



LISTO Laboratory for Socio-Technical and Organisational Innovation in Agriculture UR 718  
<http://www.dijon.inra.fr/listo>

## **Postdoctoral offer to foreign student**

### **Subject**

#### **Farms facing traceability An anglo-french analysis of farmers' practices of writing**

**Location:** Dijon and Burgundy in general; missions at Lancaster University (UK) on a regular basis

**Duration:** 24 months (co-funded by the Regional Council of Burgundy and INRA-SAD on the basis of 12 months each; € 2,000 net/month)

**Starting date:** 1<sup>st</sup> October 2009

The management of accountability in agricultural production has become a major concern in a European space marked by the experience of several animal health crises and by increasing societal criticisms levelled at farming. Now farms find themselves constrained to show they are able to build up relevant information in order to make decisions and to enforce traceability. The postdoctoral student will undertake research in the frame of the project entitled : "Farmers facing traceability : *What innovations exist in the farmers' activity and what support is offered from advisory bodies? A comparative approach: Burgundy-Lancashire.*" This research comprises three parts: 1) an ethnographic study of farmers' practices of writing within a small sample of farms in France and England; 2) an observation of the documents handled on the farms in situations of advice and inspection (timetables, administrative files, farmers' notebooks, etc.); 3) organization of meetings with the farmers involved in the research to disseminate and discuss the research results and enhance reflection on how to improve the management of information.

The activities of the postdoctoral student will focus more particularly on the first part of the research (Year 1). He or she will take part in surveys in Burgundy that will be devoted to the detailed inventory of practices of writing on the farms, whether the latter are motivated by the need for internal management or by accountability requirements. Attention will be focused on the contents of traced information, recording formats and choice of media, distribution of writing tasks among workers and mastery of information, mutual support between farmers, documentary-classification methods, etc. Observations targeted at scenes of writing (when farmers take notes in field notebooks, elaborate manuring plans, or fill in application forms for subsidies) will also be carried out. Methodological issues are critical when practices of writing are dealt with. In this respect, the postdoctoral student will benefit from the expertise

acquired by the project coordinator, with whom he or she will be associated for fieldwork. He or she will also be involved in the exchanges planned between LISTO and the other two laboratories taking part in the research project (the Lancaster Literacy Research Centre – University of Lancaster; the Laboratoire Techniques, Territoires et Société – UMR CNRS/ENPC/UMLV) and he or she will participate in the elaboration of a common methodological framework between these three teams. Finally, in year 2, the postdoctoral student will contribute to the two other parts of the research and provide more specifically support to the scientific dissemination of the results obtained, in particular through the organisation of a European symposium.

**Requirements:**

The candidate should have a Ph D in sociology, anthropology or sociolinguistics, obtained less than five years ago. He or she will need to have some previous experience in ethnographic investigations and should have skills in observation of activities of work. Knowledge of agriculture will be appreciated. Near native fluency in English (both written and oral) is also required and a basic knowledge of French. It is a condition of this post that the candidate has never worked before in France.

**Contact:**

Please send a letter of interest, a CV and a list of publications with one complete journal article you consider representative of your work before June, 20<sup>th</sup> 2009 to **Nathalie Joly** : [n.joly@enesad.fr](mailto:n.joly@enesad.fr) / tel.: + 33(0)3 80 77 28 14