

Call for applications : Chair of Junior Professor CPJ 2026

Lead institution/organization: French National Centre for Scientific Research (CNRS)

Name of head of establishment/organization: Antoine PETIT

Sites concerned:

Aix-Marseille Université

Université Paris 1

Academic Regions:

Aix-Marseille

Île-de-France

Planned partner institutions/organizations:

Aix-Marseille Université

Université Paris 1

Project name : Extractivisms and transformations of socio-ecosystems in a postcolonial context (Asia-Pacific)

Acronym: EXTRAS-AP

Keywords: Extractivism, Postcolonial contexts, Area studies, Asia-Pacific, Cultural technology

Target duration: 5 years

Scientific theme:

Humanities and social sciences

Institutional strategy: *Please describe how this recruitment is in line with institutional strategy. If applicable, please also summarize any CPJs obtained in previous years and give an assessment of the initial results of the host laboratory's activity (2000 characters maximum including spaces)*

This CPJ lies at the intersection of three priorities identified by CNRS Humanities & Social Sciences in its strategic prospective plan: (1) addressing ecological challenges through questions of habitability; (2) analysing the dynamics of capitalism in postcolonial contexts; and (3) documenting transformations of local socio-ecosystems under the influence of global economic, social, political, and environmental changes.

The concept of extractivism, and the situations it refers to, sits at the crossroads of these issues. CNRS Humanities & Social Sciences aims to examine this notion – originally developed in the Latin American context – across other regions in order to assess its broader heuristic potential and to bring into dialogue asymmetrical situations that intertwine political, social, economic, and environmental dimensions.

Research on Asia, long shaped by Orientalism and area studies, has sometimes been confined to academic niches, often perceived as marginal or overly culturalist. This has at times hindered its epistemological renewal and its integration into broader debates, such as those on decolonisation, postcolonialism, and climate transition. This CPJ seeks to overcome this limitation.

Research on the Pacific region has historically focused on the study of social, cultural, and linguistic legacies predating European contact, before connecting contemporary geostrategic issues with local, national, and regional dynamics.

The objective of this CPJ is to address the priorities identified in CNRS Humanities & Social Sciences' strategic prospective plan by bringing together perspectives from anthropology, history, archaeology, sociology, economics, literature and the arts, as well as political science.

Strategy of the host laboratory: *Please describe how this recruitment is in line with the host laboratory's strategy (1000 characters maximum including spaces):*

The selected units are distinguished by their strong interdisciplinary dynamics and recognized expertise in Asian and Pacific studies. In light of the CPJ's thematic focus, they also offer significant strengths. The Centre for Research and Documentation on Oceania (CREDO, UMR 7308) has developed substantial work on issues of sovereignty in postcolonial contexts, as well as on human-environment relations. The Asian Research Institute (IrAsia, UMR 7306) hosts a large body of research on both material and immaterial cultures, as well as on processes of social change linked to political and economic transformations. The Research Centre for the Organisation and Dissemination of Geographic Information (PRODIG, UMR 8586) examines, among other topics, social inequalities through the lens of global change.

RNSR references of the host laboratory(ies):

201220303W UMR 7308 Centre for Research and Documentation on Oceania (CREDO)

201220304X UMR 7306 Asian Research Institute (IRASIA)

199812914A UMR 8586 Research Centre for the Organisation and Dissemination of Geographic Information (PRODIG)

Strategy in terms of international attractiveness: *Please describe how this recruitment is in line with the establishment's international strategy (on hosting foreign students, partnerships with foreign institutions, joint diploma project, taking part in a European project, etc.) (1000 characters maximum including spaces).*

The Chair holder will be expected to implement actions and set up partnerships in the given thematic field and particularly to commit to submitting a project in the framework of European calls for proposals like ERC, Horizon Europe Consortium, etc. during the 5 years of his/her contract.

Designed as a CPJ embedded in strengthened scientific collaboration with CNRS research structures in the Pacific and Asia, the project led by the Chair holder must include scientific cooperation activities and a programme of extended research stays within one or more of the following institutions: Fare Pasifika (Papeete), the Research Institute on Contemporary Southeast Asia (Bangkok, IRASEC), the French Institute of Pondicherry (IFP), and the French Centre for Research on Contemporary China (Hong Kong/Taipei, CEFC).

Summary of scientific project: *1000 characters maximum including spaces*

The EXTRAS-AP CPJ aims to analyse extractivist contexts and situations in the Asia-Pacific region. Through a range of case studies, the analysis of these configurations may be structured around several dimensions: human–environment relations; transformations of social relations; and the evolution of interactions between environments and techniques, including over the (very) long term.

EXTRAS-AP may also examine how extractivist activities reshape power relations, collective mobilisations, and conflicts surrounding their environmental, economic, social, and political consequences. The scientific project must be articulated with CNRS Humanities & Social Sciences research infrastructures in the Pacific and/or Asia, and include extended mobility periods within one or more of these institutions.

EXTRAS-AP may further explore how extractivism is represented and addressed in local cultural productions (literature, cinema, visual arts, performing arts, etc.).

Summary of teaching project: 1000 characters maximum including spaces

Teaching will be discussed according to the site which the successful candidate is assigned to. He/She will be involved in teaching on existing courses at each site.

Financial summary: Please use the attached financial form to describe the financial requirements involved and how they are broken down to carry out the scientific project (PhD student, post-doctoral fellow, IT, equipment, etc.)

How the ANR package will be used	200.000 €
PhD Student	
Post-doctoral fellow	
Engineer	
Equipment	
Operations (missions, conferences...)	
Co-financing of the € package	€
Specify the nature of the planned expenditure	
Co-financing of the € package	
Co-financing of the CPJ's remuneration	
Total funding for the CPJ (including the ANR package) in €	€

Dissemination of scientific results:

The results will be disseminated via world-class scientific productions like publications, software, patents, and so forth. The project will also communicate with a wide range of target audiences including the scientific community, the media, decision-makers, the general public, schools, etc. applying an appropriate schedule. Specific tools may be developed like websites, newsletters, meetings, international conferences, summer schools and other conferences.

Open Science:

The CNRS has adopted a strong policy in favor of open science. Open science consists in making research results "as accessible as possible and as closed as necessary". To achieve this, the CNRS objective is for 100% of the texts of publications resulting from the work of its units to be in open access, particularly through researchers submitting them to HAL. The data produced should also be made available and reusable unless specific restrictions apply. In addition, the guidelines on the individual evaluation of researchers have been revised to conform with the DORA declaration, to be more qualitative and to take all facets of a researcher's work into account.

Science and society:

The relationship between science and society is now recognized as a full dimension of scientific activity in its own right. The project will develop this dimension in synergy with all partners involved. The resulting research will help inform the public decision-making process. Participatory science initiatives may be organized with stakeholders from the project's socioeconomic and cultural ecosystem.

Indicators:

In particular, the CPJ's activities will be assessed on the basis of scientific output (publications, software, patents, etc.) institutional and private partnership with formal contracts, international influence, the promotion and dissemination of work to multi-disciplinary scientific communities, innovation and its transfer to society and scientific

dissemination to non-specialist audiences.