

# Thomas ‘Orlando’ Da Costa

[Personal Academic Website](#)

[Github page](#)

French citizen, 24 years old

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## Research Interests

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Biodiversity, Climate Change & Natural Resources — Dynamic Macroeconomics — Inequalities — Heterogeneity, Uncertainty and Non-Linearities in modeling — Public Policies.

## Education

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- 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)*
- 2023 – 2025 **AgroParisTech Degree (M.A. equivalent),  
Spe. Environmental Management and Engineering**  
*AgroParisTech - Paris-Saclay University (Paris XI)*  
M1: Summa cum laude (17.15/20 | GPA:  $\sim 4.0$ ) [[Thesis](#) ; [Slides](#)].
- 2021 – 2023 **M.Sc. in Cognitive Sciences**  
*Cognitive Sciences department - ENS-PSL*  
M2: Magna cum laude (15.23/20 | GPA:  $\sim 3.7$ ) [[Thesis](#) (in French)].
- 2020 – 2021 **Introductory year**  
*Physics department - ENS-PSL*
- 2017 – 2020 **B.Sc. in Physics**  
*Sorbonne University (Paris VI)*  
Summa cum laude (16.31/20 | GPA:  $\sim 3.8$ ).
- 2017 – 2020 **B.Sc. in Mechanics**  
*Sorbonne University (Paris VI)*  
Summa cum laude (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

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### 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](https://doi.org/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](https://doi.org/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

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

## Awards and Grants

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- 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

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- 03/2025 – **Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD)**  
08/2025 *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 – **Paris School of Economics**  
09/2024, *with Marc Fleurbaey, CNRS*  
&  
11/2024 – **CLIMATE IMPACTS HAVE BEEN UNDERESTIMATED: A NEW CLIMATE DAMAGE FUNCTION FOR AN OPTIMAL CLIMATE POLICY.**  
06/2025
- 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 – **Georgetown Environmental Justice Program & INRAe**  
09/2023 *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 – **Paris Brain Institute**  
05/2022 *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 – **Plasma Physics Lab (UMR 7648)**  
07/2019 *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  $\mu m$ ).
- Experimental Physics, Data Analysis and Modeling.

## Conferences and Seminars

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

## Other Activities

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- 11/2023 – **Member of the AgroParisTech Board of Directors — Student Representative**  
11/2025 *AgroParisTech*  
“Commission Permanente” and Ethics Unit member, involved in the curriculum reform on themes related to ecological transitions.
- 01/2023 – **Energy Sobriety Project Assistant**  
04/2023 *Heritage department - ENS-PSL*  
Measurements to optimize heating plant management for future energy audits.
- 01/2022 – **Presidency and management of marching bands**  
12/2022 *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

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**Languages:** French (native), English (C1), Spanish (B1), Portuguese (notions).

**Computer Literacy:** R, Julia, Python, Fortran, L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X, QGIS, Adobe Suite (InDesign, Photoshop, Premiere Pro), Microsoft Suite.

**Various Interests:** Music (Clarinet, Piano, Ukulele, Singing), Sports (Climbing, Hiking, Biking), Hitchhiking.

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**References available upon request.**