

Offre de thèse avec contrat doctoral. Université de Rouen Normandie

FLORA: Blooming Botany: Crossed Perspectives on French- and German-Speaking Botanists (Late 18th–Late 19th Century)

Job information		
	Organisation / Entreprise	Université de Rouen Normandie
	Research Field	Humanities and social sciences
	Researcher Profile	First Stage Researcher (R1)
	Country	France
	Application Deadline	22/05/2025
	Type of Contract	Temporary (3 years), from october 2025
	Job Status	Full time
	Is the Job funded through the UE Research Framework Programme ?	NO
	Is the Job related to staff position within a Research Infrastructure ?	NO
Offer description		
	Doctoral project description	This research project in general and comparative literature explores the figure of the botanist across French and German cultural contexts during the "long 19th century"—from the late 18th century to the end of the 19th century. By examining both

		<p>fictional and non-fictional texts, the project seeks to trace the development of botany from a marginal, often amateur use into a codified and recognized scientific discipline.</p> <p>Central to this transformation is the influence of Carl Linnaeus's taxonomic work, which laid the groundwork for the classification and formalization of botany as an science autonomous from medicine. However, throughout the 19th century, botany remained entangled with other experimental sciences as well as older practices such as herbalism. Its applications (in agronomy, forestry) for the purposes of conservation, protection, or improvement and profitability, are the subject of ongoing political debate. This project will analyze how scientific manuals, dictionaries, personal correspondence between scientists, and autobiographies, alongside novels and possibly other literary works, reflect and shape perceptions of the botanist.</p> <p>Special attention will be given to the ways in which literary texts depict botanists—whether admiringly, satirically, or critically—and how these portrayals contribute to the broader cultural construction of scientific authority. The study will adopt a socio-critical and historical approach to representation, with a particular focus on the Franco-German intercultural dynamics of scientific exchange. While acknowledging the global scope of botanical sciences, especially the role of British imperial plant collection and exhibition, the project will focus on the lesser-studied but richly productive networks between French and German-speaking scholars.</p> <p>The comparative analysis may examine key transformations during the 19th century in the figure of the botanist ; for example, from amateur to professional, from contemplative monk or gardener to career scientist, from intuitive female gatherer to institutionalized male classifier. The project aims to contribute to the understanding of how scientific identity is shaped not only by empirical practices but also by the literary and cultural narratives that frame them.</p>

	Salary placement	2100-2300 € / month
Requirements		
	Admission requirements	Holding a Master's Degree
	Eligibility	Subject to the acceptance of the head of the institution, on the proposal of the ED director after consultation with the director of the research team and the thesis supervisor
Application		
		<p>A complete application must contain :</p> <p>(1) A personal letter with a brief description of your research interests and motivation</p> <p>(2) A <i>curriculum vitae</i> (CV)</p> <p>(3) <i>Certified copies of grades, diplomas, and documentation of completed academic courses</i></p> <p>(4) Contact information for two references</p>
Work location		Université de Rouen (Normandie, France) 1 rue Thomas Becket, 76821 Mont-Saint-Aignan
Where to apply		Ed558.nh@unicaen.fr Anna.bellavitis@univ-rouen.fr pauline.cave2@univ-rouen.fr
Contact	<i>Name of thesis supervisor: Florence Fix</i>	<i>e-mail address : Florence.fix@univ-rouen.fr</i>