



POSTDOCTORAL FELLOWSHIP

“Reinforcing populations’ resilience: how to better adapt actions to sociocultural contexts?”

Call for Applications 2019



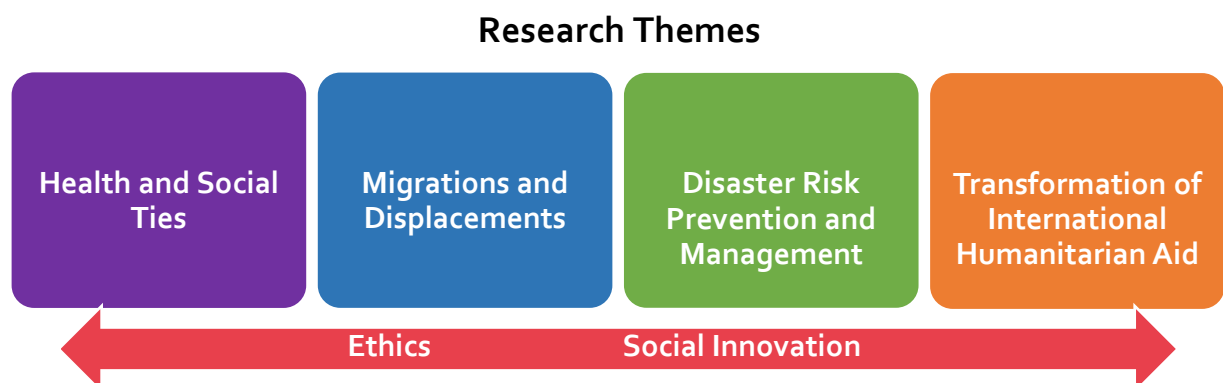
PRESENTATION

The activities of the French Red Cross Foundation are centred on a conviction: in order to best respond to suffering and to prevent its causes, it is necessary to understand the contexts in which it occurs, and to take the time to analyse the dynamics at play, whilst working as closely as possible with affected populations. In order to encourage and guide this effort of reflection and innovation, the Foundation is launching its second call for applications for postdoctoral fellowships in the humanities and social sciences on 11 April 2019.

The call includes:

- The “Humanitarian transition” call. This call invites researchers to address the changes affecting international humanitarian aid in its different dimensions, using a variety of social science approaches. Applications from researchers from the concerned countries or regions will be given precedence.
- The “partner calls”. These calls aim to achieve a deeper understanding of human vulnerabilities, the responses provided, and the changes in social and humanitarian action, in order to better manage or prevent them. They focus on more specific subjects, whose aims correspond to the themes and reflections shared by the Foundation and its partners, who are committed to research with the same conviction as to its necessity.

In addition to the four priority research themes, there are two horizontal themes, ethics and social innovation, which both help to structure the inevitable questions arising from unprecedented situations which require new choices, and to orientate these questions towards the development of new responses to new or unfulfilled social needs, through the involvement and cooperation of those concerned, namely the service users.



Each researcher can submit up to two applications, one for the general call and one for the partner calls. However, each candidate will receive only one fellowship and may, if necessary, have to choose.

POSTDOCTORAL FELLOWSHIP

“Reinforcing populations’ resilience: how to better adapt actions to sociocultural contexts?”

The French Red Cross Foundation has decided to launch a call for applications for a postdoctoral fellowship on the topic of the prevention and management of natural risks and disasters.

1. Research Theme

According to the *World Disasters Report 2018*, published by the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, 3751 natural disasters have been recorded worldwide over the past ten years, 84% of which were linked to hazardous meteorological conditions. Over this period, an estimated two billion people were affected by natural disasters, 95% of whom were affected by disasters linked to meteorological conditions, namely floods (36.7%) and storms (17%). The approximative cost of disasters in the 141 affected countries throughout the world over the past ten years has been roughly 1658 billion US dollars, 72.6% of which were attributable to hazardous meteorological conditions, with storms alone accounting for 41,7% of these costs.

Climate change and natural hazards have consequences which far exceed their environmental impact. In 2015, on the eve of the COP21 in Paris, a report by the World Bank confirmed the link between climate and poverty, with one of its authors stating that “absent such good development, climate change could result in an additional 100 million people living in extreme poverty by 2030”. The continuing rise of temperatures, increasing frequency of extreme natural disasters and pollution are all factors which will undeniably have an impact on the economies of the most vulnerable countries, which are primarily agricultural and therefore highly dependent on the climate. Climate change also exacerbates conflicts over natural resources, pushing populations into forced migration, who then fall into a legal vacuum since there is as yet no status for climate refugees.

This all leads to humanitarian and sanitary crises with specific causes and management methods. The proliferation of these crises will, according to forecasts, require NGOs, states, businesses, and international institutions to manage increasing volumes of operations in the future. This new context will prompt actors of civil society and international institutions to reshape their action with a view to a transition or to closer affiliation to sustainable development objectives, and local public authorities to opt for innovative methods of disaster risk management (new insurance mechanisms, Disaster Risk Reduction) and energy transition. It is therefore important to ask what these environmental upheavals entail, both in terms of their consequences for populations, and in terms of the development and practice of humanitarian aid.

One of the major challenges is better understanding and anticipating the consequences of current aid programmes, and integrating the perceptions of risk and adaptation capacities of local populations. Indeed, it is generally agreed that although the risks associated with natural disasters are due to hazards that are difficult to control, their impact can be limited in several ways, and especially by preparing the populations beforehand. This preparation first involves raising awareness and an effective communication strategy, an essential component of disaster risk reduction programmes in the humanitarian sector. Nevertheless, it is interesting to note that a population that has been made aware of a risk does not always adapt its behaviour as a result.

How can we reinforce populations' resilience and preparation and response capacities in the event of natural disasters and sanitary crises for risk management actors in the context of climate change? Which actions contribute to reducing vulnerability and improving adaptation to extreme meteorological hazards, with a view to lasting resilience and sustainability? How do individuals perceive the risks to which they are exposed? Which parameters influence this perception? What is the correlation between the perception of risks and the adaptation of behaviours? How can the socio-cultural elements of disaster risk reduction management be integrated in order to increase resilience?

The aim of the research will be to identify and understand the sociocultural factors which influence prevention and protection behaviours in the face of natural risks (before, during and after), and the foreseeable effects of climate change, in order to guide the methodology for the implementation of preventive actions and to enable citizens to participate in their own security and that of their surroundings.

The analysis of these sociocultural factors, focusing on the awareness and attitudes which underlie population behaviours and preventive practices, should lead to recommendations for the development of risk reduction actions adapted to the specific contexts of study. Based on the analysis of results and the impact of current prevention activities, and on population behaviours, these recommendations may refer, for example, to the development of tools/materials for raising awareness and preparing for natural disaster risks and the foreseeable effects of climate change, or to key awareness messages for preparation in view of these risks.

Finally, on the basis of the research results and the existing literature on the subject, a more general reflection on resilience is expected, with ideas about what it really means to improve population resilience in the face of natural disaster risks. Resilience is a major social issue of our times. As an extremely promising horizon, it is a term that, although vague, enables advances in public, private, national, international and local policies. But it is also a term that must be used with care, because it takes on very different meanings depending on the actors concerned, and must not lead to an unequal division of responsibilities or to non-accountability on behalf of public and private actors at the expense of the populations. Resilience remains incantatory, is very difficult to put into practice and raises a number of ethical, ideological and political questions, including:

- Who decides what is best for a society or for an individual, and the state towards which they should be striving?
- What scale are we working on, and who are the intended targets of policies that aim to build up individuals' resilience?
- What is the social cost of transformational adaptation, since this cost is often borne by the poorest and most disenfranchised populations?

2. Geographic Research Areas

These themes can be addressed in a geographical area including one or several regions. The Foundation has identified **eight priority areas** for the purposes of this call:

Guadeloupe	New Caledonia
Guyana	French Polynesia
Martinique	Reunion
Mayotte	Saint-Martin

The target areas represent empirical starting-points for research. They do not refer to nationality criteria for eligibility.

Access to the field will be conditional on a precise risk evaluation submitted with the application and updated before departure.

APPLICATIONS CONDITIONS

The funding provided by the French Red Cross Foundation is intended to cover the cost of one year of research in the framework of an individual postdoctoral fellowship. These fellowships are bestowed according to a basic scale, equivalent to **€ 17,000 for one year**.

Researchers fulfilling the following conditions may apply:

- be a holder of a doctorate (French doctorate, PhD or foreign doctorate in political science, anthropology, sociology, economy, law, history, philosophy, ethics), or medical science (medicine, public health);
- have defended their doctorate less than 10 years ago;
- not occupy another permanent position more than 50%;
- contribute to advancing research on the themes and in the geographical areas predefined by the Foundation, or have published work in other fields demonstrating an ability to carry out quality research.

There is no condition of nationality. The Foundation does give precedence to application from researchers residing in the priority geographical research areas.

Projects with a multi-disciplinary approach are strongly encouraged.

In general, the applicant should:

- present their research project in French;
- be nominated by an academic or research establishment;
- support the application (value of proposed research);
- be aware of the eligibility criteria and arrangements for using the funds allocated by the Foundation, as detailed in this document;
- apply, in accordance with the following paragraph, **by 3 June 2019 at midnight.**

APPLICATION

The management of applications is carried out by the Foundation, by means of an online platform accessible from the Foundation's website. Once the applicant has created their account, they can apply for the different fellowships and keep track of their applications.

A. Application

The applicant fills in a first form made up of information relative to their profile (qualifications, background and professional situation) and their project (title, research country, aims, topic, scientific and social issues and value, proposed methodology, calendar, etc.), including an evaluation of the security risks attending it, and attaches the following documents:

1. an up-to-date CV detailing the candidate's university and professional background;
2. a copy of the diploma of the doctorate, or for future doctors, a document from the graduate school certifying that the defense will take place before June 30th 2018;
3. a letter of motivation;
4. proof of address.
5. a timeline;
6. a copy of the thesis defense report (if the thesis has been defended);
7. a letter of recommendation from the head of the laboratory or research institution hosting the post-doctoral student (optional);
8. a reference from a scientific tutor (optional);

Online applications will be open between 11 April and 3 June at midnight. After this deadline, no further supporting documents may be added to the files. Incomplete applications will be automatically rejected.

If all of the information has been provided (required fields filled in), the applicant can confirm their application and submit their file for evaluation, the results of which will be communicated to them.

B. Evaluation and Selection Procedure

Applications will be evaluated by groups made up of associate experts, the Foundation team, and members of the Foundation's Board and Scientific Council (SC). On the basis of these different evaluations; selection will establish selection proposals which will be

submitted to the Foundation's Board, who will draw up the final selection during the course of a meeting which will take place on June 19. Applicants will be informed of the results the following day.

TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF THE FINANCIAL SUPPORT

- The Foundation does not provide laureates with any financial or logistical support beyond the bursary which is awarded them. Each laureate is solely responsible for their logistical management and material work conditions.
- Each researcher commits to respecting the conditions, and to signing the chart and the Foundation's funding award agreement.
- The laureates commit to respecting the laws and regulations of the research country or countries, especially with regard to their entering and leaving the territory, and taking out public liability insurance, medical and repatriation coverage in case of travel abroad, and any compulsory payroll tax in force in the country of residence.
- The laureates commit to respecting the Fund's scientific calendar with regard to the deadlines for sending stage reports and working papers. Laureates will have the opportunity to present their work orally as part of study days organised by the Foundation.
- Should articles or books be published by the laureate on the basis of this work, the funding or co-funding by the French Red Cross Foundation and its partners will be mentioned. Conversely, should the work carried out by the laureate be disseminated or used by the Foundation and its partners, which the laureate would have to consent to in advance, the author will be cited, and retain ownership of their work.
- The payment of the bursary by the Foundation is carried out in four instalments: three instalments of 5 000 euros, the first of which is paid at the beginning of the research, and the remaining 2000 euros on receipt of the working papers.
- The research period begins on September 1st and at the latest by September 15th, of the year that the fellowship is awarded. Nevertheless, the payment of the first instalment of the bursary is conditional on the laureates' confirmation to the Foundation of the start of their research. Any delay beyond September 15th must be justified and will lead to a delay in the first payment, until such a confirmation is received. Any delay in the beginning of the research work, the dispatch of intermediary reports or working papers, and any change in the conducting of the research which, by its unjustified nature or scope, calls into question the project's feasibility within the timeframe and form (topic, methodology, etc.) of the initial project submitted in the course of the laureates' application will lead to the cancellation of the funding.
- The payment of the second and third instalments of the bursary will depend on the expressly reaffirmed commitment of the laureates to pursue their work, by means of the dispatch of two stage reports in accordance with the dates

indicated in the Foundation's scientific calendar. The laureates must inform the Foundation at the earliest opportunity of any early termination of their research. In the absence of the reaffirmation of expressed commitment to pursuing their work in the aforementioned conditions by the dispatch of two stage reports in accordance with the agreed dates, the payment of the bursary will be stopped. The Foundation reserves the right to ask for the total or partial reimbursement of the amount of the bursary already paid.

- The laureates commit to communicating any possible situation of conflict of interest to the Foundation.
- It is understood that the views and opinions expressed by the laureates in articles or books drawn from this research engage them alone and do not necessarily reflect those of the French Red Cross Foundation or its partners.
- If, during the interval separating the attribution of the bursary and the beginning of the research work, an unforeseeable event should occur in the research country or countries, which in its severity might modify the work context, the Foundation reserves the right to suspend the bursary at any moment. The decision to suspend will take into account different parameters (including the opinion of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in the country of residence, the presence or retreat of transnational NGOs, the ICRC and UN agencies in the area).

PROVISIONAL TIMETABLE

11 April	Launch of the call for applications
3 June	Deadline for applications (midnight)
19 June	Board meeting for selection
20 June	Results are announced
July-August	Signing of the chart and funding award agreement by laureates
1-15 September	Research begins

Please address any questions relating to the call to:

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