



Call for applications 2019: PhD research contract

Thematic project: "Forms of research valorization and dissemination"



Centre de sociologie de l'innovation
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Mines ParisTech, Université PSL
<http://www.csi.mines-paristech.fr/>

Application conditions and procedure

The Centre de sociologie de l'innovation (CSI) of Mines ParisTech, PSL University, is launching a call for applications for a Ph.D. student. The Doctoral research is part of the current scientific orientations of the CSI. It is based on an STS approach in dialogue with different disciplines (including sociology, anthropology, political science, management, history and economics).

The topic of the doctoral research is: "Forms of research valorization and dissemination" (see below). The research is funded by the CNRS, as a full-time employment PhD contract for a period of three years, starting in October 2019.

Candidates must have a Master's degree in research (or equivalent) at the time of registration, have a background in social sciences (STS, sociology, political science, anthropology, philosophy, economics, management or similar disciplines), have experience in carrying out fieldwork, and be familiar with the perspectives developed at CSI. Since French is the working language at the CSI, the candidate must have a good command of French.

Candidates must write a cover letter stating their interest for the topic, the imagined research questions, and the design of an original empirical investigation. This cover letter must take into account the framing elements provided below (see the next section).

The application file includes the following documents:

- a cover letter;
- an academic curriculum vitae;
- examples of academic production (articles, theses);
- letters of recommendation.

The application file must be sent by **Friday, May 17, 2019** at the latest, as a single PDF file, by e-mail, with the mention "PhD thematic research contract" in the subject line of the message, addressed to :

Alexandre Mallard <alexandre.mallard@mines-paristech.fr>
Catherine Lucas <catherine.lucas@mines-paristech.fr>.

Applications will be reviewed by the CSI Laboratory Council. After an initial selection based on file, pre-selected candidates will be invited to an audition. The final decisions will be communicated in June 2019.

Framing elements of this thematic project

Context. In the course of scientific research, various productions can be promoted and disseminated. Scientific publications and patents are clearly identified forms, and measured with relatively stable metrics. However, contemporary public policies, which are constantly evolving to foster partnerships between public research and companies, contribute to redistribute these traditional forms of research dissemination. One example is the forms of collaboration supported by research funding agencies such as the French National Research Agency whose objective is to promote the economic and social impact of academic research. For large industrial firms, the practice of open innovation, targeted at their staff, academic laboratories, students or start-ups, has grown significantly. In parallel, new forms of dissemination of open science (open access and open data) by the academic world have also emerged, such as systematic archiving practices, the accessibility of research data, or working paper repositories. Under the impetus of these initiatives, the very status of scientific journals and peer review has been the focus of intense debates that can lead to major transformations.

Research Questions. The forms of valorization and dissemination of scientific productions are not confined to publications and patents. Creation of start-ups, partnerships with the industry, production of data sets, software, posters and conferences, websites, blogs or research notebooks, etc., what about these other forms of research valorization and dissemination? What dissemination technologies are they based on? Which publics and audiences are they more specifically intended for? What are the certification and validation processes to which they are articulated? What concepts of value do they promote and convey? Are they based on exclusive circulation models or do they allow several intellectual property regimes to be articulated (copyright, public good, creative commons license...)? The analysis will focus less on elaborating a fixed and restrictive definition of research valorization and dissemination than on exploring its multiplicity of forms and formats – especially at the CNRS that, by its multi-thematic and interdisciplinary dimension, is at the heart of these issues.

Methodology. In order to identify a broad spectrum of conceptions and practices, the investigations will focus mainly on research productions carried out in two main areas: engineering and systems sciences, and social sciences and humanities. The precise conditions of the investigation will be defined after an exploratory phase, which could be either a mapping or a list of the forms of research valorization and dissemination that would be identified both in the literature on the economic and social impact of research and in available institutional documents (e.g. laboratory reports, assessment reports, project selections from funding agencies, information transmitted by CNRS institutes, etc.). In general terms, the investigation will be made of in-depth and contrasting case studies dedicated to the contemporary forms of valorization and dissemination of public research data and results.