PhD Position

Remembering Disasters: Between Individual and Collective Memory

SECTOR : Higher Education Institution

LOCATION: France, Grenoble

RESEARCHER PROFILE:

□ First stage researcher,

INSTITUTION: Univ. Grenoble Alpes, University of Innovation

One of the major research-intensive French universities, Univ. Grenoble Alpes enjoys an international reputation in many scientific fields, as confirmed by international rankings. It benefits from the implementation of major European instruments (ESRF, ILL, EMBL, IRAM, EMFL*). The dynamic ecosystem, grounded on a close interaction between research, education and companies, has earned Grenoble to be ranked as the 5th most innovative city in the world. Surrounded by mountains, the campus benefits from a natural environment and a high quality of life and work environment. With 7000 foreign students and the annual visit of more than 8000 researchers from all over the world, Univ. Grenoble Alps is an internationally engaged university.

A personalized Welcome Center for international students, PhDs and researchers facilitates your arrival and installation.

In 2016, Univ. Grenoble Alpes was labeled « Initiative of Excellence ». This label aims at the emergence of around ten French world class research universities. By joining Univ. Grenoble Alpes, you have the opportunity to conduct world-class research, and to contribute to the social and economic challenges of the 21st century ("sustainable planet and society", "health, well-being and technology", "understanding and supporting innovation: culture, technology, organizations" "Digital technology").

* ESRF (European Synchrotron Radiation Facility), ILL (Institut Laue-Langevin), IRAM (International Institute for Radio Astronomy), EMBL (European Molecular Biology Laboratory), EMFL (European Magnetic Field Laboratory)

Key figures:

• + 50,000 students including 7,000 international students
• 3,700 PhD students, 45% international
• 5,500 faculty members
• 180 different nationalities
• 1st city in France where it feels good to study and 5th city where it feels good to work
• ISSO: International Students & Scholars Office affiliated to EURAXESS
ISP-Idex Project: REDS
RESEARCH FIELD: History, Psychology, Memory
SCIENTIFIC DEPARTMENT (LABORATORY’S NAME): Laboratoire de Psychologie et Neurocognition (LPNC) UMR CNRS 5105, Université de Grenoble, France
DOCTORAL SCHOOL’S: EDISCE, Ecole Doctorale Ingénierie pour la santé, la cognition et l’environnement.
SUPERVISOR’S NAME: Céline Souchay, Directeur de Recherche CNRS in Grenoble and Rebecca Clifford, Associate Professor of Modern History at Swansea University.

SUBJECT DESCRIPTION:
Memory studies is a rapidly growing research area that aims to be interdisciplinary at its heart, drawing together historians, psychologists, sociologists and others interested in exploring the nature and function of human remembering. However, although researchers in this emerging field are motivated by the same core questions -- what is memory, and what role does it play for us as individuals and as members of communities? -- they have taken very different theoretical, conceptual and methodological approaches to the issue, to the extent that opportunities for genuinely cutting-edge interdisciplinary work are often lost. This is particularly true around the complex issue of memory and forgetting in the wake of traumatic events. This project is, to our knowledge, the first of its kind to bring together the diverse disciplinary approaches of History and Psychology to study the nexus between individual and collective memory.

We have chosen to investigate a neglected theme in this double configuration of History and Psychology: the short- and long-term effects of traumatic events often dubbed ‘natural disasters’ (even though most, if not all, have a human dimension). The project will use case studies local to Isère and the surrounding alpine region (for Grenoble) and South Wales (for Swansea) to probe memory and forgetting in the wake of historical disasters. The two regions share a modern history of such disasters with a number of striking similarities: they are often linked to the process of industrialization (and de-industrialization) of the mountain landscape, they play important roles in local and regional collective understanding of the recent past, and in some instances they have chiefly claimed the lives of children -- such as the 1966 Aberfan disaster in South Wales, in which 116 children were killed when a colliery waste tip in the small village slid onto the local school, and the Plateau d’Assy disaster in 1970, in which 56 children were killed when a blanket of snow slid onto a sanatorium. These disasters have been largely neglected by historians and psychologists alike.

Our project brings together the expertise of two historians (Dr. Rebecca Clifford and Prof. Anne-Marie Granet Abisset) and two neuropsychologists (Prof. Céline Souchay and Dr. Jeremy Tree), all leaders in the field of memory studies. It will initially engage one three-year PhD student, but this is the launch point for a developing collaboration between memory experts at Grenoble and Swansea that will, we believe, prove game-changing to the field itself.

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA
Applicants must hold a Master’s degree (or be about to earn one) or have a university degree equivalent to a European Master’s (5-year duration). We are asking for a Master’s degree either in History or Psychology relevant to the thematic, i.e. Memory

Applicants will have to send an application letter in English and attach:
- Their last diploma
- Their CV
- A short presentation of their scientific project (2 to 3 pages max)
- Letters of recommendation are welcome.

Address to send their application: celine.souchay@me.com and rebecca.ann.clifford@gmail.com
SELECTION PROCESS
Application deadline: **29th of June 2018** at 17:00 (CET)
Applications will be evaluated through a three-step process:

1. Eligibility check of applications in June 2018
2. 1st round of selection: the applications will be evaluated by a Review Board on the 5th of July 2018. Results will be given in the following week 2018.

**TYPE of CONTRACT:** temporary-3 years of doctoral contract  
**JOB STATUS:** Full time  
**HOURS PER WEEK:** 35  
**OFFER STARTING DATE:** 01/10/2018  
**APPLICATION DEADLINE:** 28/06/2018  
Salary: between 1768.55 € and 2100 € brut per month (depending on complementary activity or not)