Offering A 1-y post-doc position on Landscapes History and ecology as part of the “Landscape” International chair at Rennes (Brittany, France)

Post-doctorate title: Landscape, agrarian practices and biodiversity through the long term

Research laboratories: CERHIO, CReAAH, ECOBIO, LETG-COSTEL

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Scientific context:
This post-doc position is part of the international landscape chair in partnership with the Melbourne University (Australia) hold by the partnership on “Environment and Ecology” between the Institute CNRS-INEE, the universities of Rennes 1 and Rennes 2. This chair develops interdisciplinary researches on landscape dynamics due to human activities and its impacts on biodiversity and the sustainability of living resource.

Main goals:
Describe and understand the vegetal biodiversity changes through time. Link the dynamics of plant communities at several periods to agricultural practices and landscape spatial structure.
Establish a multidisciplinary approach including aims and data from archaeology, history, paleo-ecology, ecology, and geography.

Methodology working plan and expected deliverables:
- data mining from paleo-botany, archaeology, history available in north western France (on small scale areas) from the neolithic up to the 19th century (2 or 3 periods according to the material).
- establish the plants lists (wild and cultivated ones), to assess the plant communities.
- explore which agricultural practices match with the plant communities.
- study and predict their spatial distribution.
- write two synthesis papers, one at least being published in English in an international journal and give a presentation in an international conference.

The available sources are:
- paleo-botanical information (pollen, charcoal, wood, seed) from archaeological sites, peat-bogs
- archaeological information (land use and parcel maps)
- manuscripts and published sources for the historical periods (theoretical treaties, texts from the Agriculture Society, maps by type of crops), and existing papers.

Required scientific and technical skills:
- Archaeology and history: know the general dynamics of rural landscapes and agricultural practices over the time, know how to work with archives
- Knowledge of plants and their ecological characteristics, paleobotany principles
- Spatial analysis of data: maps and sketches
- Know how to understand previous information in order to include it in a global view
- Scientific papers writing

Workplaces: University of Rennes 1: CREAAH, ECOBIO and University of Rennes 2: CERHIO, LETG-COSTEL


How to apply: you must send a detailed CV, a c motivation letter and scientific support letters (optional). The file must be sent to annie.antoine@univ-rennes2.fr and dominique.marguerie@univ-rennes1.fr at the latest on May 29th 2015, noon. The selected candidates will be auditioned at Rennes (or by visioconference internet) in June 2015 (to be timely fixed). The contract of employment will last 12 months. It will start on the 1st September 2015. The gross salary per month will be of 2000 – 2500 euros depending on the research experience.