)
Highest Honors (17.35/20 | GPA: $\sim$ 4.0).

2023 – 2025 **AgroParisTech Degree (M.A. equivalent), Spe. Environmental Management and Engineering**
AgroParisTech - Paris-Saclay University (Paris XI)
Highest Honors (17.15/20 | GPA: $\sim$ 4.0) [Thesis ; Slides].

2021 – 2023 **M.Sc. in Cognitive Sciences**
Cognitive Sciences department - ENS-PSL
High Honors (15.23/20 | GPA: $\sim$ 3.8) [Thesis (in French)].

2020 – 2021 **Introductory year**
Physics department - ENS-PSL

2017 – 2020 **B.Sc. in Physics**
Sorbonne University (Paris VI)
Highest Honors (16.31/20 | GPA: $\sim$ 3.8).

2017 – 2020 **B.Sc. in Mechanics**
Sorbonne University (Paris VI)
Highest Honors (16.40/20 | GPA: $\sim$ 3.8).

2017 **Baccalauréat - Engineering Sciences, Spe. Physics**
Lycée Martin Luther King
Highest Honors (18.63/20 | GPA: $\sim$ 3.9), latin and music options.

Research Work

Publications

2025 **Effects of experiencing the COVID-19 pandemic on optimistically biased belief updating,** *eLife* **13**:RP101157
with Iraj Khalid, Orphée Morlaàs, Hugo Bottemanne, Lisa Thonon, Philippe Fossati, Liane Schmidt
DOI: 10.7554/eLife.101157.3

2024 **TRAVERSéES: Diverse territorial actions and transition pathways for pesticide use,** *Innovations Agronomiques*, 2024, 96, pp. 27-39.
with Corinne Robert and many others
DOI: 10.17180/ciag-2024-vol96-art03

Work in progress

2026 **Quantifying Climate Damages: the HANPP Approach**
with Hélène Cogez, Amine Messal, and others
In progress.

2026 **Policy scenarios for future welfare: Insights from the NICE model**
with Marc Fleurbaey, Fabrice Murtin
In progress.

2025 **Farming practices and behavioral factors: a case study in eastern France**
with Elliot Meunier, Corinne Robert, Pauline Smith
In progress.

Reports and Notes

2023 **How to Design an Effective Composting Program at École Normale Supérieure: An Intervention Proposal**
with Tristin Blatt, Sofya Goldina, Lena Pasalskaya
Report.

Teaching Experience

02/2025 – 05/2025 **Open Macroeconomics**
Paris I Panthéon-Sorbonne
2nd year undergraduate economics course (12h, Teaching Assistant).

Awards and Grants

2025 – 2026 **Jane Eliza Procter Visiting Fellowship**
Princeton University
$116 330 for one year.

2024 – 2025 **Scholarship based on social criteria**
French Ministry of Higher Education and Research

Research Experience

03/2025 – 08/2025 **Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD)**
with Fabrice Murtin

Modeling transition pathways from a stylised Integrated Assessment Model (IAM) at the Centre on Well-Being, Inclusion, Sustainability and Equal Opportunity (WISE).

06/2024 – 09/2024, & 11/2024 – 06/2025 **Paris School of Economics**
with Marc Fleurbaey, CNRS

Climate impacts have been underestimated: a new climate damage function for an optimal climate policy.

Modifying an IAM (the NICE model, a derivative of Nordhaus' RICE) to incorporate a damage function with a "growth effect" and assessing its effect on the optimal carbon price trajectory and on inequalities.

Macroeconomics, Environmental Economics, Welfare Economics, Modeling.

04/2023 – 09/2023 **Georgetown Environmental Justice Program & INRAe**
with Pauline Smith & Corinne Robert

Nature Connectedness, Risk Perception and Risk Attitudes: three behavioral factors for a better understanding of pesticide use.

Behavioral Economics, Environmental Psychology and Data Analysis applied to a national public policy (Plan Écophyto).

09/2021 – 05/2022 **Paris Brain Institute**
with Liane Schmidt

Unrealistic optimism bias in belief updating: effects of confinement during COVID-19 and experimental design.

Studying the suppression of belief updating bias in a stressful environment.

Experimental Psychology, Data Analysis.

06/2019 – 07/2019 **Plasma Physics Lab (UMR 7648)**
with Matthieu Berthomier, CNRS

caractérisation d'une feuille de graphène pour la spectrométrie de masse ionique à champ de vue 3D dans les plasmas spatiaux.

Modeling the time-of-flight chamber of a mass spectrometer, simulating the trajectory of particles subjected to an electromagnetic field and building an experimental protocol to transfer a graphene sheet (thickness: 30 μm).

Experimental Physics, Data Analysis and Modeling.

Conferences and Seminars

08/2025 **Rethinking Economics Summer School Switzerland 2025**
Chandolin, Switzerland
History of French agriculture & the rise of ecological awareness (19^{th}–21^{st} centuries).

11/2024 **Eco-anxiety: paralysis or mobilisation? Psychological, social and political perspectives**
Maisons des Ingénieurs Agronomes, Paris
SciencePo Alumni & Uniagro event.

Other Activities

11/2023 – 11/2025 **Member of the AgroParisTech Board of Directors — Student Representative**
AgroParisTech
"Commission Permanente" and Ethics Unit member, involved in the curriculum reform on themes related to ecological transitions.

01/2023 – 04/2023 **Energy Sobriety Project Assistant**
Heritage department - ENS-PSL
Measurements to optimize heating plant management for future energy audits.

01/2022 – 12/2022 **Presidency and management of marching bands**
Ernestophone / Zizany Brass Band
Administrative and human management: organisation of two international summer tours, participation in film shoots, festivals and other events, online communication, etc. Turnovers of 20,873.89€ (Ernestophone) and 12,000.48€ (Zizany Brass Band), for respectively ∼100 and 12 members.

Miscellaneous

Languages: French (native), English (C1), Spanish (B1), Portuguese (notions).
Computer Literacy: R, Julia, Python, Fortran, LaTeX, QGIS, Adobe Suite (InDesign, Photoshop, Premiere Pro), Microsoft Suite.

References available upon request.