

“Training the world’s foremost experts and leaders in the Management of Technology”

Welcome!

This is the second annual newsletter of the EPFL Doctoral Program in Management of Technology (EDMT). It aims at informing alumni, prospective applicants, and current participants by highlighting recent events, achievements, and other newsworthy items.

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EDMT in Brief (2021)



■ 33% Female
■ 67% Male



■ 74% Europe
■ 23% Asia
■ 3% USA



■ 50% Industry
■ 46% Academia
■ 4% Public Organization

Applications **144**
Admissions **7**

Number of PhD students **31**

Message from our Director



The first year of a new decade is coming to a close. As Heraclitus of Ephesus noted long ago, *ta panta rhei kai ouden menei* (τὰ πάντα ῥεῖ καὶ οὐδὲν μένει; “everything flows and nothing stays”). While in 2021 seven new EDMT alumni defended their PhD

theses, an equal number of new EDMT students are beginning their journey of discovery. But generations overlap: Some of the program elders’ wisdom rubs off on the new cohort whose wide-eyed curiosity reminds the others that we all remain students, albeit at different levels.

This “mutual benefit” we attain from each other is well captured by what may be called *jita kyoei* (自他共栄) in Japanese. The spirit of sparring and exchanging ideas among peers is what helps everyone progress. In the EDMT, this is a good reason to talk to others and engage. Yet, as each individual’s energy is limited, we cannot advance as a group by just talking to each other. There is a need to use our finite resources efficiently, striving for an “optimal use of energy” or *sei-ryoku zen’yo* (精力善用) in the words of the same person who devised the previous maxim.

In 2021, four EDMT students managed to distinguish themselves by an efficient use of their energy and effect on others, earning them the *Kilian Schindler Excellence Award*, a *4iP Council Research Award*, and the *MTE Program Best Teaching Assistant Award* (x2). Congratulations! These efforts and achievements must surely infuse others to follow their example and reach beyond.

If everything remains indeed a flow, the individual cannot stop at any given gateway, be that a candidacy exam, a dissertation, or a first/second/third job. There is more to achieve and higher levels to attain, for example, by following mutual benefit and maximum efficiency as guiding principles that emphasize, respectively, the power of your network and the purpose of your efforts. Let 2022 commence as a year where you (continue to) seek your next level of accomplishment, enriching others by doing so.

Happy holidays, and a successful new year!

Our New Students



This fall, the EDMT Program admitted 7 new students:

- Atin Aboutorabi, joining the team of Prof. Gaétan de Rassenfosse (IIPP chair)
- Mengmeng Li, joining the team of Prof. Daniel Kuhn (RAO chair)
- Mohammadsaeed Masiha, joining the team of Prof. Negar Kiyavash (BAN chair)
- Pietro Bargagli Stoffi, joining the team of Prof. Marc Gruber (ENTC chair) and Claudia Binder (HERUS chair)
- Roy Sarkis, joining the team of Prof. Luisa Lambertini (CFI chair)
- Tianshu Yang, joining the team of Prof. Daniel Kuhn (RAO chair)
- Yanan Niu, joining the team of Prof. Luisa Lambertini (CFI chair).

Theses Defended in 2021

Scrutinizing the Circular Economy Concept Applied at the Urban Level: A Contribution Based on the Analysis of Urban Circularity Indicators, the Categorization of Circular Economy Interventions, and the Identification of Factors Fostering the Adoption of Circular Innovation

[V. Superti](#) / [C. R. Binder](#); [I.P. Baur](#) (Dir.)
Lausanne, EPFL, 2021

Essays on the Economics of Innovation: Incentives, Diffusion, and Disparity

[L. Zhou](#) / [G. J. A. de Rassenfosse](#) (Dir.)
Lausanne, EPFL, 2021

Seeking Methods for Improving Sustainability in the Extractive Sector

[F. Eslamishoar](#) / [C. Tucci](#) (Dir.)
Lausanne, EPFL, 2021

Industry 4.0 Technologies and Customer-Centricity for Digital Supply Chains

[R. A. Lacroix](#) / [R. Seifert](#) (Dir.)

Lausanne, EPFL, 2021

Modeling Supply Chain Disruptions: A Network Flow Approach

[R. Y. Glogg](#) / [R. Seifert](#) (Dir.)

Lausanne, EPFL, 2021

Exploring Policy Change through Agent-Based Simulation

[R. Klein](#) / [M. Finger](#) (Dir.)

Lausanne, EPFL, 2021

Entrepreneurship across Sociocultural Contexts: Empirical and Theoretical Perspectives

[S. E. Foy](#) / [M. Gruber](#) (Dir.)

Lausanne, EPFL, 2020

Testimonials



Atin Aboutorabi, Incoming EDMT PhD Student

“What truly inspires me about the EDMT program at EPFL is how people from different backgrounds – many diverse minds – get together, learn from each other’s perspectives and collaborate in order to push the boundaries of research. I believe the opportunities that the program brings to you over the course of your doctoral studies are invaluable and influential in your life journey to thrive and put your mark.”



Yanan Niu, Incoming EDMT PhD Student

“Thanks to the EDMT PhD program, I am able to train myself to ask good questions besides only solving them in a project-centered methodology. Questions are the key to spur learning, the exchange of ideas and for building one’s research knowledge across different domains. I feel very lucky to be part of the family and get the chance to learn from the best.”



Andrea Xu, EDMT PhD Student since 2020

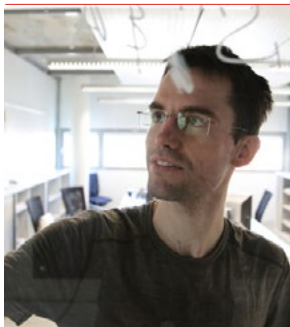
“If you are interested in finding answers to unsolved and challenging questions, the EDMT program at EPFL is the right place! As a PhD student, my research focusses on the role of big data in empirical asset pricing. The EPFL multicultural and open-minded community is inspiring and motivating. And if this is not enough, Switzerland’s lovely nature and landscapes will leave you completely breathless!”

Bahar Taskesen, EDMT PhD Student since 2018

“The discriminative nature of human beings is one of the reasons why machine learning models tend to be biased towards minorities. Today the developed algorithms which may have unfair outcomes take a role in decision-making processes that affect our lives. I am a 4th-year PhD student at EDMT, and I use optimization theory to create fair learning models, as well as tests that audit algorithms for possible biases before being deployed at scale. During my PhD, I find a chance to pursue my passion to combat discrimination in every aspect of life through the lens of mathematical tools.”



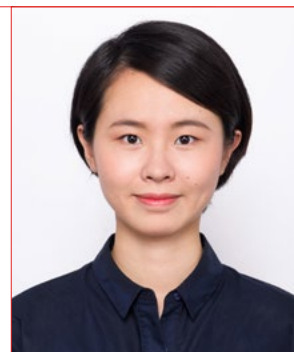
Dirk Lauinger, EDMT PhD Student since 2017



“In my PhD I study how electricity storage, specifically vehicle-to-grid, can be used to insure electricity grids against the vagaries of supply and demand. The interdisciplinary EDMT program stimulates me to translate delivery guarantees stipulated by European regulations into mathematical optimization problems. The classes offered at EDMT help me to develop the skills to solve these problems. I gain a preliminary understanding by being a student myself and then deepen my understanding by being a teaching assistant.”

Ling Zhou, EDMT 2021 Alumna.
Economic Consultant at AxiPartners, London

“The PhD program at EDMT is very rewarding. My PhD thesis focused on the incentives, diffusion, and disparity in innovation using the state-of-the-art econometric methodology. Besides working on intellectually stimulating research questions, I had the opportunity to go to summer schools and conferences that enriched my experience. I also felt very lucky to have met many supportive professors and amazing colleagues during my time at EDMT. Now an economist at AxiPartners in London, my knowledge and skills gained during the PhD are very useful for me to work on complex economic cases.”





Rachel Lacroix, EDMT 2021 Alumna. Digital Strategy Consultant at Open Web Technology, Lausanne

“Developing an expertise in digital supply chain management at the marketing-operations interface is what prompted me to join the EDMT PhD program. The international reputation of EPFL and the professors, the interactions with companies, and the exceptional working conditions are some of the criteria, among others, that convinced me. As a PhD graduate and now working in the field of digital strategy, I am very glad about my choice and grateful to the people who have allowed me to take this path. This has been one of the most wonderful and challenging experiences, both personally and professionally. I can highly recommend this program for those who want to pursue an academic career as well as for those who want to continue in industry after the PhD.”

List of Awards

Kilian Schindler Excellence Award: [Rachel Lacroix](#)

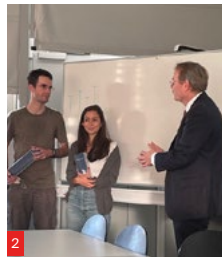
4iP Council Research Award: [Ling Zhou](#)

MTE Program Best Teaching Assistant Award: [Yara Kayyali Elalem & Matthias van den Heuvel](#)

EDMT Doctoral Committee

- Prof. Thomas Weber, Director
- Prof. Negar Kiyavash
- Prof. Kenneth Younge
- Prof. Gaétan de Rassenfosse

EDMT Life in Pictures



- 1 Beer Garden
- 2 Welcome Event
- 3 Olympic Museum

- 4 Rachel Lacroix's Graduation
- 5 Public Viewing of the Euro 2021

- 6 Ling Zhou's Graduation party
- 7 Halloween
- 8 Graduation Party



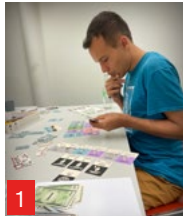
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1 EDMT Game Night (July 2021): the first EDMT Game Night took place mid-July. The participants played "Food Chain Magnate" which is a game that simulates business development

2 EDMT Students gaming after a hard day's work

Important Dates

Application deadlines: **January 15** and **April 15, 2022**

Start of the program: **September 15, 2022**

Next Research Day: **Spring 2022**

Program Core Courses (please refer to our official website for recent updates and additional information):

- MGT-418 Convex Optimization
- MGT-484 Applied Probability & Stochastic Processes
- MGT-581 Introduction to Econometrics
- MGT-618 Computational Methods for Social Sciences
- MGT-621 Microeconomics

Stay in Touch

Thank you for keeping up with the EDMT Program!

Please share this newsletter via social media or by forwarding it as an email.

If you have recently been promoted, received honors or awards, or have other news, please email Céline at celine.cordey@epfl.ch. We would love to hear from you!

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