

# LÉA DOUSSET

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## EDUCATION

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<b>Paris School of Economics - Université Panthéon-Sorbonne</b> PhD in Economics <i>Advisor: Prof. Julien Grenet</i> <i>Fields: Applied Microeconomics, Labor Economics, Economics of Education, Gender Economics</i>	<i>2020 - Now</i>
<b>Columbia University</b> Visiting Prof. Sandra E. Black	<i>Fall 2023</i>
<b>Paris School of Economics</b> Master Analysis and Policy in Economics	<i>2017 - 2019</i>
<b>University of California, Berkeley</b> Exchange Year with the Sciences Po-Berkeley Economics Award	<i>2016 - 2017</i>
<b>Sciences Po Paris</b> Bachelor of Social Sciences with a Major in Economics	<i>2014 - 2017</i>
<b>Université Panthéon-Sorbonne</b> Bachelor of Applied Mathematics	<i>2014 - 2017</i>

## WORK EXPERIENCE

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<b>Research Professional at the University of Chicago</b> for Rebecca Dizon-Ross and Manasi Desphande in public, education and health economics.	<i>2019 - 2020</i>
<b>Internship at the <i>Institut des Politiques Publiques</i></b> evaluation of public policies on social diversity in French middle schools	<i>Spring 2019</i>
<b>Research Assistant for Yann Algan</b> in economics of education	<i>2018</i>
<b>Research Assistant at Sciences Po Paris</b> for Ghazala Azmat, Anne Boring, Sophie Cetre and Roberto Galbiati	<i>Summer 2018</i>
<b>Research Assistant for Gabriel Zucman</b> on international trade and tax evasion	<i>Spring 2017</i>
<b>Internship at the French Treasury</b> at the Trade and Investment Unit	<i>Summer 2016</i>

## RESEARCH PROJECTS

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**The End of a Gender Quota in Elite Higher Education: Women's Success, Behavioral Responses, and Consequences (with Georgia Thebault)** Draft Upon Request

*Abstract:* Women remain underrepresented in math-intensive fields, especially among the most competitive post-secondary institutions; this has long-run implications for not just economic, but also scientific outcomes. We show that a gender quota system could be an efficient solution to address this problem. We use hand-collected historical data from entrance exams for one of the most competitive elite graduate schools in France combined with a change in admissions policy that removed a strict gender quota system. We document that (i) the end of the quota led to a sharp fall in the share of admitted female students, but only in math-intensive fields; (ii) only about 50% of this fall can be explained by a gender performance gap at the entrance exams; the remaining is explained by (iii) a decrease in the share of female candidates

taking the entrance exam; (iv) which is driven by a reduction of the share of potentially high-achieving female candidates. This reveals a detrimental shying-away mechanism for female students in mixed-sex competitions in a real-life and significant context. As this elite university leads to high-level academic careers in France, we show that (v) the removal of the gender quota increased the gender gap in professorial and research careers for affected students.

### **Gender Gap in High-Stakes Exams: What Role for Exam Preparation? (with Cécile Bonneau) Draft Upon Request**

*Abstract:* Admission to elite higher education institutions often rely on competitive entrance examinations, which are presumed to measure students' abilities objectively. However, emerging evidence suggests a gender bias, with women frequently underperforming in high-stakes and competitive environments. This paper corroborates these findings within a highly selected group of elite STEM programs undergraduates in France. We extend our investigation beyond the effect of the high-stakes exam itself to consider the role of the learning environment for such high-stake exams on this gender performance gap. Our analysis reveals that heightened competitiveness in exam preparation exacerbates the gender performance gap by 15 to 25 percent, varying by specification. We also delve into a potential mechanism behind this widening gender disparity: the differential responsiveness to high-ability peers. These insights enhance our understanding of the gender gap in access to selective STEM higher education, which is particularly important in explaining the persistent gender pay gap at the top of the income distribution.

### **(Mis)information: Absolute and Relative Rank Effects on Secondary and Higher Education Paths in France**

*Work in Progress*

### **The Impact of Juvenile Incarceration on Education and Labor Market Outcomes in France (with Manon Garrouste, Nina Guyon, Camille Hémet, Laura Khoury, Maëlle Stricot)**

*Work in Progress*

## **AFFILIATIONS**

*Institut des Politiques Publiques*

*October 2023 -*

*Chaire Politiques Educatives et Mobilité Sociale*

*September 2023 -*

## **TEACHING**

**Teaching Assistant at Sciences Po Paris**

*Spring 2024*

Economics (L1), Philippe Martin (in French)

**Teaching Assistant at the Paris School of Economics**

*Fall 2021*

Measurement of Policy Outcomes (M1), Denis Cogneau & Julien Grenet (in English)

**Instructor at Paris School of Economics**

*Fall 2021*

Introduction to R (M1) (in English)

**Teaching Assistant at the Paris Panthéon-Sorbonne**

*Spring 2021*

Microeconomics (L2), Claire Pignol & Jean-Philippe Tropicano (in French)

**Teaching Assistant at Sciences Po Paris**

*Fall 2020*

Political Economics (L3), Sergei Guriev (in English)

## **PRESENTATIONS**

### **2024**

*Women and Science Chair* seminar Dauphine University (scheduled on March 5th), PSE internal labor and public economics (scheduled on April 11th)

## 2023

8th LEER Conference (March 30th), PSE internal labor and public economics (April 20th), 39th JMA in Strasbourg (June 9th), 22nd LAGV in Marseille (June 29th), Columbia University Sustainable Development Colloquium (October 20th), Columbia University Labor and Public Finance Colloquium (November 15th)

## 2021

PSE PhD internal seminar

## SEMINARS

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### PSIPSE

*Fall 2020, Spring 2021, Fall 2021*

Co-organization of the Internal Seminar for PSE PhD students

## SKILLS

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**Computer** Stata, Latex, R

**Languages** French (mother tongue), English (fluent), German (basics)

## AWARDS/FUNDINGS

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**Call for research projects *Women and Science Chair***

*December 2023*

Extend our research project on the merger of the *ENS d'Ulm* and *Sèvres*  
(with Georgia Thebault and Julien Grenet)

**Call for research projects of the *Défenseur des droits*, *l'IERDJ*, and the *DPJJ*** *October 2023*

Evaluate the impact of juvenile incarceration on education and labor market outcomes in France  
(with Manon Garrouste, Nina Guyon, Camille Hémet, Laura Khoury, Maëlle Stricot)

**Funding from the *Paris School of Economics***

*July 2023*

Doctoral Mobility Grant to visit Columbia University in Fall 2023

**Funding from the *Chaire Politiques Educatives et Mobilité Sociale***

*June 2023*

Funding for a 4th-year of PhD

**Funding from the *Alliance - Columbia University***

*April 2023*

Doctoral Mobility Grant to visit Columbia University in Fall 2023

**Funding from the *Ile-de-France Region***

*April 2023*

Doctoral Mobility Grant to visit Columbia University in Fall 2023

**Funding from the *Chaire Politiques Educatives et Mobilité Sociale***

*February 2023*

Funding for data collection (with Cécile Bonneau)

**Funding from the *Chaire Politiques Educatives et Mobilité Sociale***

*February 2023*

Funding for data collection (with Georgia Thebault)

**Funding from the *Chaire Politiques Educatives et Mobilité Sociale***

*March 2022*

Funding for data collection (with Cécile Bonneau)

**Funding from the *Chaire Politiques Educatives et Mobilité Sociale***

*March 2022*

Funding for a research assistant (with Georgia Thebault)

**Funding from the CEPREMAP**

*February 2022*

Funding for a research assistant (with Cécile Bonneau)

**Funding from the CEPREMAP**

*February 2022*

Funding for archive data collection (with Georgia Thebault)

**Funding from the *Chaire Politiques Educatives et Mobilité Sociale***

*March 2021*

Funding for conducting a survey (with Cécile Bonneau)

**ED 645 Doctoral Funding**

*July 2020*

Three-year PhD funding

**Sciences Po-Berkeley Economic Award**

*December 2015*

Scholarship for a year at the University of California, Berkeley (2016-2017)

last update: December 2023