



## Call for participation JJA 2014 – Thematic School CNRS

**Tijuana, Mexico – 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> July 2014**

### «New approaches to environmental issues: The social sciences and adaptation to climate change»

*Transdisciplinary perspectives, training and methodological dialog*

The Seminar for Young Americanists (JJA-Les Journées des Jeunes Américanistes) is organized by the Center for Mexican and Central American Studies of the French Ministry, the International Mixed Unity of the CNRS (UMI-Unité Mixte Internationale) – IGLOBES and the French Institutes of Andean Studies.

The following partners are also involved in the JJA: the Franco-Mexican College for the Social Sciences (Central American Extension), the French Institute of Central America, the French Institute of Latin America, the Research Institute for Development (IRD) and the Institute for Americas.

This annual seminar creates a space for theoretical and methodological dialogue within an international scientific network. It is a working space for bachelor, masters and doctoral students.

The first JJA seminar took place on June 21-22, 2010. It was co-organized with the Mexican National Institute of Anthropology and History (ENAH). Although the seminar gave priority to archeologists, the selected theme “spatial dynamics” was interdisciplinary. The second seminar on “mobilities” took place on June 20-22, 2011 and was open to all social sciences. The third seminar on “territories” took place on June 13-15, 2012 in Costa Rica with the support of the University of Costa Rica and CONACYT. The fourth seminar was held in Guatemala with the support of the Facultad and the University of San Carlos.

**The fifth edition will take place in Tijuana, Mexico, in partnership with El Colegio de la Frontera Norte.**

The objective of this Thematic School is to describe and make available **the contributions of researchers in the field of environmental studies in the Americas to researchers in the human and social sciences in France**, especially in terms of methodological, conceptual and epistemological innovations. The interdisciplinary basis of the seminar brings into dialogue multiple researchers and tools from all the social

sciences. Participation of Americanist and Latin Americanist students is strongly encouraged. In this upcoming seminar, young researchers are invited to discuss their work within methodological workshops led by invited experts. The JJA will be held this year as a thematic school of the CNRS thanks to the work of the UMI EGlobes of the CNRS.

### **The issues**

#### *1) Introducing environmental studies from the Americas, in all their wealth and diversity, to French researchers and students*

Environmental research in the Americas is marked by a multidisciplinary approach, including as it does studies carried out in North America on the uses of water and environmental justice, and programs developed in South America on the spatial and cultural aspects of environmental change. In France, environmental issues have, with the exception of environmental history and organizational studies on the provision of water in urban networks, received relatively little attention from researchers in the human and social sciences. The aim of the Thematic School is to encourage dialog between French and American researchers working on the effects of climate change on populations and territories, as well as the effects of the social occupation and use of geographical space on environmental contexts.

The Colegio de La Frontera Norte, renowned research Centre located in the field of social sciences and environmental studies, stands as an ideal place to organize such an interdisciplinary and international.

#### *2) The strength of a structured group open to the scientific community*

The Young Americanists' Days workshop is an annual event dedicated to discussion and debate on the development of research and methodology amongst young researchers, graduate students and first degree students working in the Americas. The Young Americanists' Days is supported by the UMIFRE (CEMICA and IFEA) CNRS/MAEE centers. Organized by the CEMCA (Centro de Estudios Mexicanos y Centroamericanos), the Young Americanists' Days has been held annually since 2010, first in Mexico, then in Costa Rica and, last year, in Guatemala. On every occasion the event has been attended by over 30 students. The fourth edition, set to be held in Tijuana in 2014, will be dedicated to strengthening ties between researchers in North America and their counterparts in Central and South America.

#### *3) The School's scientific objectives: sharing knowledge about the environment*

This Thematic School will provide an opportunity to strengthen scientific ties with institutions throughout the Americas by fostering a joint approach to environmental issues (water, energy, etc.). Emphasizing adaptation to climate change is of great relevance in terms of the ecological situation of Americas.

This year's objectives are to provide additional knowledge about questions concerning climate change from the points of view of both the environmental and social sciences, and to examine climate change not only in terms of ecological sustainability, but also

from the perspective of social and economic transformations. Different workshops will take place with the following topics:

### **Workshop 1: Understanding climate change in order to adapt to its effects**

This workshop is informed by a strong methodological aspect focusing on the measurement of climate change and its effect on populations and territories. The workshop applies developments made in the Americas in the natural and environmental sciences with a view to introducing them to French social scientists. (Adaptation scenarios, Eco systemic services, *Smart Grid* and networks analysis).

### **Workshop 2: Environmental conflicts in the Americas**

The many environmental conflicts that have taken place in North and South America since the 19th century have been the object of numerous studies that, in France, have received little attention, overshadowed as they have been by more traditional research on other parts of the USA (for example, the work of the Chicago School on urban ecology). (Water Wars in the Americas, historic Sociology of the West US, Archeology and heritage preservation)

### **Workshop 3: Environmental justice and the management of urban risks**

In the 1980s, in the wake of social struggles led by ethnic minorities against the burial of waste in poor neighborhoods, researchers in the United States and Canada began to produce an increasing number of studies on environmental justice. When, later, they took an interest in this field of research, academics in Europe tended to focus on ecological inequalities, carrying out relatively few studies on the links between the spatial distribution of environmental risks and the socio-economic situation of the populations exposed to those risks. (Sociological approaches of environmental justice, Environmental risks in urban environments, anthropology of disasters and migrations)

### **Transversal workshop (for the attention of young researchers) – Managing research projects**

Managing research projects is an ephemeral and generally complex task involving a wide range of resources (human, material, organizational), technical skills (in terms of legal, regulatory and financial aspects) and costs defined in a budget. From the reception of the call for offer to the conclusion of the program, the management of a scientific project requires specific skills (and thus training programs) to meet institutional demand and statutory regulations, while at the same time ensuring that research remains autonomous. The workshop will benefit from the presence of researchers who have obtained research contracts in the United States, Central America and Europe and who will be able to share their experiences and expertise with graduate students at JJA 2014.

The JJA 2014 will turn on methodological workshops and discussion next 2, 3 and 4<sup>th</sup> of July in Tijuana.

### **INSTRUCTIONS FOR PAPER SUBMISSIONS**

Proposals may be submitted in French, Spanish or English. We encourage participants to focus on some methodological aspect of their work as well as the ways in order to generate transdisciplinary discussion. The candidates should join a detailed cover letter

as well as their doctoral, Master or Research thesis project, in two pages. The following information has to figure on these documents: name, surname, discipline, institution, diploma and country.

**The cover letters and projects must be sent in word format by e-mail to [jja.cemca@gmail.com](mailto:jja.cemca@gmail.com), before April 30 2014. The result of the selection will be published on May 7 2014.**

**Blog of the JJA:** <http://jjacemca.blogspot.com/>

### **Organizing Committee**

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