# Léo Denis

# Education

Ecole Polytechnique Ph.D. Candidate in Management Science	Palaiseau, France 2022–Current
Thesis: "Building purpose in finance: the emergence of impact investing in private equip Supervisor: Pr. Nicolas Mottis	ty"
Visiting PhD Student. Columbia University - School of International and Public Affairs	Fall 2024
Ecole Normale Supérieure Paris-SaclayGifCivil Servant – Ranked 1st, National Competitive Entrance Exam (500 candidates)	f-sur-Yvette, France 2018–2022
<ul> <li>– ENS Paris-Saclay's Diploma - Economics &amp; Management Department (2022)</li> <li>– Master's Degree in Management Research, with Honors (2021)</li> </ul>	
<b>Ecole Nationale de Commerce</b> Classe Préparatoire aux Grandes Ecoles ENS D2 (Rank: 1st) Bachelor's Degree in Mathematics (Years 1 & 2)	Paris, France 2016–2018

### Publications & Conferences

 N. Mottis and L. Denis, "Shareholder engagement : the new frontier of sustainable finance ?", Bankers, Markets & Investors, 2023

**Conferences:** EURAM 2024 (Bath, UK), EGOS 2024 (Milan, Italy), ICGS 2023 (IE Business School, Madrid, Spain), EIASM Corporate Governance 2022 (Strasbourg, France), i3 PhD Conference 2022 (Paris, France)

Seminars: Columbia Business School (2024), Columbia University (2024), École Polytechnique (2023,2024)

#### WORKING PAPERS

- N. Mottis and L. Denis, "Voiceless but still influential shareholders? The case of a responsible investors' coalition engagement with TotalEnergies in 2020-2022", Working Paper, R&R Revue Française de Gestion
- L. Denis and N. Mottis, "Hybridizing investors: governing financial organizations for systemic impact", *Working* Paper

# Scholarships, Grants and Awards

• FIR PRI Awards - PhD Research Grant ( $\notin 10,000$ )	2024
• LABEX Louis Bachelier - Mobility Grant (€3,000)	2024
• Alliance Doctoral Mobility Grant (Columbia University x Ecole Polytechnique, \$2,000)	2024
• French Institutional Investors Association (Af2i) - Young Scholar Research Grant (€1,000)	2024
• CEFAG Doctoral Program & Grant (French Foundation for Management Science, ${}{\in}1,100)$	2024
• CIFRE: secured the grant for TCP to fund the PhD $(\notin 42k)$	2022 - 2025
• Elève Normalien: 4-year research training program, scholarship funded by the Ministry of Research (€60k	) 2018–2022

#### TEACHING

•	Lecturer - Course Leader at ENS Paris-Saclay (France)	2024 - 2025
	Introduction to Strategy & Corporate Governance (undergraduate)	
•	<b>Oral Examinator ("Khôlleur")</b> at CPGE ECT Notre-Dame de Grandchamp (France)	2021
	Accounting & Finance (undergraduate)	

#### ACADEMIC EXPERIENCE

Centre de Recherche en Gestion - $i^3$ , CNRS, Ecole Polytechnique	Paris, France
Pre-Doctoral Research Assistant, Supervisor: Pr. Nicolas Mottis	2021 - 2022

- PhD Project preparation: designed the project, identified and selected potential partners (PE Firms), secured funding from the French National Agency for Research & Technology (CIFRE program)
- Conducted a project with Pr. Nicolas Mottis: case-study of a shareholders coalition engagement process with TotalEnergies SE on the climate strategy of the firm
- Collaborated with the French Sustainable Investment Forum (FIR): wrote a thematic newsletter for investment professionals synthesizing academic literature on shareholder engagement and contributed to the analysis of French listed companies practices & objectives regarding Circular Economy

#### WORK EXPERIENCE

#### **Trocadero Capital Partners**

CIFRE PhD Student

- Conducted qualitative & quantitative research projects (as part of my Ph.D. thesis) with external partners to develop evidence-based practices
- Developed a climate impact investment strategy with the team: reviewed existing impact and climate investing frameworks, participated to the development of the impact methodology and incentive scheme of the fund, supported the fundraising & structuring process
- Worked part-time as an Investment Analyst until March 2024: analyzed +40 investment opportunities (business model, business plan, financials, strategy, ESG & Impact), drafted 5 investment memos and participated to 4 investment committees

#### Cathay Capital

Private Equity Analyst (Internship)

#### Trocadero Capital Partners

Private Equity & Private Debt Analyst (Internship)

#### **Croix-Rouge française** Internal Auditor (Internship)

#### SKILLS

- Qualitative & quantitative research methodologies
- Corporate Finance, Private Equity, Financial Modelling
- Softwares: Python, R, SQL, VBA, Office, LaTeX

#### LANGUAGES

- French: native
- English: full professional capacity (Cambridge Advanced exam, C1, 2019)

Paris, France 2021

Paris, France 2020

Montrouge, France 2019

### OTHER ACTIVITIES

• MIE Department, Ecole Polytechnique PhD Students representative	2024
• Organisation CRG Organized research seminars & events with Pr. Etienne Minvielle	2024
• Academic All-Star Game Member - Organized & animated 8 research conferences with 16 leading French academics	2019

#### References

- **Pr. Nicolas Mottis** (<u>nicolas.mottis@polytechnique.edu</u>) Department of Management, Innovation & Entrepreneurship, Ecole Polytechnique
- Pr. Caroline Flammer (<u>caroline.flammer@columbia.edu</u>) School of International & Public Affairs, Columbia University