

Offre de thèse avec contrat doctoral. Université de Rouen Normandie

First sexual intercourse in France between the 1960s and 1980s: a cultural phenomenon, a social reality and a sensory experience.

Job information		
	Organisation / Entreprise	Université de Rouen Normandie
	Research Field	Humanities and social sciences
	Researcher Profile	First Stage Researcher (R1)
	Country	France
	Application Deadline	01/05/2026
	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	At once ordinary and deeply significant, first sexual intercourse is a rite of passage that most people experience yet rarely talk about. Shaped by expectations and emotions, the "first time" provides a powerful lens for exploring the history of intimate relationships. Despite its importance, it has received

		<p>surprisingly little attention in historical studies of the twentieth century.</p> <p>This project seeks to fill that gap by offering a cultural, social, and experiential history of first sexual intercourse in France from the 1960s to the 1980s - a period marked by profound change, including the spread of contraception, the legalization of abortion, the expansion of sex education, and the questioning of traditional sexual norms. It revisits a common assumption: that after the 1970s, the "first time" became increasingly banal. Did it become just one episode among many, or did it continue to mark a decisive step into adulthood?</p> <p>Drawing on a wide range of fragmented yet complementary sources, the project examines normative discourses found in advice literature, magazines, television shows and cultural productions, alongside personal accounts such as diaries and letters sent to the French Family Planning Movement, radio advice host Menie Grégoire, or writer Annie Ernaux. The collection of oral testimonies from people who experienced their "first time" at that period further enriches the study.</p> <p>By bringing together public discourse and lived experience, this research explores the meanings attached to the "first time", its imagined and lived scripts, and its place within life trajectories. It considers masculine and feminine experiences to explore the construction and dissemination of gender and (hetero)sexual norms. It sheds new light on lasting legacies that continue to shape how sexuality is lived and understood today.</p>
--	--	---

	Salary placement	2300 € gross / 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> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> (1) A personal letter with a brief description of your research interests and motivation (2) A curriculum vitae (CV) (3) Certified copies of grades, diplomas, and documentation of completed academic courses (4) Contact information for two references
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>Clémentine Vidal-Naquet</i>	<i>clementine.vidal-naquet@univ-rouen.fr</i>