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His research focuses on finance and macroeconomics. It includes empirical and theoretical work on financial distress and systemic risk; the links between asset markets, corporate investment and firm dynamics; the evolution of the financial industry; the design of optimal interventions during financial crises; labor relations and unemployment; corporate governance and accounting manipulations.

Philippon has won the 2010 Michael Brennan & BlackRock Award (for best paper in the Review of Financial Studies), the 2009 Prize for Best Young French Economist (Cercle des économistes/ Le Monde), the 2008 Brattle Prize for the best paper in Corporate Finance (Journal of Finance), and the Stylo d'Or de l'ANDRH in 2007 (for the best book on Human Resources Management). He was elected Global Economic Fellow in 2009 by the Kiel Institute for the World Economy.

He was on leave during the academic year 2012-2013, working as senior economic advisor to the Finance Minister of France.

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