

AFHRC

Association Française d'Histoire Religieuse Contemporaine

Conference

26-27 September 2014

Paris

Call for proposals

« RELIGIOUS MAGISTERIUM AND MODERNITY »

Young researchers' workshops: research practices and issues

Paris

(CNRS, Site Pouchet, 59-61 rue Pouchet, Paris 17e)

26 September 2014

General presentation of the AFHRC conference, 26-27 September

European Renaissance is characterized by a process of re-questioning the lifestyles and authority that have prevailed during the past millennium: gradually, within the European area, but also beyond, the idea of the "free subject" and the independent practice of "reason" emerges.

Addressing this challenge, which covers all areas of collective human activity (education, socio-economic relations, politics), religious magisterium are most often placed in a defensive posture: they aim to recover lost ground; reshape the heteronomy system in which they used to have the final say, challenge anthropological, epistemological and methodological assumptions that underlie this "modernity".

To mark its 40th anniversary, the French association for contemporary religious history will explore this issue. Among others, the Moscow Patriarchate, the Chief Rabbinate of Jerusalem, the Iranian Shiite clergy, the al-Azhar University in Cairo, the Holy See and the National Bishops, the Buddhist monks, the pastors of the New Christian Right, as well as the Hindu authorities are all, to varying degrees and in varying forms, facing these issues. The specialists of religion will have to address these questions in a comparative perspective: organization of the recruitment and training of the magisterium representatives, promotion of the discourse aiming at transmitting orthodoxy and orthopraxy; censorship or free speech, handling the relationship with competitive authorities; reassembling the magisterium through new means of communication, etc. This conference will take

place in three stages:

-26 September (daytime): “Young researchers” workshops (doctoral candidates and post-doctoral researchers).

-26 September (evening): Current situation, tribute and prospects.

-27 September (daytime): Summaries.

« Young researchers » workshops

In the frame of the conference organized by the AFHRC, young researchers are invited to describe the manner in which they consider and structure their reflection on religious magisterium and modernity in their own researches: what are their methodological and conceptual choices, and why? What are the benefits and challenges of these choices? On the basis of what criteria do they borrow methodologies and concepts from various disciplines? Why do they choose some particular disciplines rather than others? What are the scientific and institutional challenges of these choices and how do they appear in their own researches?

As a suggestion, four themes can be considered:

- 1: the importance of the sources and new resources (in particular electronic resources);
- 2: Advantages and difficulties of the interdisciplinary approach;
- 3: New proposals related to recent historiographical debates;
- 4: Added value of the *jeux d'echelle* (questions of scale) in a research work.

The Young researchers’ workshops will take place in two stages:

- Morning: the participants will be divided into thematic workshops (5 persons). They will propose a ten minutes communication. Together with the rapporteur, they will elaborate a common text for the afternoon session.
- Afternoon: summaries and debate.

Communications can be presented in either French or English.

Submitting a communication

The participation to the young researchers’ conference is open to all doctoral candidates and postdoctoral researchers, with no disciplinary, geographical or chronological limits.

The propositions should be:

- written in French or English and should not exceed **400 words**;
- should be accompanied by 4 or 5 key words;
- mention the names, contact information and institution of the author;
- sent before the 25th of April 2014 to the following address:
call.youngresearchers.afhrc@gmail.com

Notifications of acceptance will be sent by the 2nd of May 2014.

NB: A financial aid covering the participation fees to the conference can be proposed to a limited number of participants. Don't hesitate to contact us for any further information.

Organizing committee of the Young researchers conference: Nicolas Champ, lecturer, Université de Bordeaux III ; Anaïs-Trissa Katchadourian, PhD candidate, Université du Maine ; Sara Teinturier, post doctoral researcher, GSRL, EPHE-CNRS.

Scientific committee: Dominique Avon, professor, Université du Maine; Séverine Blenner-Michel, lecturer, Université de Picardie-Jules Verne; Corinne Bonafoux, lecturer, Université de Savoie; Matthieu Brejon de Lavergnée, lecturer, Université catholique de l'Ouest; Laura Pettinaroli, lecturer, Institut catholique de Paris; Isabelle Saint-Martin, head of studies, EPHE.

Partners of the conference:

- Centre de recherche en histoire européenne comparée (CRHEC), Université Paris-Est Créteil Val-de-Marne
- Dynamiques citoyennes en Europe (DCIE), MSH Ange-Guépin Nantes / Région Pays de La Loire
- Groupe Sociétés Religions Laïcités (GSRL), EPHE-CNRS
- Institut d'Étude des Sciences des Religions (IESR)
- Université de Paris 1

Brief presentation of the Association française d'histoire religieuse contemporaine (AFHRC)

The AFHRC was created in 1974, born out of the initiative of several academics, in particular Jean-Marie Mayeur and Jacques Gadille. Since its establishment, the association aimed to "promote the progress of research and the dissemination of its results and to establish for this purpose a collaboration with researchers from other disciplines." Throughout its activities, it has contributed to the recognition of religious history as a research field of its own and succeeded in integrating it within the French university.

The association gathers about 250 international members from a variety of disciplines. It organizes, once a year, a study day and publishes his work in the collection "Cahiers de l'AFHRC" (published by Beauchesne). It also reports its activities on its blog (afhrc.hypotheses.org).