Call for Applications
Full Post-doctoral position (12 months)

Context of the Research

This postdoctoral position is part of the broader research project *Living in cities with terror: effects of diffuse terrorism on urban atmospheres*, funded by Initiative d'excellence Paris/Seine and hosted at MRTE Research Group (University of Cergy-Pontoise), in partnership with the Universities of Birmingham (UK), Plymouth (UK) and Heidelberg (GER), since September 2017.

This project aims to understand the 'weight' of the threat of terrorism upon city dwellers' daily experience of urban spaces in European metropolises. A first challenge of the project is to examine how this threat influences urban environments by acting on individuals, their behavior and their representations. The second issue, which is relevant to the first, concerns the understanding of the apparatus of urban security by considering the co-implication of the discourses and practices of public and private actors and the feeling of security experienced by city dwellers. The central hypothesis of the project is that urban environments have a capacity to translate this relation.

This research questions the fabric of urban securities as discourses and practices from public and private actors, as well as that of the feeling of safety experienced by city dwellers by asking "What is the role of ambiances in the production and experience of ordinary urban security?". A multiplicity of theoretical and practical paradigms are at work in the implementation of urban security policies. However, none of these paradigms takes into consideration the ability of security policies and practices to act on the sensory aspects of the everyday lived experience of space. In addition, the vast majority of research on violence and security tends to focus their approaches on areas of conflict, or on technical and regulatory security apparatuses, and subsequently diminishes the individual experiences of these policies and practices, which have greatly increased and changed in recent years, to the extent that scientific literature and the media no longer hesitate to describe the contemporary context as "Post-Terror".

Based on this observation, this project aims to understand the uses that can be made of urban environments from the perspective of their security. Transversal to the social sciences and architectural and urban research and practice, the concept of atmosphere is used to address the sensory potential of individuals. It is the focus of this research to understand both the contribution of security policies and practices to the sensitive shaping of ordinary spaces, while examining the effects of atmospheres on the experience of the feeling of security.
The research is conducted on three European countries, France, England and Germany, which have different histories in relation to the terrorist threat. It is conducted in two major phases: 1) the analysis of security policies, and 2) sensory ethnographies in selected cities.

**Position details**
The post-doc will hold a full research position (100%) on this study. He/she will join an interdisciplinary, international research team (French, Italian, British, German), and will be responsible to carry out a part of this study across the abovementioned phases.

The post-doc will:
- Participate (with the other members of the research team) in the analysis of security policies, on the French field and on one of the two other fields. This analysis focuses on a body of legal documents, political speeches, and press articles. Participation in the writing of the synthesis. (30%)
- Construct, conduct and analysis of an ethnographic field survey of inhabitants of the research fields (at least in France and England, Germany if possible). Production of a written summary of this original survey. (70%)

**Profile**
PhD in geography, urban studies, sociology, or anthropology, with a preference for a background in sensory, atmospheres and affect related research. The ability to carry out large-scale ethnographic research, including skills for qualitative analysis (applied to broad documentary corpuses as well as to interviews/observations) is required. Prior experience with sensory and non-representational methodologies, as well as knowledge of the field of critical security studies are very welcome.

The post-doc must be fluent in written and spoken French. Good command of written and spoken English is also expected. Ability to speak and/or read in German would be a plus.

**Place of work**
The post-doctoral researcher will be working at MRTE research group at the University of Cergy-Pontoise.

The MRTE research group (Mobilities, Networks, Territories, Environment, EA 4112), carries out innovative research relating to geography, planning, urban studies and more broadly to the social sciences. It thus aims to respond to the challenges posed by the current dynamics that are transforming contemporary and particularly urban worlds: public policies and territories in transition, changes in mobility and transportation, patrimonialisation, environmental issues, participation and digitization.

More information here: [https://www.u-cergy.fr/fr/laboratoires/lab-mrte.html](https://www.u-cergy.fr/fr/laboratoires/lab-mrte.html)

The post-doctoral researcher will be supervised by Damien Masson (Associate Professor in Urban Studies, MRTE). He/she will be involved in discussions with the other members of the research (on a monthly basis with the French members of the team, on a larger basis with the international team).
Practical information
Starting date: October 2018
Contract duration: 12 months
Rate of activity: 100%
Location: MRTE Research Group, University of Cergy-Pontoise, Cergy
Salary: 2900 € monthly gross (2300 € monthly neat)

Application
To apply, please send the following documents before the 20th July 2018:

• Curriculum Vitae (detailed)
• A letter explaining your interest in the project
• PhD Thesis or significant publications (max 3)
• Copy of the PhD degree

Contact
Damien Masson, damien.masson@u-cergy.fr
Any enquiries prior applications are recommended.