

Thomas ‘Orlando’ Da Costa

Personal Academic Website

Github page

French citizen, 24 years old

thomas.da.costa@ens.psl.eu

+33 7 68 00 87 46

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Research Interests

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

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)
- 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: ~ 4.0) [[Thesis](#) ; [Slides](#)].
- 2021 – 2023 **M.Sc. in Cognitive Sciences**
Cognitive Sciences department - ENS-PSL
M2: Magna cum laude (15.23/20 | GPA: ~ 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: ~ 3.8).
- 2017 – 2020 **B.Sc. in Mechanics**
Sorbonne University (Paris VI)
Summa cum laude (16.40/20 | GPA: ~ 3.8).
- 2017 **Baccalauréat - Engineering Sciences, Spe. Physics**
Lycée Martin Luther King
Highest honors (18.63/20 | GPA: ~ 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](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

- 02/2025 – **Open Macroeconomics**
05/2025 *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 – **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*
& CLIMATE IMPACTS HAVE BEEN UNDERESTIMATED: A NEW CLIMATE DAMAGE FUNCTION FOR AN OPTIMAL CLIMATE POLICY.
11/2024 –
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 μm).
Experimental Physics, Data Analysis and Modeling.

Conferences and Seminars

- 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 – **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

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

Computer Literacy: R, Julia, Python, Fortran, L^AT_EX, QGIS, Adobe Suite (InDesign, Photoshop, Premiere Pro), Microsoft Suite.

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

References available upon request.