

Santiago Lopez Cantor

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RESEARCH INTERESTS

Public Economics, Political Economy, Inequality, Morality

CURRENT POSITION

Aix Marseille University
Teaching and Research Fellow (ATER)

Aix-en-Provence, France
Sep 2024-Present

EDUCATION

AMSE, Aix Marseille University
Ph.D., Economics

Marseille, France
Sep 2020 – Dec 2025

London School of Economics and Political Science
Summer School in Public Finance

London, United Kingdom
Jul 2022

AMSE, Aix Marseille University
Summer School in the Economics of Networks

Marseille, France
Jul 2021

AMSE, Aix Marseille University
Master in Economics, with honors

Marseille, France
Sep 2018 - Jun 2020

National University of Colombia
Bachelor in Economics, with honors

Bogota, Colombia
Aug 2014 - Jun 2019

WORKING PAPERS

Individual Morality and Inequality: Public goods and the political support for redistribution
Job Market Paper

Individual morality serves as a key driver of actions that often come at the expense of personal utility, particularly when contributing to public goods or fighting public bads. However, its influence on other decision-making domains, such as voting, remains largely unexplored. This paper studies the impact of individual morality on political support for public policies and its corresponding effect on the distribution of outcomes. I compare the political equilibrium of two societies: one composed of agents with moral considerations regarding the provision of a public good and the other consisting of agents who lack such considerations. Taxation finances two public policies: a redistributive transfer and an investment in the public good. Moral agents voluntarily contribute to the public good, leading to a higher and constrained Pareto-efficient provision. Since voluntary contributions satisfy the social demand for the public good, these agents prefer a lower tax rate, which they allocate entirely to redistribution. In contrast, in the non-moral society, agents rely on taxation to fund the public good and therefore vote for higher tax rates, which crowd out voluntary contributions. This behavioral and political mechanism has clear distributive implications. In the moral society, lower taxes imply smaller fiscal transfers to low-income agents. When ex-ante inequality is high or preferences for the public good are weak, this reduction in redistribution decreases the private consumption of poorer agents and increases ex-post inequality in disposable income, consumption, and utility. Thus, while morality enhances efficiency and raises the overall level of public-good provision, it can also widen disparities across agents by shifting the burden of collective provision from the State to individuals. Monte Carlo simulations using pretax income data from the World Inequality Database confirm the theoretical results and quantify the effects in terms of probabilities.

Pension's Resource-Time Trade-Off: The role of inequalities in the design of retirement schemes
with Renaud Bourlès - R&R in Public Choice

RESEARCH STAYS

Université Catholique de Louvain - Hoover Chair
Host Researcher: Grégory Ponthière

Louvain-la-Neuve, Belgium
May 2024 – June 2024

Universität Konstanz
Host Researcher: Susanne Godlücke

Konstanz, Germany
May 2023 – June 2023

TEACHING IN FRENCH AND ENGLISH

Aix Marseille University

Undergraduate Teaching Assistant in Mathematics, Microeconomics, and Game Theory

Aix-en-Provence, France

Sep 2024 – Present

École Centrale Marseille

Graduate Teaching Assistant in Finance, Industrial Organization, and Game Theory

Marseille, France

Sep 2022 – Jun 2023

École Centrale Marseille

Undergraduate Teaching Assistant in Microeconomics and Macroeconomics

Marseille, France

Sep 2021 – Jun 2022

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

École Polytechnique

Research Assistant. Principal Researcher: Guillaume Hollard

Marseille, France

Dec 2023 – Jul 2024

RESEARCH ACTIVITIES

Co-organization of the Game Theory Reading Group

Ph.D. reading group in advanced game theory tools

Marseille, France

Sep 2021 – Jun 2024

CONFERENCES & SEMINARS

ASSET Conference

October 2025

Rabat, Morocco

AMSE Ph.D. Seminar

November 2024, March 2023, March 2022, May 2021

Marseille, France

INPeR/ENRSP Conference

September 2024

Barcelona, Spain

Seminar in Economics at the Pontificia Universidad Javeriana

August 2024

Bogota, Colombia

Annual Congress of the French Economic Association (AFSE)

June 2024

Bordeaux, France

Post-Darwinian Societies Seminar

April 2024

Louvain-la-Neuve, Belgium

Meeting of the Society for the Study of Economic Inequality

July 2023

Aix-en-Provence, France

Conference Journées André-Louis Gerard-Varet

June 2023, June 2022, June 2021

Marseille, France

Firms and Markets Seminar - CREST

January 2022

Paris, France

AWARDS & ACHIEVEMENTS

PhD 3-year Full Scholarship, Aix Marseille School of Economics, 2020-2023

Best Master Recognition, Aix Marseille School of Economics, 2020

International Mobility Grant National University of Colombia, 2018

Best Baccalaureate Grant National University of Colombia, 2014-2019

SKILLS

Programming: MATLAB, R, Stata, SAS, LATEX

Languages: Spanish (Native), English (Fluent), French (Fluent)