ROMAIN FERNEX

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RESEARCH INTERESTS

Labor and public economics, political economy: basic income, welfare reform, self-employment, worker–firm sorting, pensions.

EDUCATION

Sciences Po Paris 2024 – 2026
Master in Economics *Paris, France*

- Graduated **cum laude**, GPA 4.0/4.0, ranked 2nd of 18. Represented Sciences Po at the Econometrics Game 2026.
- Master thesis: "Self-Employment and Dual-Jobholding: Compositional Shifts in the French Labour Market in Response to the 2018 Microentrepreneurship Reform" (Advisor: Pierre Cahuc). Interrupted time series and a **structural occupational choice model** estimated by GMM.
- Relevant coursework: Econometrics with Stata (C. de Chaisemartin), Labor (P. Cahuc), Urban (P.-P. Combes), Development (C. Imbert) and Public Economics, Quantitative Macroeconomics, Computational Social Sciences.

ESCP Business School 2020 – 2024
Master in Management, GPA 3.8/4.0 *Paris, London, Seoul*

- Admitted through the national competitive exams (**top 7% of candidates**) after two years of **classe préparatoire ECS** (2018–2020): linear and bilinear algebra, real and multivariable analysis, optimization, probability and statistics.
- Master thesis: "Inequalities in Access to Health for Medicare Beneficiaries in the US" (Advisor: Jérôme Creel, OFCE, grade 18/20). Multivariate logit models on Medicare Current Beneficiary Survey microdata.
- Dual degree with Korea University in Consulting and Data Science: machine learning (Python), statistics.

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Bocconi University, IGIER September 2026 – Present
Predoctoral Research Assistant to Giulia Giupponi and Thomas Le Barbanchon *Milan, Italy*

- **Text-as-data analysis** of open-ended answers in a survey on pension reform in Denmark, with a local open-weight LLM (Qwen3.8-27B) and transformer classifiers (BERTopic, DeBERTa).
- Designing the coding scheme and classification pipeline of the NLP analysis.
- Building the **replication package** of a paper on hiring frictions and firm performance (French firm data, CASD) in response to referee requests.

Sciences Po, Department of Economics June 2025 – July 2026
Research Assistant to Jean-Marc Robin *Paris, France*

- Processed **large-scale matched employer-employee administrative data (DADS)** for a project on wage dynamics and human capital accumulation.
- Implemented a **ridge estimator for high-dimensional two-way fixed effects (AKM)** models to address limited mobility bias, benchmarked against OLS and bias-corrected estimators (debiased OLS, KSS).
- Ported estimation code from MATLAB to **Julia** and **R**, substantially speeding up bias corrections and variance-covariance computations on very large datasets.

OTHER PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

PwC March 2024 – July 2024
Consulting Intern, Public Sector *Paris, France*

- Strategic scoping for a regional energy agency, with financial modeling and scenario analysis in Excel.
- Helped draft technical funding applications for EU infrastructure projects worth over €100 million.

ESCP Japon September 2022 – Present
Board Member *Paris, France*

- Organized a conference on Japan's foreign policy with Karoline Postel-Vinay and drafted a policy brief on the internationalization of Japanese higher education.

SKILLS

Programming	Python (pandas, Selenium), R (rvest, arrow, duckdb), Stata, Julia, MATLAB
Econometrics	Difference-in-differences, event studies, interrupted time series, GMM structural estimation, AKM
NLP & LLMs	Local open-weight LLMs, BERTopic, DeBERTa, zero-shot classification, sentiment analysis
Data	French administrative data through CASD (DADS, firm data), INSEE Labour Force Survey (EEC)
Tools	Git, LaTeX, Quarto, QGIS
Languages	French (native), English (C2, TOEFL), German (B2), Japanese (A2)

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