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Mathilde Col

Research Interests

Development Economics, Education Policy, Bilingual Education, Economic History.

Education

PhD in Economics — University of Bordeaux — 2022-2025

Advisors: Tanguy Bernard (BSE), Denis Cogneau (PSE)
Thesis: "Local vs European languages in post-colonial African education systems"
Jury: Jules Gazeaud (CERDI), Paul Glewwe (U. Minnesota), Catherine Guirkinger (U. Namur), Elise Huillery (DIAL)
Visiting PhD at Novafrica (Nova SBE), Lisbon

Master in Economics — Paris School of Economics — 2017-2019

M.Sc. Public Policy and Development (17/20)
Thesis: "Assessing donors' responsibility: The impact of corruption in humanitarian aid sector allocation"

Bachelor in Economics — Paris-Dauphine University and PSL — 2016-2017

Publications

Hemlock, C., Galasso, E., Weber, A., Randriamiarisoa, T., **Col, M.,** Dieci, M., Ratsifandrihamanana, L., Fernald, L. Integrating early child development into an existing health and nutrition program: evidence from a cluster-randomized controlled trial. BMC Public Health 24, 2583 (2024). Link

Working Papers

"N m'a faamu", Boosting Learning Through Bilingual Education. Evidence from Mali [pdf]

Unveiling the global determinants and effects of bilingual education policies in Africa [pdf]

Research projects

Identifying the barriers to the bilingual education reform in Mozambique, with Juliette Crespin Boucaud (U. Namur) and Vasco Magona (U. Maputo) – *ongoing data collection*

Access and quality of secondary education: Evidence from Côte d'Ivoire, with Tanguy Bernard (U. Bordeaux) – *ongoing data collection*

Impact of education in the local language on nation-building: Evidence from the missionaries in DRC, with Juliette Crespin Boucaud (U. Namur), Yannick Dupraz (Paris Dauphine), Catherine Guirkinger (U. Namur), Paola Villar (Panthéon-Sorbonne)

Work Experience

Education Research Consultant — Eval Lab — 2026-ongoing

Research and technical support on multiple RCTs on education

Short Term Consultant — World Bank — 2019-2021 (i), 2024-2025 (ii), 2026-ongoing (iii)

(i) Report writing for the Mahay Mikolo nimble evaluation (PI: Emanuela Galasso)
(ii) Data cleaning and analysis for the Nigeria Social Safety Net Program IE (PI: Ayodele Fashogbon)
(iii) Management of data collection, quality & analysis for the Ethiopian Cash Transfer program (PSNP) targeted at women IE (PI: Margaux Vinez)

Pre-doc Research Assistant — Paris School of Economics — 2022

Prof. Denis Cogneau (PSE) and Prof. Yannick Dupraz (AMSE)
Building a dataset on firms and on trade in the French colonies during the colonization

Field Research Assistant (based in Cameroon) — LEAP - Cattolica University — 2021

Prof. Lucia Corno (Cattolica)
Development of survey instruments and randomization tools
Baseline data collection for an RCT on breast ironing including 3450 households
Training and supervision of 30 enumerators

Field Coordinator (based in Madagascar) — World Bank — 2019-2021

Emanuela Galasso (WB)
Data management of an RCT integrating an early childhood component into the nutrition government program
Development and piloting of the instruments, monitoring of the intervention
Coordination between stakeholders (government, research team, consultants, etc.)

Research Assistant — Paris School of Economics — 2019

Prof. Antoine Bozio (PSE, IPP): Qualitative data collection with homeless people
Prof. Jérome Bourdieu (PSE) and Prof. Lionel Ketzenbaum (PSE): Data cleaning and analysis

Intern (based in Madagascar) — French Research Institute (IRD) — 2018

Process evaluation (qualitative study) of a WFP project

Grants

IGC Small Project Facility (with Juliette Crespin-Boucaud and Vasco Magona Sande)	19.959 £	2025
J-PAL Learning for All Initiative (with Luc Behaghel, Simon Briole and Quentin Daviot)	220.000 €	2024
UBGRS Mobility grant	7.000 €	2024
MESRI grant (PhD scholarship)	96.000 €	2022-2025

Seminars/conferences

LEAP (Stellenbosch) — 2026

CFDS (PSE), Lisbon Micro Group, WAP Society (Bordeaux), EUDN PhD workshop (CERDI), RES Annual Conference (Birmingham), ICDE (Paris-Nanterre)	2025
AEHN (Sapienza - Roma), AFSE (Bordeaux), BSE PhD seminar, Nova SBE PhD seminar (Lisbon)	2024
BSE PhD seminar	2023

Skills & Training

- Programming Software: R, Stata, QGIS
- CAPI Software: Survey Solutions, SurveyCTO, KoboToolBox
- Protecting Human Research Participants Certificate, 2021
- MOOC Evaluating Social Programs (J-PAL & MIT), 2020
- Teaching experience (University of Bordeaux, Addis Ababa University)