

Joël Cariolle

Development Economist — Digitalisation & Development

Ph.D. in Economics | Habilitation à Diriger la Recherche (HDR, 2025)
Research Officer, **FERDI** | Affiliate Researcher, **CERDI**–University Clermont-Auvergne
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Research Fields

Primary: Development Economics, Digital Economics, International Economics.

Topics: Digital infrastructure, submarine cables, ICT and firm performance, political economy of corruption, economic vulnerability, regional integration in Sub-Saharan Africa.

Professional Background

- 2015–present** **Research Officer, FERDI**, Clermont-Ferrand, France.
Coordinator, Chair Digitalisation and Public Policies.
Head, Program Energy Transition and Digital Transformations.
- 2023–present** **Affiliate Researcher, CERDI** – University Clermont-Auvergne, France.
- 2021–2022** Short-Term Consultant, **World Bank & IFC**.
- 2009–2010** Anti-corruption expert and trainer, **European Commission**.
- 2008–2013** Research Assistant, FERDI.

Teaching (2014–2024): Microeconomics, economic policy, digital economics — Paris-Dauphine University; Clermont Graduate School of Management; CERDI-UCA.

Education

- 2025** **Habilitation à Diriger la Recherche (HDR)**.
- 2014** French Qualification for Assistant Professor tenure (*Qualification MCF*), renewed 2019.
- 2013** **Ph.D. in Economics**, CERDI – University Clermont-Auvergne, Clermont-Ferrand, France.
- 2007** Master 2 in Development Economics (Research track), CERDI – UCA.
Master 2 in Project Management in Developing Countries (Professional track), CERDI – UCA.

- 2006 Master 1 in Comparative European and Latin-American Studies, University Sorbonne-Nouvelle (IHEAL, Paris III).
- 2005 Master 1 in International Economics, University Panthéon-Sorbonne (Paris I).

Peer-Reviewed Publications

- Imbruno, M., Cariolle, J., & de Melo, J.** (2025). “Digital connectivity and firm participation in foreign markets: An exporter-based bilateral analysis,” *Journal of Development Economics*, 177, 103551.
- Cariolle, J. & Leon, F.** (2024). “How internet helped firms cope with COVID-19,” *Revue Économique*, 75(4), 793–834.
- Cariolle, J., Elkhateeb, Y., & Maurel, M.** (2024). “Misinformation technology: Internet use and political misperceptions in Africa,” *Journal of Comparative Economics*, 52(2), 400–433.
- Cariolle, J. & Da Piedade, C.** (2023). “Digital Connectedness and Exports Upgrading: Is Sub-Saharan Africa Catching Up?” *The World Economy*, 46(11), 3325–3344.
- Cariolle, J. & Le Goff, M.** (2023). “Spatial internet spillovers in manufacturing,” *Journal of Development Studies*, 59(8), 1163–1186.
- Cariolle, J. & Sekeris, P.G.** (2022). “How export shocks corrupt: Theory and evidence,” *Journal of Government and Economics*, 8, 100057.
- Cariolle, J.** (2021). “International Connectivity and the Digital Divide in Sub-Saharan Africa,” *Information Economics & Policy*, 55, 100901.
- Brezis, E.S. & Cariolle, J.** (2019). “The Revolving Door, State Connections and Inequality of Influence in the Financial Sector,” *Journal of Institutional Economics*, 15(4), 595–614. [*Elinor Oström Prize for best full-length article, 2019.*]
- Cariolle, J., Chalendard, C., Geourjon, A.M., & Laporte, B.** (2019). “Going beyond analysis of internal data to support customs modernization: A case study in Gabon,” *The World Economy*, 42(6), 1850–1872.
- Cariolle, J., De Ubeda, A-A., & Geourjon, A-M.** (2019). “L’engagement dans l’intégration commerciale donne-t-il des résultats tangibles? Principes et application à l’UEMOA d’un indice d’engagement des États,” *Revue d’Économie du Développement*, 27(1), 73–112.
- Cariolle, J., Goujon, M., & Guillaumont, P.** (2016). “Has structural economic vulnerability decreased in LDCs? Lessons drawn from retrospective indices,” *Journal of Development Studies*, 52(5), 591–606.
- Cariolle, J. & Goujon, M.** (2015). “Measuring Macroeconomic Instability: A critical Survey Illustrated with Export Series,” *Journal of Economic Surveys*, 29(1), 1–26.

Book

Aker, J. & Cariolle, J. (2023). *Mobile Phones and Development in Africa: Does the Evidence Meet the Hype?* Palgrave Studies in Agricultural Economics and Food Policy Series, Palgrave MacMillan.

Book Chapters

Cariolle, J. & Da Piedade, C. (Forthcoming). “Submarine Cable Infrastructure and Trade in Africa,” in Ferracane, M. & Nordas, H. (eds.), *A Digital Trade Research Agenda on Africa*, EUI Press.

Brezis, E.S. & Cariolle, J. (2017). “Financial Sector Regulation and the Revolving Door in US Commercial Banks,” in Schofield, N. & Caballero, G. (eds.), *State, Institutions and Democracy: Contributions of Political Economy*, Springer, pp. 53–76.

Cariolle, J. (2016). “Corruption in turbulent times: A response to export booms and busts,” in Sarris, A. (ed.), *Commodity market instability and asymmetries in developing countries*, FERDI, 92 p.

Working Papers

Cariolle, J. (2026). “Digital Disasters: The Growth Costs of Submarine Cable Failures.” Mimeo, available on request.

Cariolle, J. (2026). “Digital transformations in developing economies: From the first-mile infrastructure to the end-user finger tips.” WIPO Economic Research Working Paper, World Intellectual Property Organization.

Cariolle, J., Hounghonon, G.V., Silue, T., & Strusani, D. (2024). “Submarine Cables, Internet Access Price and the Role of Competition and Regulation.” Policy Research Working Paper, World Bank Group; Ferdi WP P357. *Submitted*.

Cariolle, J. & Carroll II, A.D. (2024, rev. 2026). “From phone access to food markets: Is mobile connectivity transforming West-African livelihoods?” Ferdi Working Paper P341. *Submitted*.

Cariolle, J., Le Goff, M., & Santoni, O. (2019). “Broadband infrastructure deployment, digital vulnerability, and local firm performance in developing and transition countries.” Banque de France WP #709.

Cariolle, J. (2018). “Telecommunication Submarine-Cable Deployment and the Digital Divide in Sub-Saharan Africa.” CESifo Working Paper No. 7415.

Cariolle, J. (2013). “A Retrospective Economic Vulnerability Index, 1990–2011: Using the 2012 UN-CDP definitions.” Ferdi Working Paper I17, Innovative Indicator Series.

Cariolle, J. (2012). “Measuring Macroeconomic Instability: Applications to Export Revenue Data, 1970–2005.” Ferdi Working Paper I14.

Cariolle, J. (2011). “The Economic Vulnerability Index: 2010 Update.” Ferdi Working Paper I09.

Work in Progress

- Ameye, H., Cariolle, J. & Carroll II, A.D. — “Digitalisation and nutrition security in the WAEMU.”
- Cariolle, J. & Carroll II, A.D. — “Mobile connectivity, labor market and farm productivity in rural West Africa.”

Award

2019 **Elinor Oström Prize** — best full-length article published in the *Journal of Institutional Economics* in 2019, awarded with Elise S. Brezis.

Visiting Positions

2022 Visiting researcher, University Aix-Marseille (AMSE), Marseille, France.
2018 Visiting researcher, Bar-Ilan University, Tel-Aviv, Israël. (August)

Research Supervision

Post-doctoral supervision

2026– Balasubramanyam Pattath, Geneva Graduate Institute and Global Development Network.

PhD supervision

2022–23 Yasmine El-Khateeb, University Paris 1 — Defended. Economist at J-PAL Egypt.

PhD defense committees

2024 Jean-Baptiste Guiffard, University Paris 1 Panthéon-Sorbonne.
2023 Damien Girollet, Bordeaux School of Economics.
2022 Quoc Thang Nguyen, University Paris-Dauphine.

Policy Briefs (Selected)

Cariolle, J. (2024). “Mobile Connectivity: A Vector for Rural Transformations in the WAEMU?” FERDI Policy Brief B273.

Cariolle, J., Elkhateeb, Y., & Maurel, M. (2023). “(Mis-)information technology: Internet use and perception of democracy in Africa.” Ferdi Policy Brief B258.

Cariolle, J. & Leon, F. (2022). “How internet helped firms cope with COVID-19.” Ferdi Policy Brief B230.

Brezis, E.S. & Cariolle, J. (2014). “Sizing Up the Distortive Power of the Revolving Door.” U4 Brief, U4 Anti-Corruption Center, Bergen.

Databases

- Submarine cable network dataset.
- Economic Vulnerability Index, retrospective series (UN-CDP 2012 design), endorsed by the UN-CDP.
- Build Your Own Economic Vulnerability Index website: byind.ferdi.fr.
- State Commitment to Trade Integration Index.

Refereeing Activity

Journal of Development Economics • American Journal of Agricultural Economics • Plos One • Public Administration Review • Technological Forecasting and Social Change • Information Economics and Policy • Telematics & Informatics • Journal of African Economies • Journal of Economic Surveys • Journal of Development Studies • International Review of Economics and Finance • Oxford Development Studies • African Development Review • Baltic Journal of Economics • Economics Bulletin • Revue Économique • Revue d'Économie du Développement.

Selected Invited Talks & Events

Invited Keynotes / Panels

- 2025 IDOS-EUI Workshop on Digital Trade Research Agenda, European University Institute, Florence; GDN Roundtable at Clermont Innovation Week; Council on Economic Policies Webinar.
- 2024 World Bank-IFC Flagship Conference on Digitalisation and Development, Sciences-Po Paris.
- 2023 Organisation internationale de la Francophonie, Executive Working Group on Digital Governance, Geneva; UN LDC5 Conference, Doha; UNCTAD E-Commerce Week, Geneva.

Research Seminars

- 2025 Centre d'Économie de la Sorbonne (Paris 1); CERDI-UCA; Bordeaux School of Economics.
- 2024 US Federal Communications Commission (Washington DC); DIAL-IRD (Paris-Dauphine); Banque de France–FERDI Research Seminar; CERDI-UCA.
- 2019 Center for Global Development (London); Bordeaux School of Economics.

Academic Conferences (selected)

- 2025 CEPR/Kiel African Economic Development Conference (Berlin); CSAE Annual Conference (Oxford); LAGV (AMSE, Marseille).

- 2024 AFEDEV/ICDE, AMSE (Marseille); LAGV.
- 2023 CSAE (Oxford); SAGE Annual Conference.
- 2019 Royal Economic Society (Warwick); INFER Annual Conference (Brussels); DIAL-IRD (Paris).
- 2018 DEGIT Conference (Moscow); CESifo Economics of Digitization (Munich).

Last updated: April 2026