



Institute for
Advanced
Study in
Toulouse

ACTIVITY REPORT 2025



KNOWLEDGE ACROSS FRONTIERS

THE ARCTIC OCEAN

126 VISITORS IN 2025,
INCLUDING PRESENTERS IN SEMINARS,
WORKSHOPS AND IAST CONFERENCES.

Annual report commissioned
by the Institute for Advanced
Study in Toulouse

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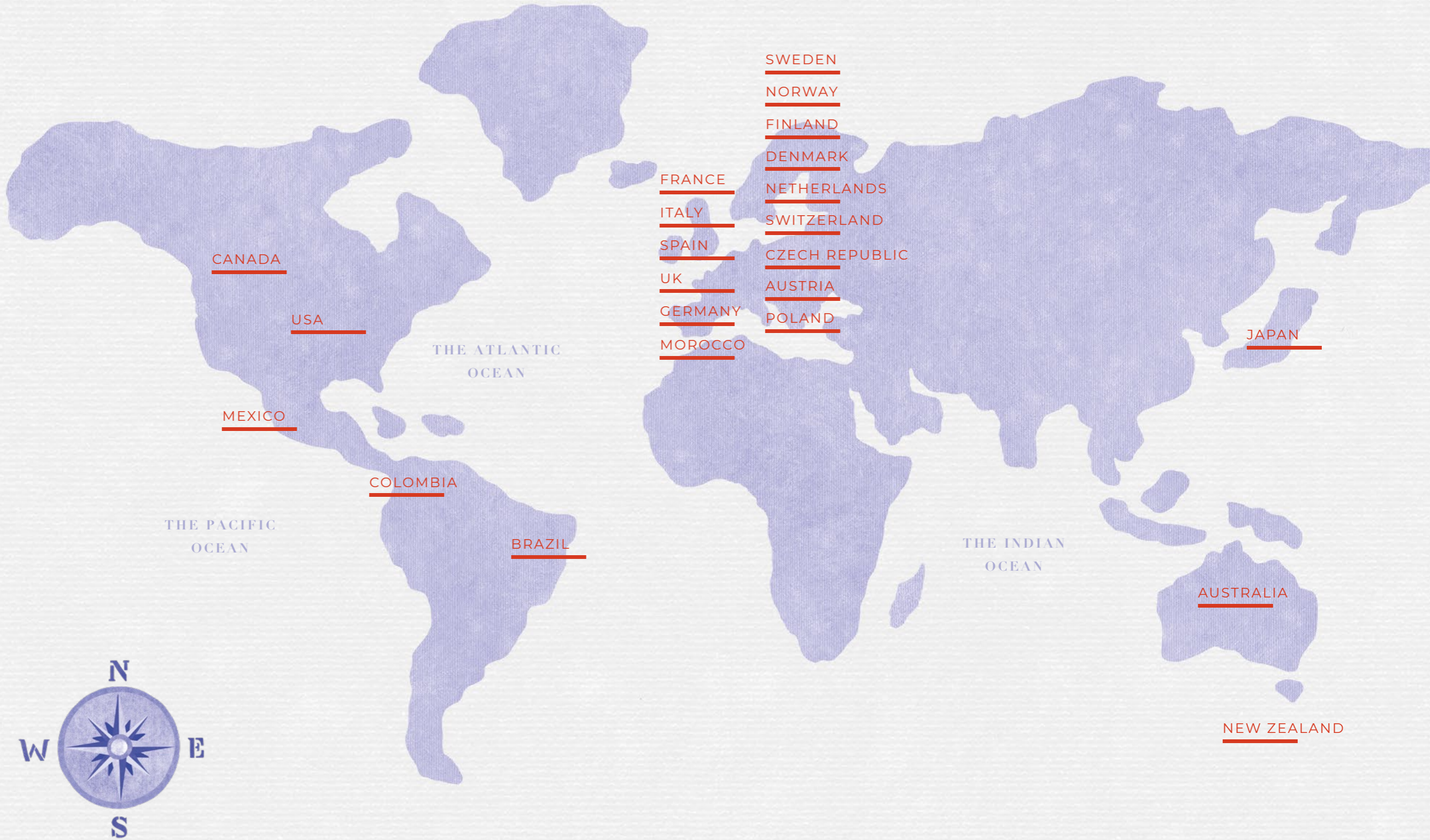
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In 2025, IAST once again delivered on its core mission: extending the boundaries of Toulouse School of Economics through genuinely interdisciplinary research in quantitative social sciences.

This momentum was visible first in our ability to attract talent and consolidate Toulouse as a destination of choice for researchers in our fields. Our IAST Research Fellowship program received a record number of applications (more than 300), half of which came from PhD programs in the United States. This level of international interest is both a marker of IAST's standing and a powerful driver of our community's vitality.

Our scientific output also continued to broaden in ambition and reach: IAST researchers published in high-impact multidisciplinary outlets, with multiple articles appearing in Nature and Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences this year. These publications and

many others reflect what the Institute is designed to enable: work that is methodologically rigorous, substantively consequential, and legible across disciplinary lines.

In parallel, 2025 marked the beginning of a new chapter in education. We launched an effort to expand TSE's teaching programs, drawing on our hard-earned experience of interdisciplinary dialogue to help create integrated training pathways in the quantitative social sciences. This is a long-term investment in the next generation of scholars—more to come next year.

In other words, all indicators are green. Still, this is not the moment to become complacent. The most important work lies ahead: multiplying the bridges between disciplines, and between Toulouse and the world. Our ambition is clear: We want Toulouse to be universally recognized as the place to be for quantitative social scientists. Until that day, our job is not done.



Jean-François BONNEFON
IAST DIRECTOR





IAST GOVERNANCE

The Institute for Advanced Study in Toulouse is a sheltered foundation under the aegis of the Jean-Jacques Laffont - TSE Foundation.

It is a unified scientific project whose broad aim is to study human behavior through an innovative and multidisciplinary approach to social science. Our Institute is home to a team of resident full-time researchers from leading universities worldwide. While most researchers preferentially use analytical and quantitative methods to address their scientific questions, some researchers combine qualitative and quantitative methods. The Institute welcomes a large network of visitors from >25 countries, and partners with economists and mathematicians at the Toulouse Capitole University, INRAE, CNRS and the Toulouse School of Economics.

In 2025, IAST experienced several governance updates and organizational changes. The Scientific Council was renewed in 2025. It now comprises 15 members and is chaired by a new President; Professor Helen Milner, B. C. Forbes Professor of Politics

and International Affairs at Princeton University.

The Scientific Council is governed by the IAST Executive Committee (COMEX) with representatives of the Toulouse Capitole University, the Jean-Jacques Laffont - TSE Foundation - including a representative of IAST researchers, as well as the Collegium of Public Partners, and the Collegium of Economic Partners.

In 2025, the IAST Executive Committee appointed Patrick Pintus, Professor at Aix-Marseille University, as its new President. He succeeds François Bourguignon (EHESS), whose mandate ended in May 2025.

The new President's expertise and comprehensive knowledge of the Institute will be helping support and assist IAST alongside its mother institution, the internationally renowned Toulouse School of Economics (TSE).

In December 2025, the Executive Committee has also welcomed Nicolas Baumard as a new independent qualified expert, and Maxime Derex (CNRS) as the new representative of IAST researchers on the Executive Committee (COMEX).



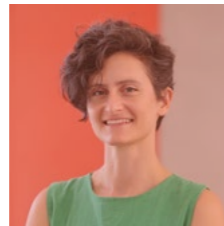
VISITORS TO IAST

In 2025, IAST welcomed 22 visitors, excluding speakers at seminars, workshops and conferences.

One **Professor**, one **Assistant Professor** and eight post-doctoral **IAST Research Fellows** were recruited from September 2025, either fully funded by IAST or co-funded with the Grand Établissement Toulouse School of Economics and Quantitative Social Sciences. The newcomers all work at the crossroads of disciplines and are already developing exciting new interdisciplinary research projects in Toulouse.

PROFESSOR AND ASSISTANT PROFESSORS

In 2025 the recruitment of two professors was confirmed, starting in 2026:



starting date:
January 2026

Charlotte CAVAILLE

Professor in Political Science

PhD. in Government and Social Policy, Harvard University

Her research examines the dynamics of popular attitudes towards redistributive social policies at a time of rising inequality, high fiscal stress, and high levels of immigration.



starting date:
September 2026

Marijn KEIJZER

Assistant professor in Sociology

PhD. In Sociology from the University of Groningen

His research interests focus in understanding social influence, opinion dynamics, and political polarization.

RESEARCH FELLOWS



Cameron CURTIN

PhD in Anthropology (Human Evolutionary Biology)

Coming from Harvard University
Cultural evolution, Cross-cultural psychological and behavioral variation, Social norms, Institutions, Cooperation.



Kevin GRIECO

PhD in Political Science

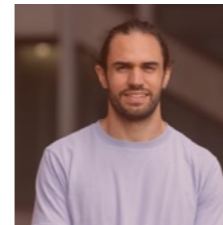
Coming from University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA)
State-building, political economy, development.



Laurenz GUENTHER

PhD in Economic

Coming from Bocconi University
Political economics, Behavioral economics, Experimental economics .



Ludovic MAISONNEUVE

PhD in Evolutionary Biology

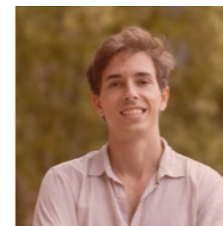
Coming from Lausanne University
Evolutionary biology, Social learning, Cultural evolution



Juliette SAETRE

PhD in Sociology

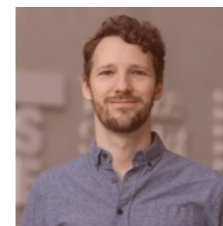
Coming from European University Institute (EUI)
Social Networks, Diffusion, Protest and Collective Action, Migration.



Lucas SAGE

PhD in Sociology

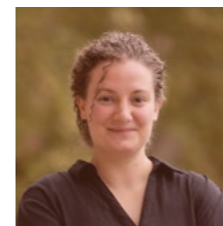
Coming from Italian National Research Council
Inequality, social networks, computational social science.



Joshua WEINER

PhD in Political Science

Coming from Radboud University
Conflict Processes, International Organizations, International Security.



Chiara ZANARDELLO

PhD in Economics

Coming from Université Catholique de Louvain (UCL)
Innovation, Migration, Education.







RESEARCH TEAM

LEADERSHIP, POWER AND INEQUALITY

MARIJN KEIJZER (GROUP LEADER)

The Leadership, Power and Inequality (LPI) team studies how leadership, power, and inequality emerge and evolve in human societies, focusing on the mechanisms that generate and sustain disparities—particularly how feedback and reinforcement in social networks amplify advantages in connectivity or influence and produce persistent, path-dependent hierarchies.

Members of the LPI use theoretical modeling, network analysis, experiments, and computational and statistical methods to study how individual interactions generate collective outcomes and how social structures reproduce inequalities in resources, information, beliefs, and influence over time.



PUBLICATIONS

MAIN TOPICS

- Identity
- Polarization
- Representation
- Opinion Dynamics
- Reinforcement processes
- Social influence
- Popularity

OUTLETS

- *Social Psychology Quarterly*
- *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*
- *Handbook of Computational Social Science*
- *Scientific Reports*
- *Boudon Reexamined*



GRANTS

Marijn KEIJZER

Danish Data Science Academy (DDSA) (2,000 EUR)

VISITORS

Filiz GARIP

Princeton University

Jessica PERKINS

Vanderbilt University

COURSES

■ Models of social influence, TOM Society's Summer School on Computational Organization Science (online)

Alexandros Gelastopoulos

■ Quantitative sociology, Licence 2

Marion Hoffman

■ Graph Analysis, Master 2

Marion Hoffman & Marijn Keijzer

■ Introduction to Quantitative Social Science, License 1

Marijn Keijzer

■ Introduction to Computational Social Science, License 3

University Mohammed VI Polytechnic, Lucas Sage

RESEARCH TEAM

SOCIAL EVOLUTION

JORGE PEÑA (GROUP LEADER)

Explaining the evolution of cooperation is a fundamental goal of the evolutionary human sciences. The Social Evolution team aims to provide a natural forum for discussion

and collaboration on topics related to the (genetic or cultural) evolution of social behaviors and large-scale human cooperation. Our research takes an interdisciplinary approach, bridging insights from evolutionary biology, economics, anthropology, and psychology while drawing on a variety of methodologies, including theoretical models, experiments, and ethnographic research.



PUBLICATIONS

MAIN TOPICS

- Religion
- Moral psychology
- Social norms
- Decision making
- Prosociality
- Moral emotions
- Cross-cultural research

OUTLETS

- Human Nature
- Evolutionary Human Sciences
- Cognition
- Cognition and Emotion
- Nature Human Behaviour
- Journal of Social Issues
- Current Opinion in Psychology

VISITORS

Raphaëlle CHAIX, Museum National d'Histoire Naturelle, France

Charles MULLON, University of Lausanne

Toby HANDFIELD, Monash University

Sonja VOGT, University of Lausanne

Jonathan SCHULZ, George Mason University

Cody ROSS, Max Planck Institute for Evolutionary Anthropology

COURSES

■ Toulouse Summer School in Quantitative Social Sciences, IAST-TSE:

■ Cognitive science of morality and religion,

■ Mathematical models of social evolution

■ The psychology of cooperation and norm enforcement

■ Behavioral and Experimental Economics, (Master 1)

■ Nudges and the Psychology of Decision Making, (Licence 2)

■ Introduction to Quantitative Social Sciences, class on 'Psychology', (Licence 1)

■ Ecology for Economists, (Master 1)

EVENTS

■ *Disgust across borders: Multidisciplinary perspectives on a core emotion*
IAST, Toulouse 4-5, December 2025

■ *12th Economics and Biology Workshop*
IAST, Toulouse 2-3, June 2025



AWARDS / APPOINTMENTS

■ **Catherine MOLHO**
HBES Rising Star Award

■ **Olympia CAMPBELL**
HBES Margo Wilson Award

GRANTS

Catherine MOLHO
ANR, ENFORCE (€ 391 893)

Léo FITOUCHI
Marie Skłodowska-Curie Global Postdoctoral Fellowship (€413 000)

MEDIA / OUTREACH

■ **Léo Fitouchi**
Les institutions : des outils pour résoudre les problèmes de coopération
Société Française d'Écologie, May 2025

What money can't buy: the Moral limits of markets
TSE Mag N°28,
October 2025

Moralizing Self-Control
Evolutionary Psychology Podcast,
December 2025

■ **Catherine Molho**
Why do we choose what we choose?
Crossing Channel Podcast,
May 2025



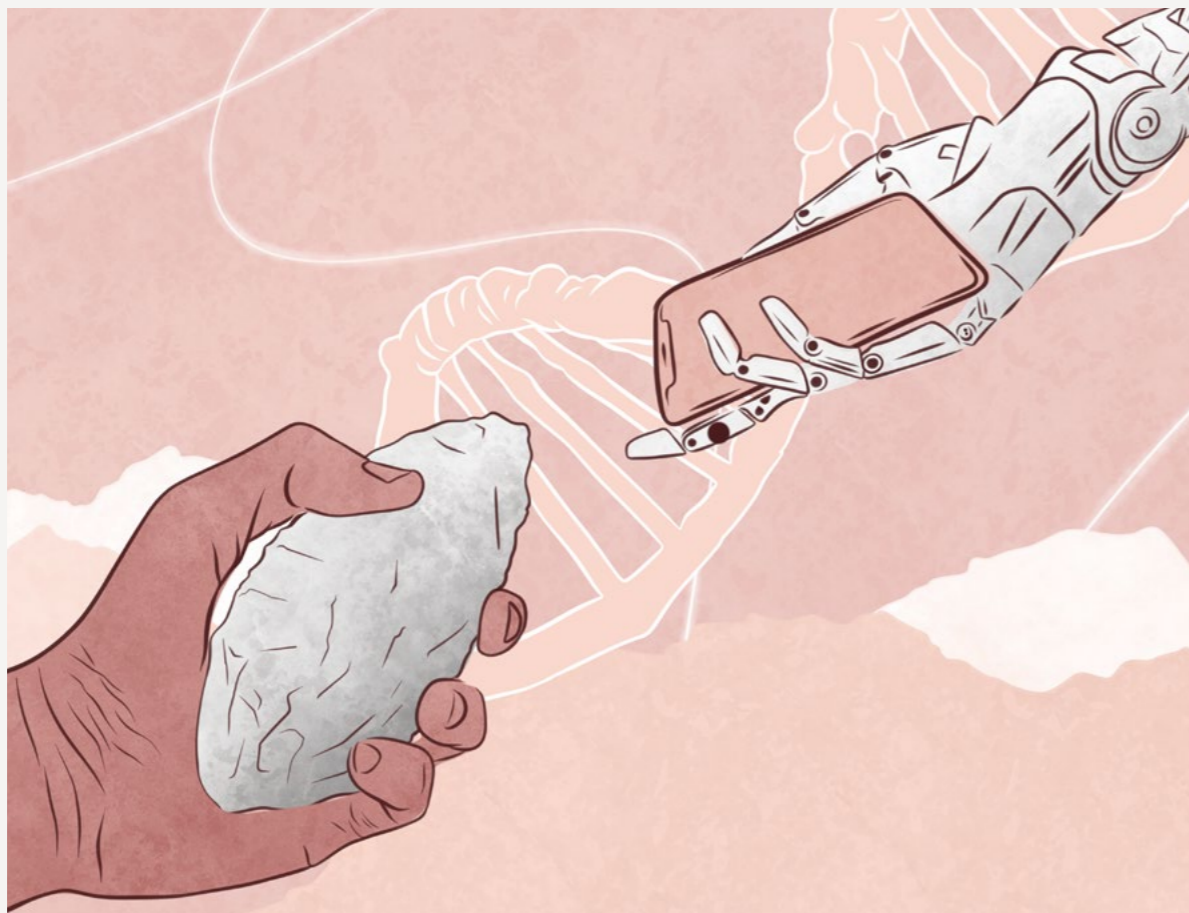
RESEARCH TEAM

EVOLUTION OF TECHNOLOGY

MAXIME DEREK (GROUP LEADER)

The IAST Research Team on the Evolution of Technology aims to encourage collaboration on topics related to the evolution of technology, broadly defined as those techniques, skills, methods, and processes used in the production of products or services or in the accomplishment of objectives. The team seeks to improve our understanding of the evolution of technology over short, long, and very long-time scales and its implications

for human biological and cultural evolution. It addresses questions such as: Which sets of biological traits and social structures allow humans to develop increasingly complex technologies? Which environmental and social conditions are especially conducive to the evolution of technology? How has technology affected our biology, and the way we think? How does it affect our use of time, space, and natural resources? Our interdisciplinary research leverages collaborations between biologists, economists, psychologists and anthropologists and incorporates a variety of methods, such as mathematical models, experiments and ethnographic studies.



PUBLICATIONS

MAIN TOPICS

- Social learning
- Cultural evolution
- Cultural evolution in LLMs
- Cognitive tools
- Cultural norms

OUTLETS

- Proceedings B
- The Oxford Handbook of Approaches to Language Evolution
- ICLR
- Psychological Science
- Proceedings of the Annual Meeting of the Cognitive Science Society,
- PNAS

MEDIA

■ Maxime Derek

Interview with the magazine *Exploreur*
Interview with *Radio Campus*

■ Benjamin Pitt

Crossing Channels podcast

“Les institutions : des outils pour résoudre les problèmes de coopération”

GRANTS

Léo FITOUCHI

Marie Skłodowska-Curie Global
Postdoctoral Fellowship (€413 000)

COURSES

■ Introduction to Quantitative Social Science

LI students, TSE

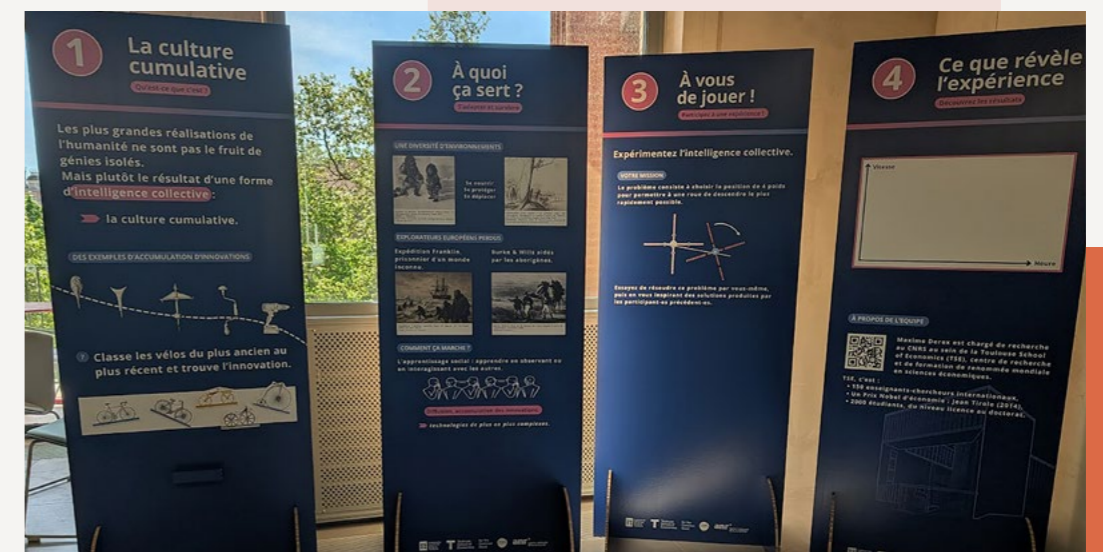
■ Introduction to cultural evolution

Master Darwin
Université de Montpellier

OUTREACH

■ “Les institutions : des outils pour résoudre les problèmes de coopération” (Fitouchi). Société Française d’Écologie.

■ Exhibition at the Eureka Café (2025), where a local artist (Lisa Rivière) presented a poster on Derek’s research.



Interactive totems for European Researchers' Night 2025 (Research: Maxime Derek). Features included digital Q&A for adults and a hands-on «cumulative culture» game for children.

RESEARCH TEAM

EXPANDED MORALITY

CATHERINE MOLHO (GROUP LEADER)

During the last decades, a combination of globalization, technological progress and evolving sensitivities has greatly expanded the purview of morality. The community of moral agents has grown to include faraway humans, non-human animals, intelligent machines, and private companies. Social networks and global news have given every moral act the potential to be witnessed by thousands or millions of active spectators. The Expanded Morality team seeks to understand and guide citizens, policymakers and firms in this brand new moral landscape.



PUBLICATIONS

MAIN TOPICS

- Prosociality
- Social norms and their evolution
- Moral judgment
- AI ethics
- Machine behavior
- Animal welfare

OUTLETS

- *Nature*, *Nature Human Behaviour*, *Nature Communications*, *Nature Climate Change*, *Journal of Financial Economics*, *Review of Economics and Statistics*, *American Economic Journal: Economic Policy*, *Journal of the European Economic Association*, *Science*, *Proceedings of the Royal Society B*, *American Psychologist*, *Cognition*

GRANTS

Catherine MOLHO

ANR, ENFORCE (€ 391 893)

Léo FITOUCHI

Marie Skłodowska-Curie Global Postdoctoral Fellowship (€413 000)

Sandra LAPORTE

ANR JCJC grant (€312 500)

AWARDS / APPOINTMENTS

■ Catherine MOLHO

HBES Rising Star Award

VISITORS

FIERY CUSHMAN,

Professor at Harvard University

BERTIL TUNGODDEN,

Professor at the Norwegian School of Economics

SUSANA MONSÓ,

Associate Professor at UNED, Madrid

COURSES

- Introduction à la psychologie,
- Nudges and the Psychology of Decision Making
- Behavioral and Experimental Economics
- The psychology of cooperation and norm enforcement', Toulouse Summer School in Quantitative Social Sciences

OUTREACH

Jean-François Bonnefon

■ Moral Machine featured at the AI exhibit at the Palais des sciences et de l'industrie in Paris

■ Futurapolis: Comment j'ai arrêté de culpabiliser et appris à aimer l'IA qui ment pour moi

Sébastien Pouget

■ Finance for our future (TSE MAG N°28)

■ "Les institutions : des outils pour résoudre les problèmes de coopération" (Fitouchi). Société Française d'Écologie. the scientific council of the exhibition.

MEDIA

Jean-François Bonnefon

l'IA generative : aussi un outil de vérité
les Echos, February 2025

Ce que nous apprend la Moral Machine sur nos choix éthiques
le Point, January 2025

Les gens délèguent à l'IA des comportements qu'ils n'oseraient pas adopter eux-mêmes
la Dépêche, November 2025

Moins de remords, plus de triche : l'effet inquiétant des IA sur notre honnêteté
The Conversation, October 2025

Are universities ready for the age of AI?
Crossing Channels podcast, October 2025

How are data and algorithms impacting our lives?
Crossing Channels podcast, January 2025

When AI takes the Wheel: Ethical Dilemmas in Driverless Cars
Podcast for La French Tech Hong Kong, February 2025

Sylvie Borau

Diella, première ministre artificielle en Albanie : le piège de la féminisation des IA
The Conversation, October 2025

Intelligence artificielle : «Il faut cesser d'humaniser, de genrer les IA; et choisir une représentation technologique»
France Culture, October 2025

« Stéréotype », « manipulation »... la ministre d'Albanie générée par l'IA pose des questions d'éthique
Challenges, October 2025

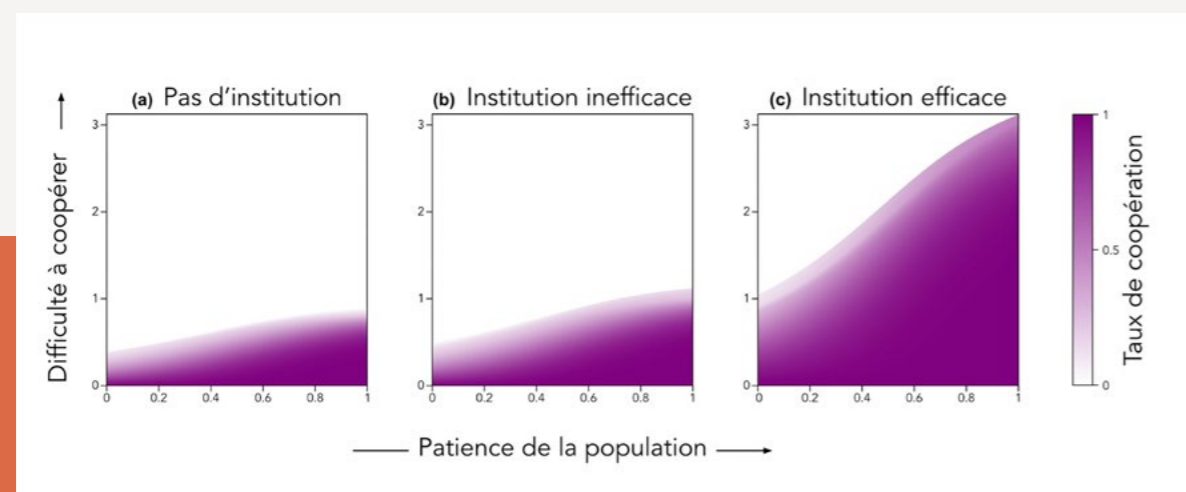
Catherine Molho

Why do we choose what we choose?
Crossing Channels podcast, May 2025

Léo Fitouchi

Les institutions : des outils pour résoudre les problèmes de coopération
Société Française d'Écologie, May 2025 *

Moralizing Self-Control
Evolutionary Psychology Podcast, December 2025

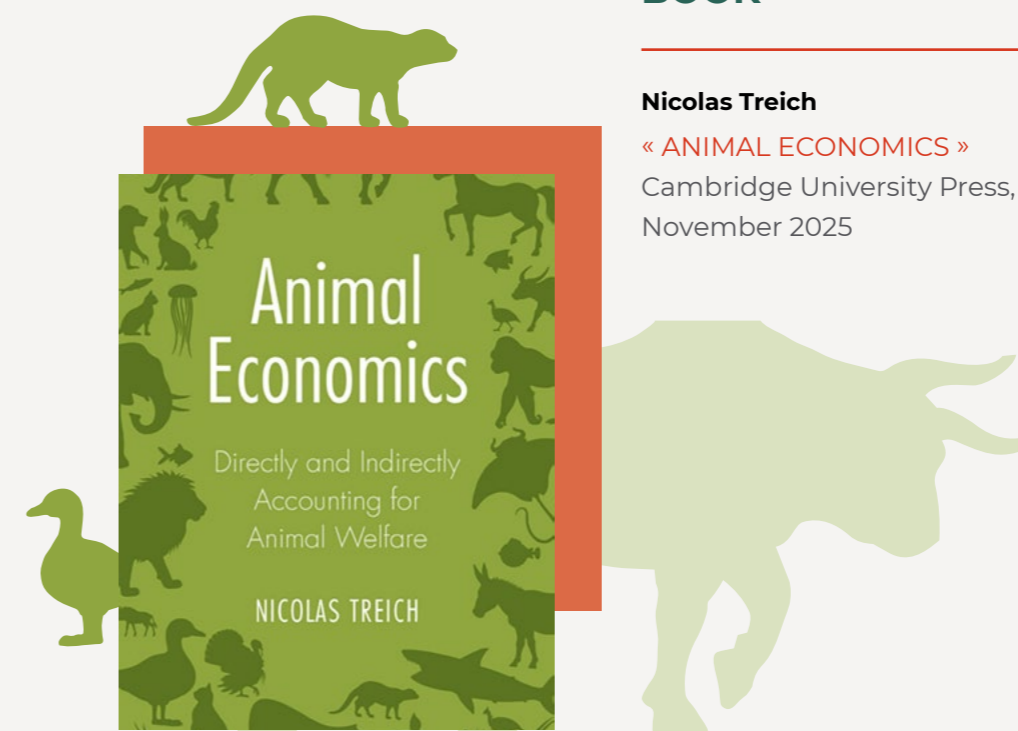


* Crédit Julien Lie-Panis

BOOK

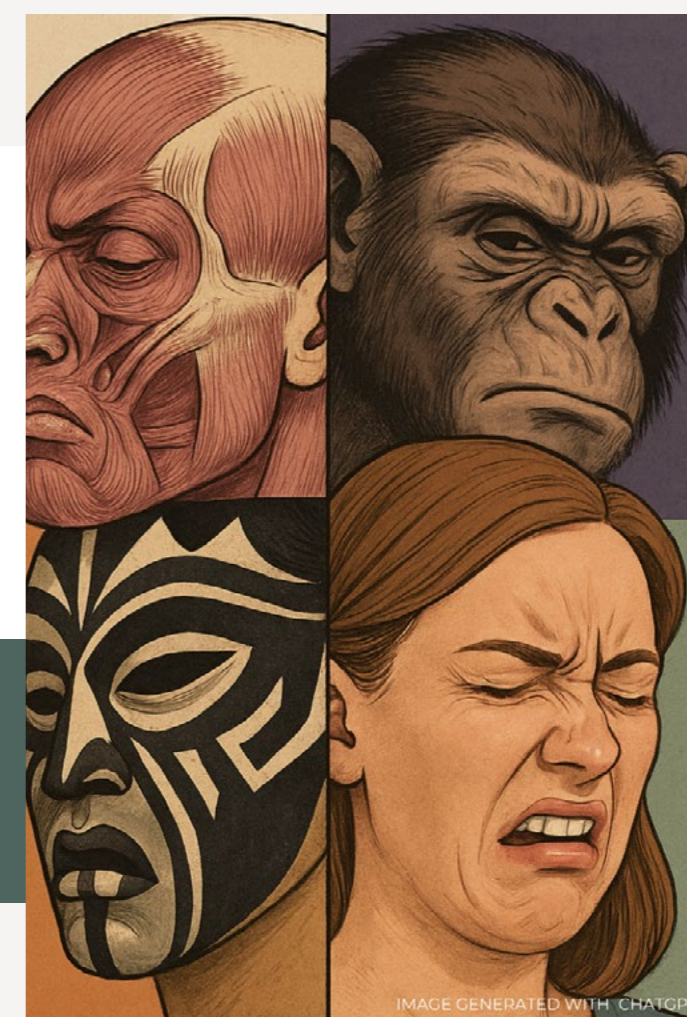
Nicolas Treich

« ANIMAL ECONOMICS »
 Cambridge University Press,
 November 2025



EVENTS

■ *Disgust across borders: Multidisciplinary perspectives on a core emotion*
 IAST, Toulouse
 4-5 December 2025





RESEARCH TEAM

FAMILY DEMOGRAPHY AND HEALTH

ILARIA PRETELLI (GROUP LEADER)

The research team is dedicated to unravelling the complex interconnections between family relationships, human life history, ecology, and health through an evolutionary lens. Drawing on expertise from disciplines such as evolutionary anthropology, biology, economics, and developmental psychology, the team adopts a multidisciplinary approach to explore three key research.



PUBLICATIONS

MAIN TOPICS

- Marriage systems
- Household dynamics
- Health and Aging
- Demography
- Life history
- Small-scale societies

OUTLETS

- Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences (PNAS), Science Advances, Nature Aging, Journal of the American Heart Association, Proceedings of the Royal Society B, Journal of the Royal Anthropological Institute, Evolution and Human Behavior, Behavioral and Brain Sciences, American Journal of Biological Anthropology (R&R), Nature (R&R), PNAS, Alzheimer's and Dementia, Hunter-Gatherer Research, Evolutionary Human Sciences

GRANTS

- **Haneul Jang**, Leakey Foundation and Foundation Fyssen
- **Pablo Varas**, European Human Behaviour and Evolution Association (EHBEA), Workshop Grant (€1000)

AWARDS

- **Olympia Campbell**, HBES Margo Wilson Award

EVENTS

- **12th Economy and Biology Workshop**, June 2025
- **Disgust across borders: Multidisciplinary perspectives on a core emotion**, December 2025
- **Joint workshop CRCA/CBI-IAST-Swansea University**, Centre de Biologie Intégrative/IAST, June 2025

VISITORS

- Alyssa CRITTENDEN
- Raphaëlle CHAIX
- Ruth MACE

COURSES

- **Ethics in Social Science Research**, Master 2
- **Experimental Economics**, Master 1
- **Introduction to Quantitative Social Science**, Licence 1

MEDIA / OUTREACH

Jonathan Stieglitz

How can we make food that is good for health, societies, the planet and the economy?

Podcast Crossing Channel, April 2025

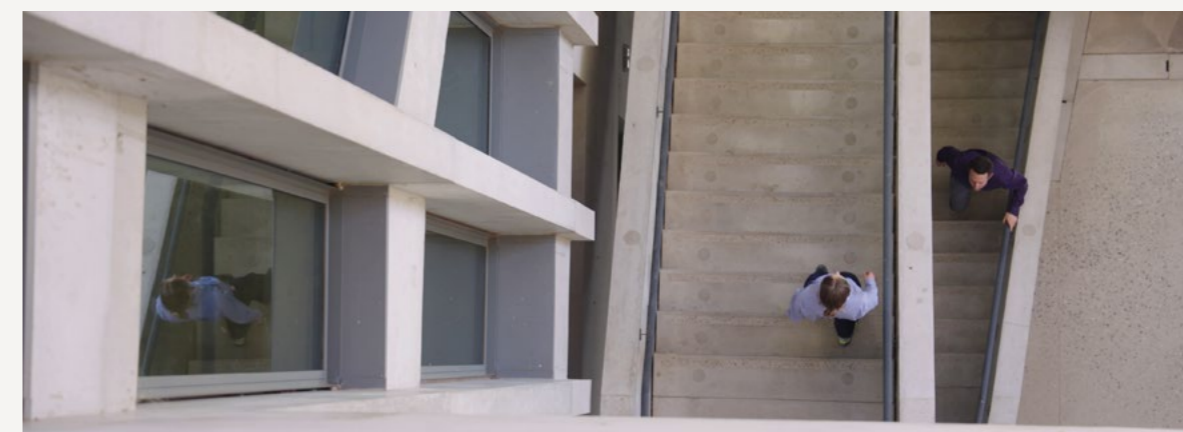
Olympia Campbell

What is happening to young people's mental health?

Podcast Crossing Channel, November 2025

Stop worrying about cousin marriage

Unherd, April 2025



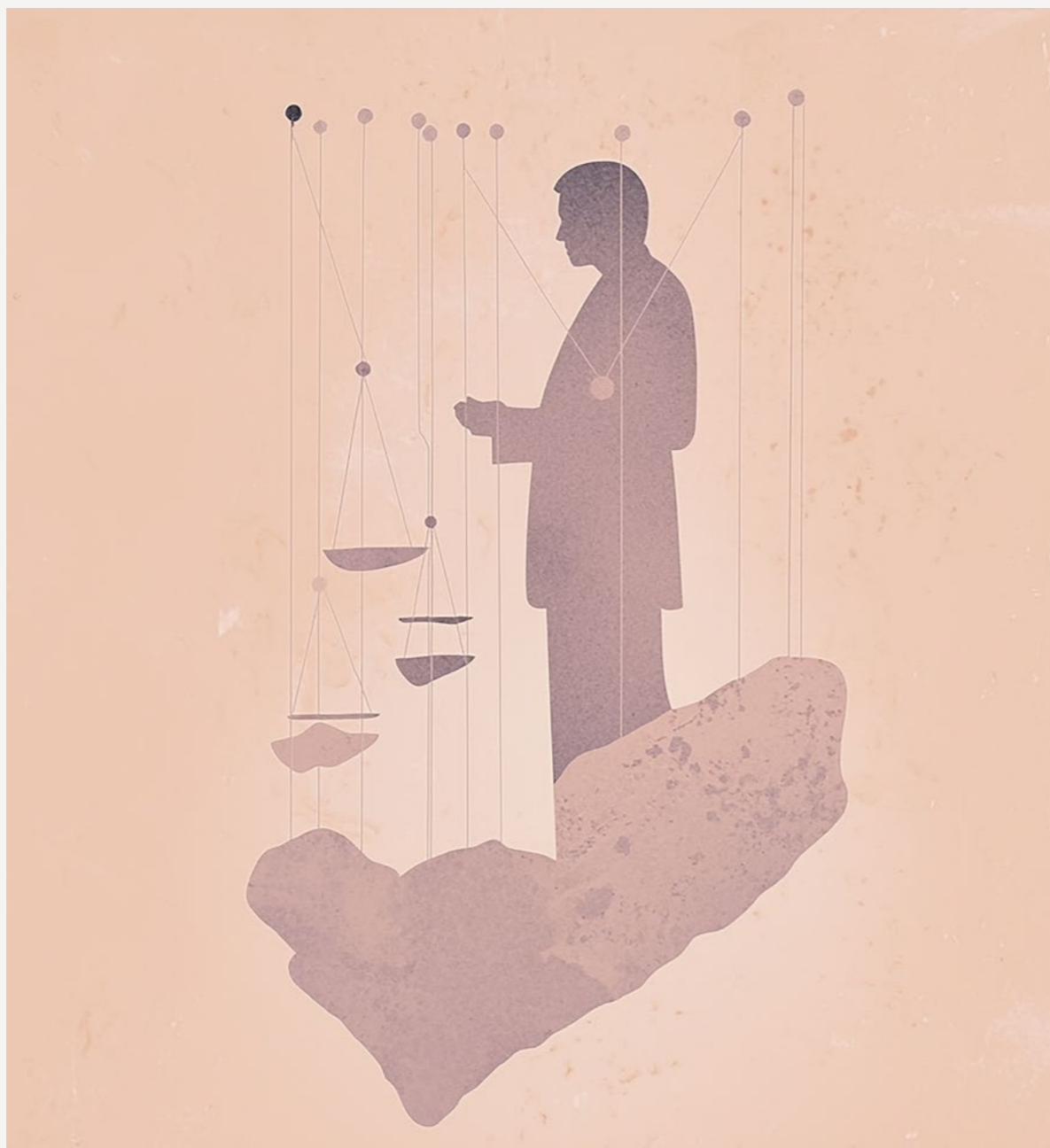


RESEARCH TEAM

POLITICAL ECONOMY

FELIX DWINGER (GROUP LEADER)

The IAST research team on Political Economy uses econometric tools, experimental design and formal theory to better understand the interplay between politics and economics. We seek to foster a community of political scientists, economists, and quantitative social scientists from related disciplines to grow research agendas, develop future teaching programs on Political Economy, and host conferences to draw together leading political economists from around the globe.



PUBLICATIONS

MAIN TOPICS

- Clientelism and distributive politics
- Political accountability
- State-building and fiscal capacity
- Non-state governance
- Conflict and armed groups
- Democratization
- Economic history and institutional development
- Labor economics and social inequalities
- Politics of belonging and discrimination
- Edutainment
- Religion and politics
- Populism
- Political Representation

OUTLETS

- American Political Science Review
- Journal of Political Economy
- Data & Corpus
- Comparative Political Studies
- Population & Sociétés
- Political Science Research and Methods
- The Journal of Politics
- PNAS
- International Studies Quarterly
- Experimental Economics

GRANTS

- **Violeta Haas** and **Giacomo Lemoli**, IHS Grant (\$2,688)
- **Kevin Grieco**
 - Grant from: Innovations for Poverty Action (HTRI) (\$13,398.20)
 - Center for Governance and Markets (University of Pittsburg) Grant (\$5,000)
 - International Growth Centre Grant (\$7,500).

VISITORS

Clara SIEVERT
 Vicky FOUKA
 Megan STEWART
 Bertil TUNGODDEN
 Anselm HAGER
 Michael FINDLEY
 Sonja VOGT
 Emily SELLARS

EVENTS

- *Workshop on the Political Economy of Autocratic Rule & Democratic Backsliding*
 June 2025
- *Third IAST - Oxford – Sciences Po Paris Conference in Political Economy*,
 Nuffield College, December 2025



COURSES

Anne Degrave

- Introduction to Global Economic History (undergraduate)

Victor Gay

- Economic History Master 1
- Institutions and Long-Run Development Master 2
- Applied Econometrics Master 1

Violeta Haas

- Inclusion/exclusion in the political sphere: suffrage extensions and quotas, Toulouse Summer School in Quantitative Social Sciences

Karine Van Der Straeten

- Political Economy (PhD Program)
- Workshop on presentation skills (PhD Program)

Kristin Michelitch

- Political Accountability, Guest Lecture TSE PhD course
- Introduction to Quantitative Social Sciences
- Political Economy of International Organizations

Ahmed Mohamed

- Introduction to Political Economy, Toulouse School of Economics



Watch the video of the Political Economy Research Team

MEDIA

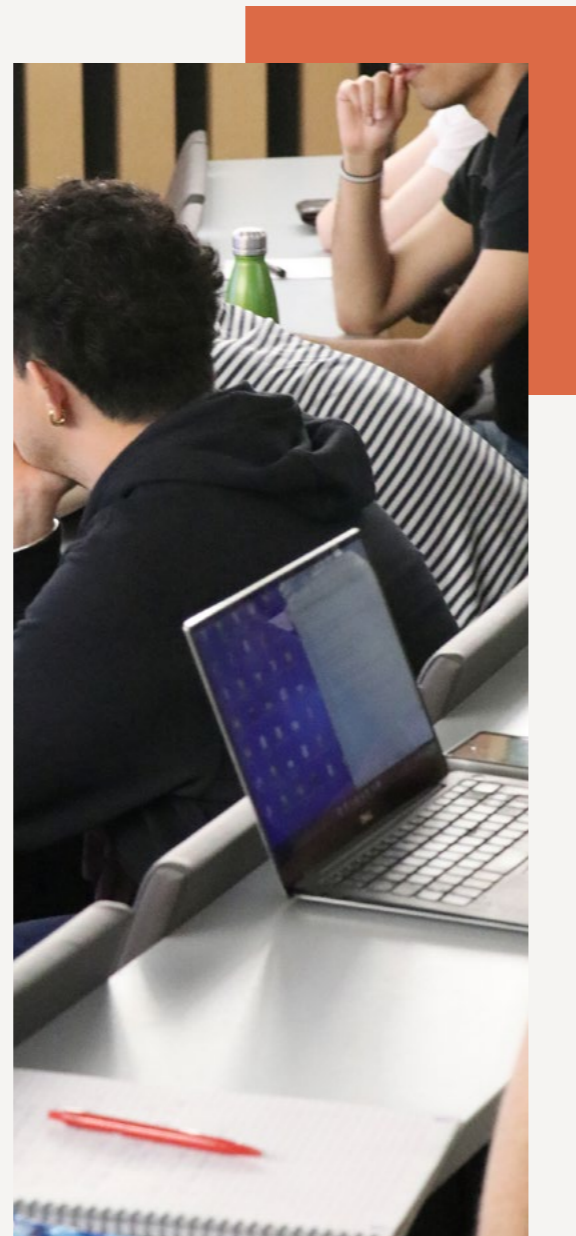
Violeta I. Haas

Gewinnt man mit Homophobie Wahlen?
Humboldt Governance Lab, December 2025

OUTREACH

■ Paul Seabright

Can Europe ever catch up to the US in technology?
Crossing Channels Podcast



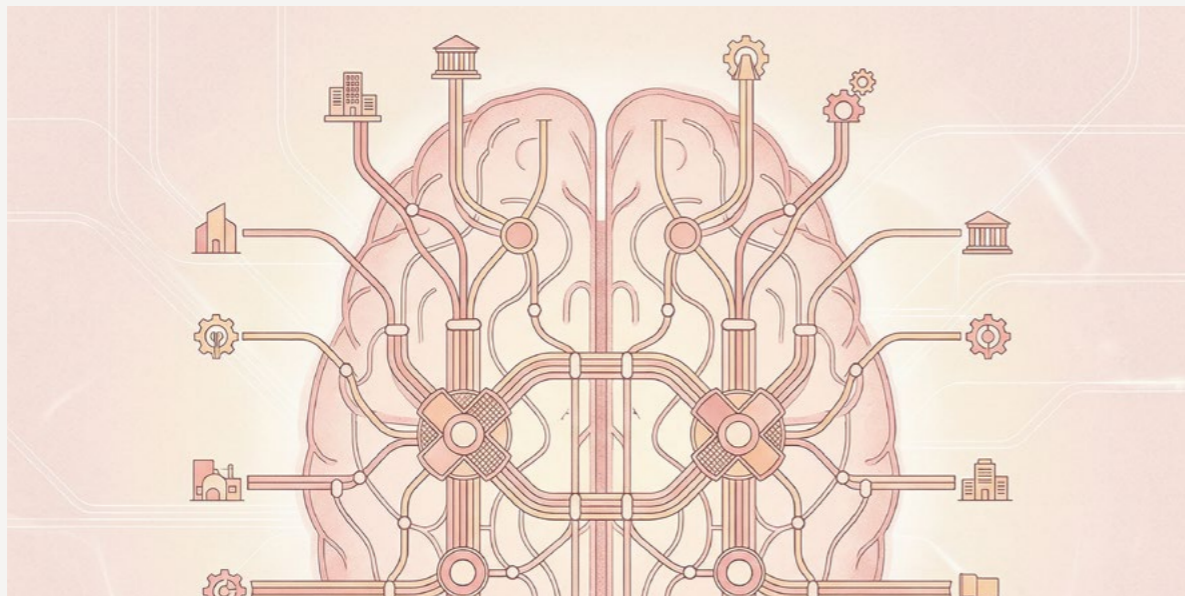


RESEARCH TEAM

CENTER FOR COLLECTIVE LEARNING (NEW IN 2025)

CÉSAR A. HIDALGO (GROUP LEADER)

The Center for Collective Learning (CCL) is a multidisciplinary research laboratory devoted to understanding how knowledge grows, spreads, and shapes economic, institutional, and societal outcomes. Based at the **Toulouse School of Economics' Institute for Advanced Study (IAST)** and at the **Corvinus Institute for Advanced Studies (CIAS)** at Corvinus University of Budapest, CCL applies tools from data science, artificial intelligence, network science, and complexity economics to explore how societies learn and how learning drives innovation, development, and collective decision-making.



PUBLICATIONS

MAIN TOPICS

CCL's core research agenda investigates multiple dimensions of collective learning:

- Knowledge Growth & Structure
- Economic Complexity
- Collective Decision-Making & Digital Democracy
- Urban Perception

OUTLETS

- Nature Communication
- Research Policy
- Philosophical Transactions of the Royal Society A
- PNAS
- Nature Human Behaviour

GRANTS

CCL's research is supported by competitive international funding and has earned recognition for scientific excellence and public impact:

- ERC Synergy ADDI, (€ 2 683 750)
- ERA Chair: Collective Learning Data Lab (€ 2 493 750)
- Driving Urban Transitions (€ 338 000)
- Horizon Europe Observatory for the sea (€ 52 500)
- Horizon Europe European Lighthouse for sustainability (€ 259 000)

OUTREACH

CCL is deeply committed to public engagement through interactive digital tools and global collaborations:

- **Rankless** is a dynamic platform for exploring scholarly impact that was a finalist in the 2025 **Webby Awards**. rankless.org
- **The Observatory of Economic Complexity (OEC)** is a leading platform on international trade data, developed and managed by Datawheel in collaboration with CCL. oec.world
- **Pantheon** a global collective memory observatory with structured biographical data. pantheon.world

These platforms extend CCL's research into accessible tools used by governments, educators, journalists, and the public worldwide.

EVENTS

CCL organizes and participates in a rich slate of events that bridge research, policy, and practice:

- **Annual and Flagship Events**
- **Conference on Economic Complexity. AI for Trade Global Challenge**
Annually convenes researchers, policymakers, and practitioners on global economic complexity themes.
- **An international contest on the use of AI for predicting trade flows.**

MEDIA

■ Cesar Hidalgo

- **The Infinite Alphabet, The laws of Knowledge**
Talk at The Royal Institution, November 2025
- **Conversation with Professor César A. Hidalgo on The Laws of Knowledge.**
Though Economics
- **Is intellectual capital the key to future prosperity?**
Crossing Channel Podcast
- **Pitchfork Economics**, a podcast with **Nick Hanauer**
- **The lost composer: Alice Barnett and the paradox of fame and memory**
- **How can Europe be restored as a global research powerhouse?**
Tribune dans le Monde, May 2025

FRIENDS OF IAST

The strongest signal of IAST's vitality in 2025 did not come from a metric: it came from a reunion.

The Friends of IAST event (June 30–July 1) was a true homecoming that brought together current Research Fellows, alumni Fellows (now more than 100 strong and spread across faculty positions worldwide), and members of our Scientific and Executive Boards. Over two dense days, the program showcased the breadth of what Quantitative Social Science can mean at IAST: from climate change and sustainability to health; from identity and inequality to emotions and sociality; from child development to cultural evolution; together with small-group discussions designed to catalyze new collaborations and tighten the bonds of an already global community.

The popularity of this event is evidence of something harder to manufacture than any single publication or grant: an attachment to IAST, and to one another, that reflects a shared intellectual culture: an IAST spirit. People return to Toulouse because they recognize the value of a community where methods travel across topics, disciplines speak a common quantitative language, and ambitious ideas find both challenge and support. That spirit does not emerge by decree; it was carefully and deliberately built through a program that identifies talent from the best programs worldwide, offers them an intellectual immersion

that combines scientific rigor and interdisciplinary creativity, and turns them into long-term ambassadors for Toulouse.

This ambassador network matters. Visibility and credibility in the international academic ecosystem are not one-off achievements; they require continuous scientific animation, sustained relationships, and repeated proof that our multidisciplinary ambition is real. The Fellowship program is one of our most effective instruments to do that at scale, something reflected in this year's record demand (300+ applications, with roughly half from U.S. PhD programs, including top institutions).

Finally, the program is also a concrete lever for growth on the education side. As our training offer expands, particularly through new multidisciplinary programs in English, Research Fellows contribute cutting-edge expertise and teaching capacity at a moment when the development of programs can outpace the recruitment of permanent faculty. In short: the Research Fellowship program is not only a recruitment tool; it is a strategic engine for scientific expansion, international positioning, and educational innovation.

THE FACES OF IAST



“My impression is that when I arrived at Universidad del Rosario five years ago (as a tenure-track professor after leaving IAST), the interdisciplinarity was not something my colleagues noticed in how they see me as a researcher (it was more like “César comes from Toulouse”). Nonetheless, this has changed over time (e.g., when we apply for multidisciplinary proposals for large grants, they want to hear my opinion in terms of ideas and research outlets).”

César Mantilla

IAST Research Fellow, 2013-2016

Head of the Department of Economics and Associate Professor
Pontificia Universidad Javeriana



“IAST is an intellectually enriching community that deepened my commitment to interdisciplinary scholarship. It pushed me toward my current position in Ghana, where I work together with more economists and geographers than historical sociologists. It's also a space for fostering warm and supportive friendships. I enjoyed exchanging ideas with some of the nicest and smartest people I've met»

Kofi Asante

IAST Research Fellow, 2016-2018

Senior Research Fellow
Institute of Statistical, Social and Economic Research University of Ghana



“IAST allowed me to develop a large network of early career scientists from a wide range of disciplines which I think is unique at an early career stage and was very impressive for people who hired me...”

Gladys Barragan-Jason

IAST Research Fellow, 2014-2017

CNRS researcher in Biology at the Station d'Ecologie Théorique et Expérimentale in the Pyrenees



“IAST gave me the opportunity to move beyond being an actor in someone else's projects, and to develop grand aspirations. It offered me valuable space to think..., which allowed me to build a solid research agenda.”

Ilaria Pretelli

IAST Research Fellow 2023-2026

Postdoctoral Fellow in Evolutionary Anthropology



Workshop on the political economy of autocratic rule & democratic backsliding

CONFERENCES IN 2025

Jan 9-10 2025	17TH DIGITAL ECONOMICS CONFERENCE 📍 Toulouse, France	June 30 to July 1 2025	FRIENDS OF IAST CONFERENCE 📍 Toulouse, France
June 2-3 2025	12TH TOULOUSE ECONOMICS AND BIOLOGY WORKSHOP 📍 Toulouse, France	June 3-4 2025	THIRD IAST - OXFORD – SCIENCES PO PARIS CONFERENCE IN POLITICAL ECONOMY, NUFFIELD COLLEGE 📍 Toulouse, France
June 23-24 2025	WORKSHOP ON THE POLITICAL ECONOMY OF AUTOCRATIC RULE & DEMOCRATIC BACKSLIDING 📍 Toulouse, France	Dec. 4-5 2025	DISGUST ACROSS BORDERS: MULTIDISCIPLINARY PERSPECTIVES ON A CORE EMOTION 📍 Toulouse, France

FORTHCOMING EVENTS IN 2026

Jan. 8-9 2026	18TH DIGITAL ECONOMICS CONFERENCE 📍 Toulouse, France	June 1-2 2026	13TH TOULOUSE ECONOMICS AND BIOLOGY WORKSHOP 📍 Toulouse, France
May 5-6 2026	BORDERS AND BELONGING: MIGRATION CHALLENGES AND SOLUTIONS CONFERENCE 📍 Toulouse, France	Dec 16-17 2026	IN THE COMPANY OF SCHOLARS: FROM IO TO EVOLUTION TO RELIGION, CELEBRATING PAUL SEABRIGHT 📍 Toulouse, France

GENERAL SEMINARS IN 2025

Raphaëlle Chaix, *Museum National d'Histoire Naturelle, France*
 Fiery Cushman, *Harvard, United States*
 Clara Sievert, *Center for Economic Research and Graduate Education - Economics Institute, Prague*
 Charles Mullon, *University of Lausanne*
 Vasiliki Fouka, *Stanford University*
 Bertil Tungodden, *Norwegian School of Economics*
 Filiz Garip, *Princeton University*
 Bertil Tungodden, *Norwegian School of Economics*
 Toby Handfield, *Monash University*
 Anselm Hager, *Humboldt University, Berlin*
 Michael Findley, *University of Texas*
 Sonja Vogt, *University of Lausanne*
 Emily Sellars, *Yale University*
 Anette Fasang, *WZB*
 Alyssa Crittenden, *University of Nevada*
 Jonathan Schulz, *George Mason University*
 Cody Ross, *Max Planck Institute for Evolutionary Anthropology*
 Susana Monso, *UNED Madrid*
 Jessica Perkins, *Vanderbilt University*
 Anita Ghodes, *Hertie School*
 Gemma Dipoppa, *Columbia University*

IAST LUNCH SEMINARS IN 2025

Marie Beigelman, *IAST-TSE*
 Luis Santos-Pinto, *HEC- University of Lausanne*
 Giacomo Lemoli, *IAST-TSE*
 David Austen-Smith, *Northwestern Kellogg*
 Megan Stewart, *Ford School of Public Policy, University of Michigan*
 Ahmed Ezzeldin Mohamed, *IAST-TSE*
 César Hidalgo, *IAST-TSE*
 Pablo José Varas Enríquez, *IAST-TSE*
 Violeta I. Haas, *IAST-TSE*
 Olympia Campbell, *IAST-TSE*
 Jorge Peña, *IAST-TSE*
 Ismaël Rafai, *IAST-TSE*
 Richard Wrangham, *Harvard University*
 Alexandros Gelastopoulos, *IAST-TSE*
 Anne Degraeve, *IAST-TSE*
 Chiara Zanardello, *IAST-TSE*
 Charlotte Cavallé, *University of Michigan*
 Ilaria Pretelli, *IAST-TSE*

Friends of IAST conference, 2025



THE IAST MULTIDISCIPLINARY GRANT

The IAST grant aims to facilitate crossdisciplinary fertilization and is awarded annually to outstanding multidisciplinary research projects.

The 2025 grant was awarded to:

- The 2025 prize has been awarded to a project entitled “Retributive and compensatory justice across small-and large-scale societies” proposed by Léo Fitouchi, Haneul Jang and Catherine Molho.

GRANTS

Léo Fitouchi, Marie Skłodowska-Curie Global Postdoctoral Fellowship (€ 413,000)

Kevin Grieco, Grant from:

- Innovations for Poverty Action (HTRI) (\$ 13 000)
- Center for Governance and Markets (University of Pittsburg) Grant (\$ 5 000)
- International Growth Centre Grant (\$ 7 500)

Violeta Haas and **Giacomo Lemoli**, Institute for Humane Studies (IHS) grant (\$ 2,688)

César Hidalgo, ERC Synergy ADDI, (€ 2 683 750)

Haneul Jang, Leakey Foundation and Foundation Fyssen Grant

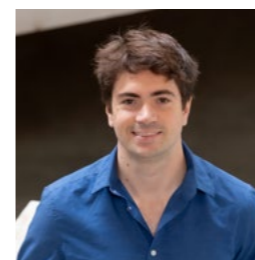
Marijn Keijzer Danish Data Science Academy Grant (€ 2000)

Sandra Laporte 2025-2029 ANR JCJC grant (€ 312,500)

Catherine Molho, ANR Grant called ENFORCE (€ 391 893)

Pablo Varas, European Human Behaviour and Evolution Association (EHBEA), Workshop Grant (€ 1000)

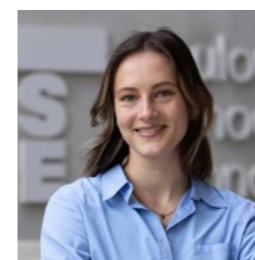
AWARDS / APPOINTMENTS



Laurenz GUENTHER
Top 40 under 40 award by Capital Magazine



Catherine MOLHO
HBES Rising Star Award



Olympia CAMPBELL
HBES Margo Wilson Award



Philippe De DONDER
2025 Louise Dandurand French Publication Award recipient for the article «La mauvaise perception des risques de longévité et de dépendance ne suffit pas à expliquer la faiblesse du marché de l'assurance dépendance (au Canada)»



IAST ensures knowledge is shared by making science available. Participation in expert groups, in scientific projects, local outreach events, contributions to the public debate, books, editorial activities are all produced for the scientific community and for society in a way the public can understand and learn from. Below is the list of our community's initiatives and dissemination of our scientists' latest work.



IN THE PUBLIC EYE



TSE MAG – Issue 28 – Fall 2025

Léo Fitouchi, Jean Tirole,
Money can't buy everything

Sébastien Pouget,
Finance for our future

Jean-François Bonnefon,
What drives ethical investors?



Maxime Derex,
Exhibition at the Eureka Café

- Jean-François Bonnefon,**
- Futurapolis : Comment j'ai arrêté de culpabiliser et appris à aimer l'IA qui ment pour moi, November 2025
 - Moral Machine featured at the AI exhibit at the Palais des sciences et de l'industrie in Paris

**CROSSING CHANNELS
PODCAST SERIES**

Season 4

Episode 5 - How can green finance drive the clean transition? with Ulrich Hege (TSE), Mathias Reynaert (TSE) and Dimitri Zenghelis (University of Cambridge)

Episode 6 - Can Europe ever catch up to the US in technology? With Diane Coyle (Bennett Institute), Jacques Crémer (TSE), and Paul Seabright (IAST, TSE)

Episode 7 - How can we make food that is good for health, societies, the planet and the economy? With Jonathan Stieglitz (IAST-TSE) and Martin White (University of Cambridge)

Episode 8 - Why do we choose what we choose? With Simone Schnall (University of Cambridge), Catherine Molho (IAST-TSE), and Maximilian Müller (TSE)

Episode 9 - What is the value of speaking other languages? With Wendy Ayres-Bennett (University of Cambridge) and Benjamin Pitt (IAST)

Episode 10 - How does migration change our world? With Emmanuelle Auriol (TSE, IAST) and Catherine Barnard (University of Cambridge)

Season 5

Episode 1 - Are universities ready for the age of AI? With Jean-François Bonnefon (Toulouse School of Economics, IAST), François Poinas (Toulouse School of Economics, IAST) and Jonathan Grant (University of Cambridge)

Episode 2 - What really drives inequality? With Jack Newman (Affiliated Researcher at the Bennett School of Public Policy), Angélique Acquatella (Toulouse School of Economic) and Pinelopi Koujianou Goldberg (Yale University)

Episode 3 - Is intellectual capital the key to future prosperity? With César Hidalgo (Toulouse School of Economics, IAST)



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IN THE PRESS

As always, the IAST community strives to reach out to the general public on its research findings. 2025 was a particularly impressive year for press interactions, with breaking scientific discoveries, and a grand total of 178 articles (Media, Podcast, Interviews,..) both French and international. Here is a selection:

ENSEMBLE, ON VA PLUS LOIN

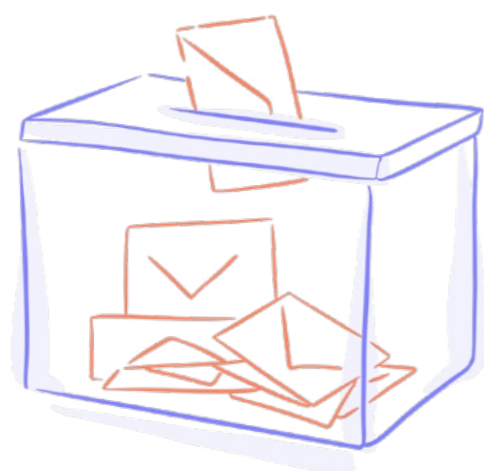
Maxime Derex
Exploreur - January, 2025

HOW DID GLOBAL TRADE START?

Paul Seabright
BBC - January 13, 2025

COULD AI REPLACE POLITICIANS? A PHILOSOPHER MAPS OUT THREE POSSIBLE FUTURES

César Hidalgo
The Conversation - January 13, 2025



NARCOTRAFFIC : LA FACE CACHÉE DE LA GUERRE CONTRE LA DROGUE EMMANUELLE AURIOL

Stupid Economics
March 30, 2025

WHY IS AI SO SLOW TO SPREAD? ECONOMICS CAN EXPLAIN

Jean Tirole
The Economist - July 17, 2025

DID THE POLITICAL ESTABLISHMENT PAVE THE WAY FOR TRUMP AND FARAGE?

Laurenz Guenther
The Financial Times - September 26,
2025

MOINS DE REMORDS, PLUS DE TRICHE : L'EFFET INQUIÉTANT DES IA SUR NOTRE HONNÊTÉTÉ

Jean-François Bonnefon
The Conversation - October 14, 2025



« GENRE ET CLIMAT : UN PARADOXE QUI PEUT FAIRE BOUGER LES LIGNES »

Sylvie Borau
La Tribune - November 17, 2025

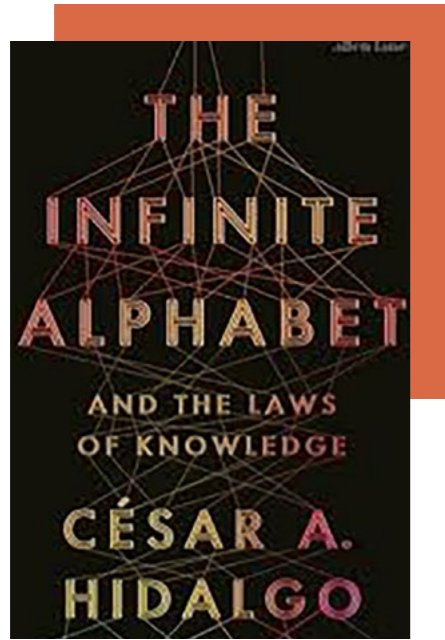
MORALIZING SELF-CONTROL

Léo Fitouchi
Evolutionary Psychology (the podcast)
December, 2025

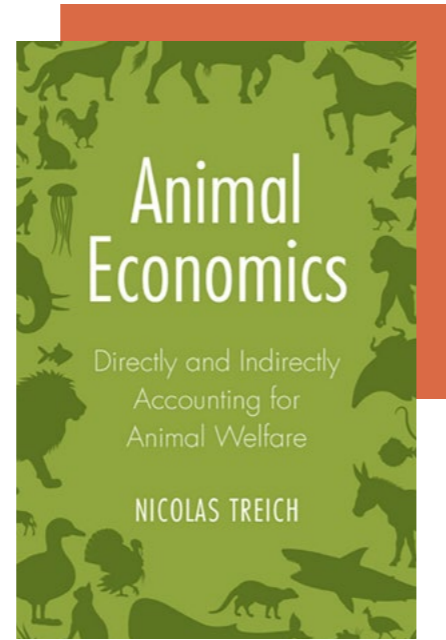
FREINÉES PAR LES COUPES DE L'ADMINISTRATION TRUMP, CINQ CERCHEUSES ACCUEILLIES À TOULOUSE : QUI SONT- ELLES ?

Charlotte Cavallé
Actu Toulouse
December 15, 2025

BOOKS

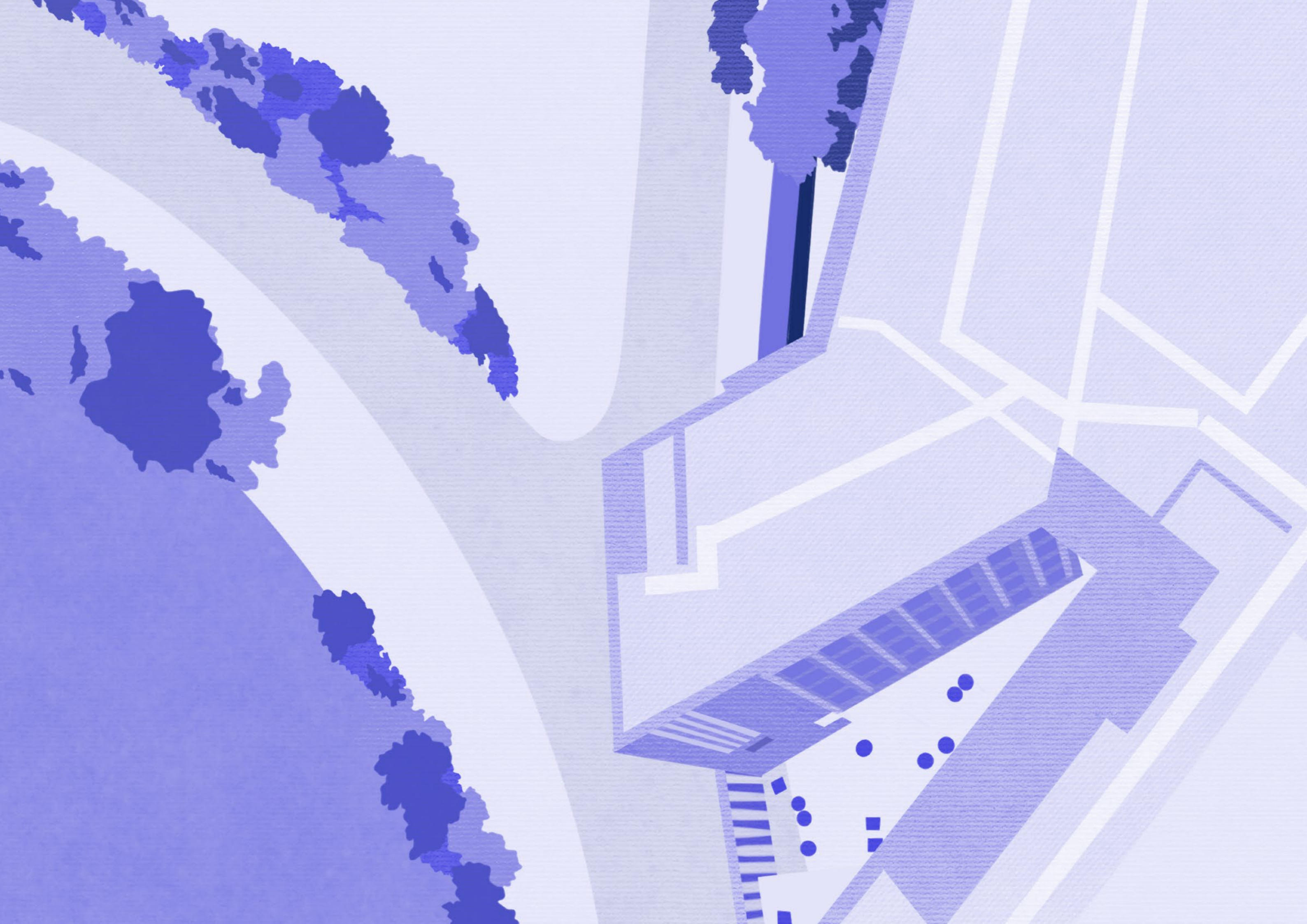


César Hidalgo
The Infinite Alphabet and
the laws of Knowledge
Allen Lane
ISBN-13 978-0241655672



Nicolas Treich
Animal Economics
Cambridge University Press
ISBN 9781009699334





IAST VISITORS IN 2025

Visiting Fellows

Dean Mobbs, [Cognitive Neuroscience, Caltech](#)
Richard Wrangham, [Professor of evolutionary anthropology, Harvard](#)

Recurring Visitors

Alberto Simpser, [Associate Professor at ITAM in Political Science and CIE](#)
Arthur Silve, [Associate Professor in the Department of Economics at Laval University in Quebec City](#)
David Austen-Smith, [Professor of Managerial Economics & Decision Sciences, Northwestern Kellogg](#)
Horacio Larreguy, [Associate Professor of Economics and Political Science, Instituto Tecnológico Autónomo de México \(ITAM\)](#)
Isabelle Brocas, [Professor of Economics, University of Southern California \(USC\)](#)
Juan Carrillo, [Professor of Economics, University of Southern California \(USC\)](#)
Mohamed Saleh, [Associate Professor of Economic History at the London School of Economics and Political Science \(LSE\)](#)
Nichola Raihani, [Professor of Evolution & Behaviour, University College London \(UCL\)](#)
Raymond Duch, [Professor Official Fellow at Nuffield College, Oxford University](#)
Ruth Mace, [Professor of Evolutionary Anthropology, University College London \(UCL\)](#)
Sergey Garvrilets, [Distinguished Professor, Department of Ecology & Evolutionary Biology, University of Tennessee](#)

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Articles

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Elliott Ash, Sam Asher, Aditi Bhowmick, Sandeep Bhupatiraju, Daniel L. Chen, Tanaya Devi, Christoph Goessmann, Paul Novosad and Bilal Siddiqi, «In-Group Bias in the Indian Judiciary: Evidence from 5 Million Criminal Cases», *The Review of Economics and Statistics*, 2025, p. 1-45. doi: 10.1162/rest_a_01569.

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