



2022: 50 years of BETA



Julien PÉNIN

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The year 2022 is undoubtedly pivotal for BETA in at least three ways: first, the laboratory is celebrating its 50th anniversary. The culmination of the celebrations was a major conference held in Strasbourg on the 19th and 20th May 2022, which made it possible to honour today's BETA, and also to look back on its history and pay tribute to the researchers

who shaped it, in particular Jean-Paul Fitoussi who sadly passed away this year (nor do we forget the recent death of Axel Leijonhufvud who, during his visits to Strasbourg in the early 1980s, deeply influenced our macroeconomist colleagues). You will find detailed feedback on the anniversary conference in this newsletter.

Secondly, this year the laboratory is being evaluated by the HCERES. The self-assessment report was sent in the spring and the visit of the evaluation committee will take place in Strasbourg on 13 October 2022. I take this opportunity to encourage all BETA members to participate in the evaluation day and, once again, to thank all the colleagues, researchers and administrative staff who have been involved in this self-evaluation exercise. It is a titanic work, and I am convinced that it is the solidity of the BETA collective that, alone, has made it possible to carry it out. You will find in the following pages some striking figures that characterize BETA, drawn from our self-evaluation work.

Thirdly, at the end of 2022 we are renewing the BETA management team, with, on September 29th, the election by the BETA Board of the team that will take the reins of the laboratory from January 1st, 2023.

The conjunction of these three important events offers us a great opportunity to take stock of our laboratory, its history, but also and above all to reflect on its evolution and its future orientations.

The story begins in 1972 in Strasbourg, where a group of young reformist researchers who were gathered around Jean-Pierre Dalloz and Jean-Paul Fitoussi (among whom we can mention Jean-Luc Gaffard and Rodolphe Dos Santos Ferreira) decided to create a research laboratory in economics. The creation of BETA was first and foremost an act of emancipation from the legal sciences.¹ After the events of May 1968, the French university system was in turmoil. The University of Strasbourg chose to split into three universities, one dedicated to law, political science and management sciences; the second to the human and social sciences; and the third, the Louis Pasteur University, to the so-called exact and experimental sciences. While in most French universities economics was in the realm of the Faculties of Law, the founders of BETA chose integration into the Louis Pasteur University and the exact and experimental sciences. This foundational decision, the cause of much turmoil at the time, had consequences that still mark the laboratory today, such as a philosophy of research organized by project, or regular collaborations with chemists, the health sciences, etc.

The first decade of BETA corresponds to a period of very strong internationalization, with the passage through its doors of many foreign researchers, among whom it is impossible not to mention Nicholas Georgescu-Roegen, who stayed two years in Strasbourg at the end of the 1970s and whose research on time and the irreversibility of economic processes still persists today at BETA. The 1980s and 1990s saw BETA enter into its institutionalization phase,² with the association with the CNRS in 1985, testifying to the national and international recognition the unit enjoyed. The first decade of the new millennium was marked by the expansion of BETA beyond the Vosges in Nancy and in 2005 the integration of a new partner, the University of Lorraine. Finally, the evolution of BETA was completed in 2018 with the integration of the LEF (Laboratory on Forest Economics), the arrival of INRAE as the fourth main partner of the lab, and a third campus hosted by the AgroParisTech institute training forestry engineers in Nancy.

Today, BETA brings together nearly 250 members across three campuses and has four main partners (University of Strasbourg, University of Lorraine, CNRS, INRAE) and two secondary ones (AgroParisTech and University of Haute-Alsace). The self-evaluation work mentioned above has made it possible to develop a scientific project organized around 6 research groups that will structure the laboratory's activities in the coming years:

- Economics of Law (ED)
- Cliometrics, History of Economic Thought (CHPE)
- Creativity, Science, Innovation (CSI)
- Behaviours, Incentives, Coordination, Interactions (2C2I)
- Macroeconomics (MACRO)
- Environment, Forest, Energy (EFE)

I am convinced, in conclusion, that underpinned by its history, with an ambitious and holistic scientific research plan, and able to call upon a rejuvenated team, a strong contractual culture and enduring relations with civil society, BETA today is particularly well equipped to contribute to the production of knowledge on the most

critical societal challenges. Specifically, BETA's scientific plan highlights six societal challenges for sustainable development that intersect with the six research groups:

- 1) Energy transition, ecological and climate change
- 2) Health and aging
- 3) Inequalities, solidarity and social justice
- 4) European construction and governance
- 5) Digital transition and technological developments
- 6) Industrial, natural, financial and health risks

How far we have come in the last 50 years! But, also, and above all, how long is the road that is still to be travelled and how beautiful the challenges that await us!

Long live BETA!

¹ For a detailed history of the creation of BETA, see Dos Santos Ferreira, R., Ege, R., & Rivot, S. (2020). L'aggiornamento des sciences économiques en France: le cas strasbourgeois au tournant des années 1970. *Economia. History, Methodology, Philosophy* 10 (1): 57-69.

² Cohendet, P., & Llerena, P. (2007). The emergence and growth of an improbable laboratory in economics and management: the case of BETA. *European Management Review* 4 (1): 54-65.

HCERES self-assessment

Some keys figures about BETA

Staff

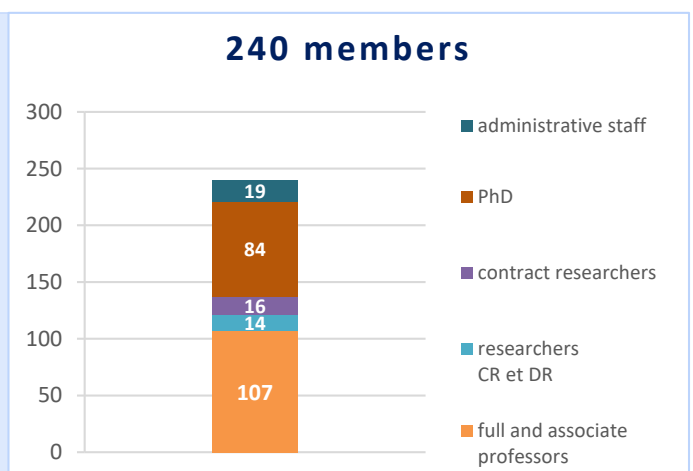
Since 2016, **30%** increase in tenured researchers

Since 2018, significant rejuvenation of the workforce with the recruitment of **21** junior researchers

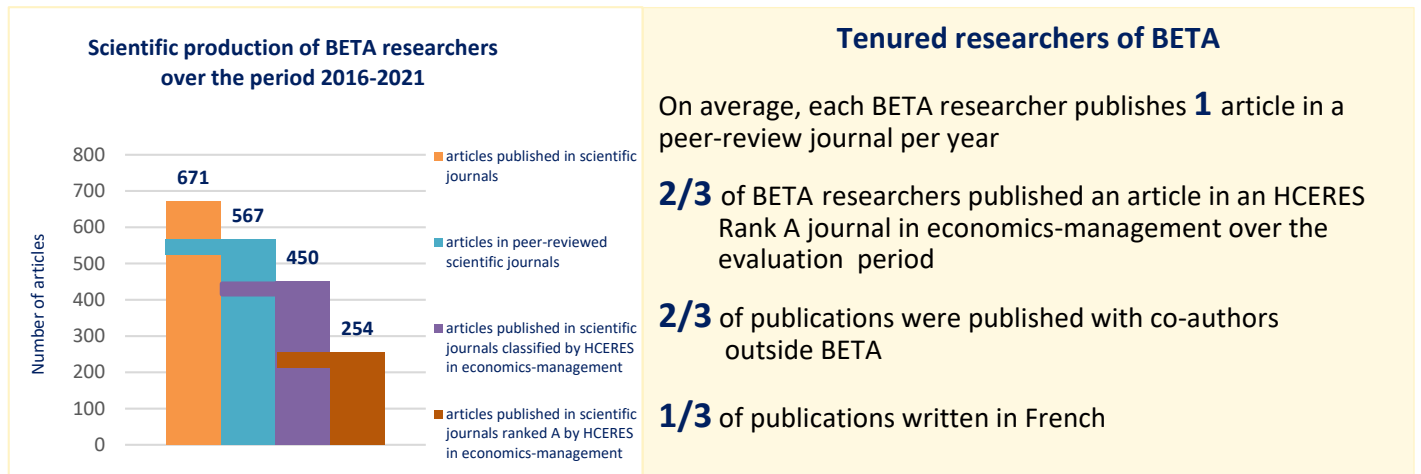
Of the tenured researchers, about **1/3** are full professors **2/3** associate researchers

Of the tenured researchers, about **40%** are women (recent recruitments reverse this trend)

Of the tenured researchers, **60%** are in Alsace and **40%** in Lorraine



Scientific production



Scientific outreach prizes and distinctions

Numerous international, national and local awards.
Some of the most prestigious include:



2019 - Sarton Medal awarded to **Claude Diebolt**, by the University of Gand

2020 - Economic Fellowship awarded to **Dos Santos Ferreira Rodolphe**, by SAET
(Society for the Advancement of Economic Theory)

Strong involvement in research steering bodies

Over the period 2016-2021, at least forty positions of responsibility in scientific associations

Claude Diebolt, President of the French Association of Economic Science, 2018-2019

Myriam Doriat-Duban, President of the French Association of Economics of Law, since 2019

Hubert Girardin, President of the Third World Association, since 2013

Sylvie Rivot, President of the Charles Gide association, 2016-2020

Bérangère Szostak, Vice-President of the Innovation Research Network, 2018-2020

Numerous collective responsibilities within university supervisory bodies

In 2022, at least 5 BETA colleagues held a position of Vice-President

Thierry Burger-Helmchen, Deputy Vice-President of Training at the University of Strasbourg

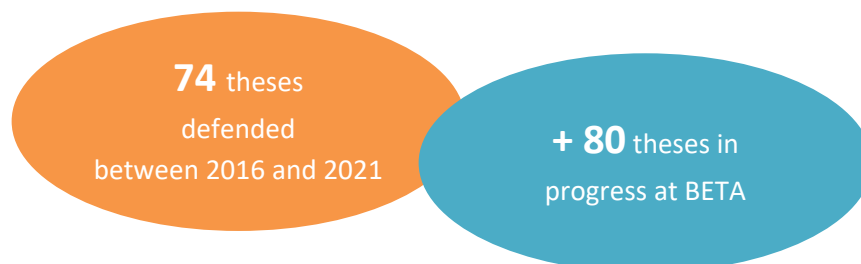
Sabine Chaupain-Guillot, Vice-President of Training at the University of Lorraine

Myriam Doriat-Duban, Vice-President of Human Resources at the University of Lorraine

Julien Pénin, Vice-President of Research delegated to the SHS of the University of Strasbourg

Sylvie Rivot, Vice-President of Research at the University of Haute-Alsace

On doctoral training



Organisation of scientific events

+ 20
scientific events
organized per year

- ◆ Large-scale international events:
2016 - AFSE Annual Congress
2017 - World Cliometric Congress
2019 - PET Conference
- ◆ More specialized conferences:
AFED, EMAEE, FAERE, Gide, etc.
- ◆ Workshops, study days, etc.
- ◆ 50 seminars organized every year, almost exclusively with external speakers, as well as the internal axis seminars)

Involvement in contract research

112
research contracts
between 2016 and 2021

- ◆ Local contracts: region, IDEX, LUE etc.
- ◆ National contracts: ANR
- ◆ International contracts: H2020

- ◆ 40% of contracts carried out by INRAE-AgroParisTech researchers and engineers
- ◆ Contractual resources represent from 76% to 81% of the total BETA resources, depending on the year

2 Labex + 1 TI on the Lorraine site



- ◆ [LabEX ARBRE](#)
- ◆ [LabEX Ressources 21](#)
- ◆ [TI DHDA](#)

3 ITI at the University of Strasbourg

Les Instituts thématiques interdisciplinaires
de l'Université de Strasbourg & CNRS & Inserm
dans le cadre de l'Initiative d'excellence

- ◆ [ITI MAKErS](#)
- ◆ [ITI HealthTech](#)
- ◆ [ITI NeuroStra](#)

Dissemination of research and links with civil society

224
public dissemination
events since 2018

- ◆ Blog posts, YouTube videos, interventions in traditional media, public lectures, etc.

BETA
involved in
5 research chairs

- ◆ 2010 - Chair "Management and Creativity"
- ◆ 2013 - Chair "Law, Economics and Management of Intellectual Property"
- ◆ 2020 - Chair "Data Science for Economics and Business"
- ◆ 2021 - Chair RENEL, "Natural Resources and Local Economy"
- ◆ 2021 - Chair EFNUM, "Economy, Finance, Digital"

“Remarks on the occasion of BETA’s 50th anniversary”

As I mentioned during the days dedicated to BETA’s 50th anniversary, my link with BETA goes back to 1972, when Jean-Pierre Daloz, then in charge of rebuilding the Faculty of Economics and Management, asked me to teach statistics and econometrics. I had just graduated from the Institute of Statistics of the University of Paris and I was then working for a stockbroker to develop statistical models for stock market forecasts. I thought I was simply doing a favour for Jean-Pierre Daloz and would return after a year to my professional activities in finance. In order to familiarize myself with how to give a lecture, I took courses with Jean-Pierre Daloz and Jean-Paul Fitoussi at the university. It was a real shock to discover their pedagogical quality. The two founding members of BETA were exceptional, inspiring and exciting teachers. They are at the origin of my vocation. I became an assistant at the faculty, and then naturally a member of BETA.

A second shock was the arrival of Nicholas Georgescu-Roegen, who stayed in Strasbourg for several months, and the revelation of his work on the law of entropy in economics and on irreversibility. All the young researchers at BETA at the time (Rodolphe Dos Santos, Jean Luc Gaffard, Jean Arrous, Jean-Alain Héraud, Ragip Ege, Bernard Ancori, Ehud Zuscovitch, followed later by Patrick LLerena, Marc Willinger, Gilles Lambert, and many others) were marked by Georgescu-Roegen’s work, which profoundly inspired their dissertations and their research trajectories. I personally chose to work on irreversible environmental decisions as the subject of my doctoral thesis. Following Nicholas Georgescu Roegen’s visit, many foreign colleagues, including the greatest names in their respective specializations in economics, have stayed long-term in Strasbourg: Axel Leihonjuvfud, Hugo Sonnenschein, Werner Hildenbrand, Louis-André Gérard Varet, Claude d’Aspremont, Keith Pavitt, Mario Amendola, Stan Metcalfe, Giovanni Dosi, Franco Malerba, Bengt-Ake Lundvall, Pierre Dehez, etc. These great names have all left their mark on the faculty, while at the same time helping to strengthen the image of BETA in Strasbourg as one of the leading centers of economic science.

Another factor that has contributed deeply to the development of BETA has been the insertion of the Faculty of Economics and Management within a large

scientific university, and all the more so since Guy Ourisson, president of University Louis Pasteur in the 1970s, has made tireless efforts to promote links between economists and the other scientific disciplines of the university, notably Mathematics, Physics and Chemistry. During the days dedicated to the 50th anniversary, I recalled as an example that when, as a lecturer, I had tried to respond to a large call for projects from the European Union on the future of Chemistry in Europe, Guy Ourisson spontaneously proposed that I would be part of the scientific committee for our study and that Jean Marie Lehn and Jean-Pierre Sauvage would support us. The project was of course selected, not because of the qualities of the project leader, but because it was led by the great names of a scientific university and because of their marked openness to multidisciplinary. In particular, this project on Chemistry allowed a full-fledged chemist, Marc-Jacques Ledoux, to join the BETA team and to pursue collective research on innovation in other fields, notably that of new materials.

If the quality of the founders of BETA, the quality of the prestigious speakers who have stayed at the laboratory, and the quality of the great scientists of the University Louis Pasteur who have given their support to the research team, are all favourable elements that have contributed to the development of the laboratory, it is the cohesion of the group of young colleagues mentioned above that has played the true role of catalyst. Although coming from very different fields of specialization in economics, these researchers have remained united thanks to a deep mutual respect and a shared interest in studying the dynamics of change. This cohesion has allowed them to overcome the inevitable conflicts and tensions, has gradually created very pleasant conditions for permanent exchanges, and has contributed to make the laboratory an attractive center for young researchers as well as for their most renowned colleagues.



Patrick COHENDET
Professor of economics
HEC Montréal

Patrick Cohendet



Speech by the representatives of the BETA supervisory authorities

From left to right: Laurent Buisson (AgroParisTech), Sylvie Rivot (Haute-Alsace University), Frédéric Villieras (University of Lorraine), Kevin Geiger (CNRS), Rémi Barillon (University of Strasbourg), Pierre Dupraz (INRAE) and Julien Pénin (head of BETA).

Round table of former BETA directors

From left to right: Patrick Llerena (BETA, University of Strasbourg), Claude Diebolt (BETA, CNRS), Jean-Luc Gaffard (GREDEG, Côte d'Azur University), Rodolphe Dos Santos Ferreira (BETA, University of Strasbourg), Patrick Cohendet (HEC Montreal), Jean-Alain Héraud (BETA, University of Strasbourg), Hubert Stahn (AMSE, Aix-Marseille University), Bertrand Koebel (BETA, University of Strasbourg).



Working Papers special series “BETA Golden Anniversary”

Sophie Béreau and Magali Jaoul-Grammare presented the [WP special series](#) “BETA Golden Anniversary”. On the occasion of the 50th anniversary of our laboratory, throughout the year 2022, a special series of working documents of BETA will be published. It honours the significant contributions of BETA members past and present, illustrating the diversity of our laboratory but also its scientific influence.

Lecture by Jean-Luc Gaffard

“Elements of economic analysis of innovation”



The BETA method

Sandrine Wolff, Patrick Cohendet, Jean-Alain Héraud and Laurent Bach retraced the history of the “**BETA Method**” and its continuity, and recalled its genesis as well as its current status, through anecdotes which have never been published before. The **BETA method** is used to evaluate some of the socio-economic impacts of public policies in the field of science-technology-innovation. Developed almost 50 years ago, with a history closely linked to our laboratory, and still in use and still evolving, a great number of “Betaiens” have brought it to life, including the session leaders. And of course, these studies have also given rise to an abundant scientific production in the form of articles ([1](#), [2](#), [3](#) ...) and thesis work.

The toga and the dromedary

The troupe “Impro Alsace” retraced in song and with humour the key dates of the evolution of the 50 years of BETA, punctuated by anecdotes, with an improv specially dedicated to Julien Pénin, “*The toga and the camel*”, in a very friendly atmosphere in which everyone participated.





Tributes

During the anniversary conference, tributes were paid to former members and friends of BETA: [Jean-Paul Fitoussi](#) and [Axel Leijonhufvud](#)

Poetry time

Reading of the poem *Petit poème théorique et appliqué* by its author Jean Arrous (Honorary Professor at the University of Strasbourg).



Round table “BETA in 50 years”

BETA is 50 years old, but remains resolutely turned towards the future: a place for “young people”. A round table with David Desmarchelier, Rémy Guichardaz, Cécile Bourreau-Dubois, Sandrine Spaeter, Serge Garcia, André Lorentz.

LEES

The history of [LEES](#), retraced by Kene Boun My and Marc Willinger. The Laboratory for Experimental Economics Strasbourg is a research tool which enables the study of individual behavior in environments of strategic interaction. It allows decision-making contexts to be reconstructed in the laboratory, in order to compare theories with experimental results and to adapt existing models with a view to identifying new avenues for research. We can thus study the behavior of economic agents in a controlled artificial setting.



The “Ignobels” or an overview of unusual research at BETA

In a v. BETA of the famous vulgarization TV show “C'est pas sorcier!”, Julien Jacob and Marie Boltz were the new Jamy and Sabine! Together, they introduced and explained the work of Marc Deschamps, Bruno Jeandidier and Julie Mansuy on the [influence of weather on judges' decisions](#); the work of Julien Pénin on [patent trolls](#); and the study of Kim-Marlène Le and Julien Pénin on the problems of [appropriation of intellectual property in the online alternative adult entertainment industry](#). Seriousness (a little) and fun (a lot!) marked this very special session!



Cartoons

Throughout the presentations, members of the BETA were sketched with humor and lightness by Laurent Salles, cartoonist - Schiltigheim.



To (re)live them, click on the images!



Click here for [past events](#) and [upcoming events](#)

January to september 2022



January 14, 2022	Romain RESTOUT Habilitation à diriger des recherches Under the supervision of Aurélien Eyquem “Essays in International Macroeconomics”
January 18, 2022	Kéa BARET Under the supervision of Amélie Barbier-Gauchard and Theophilos Papadimitriou “New empirical insights on fiscal rules performance”
March 8, 2022	Laurent ANTONCZAK Under the supervision of Patrick Llerena “How can mobile technology enable collaboration and innovative practices? ”
March 18, 2022	Étienne LORANG Under the supervision of Philippe Delacote and Gilles Laforgue “The resource, waste and climate conundrum: Essays on the economics of recycling”
March 24, 2022	Majida JRAD Under the supervision of Yamina Tadjeddine-Fourneyron “Analysis of Bank-SME relationship in Lebanon: How Bank credit conditions undermine SME”
April 8, 2022	Raphaël DIDIER Under the supervision of Yamina Tadjeddine-Fourneyron “Money: community or institution? A theoretical and empirical perspective based on a local currency”
April 27, 2022	Antoine PORT Under the supervision of Patrick Llerena and Andrea Mina “Valorization of public research, nature of impacts and contribution of transfer offices”
June 16, 2022	Catherine MABENGE TSHIABADALA Under the supervision of Éric Rugraff “Determinants of the internationalization of multinational firms in emerging countries: A comparison of Indian and Chinese FDI in Central Africa”
June 20, 2022	Florent BORDOT Under the supervision of Patrick Llerena “Robotics and artificial intelligence, what impacts on employment and inequalities? ”
June 21, 2022	Maho NAKAGAWA Under the supervision of Mathieu Lefebvre, Anne Stenger and Frank Wätzold “Permanence in economics, social preferences and social interactions – application to environmental issues”
June 27, 2022	Ameni BEN JEBRIL Under the supervision of Sihem Dekhili “Co-creation of value in virtual smoking cessation communities: What impact on smokers engaged in a quit journey?”
June 28, 2022	Oriama RUTH Under the supervision of Thierry Burger-Helmchen and Robert Mudida “Innovation-driven transformation towards a knowledge-based bioeconomy in Kenya”
July 11, 2022	Jamel SAADAOUJ Habilitation à diriger des recherches Under the supervision of Moïse Sidiropoulos “Economic, monetary and financial integration in the European Union and emerging countries after the pandemic crisis”
September 21, 2022	Jia LIU Under the supervision of Julien Pénin and Patrick Ronde “Complementarities in performance between product, process and organizational innovation”

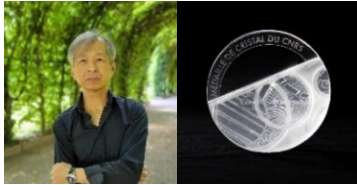


[Amélie Barbier-Gauchard](#)

Appointed **Junior Member of the University Institute of France (IUF)**, by order of the Minister of Higher Education and Research on May 26, 2022, under the Fundamental Chair from October 1, 2022, for a period of 5 years. [See more](#)



[Kene Boun My](#)



Laureate of the **Médaille de Cristal 2022**, awarded by the CNRS for work at BETA, as part of the Laboratory of Experimental Economics (LEES). [See more](#)

[Sihem Dekhili](#)

Laureate of the **Syntec Conseil Prize** for the best management book awarded on June 2, 2022 in Paris, for her book "Sustainable Marketing" published by Pearson Editions. [See more](#)



BETA in the media

Among the latest publications/interventions



"Environmental concerns are not the same depending on the level of education"
Podcast by **Magali Jaoul-Grammare** and **Anne Stenger**
[Céreq Bref N°417](#), May 3, 2022

Episode 1 : "Psychology at the service of liberalism"
Interview by **Thierry Aimar**
[France Culture](#), May 4, 2022

"What is 'stagflation', the threat to France and the eurozone?"
Article by **Raphaël Didier**
[Le Figaro.fr](#), May 8, 2022

"Positive Transformations"
Intervention by **Sihem Dekhili**, 2nd Impact edition
[CB News](#), May 10, 2022

"Science sifted through different voting systems"
Interview by **Herrade Igersheim**
[Le Monde](#), May 17, 2022

"Presidential: when other voting systems favour different candidates"
Article by Antoinette Baujard, Isabelle Lebon and **Herrade Igersheim**
[The Conversation](#), May 31, 2022

"Are luxury and sustainable development compatible?"
Podcast by **Sihem Dekhili**
[Nouveau Modèle](#), June 15, 2022

"Will insects really be the food of the future?"
Article by **Tom Bry-Chevalier**
[The Conversation](#), June 16, 2022

"Heat wave and climate change: The need to combine adaptation and mitigation"
Intervention by **Philippe Delacote**
[JT 12/13 France 3 Lorraine](#), June 17, 2022

"Russia in default on its foreign debt"
Intervention by **Yamina Tadjedinne**
[Medi1News](#), June 29, 2022

"Plant-based meats" are the best investment for the future of the climate
Tribune by **Tom Bry-Chevalier**
[Libération](#), July 19, 2022

"How to integrate sustainability at the heart of marketing?"
"Spreading knowledge around sustainable marketing"
Contribution by **Sihem Dekhili**, Aurélie Merle and Adeline Ochs
FNEGE, [vidéo 1](#) et [vidéo 2](#), July 21, 2022

To find all the news



*Arrivals, promotions, delegations***Researchers**[Boilley Christophe](#)

Professor
University of Strasbourg
Research domain(s): Mathematical modeling of economic processes

[Brunner Pauline](#)

Associate Professor in Management
University of Strasbourg
Research domains: Entrepreneurial Ecosystems – Entrepreneurship – Protection of Innovation

[Dillenseger Laetitia](#)

Associate Professor in Economics (Contract)
University of Strasbourg
Research domains: Work-life balance and subjective well-being

[Gil Gallen Sara](#)

Associate Professor in Economics (Contract)
University of Strasbourg
Research domains: Experimental Economics – Behavioural Economics – Creativity – Cooperation

[Gillig Philippe](#)

Associate Professor in Social Sciences
University of Strasbourg
Research domains: History of 19th century thought – Inequalities – Economic epistemology

[Schaeffer Véronique](#)

Professor in Management
University of Strasbourg
Research domains: Innovation Management – Cooperation strategies – Science and innovation – Social innovation – Entrepreneurship

[Teslenko Valentina](#)

Temporary research and teaching assistant
University of Strasbourg
Research domains: Human Capital – Knowledge Economy – Data Scientist Profession – Innovation Activity of Scientists

[Yabre Tobignaré](#)

Associate Professor in Economics (contract)
University of Strasbourg
Research domains: Macroeconomics – Institutions and Governance – Public Finance – Trade and Regional Integration

PhD and post-doctoral fellows[Abdeddaim Mohammed](#)

“Governance and performance of state-owned enterprises. A France-Morocco analysis”
Under the supervision of Étienne Muller and Véronique Schaeffer

[Burlat Héloïse](#)

“Continuing vocational training for jobseekers, a response to structural unemployment? The case of the Grand-Est Region”
Under the supervision of Amélie Barbier-Gauchard

[Clerc Mathilde](#)

“The impact of digital technologies on the environment”
Under the supervision of Stefano Bianchini and Patrick Llerena

[Jeanneau Lucas](#)

“University Hospital Institutes (IHU), a new paradigm of innovation factory in the field of health”
Under the supervision of Stefano Bianchini

[Prachant Alexandre](#)

“Design and development of a socio economic impact assessment: the case of a health ecosystem”
Under the supervision of Patrick Llerena and Quitterie Roquebert

[Zanello Vincent](#)

“Fundamental goods and economics. Questions about liberalism, from theory to practice.”
Under the supervision of Ariane Dupont-Kieffer and Herrade Igersheim

Researchers

[Devilliers Esther](#)

Chargée de recherche, INRAE

Research domains: Applied micro econometrics – Micro econometrics of agricultural production

Campus Baron Louis, Nancy

Researchers

[Cassin Lesly](#)

Associate Professor in Economics

University of Lorraine, Nancy

Research domains: Health and environmental economics – Demography – Migration

[Desmarchelier David](#)

Professor in Economics

University of Lorraine, Nancy

Research domains: Environmental Economics – Macroeconomic Dynamics – Endogenous growth – Economic

Epidemiology

[Théroude Vincent](#)

Associate Professor in Economics

University of Lorraine, Nancy

Research domains: Applied Microeconomics – Micro Econometrics

PhD and post-doctoral fellows

[Shgairat Ala'a](#)

“Formalization and evaluation of logistics flows in a circular economy context: the case of lithium-ion batteries for electric cars”

Under the supervision of Sébastien Liarte and Pascale Marange