

General information

Offer title : Comparative Cognition: evolution of language and communication (M/F) (H/F)

Acronyme : CogCom

Reference : CPJ-2024-050

Supporting establishment : National Center for Scientific Research

President and CEO : Antoine PETIT

Site concerned : PSL, Lyon Saint-Etienne

Academic region : Paris, Lyon

Envisaged partner institution : PSL - Université Lumière Lyon 2 - Université Claude Bernard Lyon 1

Establishment code :

- UMR5229
- UMR5596
- UMR8129
- UMR8554

Date of publication : 14 February 2024

Type of Contract : Tenure Track Position

Contract Period : between 3 and 6 years depending on the research project and the profile of the scientist

Proportion of work : Full time

Remuneration : Annual salary from 54 600 Euros to 57 800 Euros depending on professional experience.

Scientific theme : Social and Human Sciences - Life Sciences

Section(s) CN :

26 - Brain, cognition and behaviour

34 - Language sciences

35 - Philosophical and philological sciences, art science

Profile Required

Holders of a doctorate or a PhD or equivalent degree or applicants who have gained scientific qualifications or carried out scientific work deemed to be of an equivalent level. There is no restriction on the age or nationality of applicants. All CNRS positions are accessible to people with disabilities, with special arrangements for tests made necessary by the nature of the disability

Institution Strategy

This position profile corresponds to the establishment' strategy of promoting research themes at the interface of several CNRS institutes, in this case CNRS Humanities and Social Sciences and CNRS Biology, and orienting the CPJ system towards research that lies at the crossroads of several disciplines. The theme “evolution of language and communication” allows us to examine one of the fundamental capacities of the human mind, language, in the light of non-human communication systems and their properties, distributed within the primate lineage and beyond, and therefore to situate it in the long history of organisms and their interactions,

and the evolution of the brain and cognition. This CPJ is part of one of the 5 themes that the CNRS Humanities and Social Sciences wishes to prioritize as part of a multi-year recruitment strategy via the CPJ: Cognition-Language-Education. CNRS Biology wishes to support research on evolution of cognition and communication.

Host Lab Strategy

Potential host laboratories fall into several disciplinary fields: language sciences, cognitive neuroscience, primatology, non-human communication. They were chosen based on: (i) their key positioning favorable to the development of research on the evolution of language and communication; and (ii) their insertion in an academic context that is very supportive in these areas. The laboratories are co-supervised with establishments with which the CNRS wishes to develop or already has privileged relationships on this area of research.

International Strategy

The holder of the chair must implement actions and partnerships in the relevant thematic field and commit in particular to submitting a project within the framework of European calls (ERC, Horizon Europe Consortium, etc.) during his/her contract.

National Directory of Research Structures (RNSR) of the host laboratory

199812882R - UMR8554 - LSCP Laboratoire de sciences cognitives et psycholinguistique
200212785T- UMR8129 - IJN Institut Jean-Nicod
199412029F- UMR5596 - DDL Dynamique du langage
200711896E- UMR5229 - ISC-MJ Institut des Sciences Cognitives Marc Jeannerod

Summary of the scientific project

The chair will be devoted to the comparative cognition of human and non-human species and oriented towards three areas of research that may be viewed as intersecting:

1. Non-human communication systems: basic elements of these systems, combinatorial properties and productivity, meaning construction and conditions of use, inter-species comparison; developmental aspects of these systems, neurophysiological correlates; inter-species comparison
2. Interrelation between the evolution of species and the evolutionary history of acoustic or gestural communication systems (e.g. alarm calls, manual or facial gestures with communicative purposes), as well as the genetic, ontogenetic and phylogenetic factors involved in the emergence of these systems, and the phenomena of evolutionary convergence
3. Variation and variability of systems, inter-comprehension, cultural or social factors in the emergence of variation, cultural transmission and social use.

Summary of the teaching project

Teaching will be discussed in relation to the site where the recipient will be assigned. He/she will be involved at each site in existing courses.

Financial Environment

- Total (included package ANR) : 200 k€
- Total financment : k€

Scientific dissemination

The dissemination of the results will be done through world-class scientific productions: publications, patents, software... In addition, the results will be communicated to various targets such as scientific communities, media, decision makers, general public, schools, etc., with an adapted calendar. Specific tools may be developed such as websites, newsletters, meetings, international symposia, summer schools and conferences.

Open Science

The CNRS is developing a strong policy in favor of open science. Open science consists of making research results "as accessible as possible and closed as necessary". As such, the CNRS aims to make 100% of the texts of publications resulting from the work of its laboratories accessible , in particular through deposit in HAL. The data produced must also be made available and reusable, except for specific restrictions. In addition, the guiding principles of individual evaluation have been revised in accordance with the DORA declaration, to be more qualitative and to take into account all facets of the researcher's profession.

Science and society

The relationship between science and society is now recognized as a full dimension of scientific activity. The project will develop this dimension in synergy with all the partners. The resulting research work will contribute to informing public decision-making. Participatory science initiatives may be initiated with actors from the project's socio-economic and cultural eco-system.

Indicators

The activity will be evaluated in particular on the basis of scientific production (publications, software, patents, etc.), on institutional and private partnerships formalized by contracts, on international presence, on the promotion of work to multidisciplinary scientific communities, on innovation and its transfer to society and on scientific dissemination to non-specialist audiences.

Methods of organization of the interviews

Only the candidates selected on file by the selection committee will be invited to the auditions.