

Lou Chiani

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CURRENT POSITION

PhD Candidate in Economics at Paris-Dauphine University (PSL) 2023 – present
Advisors: Flore Gubert, Marion Mercier

RESEARCH FIELDS

Applied microeconomics; Development economics; Political economy; Environmental economics;
Climate economics; Agricultural economics

EDUCATION

PhD in Economics 2023 – present
Paris-Dauphine University (PSL)

MSc in International Economics and Development (Research track) 2023
Paris-Dauphine University (PSL)

BSc in Public Affairs 2020
Paris-Dauphine University (PSL)

BSc in Applied Economics 2019
Paris-Dauphine University (PSL)

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Research Assistant – DIAL (UMR LEDa, IRD, CNRS, Paris-Dauphine) 2021 – 2022
Supervisors: E. Djemai, S. Mesplé-Somps, M. Menéndez, M. Mercier

WORK IN PROGRESS

From Fields to Ballots: Droughts and Electoral Shifts in Brazil

⊕ Wicksell Prize, EPCS Conference, 2026
⊕ Best Poster Award, ICDE Conference, 2025

Climate change is expected to intensify droughts in developing countries, where rural livelihoods remain highly dependent on rainfed agriculture. This paper studies how growing-season droughts affect voting behavior in Brazil. Using high-resolution weather data matched with presidential election results between 2002 and 2022, I exploit within-municipality variation in hydrological stress aligned with crop-specific growing seasons. I find that drier growing seasons systematically reduce support for green and left-leaning coalitions. Evidence suggests that these effects operate through declines in agricultural income, with stronger electoral penalties in smallholder-dominated areas.

Floods and Local Electoral Behavior in Brazil

Work in progress

Local Political Representation and Land Conflicts in Brazil

Work in progress

Local Representation, Weather Shocks and Violence in Mali *with Marion Mercier*

Work in progress

ACADEMIC ACTIVITIES

Co-organizer of the DIAL internal seminar 2024 – present
With Yannick Dupraz, Marion Mercier and Gianluca Orefice

AWARDS AND GRANTS

Wicksell Prize, EPCS Conference 2026
Best Poster Award, ICDE Conference 2025
Doctoral fellowship, Paris-Dauphine University (PSL) 2023 – 2026

TEACHING

Development Economics 2026 – present
Undergraduate level, Paris-Dauphine University (PSL)
Co-taught with Marc Raffinot

Econometrics I 2025 – present
Graduate level, Paris-Dauphine University (PSL)

International Macroeconomics 2023 – 2025
Undergraduate level, Paris-Dauphine University (PSL)

PRESENTATIONS

2026

German Development Economics Conference and 1st Conference of the EDEG
Kiel Institute for the World Economy, Kiel

AMSE Workshop “Climate Change: Lessons from the Past and Contemporary Challenges”
Aix-Marseille School of Economics, Marseille

AFÉPOP Annual Conference
Bureau d'économie théorique et appliquée (BETA), Strasbourg

Environmental Economics: A Focus on Natural Resources (EENR)
University of Orléans

Doctorissimes 2026, poster presentation
Paris School of Economics / Université Paris 1 Panthéon-Sorbonne

53rd Annual Meeting of the European Public Choice Society (EPCS)
Complutense University of Madrid, Spain

SDOSE Economics PhD Day
LEDa, Paris Dauphine-PSL / CERNA, Mines Paris-PSL

2025

Göttingen Workshop on Ibero-American Development
Ibero-America Institute for Economic Research, Georg-August-Universität Göttingen

International Conference on Development Economics (ICDE), poster presentation
Université Paris Nanterre / EconomiX (UMR 7235)

SKILLS

Computing: R, Stata, L^AT_EX, QGIS
Languages: French (native), English (fluent), Spanish (fluent), Italian (basic), Portuguese (basic)

REFERENCES

Flore Gubert

Research Director (IRD)

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Marion Mercier

Research Fellow (CNRS)

✉ marion.mercier@dauphine.psl.eu