

SECTION 31

Humankinds and environments: evolution, interactions

Section scope

Biological Anthropology

Biological anthropology studies the evolution and adaptation of members of the human lineage and their interaction with the environment, in all scales of space and time. It deals with the performances, physical and social properties of the members of the lineage; which may lead to taking into account certain non-human references. The field of study of biological anthropology is guided by the study of hominins. Its approach is diachronic (from the Mio-Pliocene to the present) and deals with both the structures and processes concerning individuals and the different biological components of populations.

Archaeology

The perimeter of archaeology within section 31 corresponds in its broad outline, to the prehistoric and protohistoric periods. Practically, in Europe, the first Iron Age (inclusive) is the upper limit chosen for section 31, and corresponds to the lower chronological limit for section 32. The scope of section 31 therefore mainly concerns nonliterate societies. However, because of the cultural developments and social phenomena studied, certain Holocene societies of the extra-European worlds (the Americas, Africa, Asia, etc.) which are sometimes contemporary with so-called historical societies, are also included in the scope of the section. Researchers 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 to better understand and characterize cultural diversity. Other disciplines such as ethnoarchaeology are also part of the scope of the section.

Bioarchaeology and Palaeoenvironments

Bioarchaeology studies the biological archives in a double palaeoecological and/or palaeoeconomic perspectives. The techniques and both social and cultural practices that are 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 this 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 comprises of 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), and paleo-environmental reconstructions (geo- and bio- chronology, geo- archeology). The time scales are varied, which can range from the Quaternary scale to a ten-year scale. Openings are possible towards the establishment of prospective scenario (in particular towards 2100).

In the interests of transparency, this document aims to enable evaluated researchers and competing candidates to prepare their applications in the best possible conditions. It is based on the criteria defined during the previous mandate in order to guarantee continuity while integrating new developments in qualitative evaluation and open science.

In the context of a qualitative evaluation, the section recommends that researchers take great care in writing their applications as these should not solely consist of a strictly factual list or just purely quantitative indicators. The diversity of the facets of a researcher's profession increases the interest of qualitative evaluation and we encourage researchers to illustrate their scientific contributions by highlighting any production deemed significant and providing access to it.

These criteria are open, non-exclusive, non-hierarchical and not strictly cumulative. This list is intended to be self-explanatory but is not exhaustive.

Recruitment of researchers

We recommend that candidates read the guide published by the CNRS.

Access to the CRCN Grade:

Assessment Criteria

- Scientific activity within the scope of the section.
- Coherence, originality and richness of the scientific career path.
- Originality and quality of previous research. The section draws attention to the importance of this document (see below).
- Relevance with regards to the state of the art, quality and feasibility of the research project which must be envisaged on a long-term timescale.
- Quality and regularity of scientific production (see Appendix 1) considering specificities of the discipline. The quality of scientific production is more important than the quantity.
- Appropriateness of the candidate's career path, profile and project in regard to a theme or allocation given as a priority in the AOC.
- 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 PhD thesis will be considered.

Depending on the research career, the quality of the career path can be explained, focusing on:

- Dissemination and impact of research.
- Openness to interdisciplinarity, thematic and geographic broadening and risk-taking.
- Mobility, integration into national or international networks, autonomy.
- Effective participation in one or more research teams.
- Ability to unite, lead and build collective projects.
- Teaching activities / seminars.
- Research promotion and dissemination activities.
- Efforts made as regards open science

Application elements

- A very detailed CV
- Explicit presentation of previous work and the main results, their uniqueness, originality and relevance within the research landscape (20 pages maximum recommended). This document must allow the assessment of skills acquired by the candidate and the evolution of his or her post PhD career
- Well-formulated research project (25 pages maximum recommended). The feasibility of the project, both scientific (relevance of the approach, position in regards to state of the art) and material (access to analysis equipment, scaling of the project, distance from the sites) is an important criteria.
- Place of the applicant's research project in the general research system (proven collaborations within the community), its innovative aspects (field of discipline, issues, methods, etc.), its original contribution to the scientific community within the section's scope.
- Scientific production: PhD or equivalent work, dynamic scientific production, including several publications as a principal author in a peer-reviewed journals with very good visibility (ACL, ACLN). The section is attentive to the diversity of publication and communication media, and also considers the publication of papers in recognised peer-reviewed journals (ACL and ACLN) to be essential. Overall scientific production is considered relative to the number of years after the completion of the PhD. The scientific production considered for evaluation may be: 1) already published (year of publication), 2) in press (DOI) or 3) accepted (letter from the publisher required) or 4) available on multidisciplinary archives (e.g. HAL).

Access to the DR2 grade (Research Director 2nd class)

We recommend candidates to read the guide provided by the CNRS.

Recruitment is based on the applicant's file including a list of publication titles and achievements. A maximum of 25 pages is recommended for the work report and of 30 pages for the research project. Jury sessions are optional and decided on a yearly basis.

As this is a more demanding evaluation, the following must be added to the previous list:

- Accreditation to conduct research, equivalent qualification or equivalent experience.
- Fundamental contributions to the disciplines of section 31.
- Publication of synthetic works (DO, OS) or fundamental articles (e.g. synthetic articles, conceptual thinking and major methodological development).
- Direction and/or coordination of scientific programs or projects of a national and/or international scope, giving details of the role and responsibilities.
- Organisation of nationally or internationally important conferences.

- Risk-taking: e.g. new research angles, methodological developments, paradigm shift.
- Participation in thesis examination panels.
- National influence and international involvement.
- A demonstrated 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):

In the context of a qualitative evaluation, the section recommends that researchers take great care in writing their application files as these should not solely consist of a strictly factual list or just purely quantitative indicators. It is therefore necessary to give full details of your role in various scientific productions, projects and responsibilities. We encourage researchers to specify the scientific, material, human contexts that could shed light on their scientific contributions.

Applicants are also invited, if they wish, to mention events that have had an impact on their professional career.

Common criteria for the grades from CRCN to DRCE:

- Scientific production: - Books and monographs (OS) – Edited books (DO) - Background articles, factual articles in works (ACTI, ACTN, OS) and journals (ACL, ACLN) - Communications 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, tangible 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 or workshops organization, activities in scholarly associations, etc.).
- Project management and responsibility (planned or preventive surveys, 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 collaboration.

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 and impact of scientific production.
- 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.
- Public outreach

Promotion from Director 2nd class to 1st class (DR2 - DR1), in addition to the criteria used for the DR2 competition:

- Ability to develop a forward-looking vision of the field.
- 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/Chairwomen 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 and developing a school of thought.
- Very strong international recognition.

Appendix 1

Codes for publications and productions:

ACL: Articles in international or national journals with listed peer-review committees or international databases (ISI Web of Knowledge, Pub Med, HCERES, EHRI plus, Scimago Journal & Country Rank), etc.).

ACLN: Articles in journals with peer-review committees which are not listed in international databases.

ASCL: Articles in journals without peer-review committees. BRE: Patents (specify any possible licenses).

C-INV: Guest conferences (with supporting evidence).

C-ACTI: Presentations with proceedings at an international conference.

C-ACTN: Communications published in national conference proceedings.

C-COM: Oral presentations without proceedings at an international or national conference. C-AFF: Presentations by poster at an international or national conference.

DO: Book editor.

OR: Research tools, corpus, cohorts.

OS: Scientific books (including critical editions and scientific translations).

CHA: Chapters of books. VP: Outreach Publications.

PAT: Theorized Artistic productions (musical or cinematographic composition, 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.