

CALL FOR DOCTORAL CONTRACT APPLICATIONS

Doctoral student (M/F) in History :

Knowledge production and environmental transformations in the 19th-20th centuries

General information about the job offer

Publication date : 09/07/2025

Name of scientific manager : Katja Doose

Type of contract : Doctoral contract

Contract duration: 36 months

Thesis start date : 01/12/2025

Working hours : Full time

Remuneration: €2,200 gross per month

Place of work: Université Lumière Lyon 2 - Campus Berges du Rhône

14 avenue Berthelot, 69363 Lyon cedex 07

Laboratory : Rhône-Alpes Historical Research Laboratory (UMR 5190)

Affiliated doctoral school: École doctorale Sciences Sociales

Languages spoken : English or French (The thesis can be written in French or English.)

Frequency of travel:

occasional

international area

Driving license required: NO

Description of thesis subject

This doctoral thesis will focus on the environmental history of the production of knowledge about nature, between the XIX^e and XX^e centuries. It will place at the heart of the research the scholarly practices that made possible the exploration, measurement and exploitation of so-called extreme environments - notably high mountain areas, oceanic spaces and extractive regions. It will analyse how these environments have been transformed into objects of knowledge, spaces with political stakes and subjects of development, by mobilizing a plurality of actors and technical instruments, in imperial, colonial or national contexts.

The aim is to examine how the knowledge produced in these spaces - whether in the earth sciences, meteorology, glaciology, oceanography or applied geology - has contributed to the constitution of what we might call the "cognitive infrastructures" of the Anthropocene. The thesis will thus be part of recent

historiographical debates on multiple modernities and the plurality of trajectories that have led to the transformation of environments across the entire planetary space.

Possible geographical areas include, but are not limited to, Central Asia, the Caucasus and Eastern Europe.

Working environment

The PhD student will be recruited by Université Lumière Lyon 2 for a period of 36 months. He/she will be registered as a doctoral student in the Social Sciences doctoral school.

The thesis will be co-directed by Stéphane Frioux, Professor of Contemporary History at Université Lyon 2, and Katja Doose, Junior Professor of Environmental History.

The PhD student will be attached to the LARHRA (UMR 5190), "Environment, Territory and Health" and "Knowledge, Actors, Dynamics, Spaces" divisions.

A dedicated budget has been set aside for missions (conferences and research) abroad and within France

Profile

- First thesis registration in **2025/2026**
- Not be enrolled in a doctoral program at another French or foreign higher education institution (excluding cotutelle).
- Hold a Master's degree in history and meet the eligibility criteria set by the doctoral school (see <https://edsciencessociales.universite-lyon.fr/>).

How to apply

- A curriculum vitae.
- A letter of motivation (1-2 pages maximum) explaining the candidate's interest in the proposed subject, how his/her background fits in with it, the skills he/she wishes to mobilize or develop, and, if applicable, the fieldwork or sources envisaged.
- Transcripts of grades from Master 1 and, if possible, Master 2, plus from the Bachelor's degree. They must be validated by the home institution.
- Minutes of the defense of the Master 1 dissertation and, if possible, the Master 2 dissertation.
- A summary of the Master 2 thesis (maximum 5,000 characters including spaces).
- A thesis proposal (originality, problems, methodology, feasibility), maximum 12,000 characters including spaces, including a summary bibliography.
- Applications must be sent by e-mail to **katja.doose@univ-lyon2.fr** and **stephane.frioux@univ-lyon2.fr** before **midnight** (Paris time) **on August 23, 2025**.
- Candidates will be invited to audition before a panel of judges in autumn 2025.

Timetable

16/07/2025: publication of call for applications

23/08/2025 : deadline for receipt of applications

09/12/2025: eligibility

Composition of the selection committee

- Mr. Stéphane Frioux
- Ms Katja Doose
- Mrs. Laura Pettinaroli
- Mr. Bruno Milly