

Offre de thèse avec contrat doctoral. Université de Caen Normandie

Discursive representations and the instrumentalisation of food in Athens in the 4th century BC (431–322)

Job information		
	Organisation / Entreprise	Université de Caen Normandie
	Research Field	Humanities and social sciences
	Researcher Profile	First Stage Researcher (R1)
	Country	France
	Application Deadline	10/05/2026
	Type of Contract	Temporary (3 years), from october 2026
	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	The project aims to study the links between food (including beverages), politics and society in Athens during the fourth century BC (431-322 BC), as portrayed by both comic writers (Aristophanes being the best known) and Attic orators (of whom

		<p>Demosthenes is the most famous). This period saw a significant shift in attitudes. Furthermore, it has benefited from recent innovative research. The aim is to analyse how everything related to the sphere of food is instrumentalised and performed on stage, both in the theatre, in the context of comedy, and in the judicial and political spheres, in the context of oratory, with the purpose not only of depicting Athenian society and its shortcomings, but also of conveying moral and political messages. The parallel study of these two bodies of works – an innovative approach – is all the more relevant given that both consider the eating habits of the Athenians in terms of norms and transgressions (the transgressive nature of certain practices becoming a subject of mockery in comedy theatre or an aggravating circumstance in court cases). Furthermore, as food is a total social fact, studying it provides a close insight into the functioning of a society and its values. The aim is therefore to gain a better understanding of both the constants and the changes in Athenian practices, society and thought in the 4th century BC, which was marked by the Peloponnesian War (431-404 BC). With a focus on highlighting changes, this work will develop three main themes: 1) the issue of food supply and the constant fear of food shortages; 2) the issue of real or supposed dietary norms and transgressions, which implicitly raises the question of social identification; 3) the issue of political identification associated with certain dietary practices.</p>
	Salary placement	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>

		(2) A <i>curriculum vitae</i> (CV) (3) <i>Certified copies of grades, diplomas, and documentation of completed academic courses</i> (4) Contact information for two references
Work location		Université de Caen (Normandy, France)
Where to apply		Ed558.nh@unicaen.fr
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