



2019 Call for proposals « Research on non-profit organisations » Our Laureates

The objectives of this call for proposals

How do non-profit organisations contribute to society? What mutations are they going through? Do they operate in specific ways?

We initiated a first call for proposals in June 2019 to support and promote research studies that address these issues, amongst others.

The focal point of this topic is the “non-profit reality”, and it encompasses all its different dimensions, may they be political, juridical, sociological, economical, or historical. It is open to researchers in human and social sciences and to all of the various research methods and theory approaches: academic research, participatory research methods, action research, applied research, operations research, ...

The call for proposals in numbers



43 Applications



15 Disciplines



15

Projects
supported



20 Researchers-
Examiners



€135,000
Granted to the
projects

Our 2019 Laureates

These research projects address important issues for non-profit organisations: citizenship and democracy, local dynamics, governance issues, non-profit organisations and digital technologies, and value creation.

“Working conditions, organisations and relationships in social solidarity economy organisations”, by Simon Cottin-Marx, Postdoctoral researcher at Laboratoire Techniques Territoires et Sociétés.

The non-profit sector employs 1,8 million people throughout 159,000 non-profit organisations. As such, it is a world of work. The researcher aims to strengthen our understanding of the working conditions, organisation and relationships in non-profit organisations and more particularly in the smaller ones. It seeks to answer the following question: “what are the work characteristics in the non-profit sector?”

This project should enrich knowledge on the specificities of labour in this sector, which should in turn benefit the whole of non-profit organisations that employ individuals.

Publication project: “Uniting today: Individuation, State and Resistance Movements” by the French Association of Anthropology, represented by its President, Barbard Morovich, Lecturer at the École Nationale Supérieure d'Architecture of Strasbourg

In a tense social-political background tied to a supposed solidarity crisis and to new forms of struggle, this project studies the roots of engagement, its causes, and the many ways, both complex and unscripted, to organise today. This project aims to examine the contemporary aspects of forms of organisation, for example, the professionalization of organisations, the impact of digital technology, the function of volunteering and its social utility, experimentations in participative democracy, and new forms of solidarity among the women and men who live this democracy.

This publication will strengthen our understanding of the non-profit sector through a cross examination conducted by a pluridisciplinary and international team of researchers.

“Organisational identity in entertainment non-profit organisations”, by Stéphanie Havet-Laurent, IAE Lyon School of Management

There are 123,000 non-profit organisations in the entertainment industry that manage shows in France: troupes, festivals, venues, ... This project focuses on 3 small organisations that have developed a mixed model based on professional artist and volunteer work. It aims to understand how artists and volunteers build the organisation’s identity and develop it.

This project will enable non-profits to become self-aware of their identity and as a result, to have a better control over their public image.

“Non-profit communication: a cross investigation by researchers and actors”, by Eric Dacheux, Professor at Clermont Auvergne University

How to communicate with people who do not share the same values when we aim to act collectively? This action research takes place in a process of local co-construction between 6 researchers and 23 actors based in Clermont-Ferrand.

It will allow the participants to work on cross-organisation communication and on communication strategies at the local level, which are currently both misunderstood and under documented. This project will help non-profits better develop communication strategies.

“Popular Education transformations and heritage. The case of the city of Saint-Etienne.”, by Manon Pesle, Lecturer in education sciences at Jean Monnet University of Saint-Etienne

What impact have the evolutions of public policy and of the economic environment had on non-profits' operation and democratic projects since the 1990s? This research project is conducted within popular education organisations in Saint-Etienne and lies on an original, collaborative process involving actors and researchers.

The cross examination of the participants' practices, values and representations will shed light on the sector's mutations and on their consequences on the organisations' democratic principles.

“Volunteer careers in civil security: commitment trajectories, socialisation and professional outcomes”, by Matthias Thura, Lecturer in Sociology at Strasbourg University

This project studies volunteers' profiles in civil security and aims to grasp the underlying mechanisms of their engagement. Why do they become first-aid workers in the first place? Why do they continue volunteering in such a time consuming and challenging – both physically and psychologically – environment?

First-aid volunteering is an under documented and misunderstood phenomenon. This project aims to grasp and understand the mechanisms of such commitment, that is paramount to the daily state's and population's security expectations.

“Socioeconomic study of French international solidarity organisations: contributions, models and evolutions”, by Santiago Nunez Regueiro, researcher and practitioner in international solidarity

French international solidarity organisations play an important part in many societal issues: human aid, development, environment, human rights... This research project will conduct the first socioeconomic study of these organisations in France in order to provide a clear overview of the sector and of its contributions to international aid.

The study and the highlight of non-profit organisations' social and economic contributions to international aid will foster the current state of knowledge on such organisations.

“Advocacy, democracy and funding: a study of non-profit organisations funding mechanisms in the city of Roubaix”, by Julien Talpin, research officer in political science, CNRS

How can non-profit organisations qualify for public funding while maintaining their autonomy? This project attempts to trace back the evolutions of public funding during the past ten years in the city of Roubaix in order to analyse and objectify variations in relation to the city's political alignments. This research method was designed in order to be replicated to other cities and places.

The research results should help non-profit organisations better understand the mechanics at stake regarding their financial autonomy towards the public administration.

“Non-profit networks and civic media: how do non-profit organisations design and use networking tools for democratic participation?”, by Jessica Feldman, Noémie Oxley et Fatima Aziz, Department of Global Communications, American University of Paris

How do non-profit organisations design and use digital tools to attain digital self-governance and to give a voice to the people they represent? This study aims to better understand the negative and

positive effects digital tools have on non-profit organisations. It also seeks to understand the potential contradictions between such tools and the organisations' democratic missions. Finally, it attempts to understand how non-profits' presence on these networks can influence decision making in legislative and government institutions.

The research findings will benefit non-profit organisations, as well as designers and engineers who wish to work on "citizen media" and "civic technologies", and donators who want to support such projects.

"Numeric bubbles in the non-profit sector?", by Müge Özman Professor at Institut Mines-Télécom Business School

Non-profit organisations play a key role for society. Digital skills in the new economy and non-profits' experience should lead to more synergies, however, some obstacles prevent such synergies from happening. Do networks enable skillset mutual enrichment between digital actors and non-profit organisations?

This project aims to develop practical knowledge for non-profit organisations that wish to strengthen their digital development, especially regarding collaboration with their stakeholders.

"Local mutations and informal practices: challenging dynamics for the non-profit sector. When non-profit organisations and collectives rise up against housing vulnerability", by Elise Roche, lecturer in urbanism, PhD in geography at INSA of Lyon

This project studies how non-profits organise themselves around housing issues. Resistance against expropriation of houses to build a motorway, rallying against gentrification of a district, organisation of a solidarity network and set up of housing solutions for exiled people... How do these forms of resistance contribute to the shaping of the land where they take place by questioning the place of housing?

This research study contributes to knowledge on the non-profit reality in the urban field, with a focus on housing vulnerability and on non-profit organisations and local residents.

"CoopAsso – obstacles and facilitators in cross-organisations cooperation", by Sébastien Gand, lecturer at Sciences Po Grenoble and researcher at Grenoble Alpes University, and Sylvie Jarnias, lecturer at Grenoble Alpes University

Faced with budget cuts, non-profit organisations cooperate in order to mutualise their resources and to set up actions together. Such cooperation practices can thus foster their development. The success of such endeavours can however prove challenging. This research project aims to study and to help make a success of an innovative initiative carried out by three community centres in Romans-sur-Isère (Drôme).

The researchers' goal is to study an innovative case while working towards its long-term success. In order to do so, they will attempt to single out good practices and measures that are adapted to cross-organisations governance.

"At the family planning, we don't write, we wait for the others to do so": a social history of the family planning in Isère", by Irène Favier, university lecturer and researcher in extra-European contemporary history at Grenoble Alpes University, and Amélie Nuq, lecturer in contemporary history at Grenoble Alpes University

This research project looks into the history of the family planning of Isère, a pioneering organisation – the first French Movement for Family Planning (Mouvement français pour le planning familial) opened

in Grenoble in 1961. This study aims to complete past studies that focus on Parisian centres and on important figures of the feminist movement. The project will mainly consist in the collection of oral sources, since a life-long militant has confessed to us that “we barely write at the family planning; most things are said out loud.”

The family planning is a unique non-profit organisation, both at the local and national levels, and is a major component of the French feminist movement. This project aims to preserve its heritage.

“**Digital technology and environmental education: The French non-profits case**”, by Cédric Gossart, lecturer in management science, Institut Mines-Télécom Business School

This research project attempts to identify digital practices in French non-profit organisations that work toward environmental education. Digital tools can be a powerful educational leverage but what is their impact on awareness of the great challenges faced by humanity? Such practices will shed light on the technologies that are used, the required skills, and the symbolic representations that these organisations might have regarding digital tools.

This project will enable non-profit organisations of all kinds to better understand how digital tools can help them carry out their missions. Its contribution will be particularly important to non-profit organisations in the fields of environmental education and sustainable development.

« **Vulnérabilité et association en milieu confiné** », par Bernard Petitgas, Sociologue indépendant, chercheur associé au laboratoire CERReV de l’université Caen Normandie

Il existe en France des lieux de vie dans lesquels s’engager dans une association ou pouvoir en créer une est difficile, voire impossible (les EHPAD, les hôpitaux psychiatriques, les prisons, ...). Ce projet de recherche se propose d’étudier l’engagement associatif dans ces milieux qui enferment. Quelles sont les adaptations nécessaires, mais également les nouvelles façons de penser l’association, qui pourraient être proposées au regard des lourdes contraintes de vulnérabilité – institutionnelles, physiques, psychologiques, pénales – s’exerçant sur les individus ?

Ce projet permet de repenser le fait associatif au regard des vulnérabilités vécues dans notre société et son aspect démocratique à pouvoir s'exercer dans tous les espaces de vie.

“**Vulnerability and non-profit organisation in closed institutions**”, by Bernard Petitgas, sociologist, research affiliate et laboratoire CERReV of Caen Normandie University

In France, there are institutions where it is complicated and nearly impossible to found non-profit organisations (nursing homes, psychiatric hospitals, prisons...). This project studies volunteer engagement – in the context of non-profit organisations – in such closed institutions. What adjustments can be made? How to rethink non-profit organisations while paying attention to the individuals’ vulnerability and the barriers that fall upon them – may they be institutional, physical, psychological, penal barriers.

This project will allow us to rethink the non-profit reality in the light of vulnerabilities, and as an element of democracy – a right that we should be able to exercise no matter where we live.