Researcher CV

Name: Antoine PACCOUD

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Personal Statement (maximum 150 words):

As a researcher, mentor and policy advisor, my aim is to advance both academic and societal thinking through the combination of rigorous empirical and theoretical perspectives from a variety of social scientific and philosophical traditions. The focus of my work has since the beginning been on understanding the long-run structures and mechanisms that entrench social inequalities, and on locating the sites – be they physical, political or ideational – at which change could occur. This has meant developing research that provides strategic orientations for policy action, including through collaborations with policy makers, and translating complex ideas for the public and the press. Over the years, I have increasingly focused my attention on long-run inequalities related to property, especially land and housing, and on the ways in which the strategies of actors at the top of the property wealth distribution affect the housing conditions of the rest of society across time periods.

Personal details – Individual narrative profile (maximum 250 words):

I am a geographer interested in the long-run social inequalities created through the ownership of land and housing. My PhD at the LSE focused on one of the most important episodes of urban development in the last two centuries: Haussmann's transformation of Paris in the mid-19th century. In that work, I mobilized contemporary philosopher Alain Badiou's thought to study the political conflict between Haussmann and powerful property owners over the capture of the speculative gains emerging from this large-scale process of urban change.

My researchmoved into social geography during a post-doctoral appointment at the LSE. In this period, I drew on the detailed spatial analysis of neighbourhood-level change to study a new form of gentrification I was witnessing in my daily life in London: the use of rental investments to displace socially disadvantaged populations from centrally located neighbourhoods. This phenomenon, which I call "buy-to-let gentrification", made me realize the crucial importance of land and housing in contemporary inequalities, as well as the inscription of these inequalitiesin longer-term processes of social change.

Since my arrival at LISER in 2015, and as PI of theFNR-funded TER_INEQ project, I have been developing a research programme on the mechanisms through which the ownership and development of land and housing produce social inequalities in Luxembourg between 1949 and today. Through this work, I have realisedthe importance of returning to the past to ground understandings of current processes – and especially as concerns the historical roots of the country's extremely concentrated landownership structure.

Key outputs, contributions, and achievements (maximum 200 words per item):

Contributing to the generation of knowledge

I am the first researcher in Luxembourg to systematically analyse data on property ownership drawn from the Land Registry. In the FNR-funded project TER_INEQ, I am using this data to produce a database capturing the complete and geo-referenced history of a territory's ownership structure over the 1949 to 2019 period. The dataset used in the project is compiled from more than 30,000 transactions: 'big data' structured in a relational database developed by LISER's IT department, and which relied on the research assistance of more than 20 students since 2017. This database, the first of its kind internationally, provides opportunities to identify the mechanisms through which property wealth inequality develops. The case study is Dudelange, a formerly industrial, medium sized city in which house prices have increased rapidly since the 1990s. The empirical results obtained so far have complicated accepted ideas, and have highlighted the importance of long-run trends, such as the historical structure of landownership. The dataset will be open to the public at the end of the project. I see the PhD topic proposed in this submission as an investigation of the originsof the property wealth inequalities uncovered in the contemporary period.

Contributing to the development of individuals

As coordinator of theHousing Observatory, I manage a 620,000 euro a year grant from the Ministry of Housing and organise the work of over 20 researchers, data analysts and members of the support staff at LISER. I pay close attention to fostering new ideas, and to developing talents within the team. My close attention to the well-being of the project team comes from my heavy involvement in teaching and mentoring while at the LSE and elsewhere. I received the awardfor inspirational teaching from the LSE's student union in 2014. In recent years, I have mentored a large number of students in the context of the TER_INEQ data collectionprocess and have encouraged the brightest to push on with their studies. Those with an academic interest have drawn on the TER_INEQ data to develop original research projects for their bachelor and masters level dissertations, all of which were highly commended by their respective evaluation panels. I am currently supervising a PhD student and two master students, and I am a member of another's PhD student's committee. I see the development of talented researchers as a core mechanism to effect broader social change.

Contributing to broader society

My work is a response to the historically cautious natureof housing-related discussions in Luxembourg, which rarely focused on the winners and losers of the country's political and regulatory context. Tackling the political economy ofland and housing, including through my role as coordinator of the Housing Observatory, has shifted the national debate on housing. My work on the extremely concentrated ownership of residential land in Luxembourg (published as a Housing Observatory report in 2019) provided the first objective overview of an issue that many housing insiders knew was a problem, but which had never attracted significant public attention. A recent research article developed in collaboration with researchers at the University of Luxembourg and LISER pushed the discussion further by pointing to the way in which the regulatory context facilitates private land-based wealth accumulation strategies. This research article garnered significant interest and was covered by all major newspapers, as well as by radio and television. Most political parties now accept that speculation in residential land contributes to the country's housing crisis and have issued proposals for land tax reform. The PhD topic proposed here aims to more clearly identify the mechanisms that have over the long-run entrenched unequal landownership structures.

Researcher CV

Name: Christina GATHMANN

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Personal Statement (maximum 150 words):

I am an economist at heart who likes to tackle and solve important and policy-relevant questions by combining thorough theoretical insights with the best available empirical methods and data.Perseverance and creativity are two key values in my work that I also foster in all my students and mentees. As mentor, I aim to support young researchers and students to becomeindependent, responsible and creative scholars who are able to make well-informed decisions about their careers and lives. Throughout my career, collaborations with others, especially young scholars and researchers from other disciplines has tremendously enriched my work andideas. The change of perspective that comes from inter- and trans-disciplinary exchange, be itpsychologists, sociologists, political scientists, historians, health researchers or physicians, is one of the many fascinating aspects of my profession.

Personal details – Individual narrative profile (maximum 250 words):

I obtained my Ph.D. in economics from the University of Chicago because after my double diploma in economics and social sciences I felt I had much to learn in economics. I was fortunate enough to be guided by two of the most inspiring and creative economists, the noble prize winners James J. Heckman and Gary S. Becker. The challenge of their fast minds and expectation was only slightly mellowed by my more junior advisors Steve Levitt and Michael Greenstone. I have benefited enormously from the stimulating discussions and intense environment in Chicago and later during my postdoctoral years at Stanford and the Hoover Institute. My time in the U.S. together with research stays at University College London, Yale, NYU, Columbia, Aalto University or NHH in Bergen have enabled me to build a broad network in Europe and North America, but also Asia and Australia. After returning to Germany, I became an assistant professor at the University of Mannheim and, after two years, a full professor at the University of Heidelberg.

Since the fall of 2020, I am the head of the Labor Market Department at the Luxembourg Institute for Socio-Economic Research (LISER). My research has focused on tackling important, general questions in economics. I have studied questions in labor economics, migration, health, public finance and political economy combining economic theory with sound empirical insights. In my work, I want to find the right answer to a question and aim to publish my research papers in the best international journals.

Key outputs, contributions, and achievements (maximum 200 words per item):

Contributing to the generation of knowledge

During my ten years at the University of Heidelberg, I have served in many leadership roles, in particular during the application for the Excellence Initiative, a large and prestigious research program by the Federal Government of Germany to support the best universities. The University of Heidelberg has successfully secured the status of an excellence university as one among ten in all of Germany. I was member of the team preparing and discussing theapplication for the application in 2017 and the co-organizer of a large cluster initiative on "Self-Regulation and Regulation in Mental Health" bringing together 25 PIs from four difference faculties (Economics and Social Sciences, Psychology and Cultural Studies, Law, Medicine) at the University of Heidelberg. In addition, Irepresented the Faculty in the cross-faculty research initiatives Field of Focus 4 "Self- Regulation and Regulation" and the Flagship Initiative "Transforming Cultural Heritage"; both initiatives financed by the funds secured through the status as an excellence university. I further served as department chair of the Alfred-Weber-Institut (Department of Economics) and Vice-Dean of the Faculty for Economics and Social Sciences for two years. All of the functions mention required skillful leadership of discussions and conveying effectively between interests and ideas from a diverse, multi-disciplinary group of professors and university administrators.

Contributing to the development of individuals

Starting from my time as a post-doctoral researcher at Stanford University, I have been heavily engaged in mentoring junior scholars, esp. women starting or thinking about a career in economics. For many bachelor students at Stanford University, I served as a role model that women do economics and several of them felt inspired to declare their major in economics. As a full professor, I have organized and held one-day workshops for young female scholars at the annual meeting of the German Economic Association (Verein für Socialpolitik). The workshop offers guidance and discussions on publishing, career planning,networking, committee work and teaching strategies for advanced doctoral students toassistant professors. The workshop drew about 60 participants from all over German-speakinguniversities each year. I have also been asked to be a senior mentor for female scholars by the Bosch Foundation, the Leibniz Society, the University of Heidelberg andthe Institute for Employment Research. Throughout my career, I have advised about 25 doctoral students andmore than 100 bachelor and master students at the Universities of Mannheim and Heidelberg, many of which have gone on to successful careers in research, the public administration andthe private sector.

Contributing to the wider research community

Over the past decade, I have been heavilyengaged in councils and committees for theresearch community, political decision-making andsociety at large. Currently, I am the chairperson of the scientific council giving strategic advice to the Institute of Employment Research (IAB) where I have served as member since 2013. Thecouncil regularly meets with the president of the Federal Employment Agency and representatives of the unions and employers' federation to discuss labor market issues like long-term unemployment or the integration of refugees, for instance. I have also served as strategic advisor to the Federal Ministry of the Economy and Energy as member of its Scientific Council, the longest serving advisory body to a federal ministry in Germany. The scientific council discusses current economic policy issues and long-term strategic issues ranging from free trade, strategies for the digital transformation or the EU banking union, for example, to the Minister of the Economy. An equally inspiring, though very different engagement is for BASF, the chemical company, which I advise together with others on their cultural and social initiativesand sponsorship program TOR4.

Researcher CV

Name:

Hichem OMRANI

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Personal Statement (maximum 150 words):

Without data scientists' and big data analytics, we will not get valuable information about our dynamic environment. We cannot imagine a world where we cannot breathe, listen any sound in the nature, without green infrastructure or without quiet environment. I want to be the person that creates tools and new products to provide policy makers with evidence to support the design of liveable cities. At the beginning of my career, I tried to understand how cities evolve over time, and its impacts on travel behaviour. For future challenges, I extended my previous works to assess individual/population exposure to the dynamic environment (e.g., air/noise pollution, and heat temperature), differences in the population and test different policies to mitigate environmental stressors and inform policy makers and citizens.

Personal details – Individual narrative profile (maximum 250 words):

I am a research scientist at the Luxembourg Institute of Socio-Economic Research (LISER) since 2008. I have received my habilitation (2019), a full ADR (authorisation à diriger des recherches, 2018) from the University of Luxembourg, PhD (2007), Master (2004) in Computer Science from the Technology University of Compiegne (UTC-France). I have supervised several PhD and Masters students. I have served as a reviewer for several international journals.

During my LISER funded scientific leave (2016-2017), I have served as a visiting researcher at Purdue University-USA, working jointly with Dr Pijanowski, an internationally recognized specialist in the field of land change science. I have conducted research in the framework of several competitive projects supported mainly by the FNR-LUX, CNRS-FR, and FNRS-BE. My research interests include land use change dynamics, exposure to the environments and health effects.

Key outputs, contributions, and achievements (maximum 200 words per item):

Contributing to the generation of knowledge

I designed a new framework for land use change science using the new multi-label concept. I also designed and implemented several tools for decision-makers (e.g., geo-coder of postal addresses. I was involved in mapping of air pollution, urban density of the greater region over several decades from 1990 to 2020.

Contributing to the development of individuals

I supervised several MSc/PhD students and post-docs researchers and several engineer students in their final projects.

Contributing to the wider research community

Reviewing several journal and conference papers, organising special issues in several journals such as remote sensing, and special sessions at int. conferences. Co-organizing with Dr Benoit Parmentier (USA) and Ass. Prof Marco Helbich (Netherlands) several workshops on R/python coding, remote sensing, and data analysis (e.g., workshops at the American Association of Geographers - AAG conferences).