

**ED DESPEG**

Doctoral School in Law, Political Science, Economics and Management

**Proposition de Sujet de Thèse 2021**

2021 PhD Subject Proposition

**Title of the PhD research project:** Understanding disruptive technologies from an ecological point of view

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**Host laboratory :** GREDEG

**Subject description:**

The links between disruptive technologies and sustainable development are not very explicit. Most of the time, innovation is the determining criterion to validate the adoption of a new technology. However, the evaluation of ecological balance is becoming increasingly important to assess the merits of an innovation.

Also, it seems relevant to study the ecological impact of new disruptive technologies, for at least two reasons:

First, these technologies raise many fears for ecology and sustainable development. Indeed, technologies such as data centers and blockchain are very energy intensive. In addition, the supply of natural resources is also an important issue for the future of certain technologies, such as quantum physics.

Second, these technologies can provide radical solutions to today's major ecological problems. Data collection and processing can be used for smart cities. The legal system will have to ensure that the processing of data respects fundamental rights in particular, but also sustainable development.

The ecological requirements of sustainable development have so far been affirmed in legal or regulatory texts. The challenge of tomorrow is to build an ecological and sustainable development based on technological devices, in compliance with the law.