



CALL FOR APPLICATIONS – DOCTORAL CONTRACT

Université Lumière Lyon 2

UFR Temps et Territoires – LARHRA (UMR 5190, CNRS)

PhD Position (M/F/D) in History

Environmental History in the 19th and 20th Centuries: Knowledge, Transformations, and Societies

Start date: 1 September 2026

Application deadline: 25 May 2026 (midnight, Paris time)

Project Description

This doctoral project focuses on environmental history in the 19th and 20th centuries. It examines how relationships between societies and environments were shaped by industrialization, imperial expansion, technological change, and increasing pressures on natural resources.

The dissertation will explore how environments have been observed, transformed, governed, and debated, at the intersection of environmental history, history of science and technology, and social and political history.

The topic is deliberately open. Possible directions include:

- the production and circulation of environmental knowledge (e.g. Earth sciences, meteorology, ecology, environmental health, scientific expertise);
- the material transformation of environments (industrialization, pollution, resource extraction, infrastructures, urbanization, agriculture);
- environmental actors and controversies (scientists, engineers, administrations, economic actors, social movements, local knowledge);
- the political, social, and cultural dimensions of environmental issues (resource governance, risk, expertise, imperial and colonial legacies).

No specific geographical area is required. Projects may focus on any region. Proposals related to Russia, Central Asia, or the Caucasus are welcome but not required.

The precise topic will be defined jointly with the supervisors based on the candidate's proposal. Methods may include archival research, printed sources, oral history, or other relevant historical materials.

Research Environment and Supervision

The successful candidate will be employed by Université Lumière Lyon 2 for a period of **36 months (doctoral contract)**. An extension may be considered depending on available funding.

The dissertation will be supervised by: **Stéphane Frioux** and **Katja Doose**

The PhD candidate will be affiliated with **LARHRA (UMR 5190, CNRS)**.

A **research budget** is available for archival research stays in France and abroad, participation in international conferences, fieldwork and/or oral history data collection (where relevant).

Languages

The dissertation may be written in **French or English**. The working language of the laboratory is French. Expected language skills:

- **English:** minimum B1 level (reading and academic writing)
- **French:** B1 level recommended for international candidates, with the expectation of reaching B2 during the first year of the PhD

Candidate Profile

- hold a **Master's degree (or equivalent)** in history, history of science, or a related field;
- demonstrate an interest in environmental history of the 19th–20th centuries;
- be familiar with historical research methods (archival work, primary sources);
- possess strong analytical and writing skills;
- demonstrate autonomy, initiative, and the ability to work within a research team.

Application Procedure

Applications should be sent before **25 May 2026 at midnight (Paris time)** by email to:

katja.doose@univ-lyon2.fr
stephane.frioux@univ-lyon2.fr

The application file must include:

- a detailed CV;
- a cover letter (maximum 2 pages);
- a **preliminary PhD proposal (8,000–10,000 characters, including spaces)** outlining the research question, sources, methodology, and a short bibliography;
- transcripts from Bachelor's and Master's degrees;
- a summary of the Master's thesis (maximum 5,000 characters).

Contact

katja.doose@univ-lyon2.fr