



## PhD Position (Contrat Doctoral, 3 years)

*Digital Transformation of French Firms:  
Adoption, Policy Impact, and Regulatory Environment*

**Institution:** Mines Paris-PSL (60 Boulevard Saint-Michel, 75006 Paris, France).

**Supervision:** Prof. Ambre Elsas-Nicolle (CERNA, Mines Paris-PSL).

**Start date:** September or October 2026

### Project overview

The Chair “Transformation Numérique des Entreprises Françaises” (TNEF), supported by the Region Ile de France, investigates the adoption of advanced digital technologies by firms (*cloud computing, big data analytics, and artificial intelligence*) and their interactions with public policies and European regulation.<sup>1</sup> Despite a well-developed digital infrastructure, French firms lag behind their European counterparts in the uptake of these technologies, with strong disparities between large firms and SMEs.<sup>2</sup>

The PhD project is embedded in a three-year funded research program (2026–2029) and aims to produce high-quality academic research with direct relevance for public policy at the French and European levels.

### Research objectives

The doctoral research will focus on the determinants of firms’ adoption of advanced digital technologies, with a particular emphasis on firm heterogeneity (size, sector, location), the role of public policies supporting digital adoption, and the impact of European regulation (such as GDPR, DMA, DSA, AI Act) on firms’ incentives to invest in these technologies.

The project combines descriptive analysis of digital practices with causal econometric evaluation of policy and regulatory shocks. The PhD candidate will work with rich micro-level and longitudinal datasets, including data from INSEE’ surveys on ICT usage by firms<sup>3</sup>,

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<sup>1</sup> <https://ambrenicolle.com/chaire-tnef/>

<sup>2</sup> <https://digital-strategy.ec.europa.eu/en/factpages/france-2025-digital-decade-country-report>

<sup>3</sup> See, for example, <https://www.insee.fr/fr/statistiques/8604126?sommaire=8292049>

European data sources (including the European Commission’s DESI indicators), as well as complementary infrastructure and geographic data (e.g. from ARCEP).

The doctoral work will rely on state-of-the-art applied microeconomic methods, including panel data models and difference-in-differences designs. The goal is to establish causal relationships between policy interventions, regulatory changes, and firms’ digital adoption and performance

The PhD is fully integrated into the Chair’s dissemination strategy and collaborative academic environment.

### **Funding and Resources**

- Funding type: Contrat doctoral (French public PhD contract).
- Duration: 36 months.
- Start date: September or October 2026.
- Location: Paris (Mines Paris-PSL).
- A research allowance to support PhD-related activities will be provided to the doctoral student.

### **Profile**

- Master’s degree in Economics;
- Strong background in econometrics and applied microeconomics;
- Excellent quantitative skills (Stata, R, Python, or Matlab);
- Strong interest in digital economics, industrial organization, and/or public policy;
- Very good command of English (written and spoken).

### **Commitment to equal opportunities**

Mines Paris - PSL is committed to fostering diversity and inclusion. Applications from all qualified candidates, regardless of gender, ethnicity, disability, age, or nationality, are encouraged and will be considered equally.

### **Application Process**

Please send, *in one email*, your CV, academic transcripts, and an example of previous relevant work (if any) to **chaire.tnef@minesparis.psl.eu**.

Please indicate in the subject line of the email: “PhD Position TNEF” as well as your first and last name.

Deadline to apply: **May 4th 2026, 11:59 pm** (Paris time).