Call for applications
One-year postdoctoral fellowship in social anthropology
Research on animal or environmental legal protection

French project RULNAT: Ruling on Nature - Animals and the Environment before the Court

This postdoctoral fellowship shall contribute to the project RULNAT, a comparative research programme funded by the French National Research Agency (ANR). This project studies how animal- and environment-related issues are brought before the court; how they are handled by lawyers, activists and the state; how they are judicialised and governed by law and court procedures in different countries; and how the general debate on nature and animal rights is actually implemented. By studying court cases, the aim is to analyse how relations between humans and animals or the environment are shaped – or not – by legal action. The project brings together anthropologists and legal scholars working in various regional contexts: Asia (India, Nepal, Sri Lanka, China), Europe (Italy, Scotland), Latin America (Colombia). For more information see https://rulnat.cnrs.fr/

Objectives:
In collaboration with the team and under the supervision of Daniela Berti (CNRS), coordinator of the project, the postdoctoral fellow will develop a comparative perspective from a cultural area that is not covered by project members and whose recent dynamics concern the governance of the environment or animals in legislative or judicial terms. The fellow is expected to:

1. Contribute to the state of the art and take part in the project’s seminars and workshops;
2. Develop personal research work relevant to the project, which would typically include fieldwork (funded separately) and the analysis of collected data;
3. Prepare a paper or a chapter for publication based on this research work. The contribution should focus on the legal protection of animals and the environment and/or the role of experts in legal cases.

N.B.: The following regions will be privileged in the selection of applications: East Asia, Africa, and North America.
Working environment:
The RULNAT project is funded until June 2024 and is coordinated by the Centre for Himalayan Studies CEH – (CNRS), situated in the new French hub for research in Social Sciences and the Humanities on Campus Condorcet (Aubervilliers), in the Paris area. Other institutional partners for the project are the Centre for International Studies (CERI – SciencesPo/CNRS), the Laboratoire d’Ethnographie et de Sociologie Comparative (LESC – University Paris Nanterre/CNRS), and the Maison des Sciences de l’Homme of the Université Libre de Bruxelles (ULB).

It is a temporary full-time contract for one year starting in April 2022. The employer is the National Centre for Scientific Research (CNRS), and gross salary ranges from 2,743 to 3,896 euros depending on research experience (1 to 6 years).

The place of work is the CEH in the building of the Ecole des Hautes Etudes en Sciences Sociales (EHESS) on campus Condorcet, where the postdoctoral fellow will have a working space with all the usual facilities. Regular attendance is expected.

Field studies outside France will be funded separately by the project.

Profile:
- PhD in social or juridical anthropology
- Experience of ethnographic fieldwork and/or bibliographical expertise on the environment or animals, together with a fair knowledge of legal and judicial issues regarding their protection
- Knowledge of the language of the area of study and of English (knowledge of French would also be appreciated though not required), and ability to read court files
- Research experience on issues the project addresses.

Documents to be included in the application:
- Research project (approximately 2,000 to 5,000 words).
- Curriculum vitae (with, if applicable, report of PhD viva).
- If available, one or two publications (pdf).

There is no need to send letters of recommendation.

The application has to be made on the CNRS website: https://bit.ly/3qOmhVB

Deadline for sending applications: 10 January 2022 (do not take into account earlier deadlines that might be on the CNRS webpage as they will be renewed)

For any questions, please contact daniela.berti@cnrs.fr