

## 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:

Ecole des hautes études en sciences sociales  
University of Paris 8  
University of Paris Nanterre  
Aix-en-Provence

### Academic Regions:

Aix-Marseille  
Île-de-France

### Planned partner institutions/organizations:

Aix-Marseille University  
School for Advanced Studies in the Social Sciences  
University of Paris Nanterre  
Paris 8 University

**Project name** (en français): Violences de masse: expériences collectives et individuelles, processus mémoriels et justice transitionnelle  
Project name (in English): Mass violence: collective and individual experiences, memory processes and transitional justice

**Acronym:** VIVRE

**Keywords:** genocide; mass violence; dehumanisation; femicide; narrative, memory; transitional justice; criminal law

**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)*

The CNRS Sciences humaines & sociales' 2025 Strategic Report highlighted how the theme of "war and peace" lacks an academic framework equivalent to War and Peace Studies developed in the Anglo-Saxon world. The purpose of this Chair is to address armed conflicts by moving beyond the binary opposition of war and peace. The Chair's research will advance understanding of national reconciliation processes, the collective memory of mass violence, and the ways in which transitional justice addresses human rights violations. The project will place acts of dehumanization and their narratives at the center of its inquiry, viewed through the lens of individual and collective

experiences. Emphasis may be placed on the evolving forms of violence or the recurring mechanisms characteristic of mass violence. Approaches related to the political instrumentalization of memory, historical reconstructions and their social and territorial consequences, various forms of revisionism and impunity, and the gendered nature of violence may be considered. Research may address the place and role of international law, criminal law, and local dynamics in post-conflict contexts (legal mechanisms for classifying mass violence, challenges of transitional justice, and complexities of reparations).

Particular attention may be given to artistic, literary, and media expressions. Given the desired collaboration with the IFPO, the project will draw on research areas within its scope of expertise (Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon, Syria, Palestinian Territories). In this regard, the project led by the chairholder will include a program of long-term field missions throughout the duration of the contract within this UMIFRE.

**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 Césor supports research that examines the interplay between religion and politics in the context of intense tensions and identity-based conflicts in the Christian and Muslim Near East. Research on the legal framework for addressing mass violence and on transitional justice would strengthen the UMR DICE. The IHTP conducts research on the history of 20th-century wars and their memories, while contributing to a new historiography of the contemporary era, focused on history whose witnesses are still alive. The IHTP is launching research projects on the recent history of post-decolonization conflicts in the 20th century, their collective memories, the uses and politics of the past, and law and justice. The LESC supports the development of a research axis titled "Gray Zones and Turbulence," which analyzes critical situations, conflicts, and associated difficult memories.

**RNSR references of the host laboratory(ies):**

**201220424C** UMR8087 Centre d'études en sciences sociales du religieux (CÉSOR)

**201220257W** UMR7318 Droits international, comparé et européen (DICE)

**197819313T** UMR8244 Institut d'histoire du temps présent (IHTP)

**200919196F** UMR7186 Laboratoire d'ethnologie et de sociologie comparative

**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).*

Conceived as a Chair of Joint Research (CPJ) within a strengthened scientific dialogue with the French Institute for the Near East (IFPO – CNRS/MEAE UAR 3135/UMIFRE), the project led by the Chair holder will incorporate scientific cooperation activities and a programme of long-term mobility within this unit abroad. 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.

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

This CPJ focuses on contemporary mass violence, centering its analysis on post-conflict transitions (reconstruction processes, pacification, national reconciliation, transitional justice, reparations, and memory). It examines acts of dehumanization and the narratives surrounding them through the lens of individual and collective experiences. The focus may be on:

- The evolution of forms of violence or the recurring mechanisms characteristic of mass violence.
- Approaches related to the political instrumentalization of memory, historical reconstructions and their social and territorial consequences, various forms of revisionism and impunity, and the gendered nature of violence.
- The place and role of international law, criminal law, and local dynamics in post-conflict contexts.
- Artistic, literary, and media expressions.

The project has to be build on IFPO's existing research areas.

**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.)

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

**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.