

PhD position in child language socialization (involves fieldwork: West Papua, Indonesia)

A PhD candidate is sought for the Documenting Languages and Ethnobiological Knowledge (DocuLEK) project, funded jointly by the French and German research agencies (ANR-DFG). The project will be headed by an international team of researchers, including Sonja Riesberg (LaCiTO CNRS, Paris), Birgit Hellwig (University of Cologne) and Aung Si (University of Cologne). This interdisciplinary project has a number of aims, including the development of an online ethnobiological portal with an Asia-Melanesia focus, and ethnobiological and linguistic documentation of four very different languages of Myanmar, Indonesia and Papua New Guinea.

The successful candidate will carry out an in-depth study of children's socialization into the ethnobiological knowledge of the Yali language spoken in West Papua, Indonesia. The investigation will focus on children's acquisition of the Yali ethnobiological lexicon, and in particular, plant, bird and mammal names.

The position includes a full-time PhD position (approximately EUR 2,200 gross per month) for 36 months, fieldwork expenses (field trips and required equipment) and travel expenses for conference attendance. The PhD is to be undertaken at LaCiTO CNRS, Paris, and the expected commencement date is 01/09/2025.

Required qualifications/characteristics:

- MA in General Linguistics or a closely related field
- Interest in interdisciplinary research and/or in fields such as child language acquisition, anthropological linguistics, sociolinguistics, ethnobiology
- Very good proficiency in spoken and written English
- Willingness to learn Indonesian, during the PhD, to facilitate field research
- Ability to work with small children
- Ability to carry out independent field research
- Demonstrated skills in cross-cultural communication

Desirable qualifications/characteristics:

- Some prior biological training or experience in ethnobiological research
- Prior experience in quantitative research (statistics)
- Intermediate proficiency in French and/or Bahasa Indonesia

Applicants should submit the following:

- Letter of motivation addressing the selection criteria above (1 page)
- Curriculum vitae
- Two samples of academic writing (e.g. published work, MA thesis, term paper, completed draft of article). Please append these to your CV and submit as a single file.
- Names, affiliations, and email addresses of two referees who are willing to supply letters of reference in support of the application.

Applications must go through the CNRS job portal:

<https://emploi.cnrs.fr/Offres/Doctorant/UMR7107-ANIFOR-018/Default.aspx>

Closing date: 31/05/2025. No application will be accepted by email.

Further inquiries regarding the position should be addressed to asi@uni-koeln.de and sonja.riesberg@cnrs.fr