

**ANGERS UNIVERSITY**

**TEMOS**

Faculty of Languages, Humanities and Social Sciences

Junior Contract Researcher  
Post-doctoral contract in Contemporary History

Category : A

**Presentation of the University of Angers**

In the heart of a region recognized for its quality of life, the University of Angers, the 3rd largest employer in the region, offers an environment conducive to the development of its staff and students. The UA is a multidisciplinary university, welcoming more than 26000 students spread over 3 campuses and 2 relocated campuses (in Cholet and Saumur). It has 8 components (5 UFR, 1 IUT, 1 internal engineering school and 1 internal business and management school), and 31 federative research units and structures. Thanks to the many innovative projects it carries out and its openness to the world, the AU allows everyone to evolve in a stimulating environment. Its annual budget is €156 million (including €123 million in payroll). The UA has 1167 teachers and teacher-researchers, 917 administrative and technical staff and nearly 2000 individual contractors and is looking for involved and daring actors. You recognize yourself in this job offer ? Join us !

**Contract features:**

**Starting date : april 2025**

**Contract duration :** 24 months French law work contract

**Work quota :** 100%

**Monthly wage :** 2945 euros gross

**Location :** Angers University, TEMOS Laboratory

**Name of research project : CPJ "Child Studies"**

**Description of the research project:** This post-doctoral contract is part of the Junior Professor Chair (CPJ) project "Child Studies" entrusted to Véronique Blanchard (University of Angers, UMR TEMOS) from September 2023 to September 2029.

The main research of this Chair focuses on the history of irregular childhood in a colonial context from the 19th to the 20th century, particularly with the example of La Réunion. This study examines both the institutions of colonial and post-colonial justice aimed at minors (defined as delinquents, deviants, undisciplined, to be protected) and attempts to approach the profiles of judged and placed children. Thus, in La Réunion, judicial, congregational, and associative archives allow for the writing of a history of the two main placement sites: the Providence penitentiary (in the 19th century) and the boarding school of the Association for Guilty and Abandoned Children (from the 1930s). These sources also provide the means to attempt a "child's eye view" history through a detailed analysis of judicial files to highlight the writings, words, and reactions of children and young people facing institutions. The notion of agency of the "first concerned" is at the heart of the project. What strategies, what resistances do minors implement to adapt or divert imposed norms? The diachronic approach (over a century) anchors this research according to the analytical frameworks of colonial and post-colonial history, while making room for reflection in terms of "class" and, if possible, gender, using the tools of intersectionality.

The post-doctoral researcher will focus on the treatment of childhood, particularly that perceived as deviant, delinquent, or to be protected in Madagascar between the 19th century (beginning of French colonization) and 1960 (independence of the country). This will involve conducting a study on a reformatory/correctional institution for children, and/or on the issue of wandering children, street children, and the modes of control of juvenile mobility in a colonial context, and/or the issue of imposing a French justice model in a colonial context and then in the context of independence.

This study will resonate with the CPJ's research on La Réunion and similar questions. Indeed, the common points between the general history of the two islands would offer the means to analyze the differences and similarities in the care of irregular childhood by the French, from the 19th century to the mid-20th century in a colonial and then post-colonial context. It will be necessary to take into account the circulation of "educational" models between Madagascar and La Réunion. The relationships between missionaries, justice, and childhood are also to be deepened.

Finally, links will be made with the doctoral research that must also be undertaken within the framework of the Chair, starting in September 2025, on the situation of irregular childhood in the Caribbean space (mainly Antilles and Guyana after departmentalization).

### Definition of research activities and tasks to be accomplished:

The postdoc will conduct their research within the axis 1 of the UMR TEMOS "Childhood, gender, and traces of self: individualities and subjectivities in motion" in which the scientific project of the Junior Professor Chair "Child Studies" is part.

UMR TEMOS Temps, Mondes, Sociétés brings together about sixty teacher-researchers and researchers under the supervision of the CNRS (INSHS) and the universities of Angers, Le Mans, and Lorient. The theme of the history of childhood and youth is part of an "childhood and youth" axis of the MSH Ange Guépin and the Ligérien University Pole of Studies on Childhood and Youth with notably a chair "Speech and agency of children and young people" carried by TEMOS at the University of Angers. This working environment is very conducive to interdisciplinary dialogue with other SHS, but also with the health field.

The position is located in Angers (Maison de la recherche Germaine Tillion). Regular participation in the laboratory's scientific meetings related to the theme is required.

Within this project, the postdoctoral contract will involve:

- Conducting a state of the art (bibliography) and sources: Malagasy archives (judicial, child protection, others...), ANOM archives, congregational archives (Spiritans, Jesuits, sisters...), oral archives (testimonies)
- Working in connection with the holder of the CPJ and the CPJ doctoral student on themes such as justice and protection institutions, child justice laws in a colonial and independence context, control of juvenile mobility... Allowing for initial comparisons with the situation in La Réunion and the Caribbean.
- Collaborating in the writing of the special issue Cahier de l'Afrique on "irregular" childhood. Coordination of the issue, article reviews... and writing an article for the dossier (publication planned for 2027).
- Consolidating and collaborating with networks of researchers on "irregular" childhood in a colonial and post-colonial context
- Creating a research blog for research news, sector news, and bibliographic notes
- Participation in research restitution moments. Organizing an event: colloquium, seminars on the issue of "irregular" childhood in a colonial and post-colonial context
- Research dissemination activities: Hypotheses notebook, Data Management Plan, study days, and workshops

### Expected skills :

#### Knowledge :

- Knowledge of African history, preferably Malagasy and Indian Ocean.
- Knowledge of public and private archives in France, particularly those preserved at ANOM.
- Mastery of French colonial and post-colonial history.

#### Know-how:

- Teamwork
- Communication with a network of researchers and communities
- Autonomy

#### Soft skills:

- Digital humanities and databases for history.
- Meeting the constrained deadlines of a research program

### Qualifications : **PHD degree of less than 3 years**

Specialty : Contemporary History

### Recruitment procedures and contact :

You must submit your CV, cover letter and doctoral degree by mail at :  
[Yves.denechere@univ-angers.fr](mailto:Yves.denechere@univ-angers.fr) & [veronique.blanchard@univ-angers.fr](mailto:veronique.blanchard@univ-angers.fr) copy to :  
[recrutement@univ-angers.fr](mailto:recrutement@univ-angers.fr)

**Deadline for applications: 15/02/2025**

**This job description is available until the closing date for applications.  
On that date, it will no longer be available on the website.**

**If needed, your contact for any further information:  
at +33 2 41 22 63 81 or [mireille.loirat@univ-angers.fr](mailto:mireille.loirat@univ-angers.fr)**