Section 31

SECTION SCOPE

Biological Anthropology

Biological anthropology studies the evolution and adaptation of members of the human lineage in interaction with the environment, at all scales of space and time. It deals with performances, physical and social properties of lineage members, which may lead to certain non-human reference frameworks being taken into account. The field of study of biological anthropology has as a unifying thread the study of hominids. Its approach is diachronic (from the Miocene-Pliocene to the present) and deals with both structures and processes concerning individuals and populations in their various biological components.

Archaeology

The scope of archaeology within section 31 corresponds to the prehistoric and protohistoric periods. It therefore mainly concerns societies without writing, but not exclusively. However, the precise demarcation of the chronological or cultural fields, particularly in relation to section 32 of the CoNRS (ancient and medieval worlds: Archaeology, history, philology, history of the arts. Europe, Africa, Asia, from the Protohistory to the end of the Middle Age) is part of the choice made over time: The societies of the American continent (Mayas, Incas, etc.) and the Holocene societies of the “non-European worlds” are in fact studied by researchers in section 31. The term protohistory is the object of diverging interpretations as well, regarding whether it includes the Neolithic period. In fact, it is the first Iron Age (inclusive) which is the upper limit chosen. Researchers working in section 31 work on productions (material culture), techniques, behaviours and symbolic expressions, to establish the evolutionary dynamics since the beginning of humanity on the one hand and on the other hand to understand and qualify cultural diversity. Disciplines such as ethnoarchaeology are also its responsibility.

Bioarchaeology and Palaeoenvironments

Bioarchaeology studies the biological archives from a two-fold palaeoecological and/or palaeoeconomic perspectives. The techniques and social and cultural practices related to the use of biological resources, from the most remote periods of Prehistory to the present (ethnoarchaeology), are at the heart of the themes of the section. The study of palaeoenvironments, their transformations, climate change and human/environment interactions, from the Plio-Pleistocene to the present is also within the scope of the section.

Physical geography

Physical geography focuses on spatial dynamics of processes that drive environmental systems and their interactions with human societies. It encompasses four main fields of research: Geomorphology (Earth surface processes, morphological and sedimentary records of climate change and anthropogenic perturbations; it encompasses a wide variety of physical settings, from mountains to coastal areas, including karsts, large valleys, etc.), biogeography (spatial dynamics of the biosphere, including ground resources, the use of vegetation as a bio-indicator), hydro-climatology (notably the interactions between the hydrosphere-- including the oceans and the cryosphere-- the geosphere -- sedimentary flux -- the biosphere and human societies), paleo-environmental reconstructions (geo- and bio- chronology, geoarchaeology). The time scales are varied, which can range from the Quaternary scale to the ten-year scale. Openings are possible towards the establishment of prospective scenario (in particular towards 2100).

N.B. These criteria are open, non-exclusive, non-hierarchical and not strictly cumulative.

RECRUITMENT OF RESEARCHERS

Access to the CRCN Grade:

Assessment Criteria
Scientific activity within the scope of the section.
- Quality of the scientific career.
- Originality and quality of previous works. The section draws attention to the importance of this document (see below).
- Originality, quality and feasibility of the research project, which must be on a long-term timescale.
- Quality and regularity of scientific production considering specificities of the discipline.
  The quality of scientific production is more important than the quantity.
- Appropriateness of the career to the topic of the competition (in the event of themed or flagged competitions).
- Quality of oral presentation and discussion during the interview.

The evolution of the candidate's career path and all scientific productions and research, structuring and involvement in group tasks, since the thesis, will be considered.

Depending on the research experience, the following criteria may also be considered:
- Dissemination and impact of research.
- Openness to interdisciplinarity, thematic and geographic broadening and risk-taking.
- Mobility, integration into national or international networks.
- Effective participation in one or more research teams.
- Ability to unite, lead and build collective projects.
- Teaching activities / seminars.
- Research promotion activities.

Application elements
- Explicit presentation of previous work and the principle results, their uniqueness, originality and weight within the research landscape (20 pages maximum recommended). This document must allow the assessment of the skills acquired by the candidate and the evolution of his or her career since the thesis.
- Well-formulated research project (25 pages maximum recommended). The feasibility of the project, both scientific (relevance of the approach, proven collaborations) and material (access to analysis equipment, scaling of the project, distance from the sites) is an important element.
- Place of the applicant's research project in the general research system (proven collaborations within the community), its innovative aspects (area, issues, methods, etc.), its originality.
- Scientific production: Thesis or equivalent work, dynamic scientific production, including several publications as a principal author in a peer-reviewed publication with very good visibility (ACL, ACLN). Overall scientific production is considered relative to the number of years since the thesis. The scientific production considered for evaluation may be: 1) published (year of publication), 2) in press (DOI) or 3) accepted (letter from the publisher required).

Access to the DR2 grade (Research Director 2nd class)
To the previous list, with a more demanding evaluation, we must add:
- Publication of synthetic works (DO, OS) or fundamental articles (e.g. synthetic articles, conceptual thinking and major methodological development).
- Accreditation to conduct research, equivalent qualification or equivalent experience.
- Direction and/or coordination of programs, scientific projects, colloquia, of a national and/or international scope.
- Risk-taking: e.g. new research angles, methodological developments, paradigm shift.
- Involvement in the national and/or international scientific community.
- Participation in thesis examination panels.
- National influence and international involvement.
- Ability to manage and coordinate research.
- Experience in the administration of research and collective responsibilities (commissions,
- Consultancies, team management, etc.
- Teaching responsibilities and participation in training in research (courses, seminars, master’s and PhD students).
- Scientific dissemination in schools or to the public.

PERIODIC EVALUATION OF RESEARCHERS

For the drafting of full-term and mid-term activity reports (content and format of the document), researchers are strongly recommended to comply with the recommendations of the HRD (intranet access) via your Janus credentials:


For CRCN to DRCE the following is taken into account:

- Scientific production: - Structures and monographs (OS) - Scientific Works Direction (DO) - Background articles, factual articles in works (ACTI, ACTN, OS) and reviews (ACL, ACLN) - Presentations at conferences, colloquia, workshops (COM, AFF) - Grey literature, reports, database entry, data formatting (AP)
- Promotion and dissemination of the results of the research (consulting, exhibition, presentations, film, broadcast, interview, press, ASCL)
- Role within the attachment unit: participation in programs, strong involvement in the collective life of the laboratory.
- Training in research, including prior to the PhD level, supervision of doctoral students, master’s students, bachelor’s degree.
- Field and laboratory, data production (material study, database development, field metrology).
- Participation in the scientific life of the discipline (editorial activities, conference organization, symposia, workshops, activities in scholarly associations, etc.).
- Project management and responsibility (planned or preventive probes, PCR, GDR, ANR, ESF, other programs).
- Participation in the organization and management of research and/or teaching: Commissions, consultancies, reading committees.
- Participation in the administration of research and/or teaching.
- Institutional or thematic mobility.
- Institutional cooperation with other countries, international openness.

RESEARCHER GRADE PROMOTION

Promotion from CRCN to CRHC (Senior research manager), in addition to the criteria selected for the CRCN competition:

- Proven scientific career.
- Thematic expansion (or change) since recruitment.
- Importance of scientific production and its impact.
- Ability to take responsibility within a scientific community.
- National influence and international involvement.
- Participation in the structuring of a disciplinary field.
- Involvement in the collective life of a scientific and/or educational structure.
- Supervising university degree.
- Outreach to the public.

Promotion from Director 2nd class to 1st class (DR2 - DR1), in addition to the criteria used for the DR2 competition:
- Strong commitment to the community service (unit management, unit assistant-manager, leading of important and structural teams).
- Diversity and originality of research themes in the service of internationally recognized high-level research.
- Supervision of intern researchers, PhD students and post-doctoral students (professional integration).
- HDR Management.
- Participation in HDR or PhD panels (as Chairman or rapporteur).
- Consultancies.

Promotion from DR1 to DRCE (Exceptional Research Director), in addition to the criteria used for the DR2 - DR1 promotion:
- Major contribution to creating, developing a school of thought.
- Very strong international recognition.

Appendix 1

Codes for publications and productions:

ACI: Articles in international or national journals with listed peer-review committees or international databases (ISI Web of Knowledge, Pub Med, HCERES, EHRI, etc.).
ACLN: Articles in journals with peer-review committees which are not listed in international databases.
ASCI: Articles in journals without peer-review committees.
BRE: Patents (specify any possible licenses).
C-INV: Presentations given at the invitation of the organizing committee at a national or international conference (with supporting evidence).
C-ACTI: Presentations with proceedings at an international conference.
C-ACTN: Presentations with proceedings at a national conference.
C-COM: Oral presentations without proceedings at an international or national conference.
C-AFF: Presentations by poster at an international or national conference.
DO: Direction of works or reviews.
OR: Research tools, research bodies, cohorts.
OS: Scientific works (including critical editions and scientific translations).
CHA: Chapters of works.
VP: Outreach Publications.
PAT: Theorized Artistic productions (music, cinematographic, exhibitions, installations, etc.).
PT: Transfer publications.
AP: Other productions: Databases, registered software, excavation reports, technical guides, exhibition catalogues, intermediate reports for major international projects, etc.