

# PhD Call for Applications on “AI & Data Security: Responsibility and Acceptability”

**EconomiX Research Laboratory**  
(joint research unit of [CNRS](#) and [Université Paris Nanterre](#))

## Project Overview

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The EconomiX-CNRS Research Unit at Université Paris Nanterre invites applications for a **fully funded 3-year PhD position in Economics**. The PhD project is embedded in a multi-institution research agenda addressing competition in digital markets, with a focus on **cyber risks associated with increased data exchanges** from advanced digital infrastructures such as future-generation networks (6G and beyond), as well as firm and consumer vulnerability towards those risks.

## Context, Scientific Objectives and Methodology

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The development of future networks paves the way for a dramatic increase in the use of data, which provides new opportunities to create value and improve efficiency. However, it also increases the **risk of data degradation, misuse and/or unauthorized data disclosure**. These risks are enhanced by the widespread use of algorithms based on Artificial Intelligence (AI) since to realize the full potential of AI, algorithms must be intensively fed with data. The European Data Act aims precisely to regulate such interdependencies between data producers and data users, while other regulations such as the AI Act may apply depending on the use case.

This PhD research aims to explore these issues, by potentially focusing on **three topics**:

- **Legal liability and risk prevention:** analyze liability allocation and prevention behavior when AI-enabled goods rely on data shared by multiple actors and operators interact under evolving regulatory frameworks, particularly AI and data laws
- **Corporate digital security strategies:** study the interplay between interoperability and innovation, or between investing in network security and/or limiting interconnections perceived as risky – indeed, to fully benefit from the efficiencies provided by future networks, firms must increasingly interconnect their information systems, thus increasing their exposure to data breach risk.
- **User perception and behavioral responses:** investigate whether and how users perceive these risks, and how such perceptions affect their acceptance of digital products or services and/or trigger mitigation strategies on their behalf

These research questions can be addressed by means of applied microeconomic modelling (industrial organization, law & economics and game theory, behavioral economics).

# Funding and Conditions

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The position is funded through a 36-month doctoral contract (contrat doctoral) in accordance with French regulations. The gross monthly salary is approximately €3,800 (gross amount). The PhD candidate will benefit from full social security coverage, access to the EconomiX research lab resources, and funding for conferences, workshops, and doctoral training.

## Eligibility Criteria

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Applicants must meet the following requirements:

- A **Master's degree** in Economics or a closely related field (completed by sept. 2026).
- Strong **analytical background** in microeconomics, industrial organization, and/or microeconometrics
- Demonstrated research potential in economics. **Research interest in digital and competition issues.**
- Working languages can be either **English or French**. Knowledge of French can be an asset but is not mandatory.

## Application Procedure

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Applications must be submitted as a single PDF file including:

- Curriculum Vitae
- Motivation letter including a short research statement related to the project (<3 pages)
- Academic transcripts
- Master's thesis or representative research paper. If not yet completed, preliminary version of master thesis or research outputs will be considered
- Optional: contact information for one or two academic referees, recommendation letters

## Timetable

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- Opening of applications: April 1<sup>st</sup>
- Interviews: **applications will be reviewed on a rolling basis until the position is filled.**
- Start date: sept. 2026 expected

## Contact

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For further information, please feel free to contact:

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