

# VICTOR COURT

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SPRU, University of Sussex  
Chair Energy & Prosperity

Fields of interest: **long-run economic growth, comparative development, energy transitions, energy & sustainability.**

## Education

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- **Ph.D. in Economics, *Université Paris Nanterre*, and *IFPEN*.** 2013–2016
  - Under the direction of Professor Pierre-André Jouvét (Université Paris Nanterre) and Professor Frédéric Lantz (IFPEN).
  - Dissertation title: “Energy, EROI, and Economic Growth in a Long-Term Perspective”.
- **MSc. in Energy and Environmental Economics, *IFP School*, *INSTN*, and *AgroParisTech*.** 2012–2013
  - Core courses: macroeconomic modeling, energy markets and policies, geopolitics of energy.
- **MEng. in Agronomy & Environmental Sciences, *AgroParisTech*.** 2011–2013
  - Core courses: molecular and cellular biology, thermodynamics, population ecology.
  - Gap year as an intern for a sustainable consulting firm (Factea Durable, Paris, France) and a research centre of Griffith University (Brisbane, Australia).
- **BSc. in Biology, *AgroParisTech*.** 2009–2011
  - AgroParisTech (*Paris Institute of Technology for Life, Food, and Environmental Sciences*, formerly the *Institut National Agronomique Paris-Grignon*) is the leading French engineering school in agronomy, environment, life sciences, and food technology.

## Professional experience

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- **Research fellow, *Science Policy Research Unit (SPRU)*, *University of Sussex* (Brighton, UK), and *Chair Energy & Prosperity* (Paris, France).** 2018–
  - Research: Analysis of the impact of information and communication technologies on economy-wide energy consumption. Development of a unified economic growth model taking into account the role of energy.
  - Teaching: Supervision of MSc. students’ dissertations (Business School and School of Global Studies).
- **Research fellow, *CERES*, *École Normale Supérieure* (Paris), and *Chair Energy & Prosperity*.** 2017–2018 (1 year)
  - Population endogenization in the GEMMES macroeconomic model of AFD.
  - Estimation of different minimum exergy return ratios required for society in relation to aggregate exergy conversion efficiencies.

- **Postdoctoral researcher & teaching assistant, *EconomiX (UMR 7235), Université Paris Nanterre*** (Nanterre, France), and **visiting researcher, *HEC Montréal*** (Québec, Canada). 2016–2017  
(1 year)
  - Research: reflections on the relative importance over time of the different deep and proximate causes of economic growth in the long run. Investigation of the relationship between societal energy control and aggregate technological change in an evolutionary perspective.
  - Teaching: Tutorial classes in economic policy, 2<sup>nd</sup> year Bachelor. 128 hours, 200 students in eight groups. Tutorial classes in international macroeconomics, 1<sup>st</sup> year Master. 64 hours, 100 students in four groups.
  
- **Doctoral researcher & teaching assistant, *EconomiX (UMR 7235), Université Paris Nanterre, IFPEN, and Chaire Economie du Climat.*** 2013–2016  
(3 years)
  - Research: investigation of the role of energy in the economic growth process with a particular emphasis on the Energy-Return-On-Investment (EROI) concept as a measure of the accessibility of energy.
  - Teaching: tutorial classes in macroeconomics, 1<sup>st</sup> year Bachelor. 64 hours, 100 students in four groups.
  
- **Analyst (intern), *Concawe, The oil companies' European association for environment, health and safety in refining and distribution*** (Brussels, Belgium). 2013  
(6 months)
  - Participation in updating the "Well-To-Wheels Analysis of Future Automotive Fuels and Powertrains in the European Context" developed by Concawe, Eucar, and the JRC.
  - Energy, GHG, and cost balance analysis of the "Directive on the Deployment of Alternative Fuels Infrastructure" proposal of the European Commission.
  
- **Research intern, *Atmospheric Environment Research Centre, Griffith University*** (Brisbane, Australia). 2012  
(6 months)
  - Life Cycle Analysis (LCA) of three waste-to-energy solutions to use the solid olive waste produced by the Australian olive oil industry.
  - Modeling and calculation of environmental impacts made with OpenLCA software.
  
- **Consultant (intern), *Factea Durable*** (Boulogne-Billancourt, France). 2011  
(6 months)
  - Consulting missions to assist the implementation of sustainable procurement.
  - Drafting of commercial proposals in response to call for tenders.

## Publications

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- Peer-reviewed academic journals:
  - **Court, V.** A reassessment of the Great Divergence debate: towards an analytical framework reconciling the interaction of apparently distinct determinants. *European Review of Economic History*, in press (ABS: 3, impact factor: 1.18). 2019
  - **Court, V.** An estimation of different minimum exergy return ratios required for society. *BioPhysical Economics and Resource Quality*, 4(3): 11.
  - **Court, V.** Energy capture, technological change, and economic growth: an evolutionary perspective. *BioPhysical Economics and Resource Quality*, 3(3): 12. 2018
  - **Court, V., Jouvét, P.-A., & Lantz, F.** Long-term endogenous economic growth and energy transitions. *Energy Journal*, 39(1): 29–57 (ABS: 3, impact factor: 2.46).

- **Court, V.**, & Fizaine, F. Long-term estimates of the energy-return-on-investment (EROI) of coal, oil, and gas global productions. *Ecological Economics*, 138: 145–159 (ABS: 3, impact factor: 4.28). 2017
- Fizaine, F., & **Court, V.** Energy expenditures, economic growth, and the minimum EROI of society. *Energy Policy*, 95: 172–186 (ABS: 2, impact factor: 4.88). 2016
- Fizaine, F. & **Court, V.** Renewable electricity producing technologies and metal depletion: a sensitivity analysis using the EROI. *Ecological Economics*, 110 : 106–118 (ABS: 3, impact factor: 4.28). 2015
- Public media (in French):
  - « La transition énergétique n’est-elle qu’un mythe ? », propos de ma tribune pour *Reporterre* repris par Vincent Lucchese et publiés dans *Usek & Rica*. 2019
  - « Les heures sombres de la transition énergétique », propos recueillis par Juliette Nouel et publiés dans *l’Actuariel*. 2018
  - « La dure loi de l’EROI », tribune pour *Reporterre, le quotidien de l’écologie*. 2017
  - « Le taux de retour énergétique et son rôle dans la transition énergétique », entrevue pour le *Bulletin Envôle Express*, bimensuel électronique du Conseil Régional de l’Environnement de Montréal (CREMTL).

## Works in progress

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- Research articles:
  - **Court, V.**, & Mc Isaac, F. A simple phenomenological model of the world demographic dynamics. Under review at *Environmental Modeling & Assessment*.
  - Bovari, E., & **Court, V.** Energy, knowledge, and demo-economic development in the long run: a unified growth model. Target journal: *Journal of Economic Growth*.
  - **Court, V.**, & Sorrell, S. Digitalization of goods: a systematic literature review of the determinants and magnitude of the impact on energy consumption. Target journal: *Environmental Research Letters*.
  - **Court, V.**, Sorrell, S., & Drabik, E. Digitally-assisted sharing of goods: a systematic review of the determinants and magnitude of environmental impacts. Target journal: *Environmental Research Letters*.
  - Hook, A., **Court, V.**, Sovacool, B., & Sorrell, S. A systematic review of the energy and environmental impacts of teleworking. Target journal: *Environmental Research Letters*.
  - Brockway, P., Semeniuk, G, Sorrell, S., Heun, M., & **Court, V.** Energy efficiency improvements and large economy-wide rebound: evidence and implications for the Paris Agreement. Target journal: *Nature Energy*.
- Books (in French):
  - Les Sentiers de la Prospérité : Essai sur l’Histoire des Sociétés et de leur Environnement.
  - Les Forces du Possible : Essai sur l’Évolution des Sociétés de la Préhistoire à nos Jours.
  - Les Itinéraires du Probable : Essai sur l’Essor Économique de l’Occident et sa Stagnation Relative.

## Academic conferences

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- 24<sup>th</sup> EAERE Annual Conference, 26–29 June, Manchester, United Kingdom. 2019
- 18<sup>th</sup> World Economic History Congress, July 29–August 3, Boston, USA. 2018
- 6<sup>th</sup> International Symposium on Environment and Energy Finance Issues, 24–25 May, Paris, France.
- 3<sup>rd</sup> International Exergy Economics Workshop, 14–15 May, Lisbon, Portugal.
- 39<sup>th</sup> IAEE International Conference, June 19–22, Bergen, Norway. 2016
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Science for Energy Scenarios, March 6–11, Les Houches, France.
- 5<sup>th</sup> IAFOR Asian Conference on Sustainability, Energy, and the Environment, June 11–14, Kobe, Japan. 2015
- 1<sup>st</sup> FAERE Annual Conference, September 11–12, Montpellier, France. 2014

## Invited talks, workshops & research seminars

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- Mercator Research Institute on Global Commons and Climate Change's workshop on systematic reviews in the social sciences for climate change assessments, October 15-17, Berlin, DE. 2018
- BIEE's Oxford Research Conference, September 18–19, Oxford, UK.
- CEE-M (ex LAMETA) Research Seminar, 20 December, Montpellier, France. 2017
- LIED Research Seminar, 19 September, Paris, France.
- Workshop on EROI or the UK Department for Business, Energy, and Industrial Strategy, 30 June, London, England.
- HEC Montreal Energy Seminar, February 28, Montreal, Canada.
- Conference of the X-Environment Association, December 12, Paris, France. 2016
- European Nuclear Young Generation Forum, June 24, Paris, France. 2015

## Grants & honors

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- Grant from the French Ministry of National Education, Higher Teaching, and Research. Funding for living expenses during three-year Ph.D. program. €60 000. 2013–2016
- Grant from IFP Energies Nouvelles. Funding of material and conference expenses during three-year Ph.D. program. €15 000.
- 7<sup>th</sup> prize of the *Génération Energies* contest organized by RTE, SIA Partners, and L'Expansion. €500. 2012

## References

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- Frédéric Lantz, Ph.D.  
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## Skills & interests

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- **Computer skills:** Microsoft Office Suite (*Word, Excel, PowerPoint*), document preparation (*LaTeX, Beamer*), statistical and econometric analysis (*Eviews, R*), numerical simulation (*Vensim, R*), life cycle assessment (*OpenLCA*), vector graphics (*Inkscape*).
- **Languages:** *French:* native. *English:* bilingual, (TOEFL score: 105/120). *Spanish:* intermediate level.
- **Travels:** Canada and USA (6 months), Australia (6 months), Belgium (6 months), Thailand (1 month), Laos (1 month), several European countries for a few weeks or days.
- **Sports:** climbing, surfing, swimming, running.
- **Charity:** in 2018, voluntary teaching of French and mathematics to young refugees in Paris.