

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

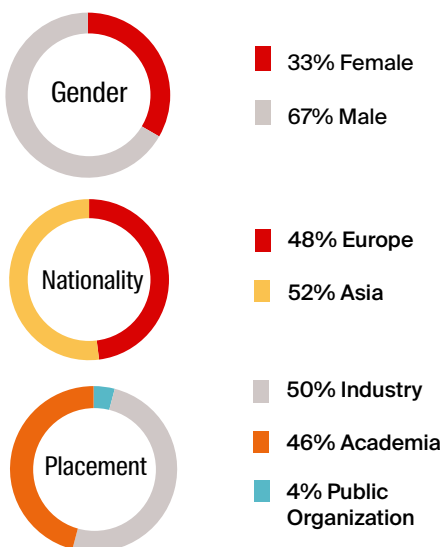
Welcome!

This is the third 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 (2022)



Applications **89**
Admissions **1**

Number of PhD students **21**

Message from our Director



For many students a doctoral program proves to be a journey of self-discovery. Interestingly, this long, arduous, and somewhat lonely path may feature two preprogrammed experiences, as result of certain cognitive biases related to the the perception of one’s own performance compared to that of peers. Here is the first: In spite of being still unskilled, the newcomer tends to *overestimate* his or her relative achievement. Why would that be? After all, when new one should expect that the full potential has not yet been reached. One commonly accepted reason is the lack of “metacognitive” abilities, namely that one needs to learn what actually makes for a good or bad performance in the new discipline! The performance achieved, for example in a first research paper, seems excellent because if it exceeds one’s own standard (so the individual reasons), it must also exceed the performance of others. As the journey continues, the horizon broadens, and self-assessment becomes more realistic. True excellence may follow eventually. And when it does, what happens? Well, the opposite! Indeed, when outstanding performers rate themselves against their peers, they tend to *underestimate* their relative position, albeit by a smaller absolute margin than the bias exhibited by newbies the other way around. The explanation usually advanced then is not an error in assessing one’s own skills, but rather an overestimation of peer abilities. Thus, a student is in for a double surprise, initially by the difficulties of getting the first paper published, and then, upon graduation, by how easy it proved to land a great job nonetheless!

This year, we are pleased to welcome five new alumni and one new member of the program. Several EDMT students managed to win prizes, among which the *Kilian Schindler Excellence Award*, the *EDMT Thesis Distinction*, the *INFORMS ENRE Student Best Paper Award*, the *INFORMS Optimization Society Student Best Paper Award*, and the *MTE Program Best Teaching Award*. Excellent work and hearty congratulations to the recipients of these important academic recognitions! In line with our earlier discussion, there is no reason to underestimate your skills once you have acquired them.

In 2023, let us strive to support our peers in order to increase the benchmark we can set for ourselves. Happy holidays!

Our New Student



This fall, the EDMT Program admitted 1 new students:

- Sen Buse, joining the team of Prof. Ralf Seifert (TOM chair)

Theses Defended in 2022

Technology Strategy in Dynamic Environments: A Computational Analysis of the Automation of Routines, the Organization of AI, and the Evaluation of Technology Risk.

[M. W. Hofer](#) / [K. Younge](#) (Dir.)

Lausanne, EPFL, 2022.

A Theory of Value for Service Ecosystems

[B. H. Kostova](#) / [A. Wegmann](#) (Dir.)

Lausanne, EPFL, 2022.

Vehicle-to-Grid for Reliable Frequency Regulation

[D. Lauinger](#) / [D. Kuhn](#); [F. R. Vuille](#) (Dir.)

Lausanne, EPFL, 2022.

Essays on the Role of Policy and Venture Financing in Clean Technology Innovation

[M. D. van den Heuvel](#) / [G. J. A. de Rassenfosse](#) (Dir.)

Lausanne, EPFL, 2022.

Self-Exciting Point Processes: Identification and Control

[M. Mark](#) / [T. A. Weber](#) (Dir.)

Lausanne, EPFL, 2022.

Testimonials



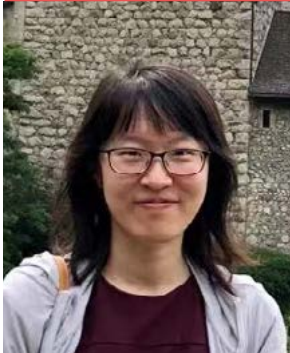
Buse Sen, Incoming EDMT PhD Student

“I feel very lucky to join EDMT PhD program because it allows me not only to learn from brilliant minds who are the best in their fields but also to acquire the skills to construct a method for a mathematical problem. What motivates me even more for this journey is the incredible opportunities to attend conferences, and summer schools to enrich our knowledge and understanding. I am extremely excited to start this new chapter!”



Saeed Masiha, EDMT PhD Student since 2021

“PhD experience to me is like a Sunk Cost Fallacy. At the early stage, we have a lot of wishful imaginations about the outcome of projects and even PhD. In the end, you probably change the name of your project! That’s why research differs from the straightforward problem-solving we have experienced in schools. The main element of PhD is individual research. Thanks to my supervisors, I have enough time to think by myself and test my ideas. When I started my PhD, I always wanted to report my progress to my supervisors. I am trying to report honestly my progress and future work to myself. I believe that a true PhD is expressing yourself honestly in your desired research field.”



Mengmeng Li, EDMT PhD Student since 2021

“As a second-year PhD student, I study sequential decision making paradigms and their statistical as well as algorithmic interpretations. EDMT gives ample opportunity for having inspiring conversations with talents from distinct backgrounds. Moreover, I have spent quality time and received invaluable support from peer EDMT students, for which I feel very grateful.”

Tin Huynh, EDMT PhD Student since 2020

“I highly benefited from the courses at EDMT, especially the course on computational methods. It really taught me how we can get the most from data -a valuable skill both in and outside of academia. Moreover, I am very happy to be surrounded by bright-minded, motivated and fun PhD students. I also like that we are a very diverse crowd in terms of our educational and cultural backgrounds. I believe that this diversity allows us to learn from each other in many different ways.”



Michael Mark, EDMT 2022 Alumnus



“ Albeit challenging at times, pursuing a Ph.D. was an immensely rewarding experience that shaped me significantly, both professionally and personally. The close-knit nature of the EDMT doctoral program was the ideal social and academic environment that nurtures young researchers and sets them up for success. Thanks to my supervisor, I enjoyed the intellectual freedom to explore my research ideas, all while being mentored and supported along the way. For me, a Ph.D. was an unforgettable four years of learning and hard work, but also fun and adventures I experienced in the Swiss Alps, located only a stone’s throw away from EPFL.”

List of Awards

- Kilian Schindler Excellence Award: [Michael Mark](#)
- EDMT Thesis Distinction: [Dirk Lauinger](#)
- INFORMS ENRE Student Best Paper Award 2022: [Dirk Lauinger](#)
- INFORMS Optimization Society Student Paper Award: [Bahar Taskesen](#)
- MTE program Best Teaching Assistant Award: [Yara Kayyali Elalem](#), [Georges Abi Younes](#) & [Andrea Xu](#)

EDMT Doctoral Committee

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

EDMT Life in Pictures



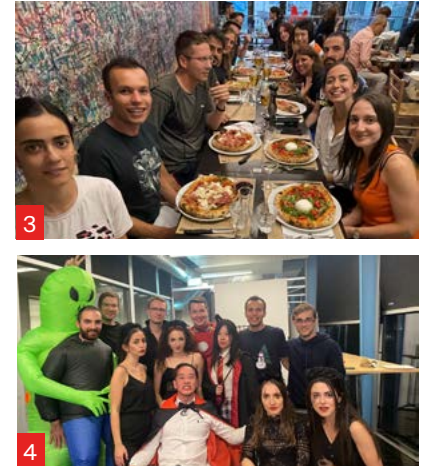
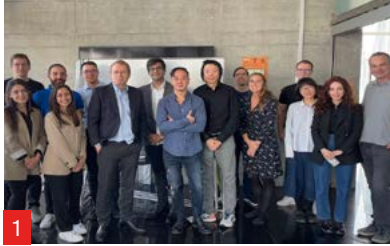
1 Adventure park



2 Game night



3 Aare boat trip



1 EDMT Research Day

2 Bouldering

3 EDMT Outing Chez Mario

4 Halloween

Important Dates

Application deadlines: **January 15** and **April 15, 2023**

Start of the program: **September 15, 2023**

Next Research Day: **Spring 2023**

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-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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EDMT Newsletter

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