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Postdoctoral researcher - Environmental mobilities and migrations through the lens of gender in Malaysia

Application deadline: April 25, 2024

Interviews: May 21st and 27th, 2024

All applications need to be submitted on the CNRS employment portal:

<https://emploi.cnrs.fr/Offres/CDD/UMR8085-NINSAH-004/Default.aspx?lang=EN>

Start date: September 1st, 2024

Role description

The postdoctoral researcher on this post will join the GENDEREDCLIMATEMIG team hosted at the PRINTEMPS research center, affiliated also to the Université Versailles Saint Quentin (UVSQ) component of University Paris Saclay. GENDEREDCLIMATEMIG is a research project funded by the European Research Council over 5 years (2023-2028). The project will be composed of 3 post-doctoral researchers, a doctoral researcher, a project manager and the PI (see below for a project description). The duration of the post is 2 years, with a possibility of extending the contract for an additional year (3 years in total).

A full-time position, the postdoctoral researcher will be primarily responsible for conducting research in Malaysia by doing fieldwork with internal and international migrants in alignment with the broader research design and questions pursued by this project. She/he will contribute to the project's publications as co-author/author and be supported for the dissemination of research results. The selected candidate will also take part in seminars and activities of the research center PRINTEMPS.

Project description

GENDEREDCLIMATEMIG is a research project funded by the European Research Council over 5 years (2023-2028), it explores the environmental factors of migration while taking into account the structural and micro-level dimensions of gendered inequalities within these trajectories. The project relies on an interdisciplinary, comparative and participatory methodology.

Climate change affects livelihoods through both sudden-onset events such as cyclones, floods and hurricanes and slow-onset processes such as desertification, rising sea levels and water salinization.



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Through case-studies selected across three continents, GENDEREDCLIMATEMIG seeks to shed light, from a gendered perspective, on migration dynamics that existing migration regimes and statistics fail to capture.

The project aims at producing 3 ethnographies in 3 middle-income countries and regional migration hubs: Mexico, Morocco and Malaysia. These 3 countries are uniquely positioned as origin, transit and destination countries: they experience climate-induced internal migration, international immigration from several countries in their region particularly affected by climate change, as well as significant emigration rates. The project also entails a multi-sited study into the current state of climate migration governance at international and national levels, with a particular attention to multilateral initiatives as well as original national policy proposals and initiatives relevant to these transnational spaces.

GENDEREDCLIMATEMIG attempts to capture the less visible traces of climate variability within the decision-making processes and experiences of migration in contexts of climate change. Drawing on dual ethnographies with internal and international migrants in urban centres that crystallize different types of mobilities (Casablanca in Morocco, Mexico City in Mexico and Kuala Lumpur in Malaysia), this project explores climate-related internal and international migration and the gendered inequalities that permeate these mobilities.

Read more about the project: <https://genderedclimatemig.cnrs.fr>

Job description

• Preparation of the fieldwork phase (PRINTEMPS based, September 2024 to December 2024)

- Taking part in preparatory meetings to collaboratively establish research protocols and objectives.
- Conducting a multi-disciplinary literature review for this project case-study.
- Desk-based background research and preparatory networking for fieldwork.
- Talking part in preparatory trainings (e.g. research ethics).

• Conducting qualitative fieldwork (in Malaysia, January 2025 to (up to) June 2025)

- Conducting interviews, focus groups and participant observation.
- Organizing participatory workshops.
- Participating in regular project meetings (online during fieldwork).
- Engaging in the co-production of alternative outputs (can take various forms, e.g. videos, photos, podcasts, graphic novels etc.).
- Organizing restitution missions to present and discuss research insights with research participants.



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• Disseminating research results and participating in publications (PRINTEMPS based, July 2025 to August 2026, potentially August 2027)

- Presenting research results at different international conferences.
- Writing academic articles with other team members (PI, Post-docs, PhD).
- (Co-)Organizing conference panels.
- (Co-) Organizing an international workshop in Malaysia with the aim of preparing a collaborative scientific publication with researchers based in Malaysia and in the region.
- (Co-)organizing an online seminar series around GENDEREDCLIMATEMIG topics.
- Share fieldwork reflections and research results in the format of blog posts to reach a broader audience.
- Elaborating (with the PI) Policy Briefs building on research insights.

Skills

• Knowledge and skills

- PhD in the social sciences on themes related to the project
- Previous experience in autonomously conducting qualitative fieldwork, notably in Malaysia would be an advantage.
- A demonstrated ability to conduct ethnographic research, to use qualitative research methods and to analyse qualitative data through relevant software.
- Experience of publishing in English in academic journals (appropriate to career stage).
- A strong interest in or experience of research into themes related to the project is desirable: migration studies, gender studies, participatory research methods.
- English: Good oral and written communication skills for academic research (C1).
- Knowledge of Malayan languages or Bengali represents an advantage.
- French: Oral proficiency for participation in PRINTEMPS activities.

• Soft skills

- Ability to work independently and contribute to the project as part of a team.
- Reactivity and good interpersonal skills.
- Ability to organise your work and manage priorities.
- Be rigorous and precise in your work.
- Having a sense of initiative.
- Ability to work in a multi-cultural context.



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Work environment

The GENDEREDCLIMATEMIG project explores the role of environmental factors in internal and international migration from a gendered perspective and mobilizing an interdisciplinary approach as well as a comparative and participatory methodology.

The PRINTEMPS research centre is located at 47 Bd Vauban, 78 280 Guyancourt.

Possibility of combining remote and office work.

Constraints and risks

- Prolonged screen work
- During fieldwork:
 - Interaction with different interlocutors and persons in vulnerable situations.
 - Handling of confidential information.
 - High level of autonomy

How to apply

To apply, please submit:

- (1) Cover letter describing your motivation and suitability for the post (in English or French). Please include up to 3 publications (in the same pdf owing to technical constraints on the application platform).
- (2) CV and list of publications.

Interviews will be held remotely in French and English on **May 21st and 27th**.

For informal enquiries about the position, you can contact the PI: Nina Sahraoui (nina.sahraoui(at)cnrs.fr)