

Valentin Marchal

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🌐 Personal Website

EDUCATION

Sciences Po

2020–

PhD Candidate

Paris

- Thesis title: "Essays on the Rise in the Wealth-to-Output Ratio"
- Supervisor: Stéphane Guibaud
- Thesis Committee: Nicolas Coeurdacier and Jeanne Commault

Pompeu Fabra University

Spring 2024

Visiting PhD Student

Barcelona

- Sponsors: Alberto Martin and Jaume Ventura

Sciences Po

2018–2020

Master in Economics - Summa Cum Laude

Paris

- Master's thesis: "Safety Traps in an Open Economy" under the supervision of Nicolas Coeurdacier

Sciences Po and Université de Lorraine

2015–2018

Double degree: BA in Social Sciences (Cum Laude) and Economics (Mention Bien)

Nancy

- Exchange year at the University of Mannheim

Lycée Jeanne d'Arc

2012–2015

Abibac: French and German high school diplomas (double degree)

Nancy

SELECTED WORK IN PROGRESS

A Scrooge McDuck Theory of Wealth Dynamics - Job Market Paper

Peter Sinclair Prize (Joint First Place), awarded by the Money, Macro and Finance Society

This paper introduces insatiable utility from wealth to jointly explain the rise in the wealth-to-output ratio and investment stagnation in advanced economies as a consequence of increasing top income inequality. These preferences induce an upper bound on optimal consumption, which binds asymptotically for high-income agents. Labelled *Scrooge McDuck*, they hold a portion of their wealth purely for its own sake, with all returns reinvested. This pushes asset prices above fundamental value. A uniquely determined rational bubble exists, which crowds out investment and grows at a rate that exceeds that of the economy. Its price diverges over time, driving a persistent rise in wealth inequality. Introducing a redistributive tax can shift the economy from a bubbly to a non-bubbly equilibrium. Quantitatively, a 1.5 percent wealth tax in the U.S. raises capital by removing the bubble-induced crowding-out effect. The tax is both growth-enhancing and redistributive, breaking the standard efficiency–redistribution trade-off.

Rational Bubbles and Productivity Shocks: Theoretical Insights for Ecological Transition

This paper investigates how negative productivity shocks influence the valuation of rational bubbles within an OLG framework. Two channels are identified: i) a productivity decline reduces output, potentially lowering savings and bubble demand, and ii) by decreasing the rate of return, it reduces bubble growth rate, enabling a higher valuation. Overall, a negative productivity shock will lead to a lower bubble valuation when the substitution effect dominates the income effect in agents' saving decisions. This framework is applied to ecological transition policies, which constrains production and acts as negative productivity shocks. The potential decline

in rational bubble valuation following their announcement is referred to as a *stranded rational bubble*. As in the stranded assets literature, this setting reveals a trade-off between implementing a fast transition and minimizing the extent of stranded bubbles.

SEMINARS AND CONFERENCES

2025: EEA Congress, University of Bordeaux; PhD Seminar, CREST; Finance PhD Workshop (Discussant), Paris Dauphine University; Doctoral Workshop on Quantitative Dynamic Economics, University of Konstanz; MMF PhD Conference, Loughborough University; Internal Seminar, Mannheim University; AFSE Annual Congress, ENS Paris-Saclay; Doctorissimes Conference, PSE; MMF Annual Conference, University of Reading; Friday Seminar, Sciences Po

2024: PhD Jamboree, BSE; International Lunch Seminar, CREI; Doctoral Conference, Ruhr Graduate School in Economics; Friday Seminar, Sciences Po

TEACHING

International Finance and Trade <i>Sciences Po, Undergraduate course</i>	2020–2025 <i>Reims</i>
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- Instructor of two to three classes each year
- Lecturer: Nicolas Coeurdacier and Thierry Mayer

Macro-history <i>Sciences Po, Master course</i>	Fall 2023 <i>Paris</i>
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- Teaching Assistant to Paul Bouscasse and Moritz Schularick

Producer Theory <i>Université Paris Descartes, Undergrade course</i>	Spring 2020 <i>Malakoff</i>
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- Instructor of two classes
- Lecturer: Marie-Hélène Jeanneret-Crettez

Economic Information Analysis <i>Université Paris Descartes, Undergrade course</i>	Fall 2019 <i>Malakoff</i>
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- Instructor of two classes
- Lecturer: Sébastien Cochinard

SKILLS

Computational: Julia, R

Languages: French (Native), English (Fluent), German (Fluent), Spanish (Beginner)

REFERENCES

Stéphane Guibaud

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