



Post-doctoral researchers in the history of medieval law

The Maison des Sciences de l'Homme Ange Guépin (MSH, Nantes, France) is recruiting five post-doctoral researchers for work on the project "RELMIN: The legal status of religious minorities in the Euro-Mediterranean world (5th-16th centuries)".

RELMIN is funded for five years (2010-2015) as part of the Ideas programme of the European Research Council's Seventh Framework Programme. It is based at the MSH and is directed by John Tolan, professor of history at the University of Nantes and director of the MSH.

Project summary

European religious diversity has its roots in the practice of medieval societies. Medieval European polities, Christian and Muslim, granted protected and inferior status to selected religious minorities. RELMIN will collect, publish and study legal texts defining the status of religious minorities in pre-modern Europe. The corpus of texts includes Roman law (in particular in the legal codes of Theodosius and Justinian), canon law (*acta* of Church councils, the *Decretum* attributed to Gratian, the *Decretales*), national or royal law (from "barbarian" law codes of the early Middle Ages to national compilations such as the *Siete Partidas* of Alfonso X of Castile in the thirteenth century), urban law (particularly the *fueros* in the Iberian peninsula and *hisba* manuals in Andalusia), rabbinical *responsa*, and *fatwa* collections. The database will contain texts in their original languages and translations into English and French, as well as an annotated bibliography on the subject. This will become a major reference tool for research in the history of minority law and of interreligious relations.

The project will also hold semi-annual workshops and a major international conference on Religious diversity in pre-modern Europe. A series of comparative thematic studies on specific aspects of interreligious relations will allow us to compare responses to similar issues in diverse societies, from seventh-century Córdoba to fifteenth-century Krakow. The goal is to encourage collaborative interdisciplinary work by scholars from different countries with varying linguistic skills, to encourage new innovative research that cuts across traditional divides. The project will publish three major works in the field: the proceedings of the international conference, a sourcebook of selected legal texts (with translations, commentaries and annotated bibliography), and a monograph on the legal status of minorities in pre-modern Europe.

Qualifications

Each of the post-doctoral researchers should have a recent PhD in history, law, language, religion or literature, with a specialisation related to the themes of RELMIN. She or he should have a high level of competence in several medieval languages and should have experience editing documents in at least one of the languages. Specialists in medieval Arabic and Latin texts are particularly sought; the project is also interested in texts in Hebrew, Greek, Castilian and other languages. We seek specialists in a variety of legal texts, including (but not limited to) canon law, imperial and royal law, municipal and trade law, *fatwas* and *responsa*. Since the project's working languages are English and French, researchers should be conversant in both (or at least in one, with a willingness to quickly learn the second).

Responsibilities of the post-doctoral researchers

The post-doctoral researchers will be part of a research team based in Nantes. Their primary responsibilities will be editing the project database and participating in the organization of the semi-annual workshops. Each researcher will be given a specific thematic area corresponding to his/her particular expertise. In this area his/her tasks will include:

- Bibliographical research:
 - Identifying medieval legal texts to include in the database
 - Identifying important secondary scholarship in the field and providing annotated bibliographical notices for the database
- Database management:
 - Writing and editing entries on specific medieval texts
 - Identifying specialists in the field and inviting them to contribute to the database
- Participating in regular team meetings (including periodic seminars and workshops)
- Organizing a thematic workshop in her/his area of expertise

Conditions of employment

Each of the post-doctoral researchers will be hired for two to three years on a non-renewable contract (French CDD: contrat à durée déterminée). Starting dates are flexible, but will be no sooner than September 1st, 2010 and no later than September 1st, 2012. Each researcher will be expected to reside in Nantes for the period of employment and will be provided with office space at the MSH.

Application procedures

Applicants should send a preliminary application, consisting of a letter of interest, a *curriculum vitae*, and the names and addresses of three references. All documents should be sent in PDF format to: relmin@univ-nantes.fr. Examination of applications will begin on May 1st, 2010 and will continue until the positions are filled.

Contact and information :

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