

## Research Assistant position

**Period:** January-July 2024 (flexible, can be discussed)

**Location:** Université Paris-Saclay, [RITM Economics Department](#) ([Faculté Jean Monnet, Sceaux](#))

**Internship manager** (contact person): Miren Lafourcade (Prof. of Economics, Université Paris-Saclay)

**Internship theme/topic:** Interns will contribute to the research project “[Urban Neighborhoods and Economic Opportunities](#)” (or URBOPP), piloted by Gabrielle Fack (Université Paris-Dauphine) and Miren Lafourcade (Université Paris-Saclay), and funded by the French National Agency for Research (ANR).

The project aims to analyze the drivers of urban segregation in France over the past 50 years and its long-term consequences on the different generations of individuals settling in or transiting through low-income neighborhoods. France is particularly suited to study these questions, as it is a frontrunner country both in experiencing neighborhood dynamics induced by large population flows and in implementing place-based policies to mitigate the effects of such dynamics. Furthermore, the post-1960 period covers defining historical moments that led to a subsequent transformation of French cities: the large (im)migration waves triggered by French decolonization, the construction of unprecedented suburban housing compounds commonly known as “Grands ensembles,” and the strong de-industrialization and globalization processes in the aftermath of oil crises. These historical shocks offer a unique opportunity to leverage exogenous drivers of residential choices or neighborhood composition and to provide a causal assessment of the impact of neighborhoods on individuals’ opportunities. The “URBOPP” project will give new insights into the effects of neighborhoods on individuals’ life chances and analyze public policies likely to help low-income residents escape spatial poverty traps.

**RA tasks:** We would be happy to host 1-3 interns who might choose between (or contribute to) specific tasks: (i) processing of printed or typed text by optical character recognition (OCR) and document conversion into editable format (Stata preferably); (ii) research of historical maps and other printed digitizable information relative to the delineation of old French census blocks (1954, 1962, 1968, 1975, 1982); (iii) clean, process, geocode and analyze the data collected.

**Expected skills/level:** Type (i) interns would typically be expected to contribute to data-intensive projects based on optical character recognition (OCR); A good command of Python is preferable; Type (ii) interns would be expected to master electronic archiving platforms and to travel to find/collect archival records (in departmental and municipal offices for instance); Autonomy/Curiosity/Pro-activeness/Organizational skills are needed; Type (iii) interns would be expected to have strong programming, statistical and econometric skills to analyze the data and write a final research report; A data scientist profile with GIS skills would be greatly appreciated.

**Gratification/salary:** The salary will depend on the tasks performed, up to a net monthly wage of 1650€. The intern(s) would be in the Department of Economics of the Université Paris-Saclay (RITM), sharing offices with PhD students or postdoctoral researchers. They would be encouraged to participate in the department’s research life (seminars, conferences, etc.).

**How to apply:** Applicants must send a detailed CV to:

- Gabrielle FACK: [gabrielle.fack@dauphine.psl.eu](mailto:gabrielle.fack@dauphine.psl.eu)
- Miren LAFOURCADE: [miren.lafourcade@universite-paris-saclay.fr](mailto:miren.lafourcade@universite-paris-saclay.fr)

**Application deadline:** There are no strict deadlines, but applications/signs of interest would typically be expected in early January 2024. Applications will be evaluated on a rolling basis.