Programme **ReligiS**
Religions et sociétés face aux défis contemporains
porté par l'Université de Strasbourg

SECOND CALL FOR RESEARCH RESIDENCY APPLICATIONS

Based on the Religious Studies Collections of the National and University Library

(France 2030 Programme: ANR-24-RSHS-0005)

REGULATIONS

Call publication address:
(link to the page du blog Hypothèse de la Bnu)

Call opens: 1 October 2026

Call closes: 8 January 2027 (midday, Paris time)

Proposals must be sent by email to aapchercheurs@bnu.fr
The results will be announced at the end of April 2027.

Contact

aapchercheurs@bnu.fr

Preamble

The interdisciplinary programme 'Religions and societies facing contemporary challenges' (ReligiS), led by the University of Strasbourg for a period of six years (2025-2031), resulting from the France 2030 call for expressions of interest 'Research programmes in the humanities and social sciences', aims to promote critical, objective and methodical knowledge and appropriate analytical tools for understanding religious phenomena in their wide variety of contemporary forms.

For over a century, the study of religions has occupied a relatively marginal place in teaching and research in France, not only as a specialised or disciplinary field, but also, more broadly, as a subject of study within the humanities and social sciences in the broad sense, and even beyond, in the field of experimental sciences (particularly medicine). The French academic landscape in this field has changed considerably over the last two decades, but it remains marked by a significant dispersion of research efforts and a still strong compartmentalisation between scientific disciplines, as well as by an undersizing of the structures responsible for promoting and transferring knowledge and expertise to public authorities and civil society.

All social sciences and humanities disciplines are involved, ranging from history to law, sociology, philosophy and theology, languages and literature, as well as archaeology and the arts, psychology, linguistics and management sciences. The programme brings together a consortium of 13 partners, including the National and University Library (BNU). It is organised around several areas of focus: three scientific areas led by eight interdisciplinary research groups (IRGs) and four cross-disciplinary areas supporting scientific structuring and the transfer of research results to society. For details, see Présentation | Maison Interuniversitaire des Sciences sociales et des Humanités d'Alsace | MISHA.

Axis 5.1, 'Research Structuring', implements various measures to strengthen synergies within national research in the field of religious studies and, within this framework, offers mobility opportunities. **One possibility is to benefit from special access to the National and University Library to work on its collections labelled "collections of excellence for research" in religious studies.**

Article 1. Purpose of the Bnu call for researchers

The call for applications aims to welcome a researcher to the Bnu for a period of six (6) consecutive months, for the purpose of studying and promoting its collections in religious sciences, both physical and digital, with priority given to rare, unpublished or little-known items.

This residency aims to foster a project that combines the expertise of researchers and collection specialists from the outset, with a view to promoting open science.

The researcher whose application is accepted upon completion of the call shall receive the title of "chercheur associé de la Bnu" [Bnu associate researcher]. This designation does not grant the status provided under Article L 432-1 of the French Research Code.

Article 2. Eligibility conditions

For his or her application to be eligible, the candidate must:

- Be a lecturer/university professor, research fellow/research director, tenured research engineer, or postdoctoral researcher on a fixed-term contract.
- Be available to come to BNU premises as often as the research topic requires.

There is no nationality requirement.

Article 3. Possible topics to be proposed by candidates

The subject developed during the researcher's stay must be directly related to the Bnu's religious studies collections, both physical and digital, with priority given to rare, unpublished or little-known items.

Candidates may spontaneously propose research topics based on collections they have previously identified or chosen from the collections listed in **Appendix 1** of these regulations.

Candidates must indicate the area of the ReligiS programme in which their research project falls, a list of which can be found in **Appendix 2** of these regulations.

Article 4. Schedule and duration of the researcher's stay

The associate researcher will be hosted for a period of six (6) consecutive months, at the candidate's discretion, during the academic year running from 1 September 2027 to 31 August 2028.

Article 5. Terms of secondment

It is the candidate's responsibility to ensure that his or her activity as an associate researcher at the BNU is compatible with any other activity or status he or she may have elsewhere.

During his/her grant work, the associate researcher shall remain under the administrative authority of his/her supervising institution for all matters concerning his/her career and remuneration.

During his/her grant work, the researcher will be subject to the internal organisational rules and applicable working conditions defined in the BNU's internal regulations.

In case of workplace accident or occupational illness, the supervising institution shall remain the competent managing authority.

Article 6. Financing arrangements and eligible expenses

The grant is in the amount of €10,000 (ten thousand euros) for candidates residing abroad or in France outside the Grand Est region.
It is in the amount of €6,000 (six thousand euros) for candidates residing in the Grand Est region (except candidates residing in the City et Eurometropolis of Strasbourg).

This amount constitutes an allowance intended to cover the researcher's travel and residence costs and is not intended as remuneration. There will be no employment contract.

The terms of payment are as follow: grant funds will be paid out in two instalments made by the University of Strasbourg which runs the ReligiS programme. Funds will be paid exclusively by bank transfer. For this purpose, the researcher shall provide a bank detail statement (RIB) upon receiving notice of the grant award decision.

The first payment shall be made at latest one month prior to the researcher's arrival. It is intended to cover transport costs incurred by the researcher and his/her initial move-in costs. This amount by default shall be equivalent to half of the total amount of the grant awarded, unless the candidate can justify the payment of a higher amount on this date.

The second payment will be made within one month after the researcher's arrival. This amount represents the balance of the grant after the first payment, i.e., by default, half of the amount of the grant. It is intended to cover accommodation costs.

Article 7. Application procedures

Applications shall be submitted directly by email to aapchercheurs@bnu.fr.

The application file must be sent in the form of a single PDF, generated by word processing software, not scanned, and not protected.

This includes:

- A completed response template including administrative information and a presentation of the research topic proposed, specifying the objectives, the method, the various phases planned, the expected results, and the possible beneficial use thereof (no longer than 8,000 characters).
- A detailed curriculum vitae.

The submission of the application must be accompanied by an acceptance of these regulations, constituting an undertaking on the part of the candidate to comply with the provisions thereof if his/her application is accepted.

Each candidate will receive an acknowledgment of receipt of his/her application file. Application files delivered in person will not be accepted. Files that arrive incomplete or late will not be examined.

Article 8. Selection of the winning candidate

Applications meeting the eligibility criteria will be forwarded to the BNU Scientific Board, which will organise the selection by evaluating the following criteria:

- The relevance of the proposed topic for enhancing the value of religious studies collections.
- The candidate's ability to carry out his/her research within the proposed timeframe.
- The clarity and completeness of his/her application file.
- The potential for a beneficial use of the research results.

The scientific committee will seek the opinion of a representative from the ReligiS programme research area in which the candidate has registered his/her topic. The decision of the scientific committee will be subject to a vote by the executive committee of the ReligiS Programme. Following this vote, the director of the Bnu will notify the selected candidate of the outcome. Unsuccessful candidates will be informed by email.

Article 9. Benefits received as an associate researcher at the BNU

For the duration of his/her stay, the BNU associate researcher will have the benefit of:

- A scientific advisor to support and guide the researcher's work, facilitating his/her access to documents and his/her understanding of how the BNU is organised.
- An access badge to areas reserved for BNU staff (excluding storage areas) and, on request, access to the staff lunch facilities with a meal stipend.
- A workspace in those reserved for BNU staff and an IT session allowing access to the BNU intranet. Access to this workspace and this IT session shall be guaranteed at least on an

occasional basis, according to a schedule to be defined jointly by the associate researcher and the hosting department. When the workspace is not available, the researcher shall have a reserved place in the reading room.
- Access to professional applications, particularly catalogue applications, in the event that his/her research justifies such an use.
- The same conditions of access to the cultural activities of the BNU as are provided to library staff.

Furthermore, depending on the topic proposed and in order to valorize it, the BNU may consider including in its cultural programming a scientific event organised with the associated researcher, either in the form of a conference or a study day.

Article 10. Researcher's undertaking

The Bnu associate researcher undertakes to give a closing lecture at the end of his/her residency, open to the public, and to contribute to the enrichment of the inventories of the collections studied.

A scientific publication based on the work carried out during the residency is expected.

Article 11. Project monitoring

The project will be subject to scientific monitoring by the BNU during its performance period and up to one year after its completion.

This scientific monitoring will include, among other things:
- An opening meeting and a closing meeting with the researcher.
- The provision of summaries of the objectives, the work being done and the results obtained, updated on the date of communication, intended for BNU publications on all media.
- The provision of a report upon completion of work (in a free format) for the grant selection panel, the Scientific Board and the BNU Board of Directors. This document will be published under a CC BY-NC license so that it can be read online, downloaded, printed out, and posted on BNU's *Lieu de recherche* blog. It is desirable for the document to be assigned a DOI (link to be provided) and for the writer to link his or her ORCID number or any other permanent identifier to the document to the extent possible.

Article 12. Scientific publications

Regarding scientific publications, and as part of the Bnu's contribution to the promotion and implementation of open science, it is recommended that the scientific publications (full text) resulting from the project funded under this call should be placed in an open archive, either

directly in HAL, or through a local institutional archive, under the conditions of Article 30 of Law No. 2016-1321 of 7 October 2016, "Towards a Digital Republic."

- Any publication resulting entirely or partially from this stay must mention the ANR number of the ReligiS programme and its funder: ANR-24-RSHS-0005.

Article 13. Regulatory compliance

The associate researcher undertakes to respect the Bnu's internal regulations and, in general, any charter or regulation applicable to staff, relating to the security of collections, circulation within the Bnu's internal spaces, and the reproduction of documents from Bnu collections.

Article 14. Confidentiality

The associate researcher undertakes to strictly maintain the confidentiality of all information of any kind of which he or she may become aware during his or her time at the Bnu premises that is not already public in nature or that he or she has been informed is confidential, except upon prior written authorisation by the Bnu.

Article 15. Use of research performed as an associate researcher at Bnu

15.1 Intellectual property
The associate researcher shall retain full ownership of intellectual property rights to the results of any research he or she may perform as an associate researcher, subject to Article 15.2 below. If the Bnu wishes to make use of the results of the associate researcher's work other than as provided under article 15.2, the Bnu may offer a separate contract to the associate researcher.

15.2 Special case of the description of collections
If, as part of his or her research, the associate researcher is required to prepare a description of the Bnu collections (drafting bibliographic notices, inventory, pre-inventory, overview of collections, reporting, etc., using Bnu formats and tools or otherwise), the result of this description, in whatever form, will be provided to the scientific advisor so that it can be freely used by the Bnu, including a possible online release if desired, and placed under the "Etalab" open license in accordance with the Bnu's policy for the dissemination of descriptive metadata, so that it can be of benefit to the entire scientific community.

15.3 Conditions for the use of Bnu documents
It is recalled that the documents of the Bnu collections may on the one hand constitute intellectual works protected by intellectual property law, the use of which may require authorisation, and/or, on the other hand, may constitute public information, the commercial reuse of which, with the exception of academic or scientific publications, may require authorisation from the Bnu and payment of a fee.

Consequently, if the associate researcher intends to make any use of documents or works from the Bnu collections during his or her research work, he or she undertakes to verify and comply with the usage conditions corresponding to each document or work to be reused.

Article 16. Early termination of stay

In case of a failure on the part of the associate researcher, other than as the result of force majeure, to comply with one or more of his/her undertakings as set forth under these regulations, and when such situation remains unresolved one month after formal notice to comply has been sent by registered mail with delivery confirmation, the Bnu may terminate the hosting of the associate researcher and request that the researcher reimburse the sums paid under the grant; reimbursement of the full amount shall be requested if the researcher fails to arrive at Bnu eight days at the latest after the date initially planned, or of half of the amount if the associate researcher fails to honour the other undertakings set forth under Article 10.

Article 17. Communications

The Bnu may engage in communications regarding this call for researchers and the research work done by the associate researcher, by any means and on any media, including by mentioning the identity of the associate researcher and his/her academic background. If the associated researcher chooses to make commercial use of the results of his or her research, in addition to the mandatory mentions concerning any documents and works drawn from the Bnu collections, he or she shall mention the Bnu's support in carrying out his research.

Article 18. Personal data

For any request relating to the exercise of their rights regarding their personal data, candidates should contact the Bnu's data protection officer at the following address: dpo@bnu.fr. If, after contacting the data protection officer, the candidate considers that their data protection rights have not been respected, they may lodge a complaint with the CNIL.

Appendix 1: RELIGIOUS STUDIES COLLECTIONS AT THE BNU

The Bnu's religious studies collections have three major advantages: the presence of theology and religious studies programmes at the University of Strasbourg (unique in France due to the specific nature of Alsace-Moselle), the vitality and long history of research in Strasbourg, and a solid documentary foundation. At the national level, they have been designated a 'collections of excellence for research' by the GIS CollEx-Persée.

Areas covered:

- Biblical studies and Christianity, which, according to academic tradition, constitute the focus of this collection.
- Judaism and other non-Christian faiths (ancient religions, Islam and, to a lesser extent, Asian religions).
- Cross-disciplinary fields such as sociology, law, philosophy of religion and new forms of religiosity.

The collection is estimated at approximately 350,000 volumes, covering the main academic publications in French and foreign languages (sources and studies), plus approximately 3,000 periodical titles, including 830 current titles. The collections also include around thirty online databases, including full-text university-level source materials and periodicals. Given the volume of publications, university-level acquisitions are largely in foreign languages (mainly German and English).

Heritage collections

- Manuscripts from the Cairo Genizah and other fragments in Hebrew, Aramaic, Judeo-Arabic and Arabic from the 15th to the 18th century.
- Illustrated Hebrew manuscripts, including a Megillat Esther and two haggadot from the 18th century (one of which is by the scribe Eliézer Seligmann of Rosheim), complementing a large collection of Hebrew printed works.
- Illuminated Christian manuscripts, including Augustine's City of God translated into French, the famous Exemplar by Henri Suso and the Compendium theologicae veritatis by Hugues Ripelin of Strasbourg, recently acquired.
- Latin and German incunabula Bibles and works on spirituality, essential witnesses to the beginnings of printing in the main cities of Alsace, southern Germany and Switzerland.
- Works by Alsatian, German and Swiss reformers, a collection unique in France reflecting the impact of printing on the spread of Reformation ideas in the Upper Rhine Valley.

- Treatises on Islamic law and commentaries on the Koran, a collection of printed works from the 16th to the early 20th century and earlier manuscripts.
- Arabic translations of works from the Jewish and Christian traditions, including Maimonides' Introduction to the Commentary on the Mishnah.
- Jain manuscripts written on palm leaves, the largest collection in France for this Indian religion.

The Franciscan collection

The Franciscan collection, a permanent repository since 2002, contains approximately 20,000 works and 250 periodical titles. It brings together the libraries of the convents of the Franciscan province of France and Belgium whose activity no longer justifies their maintenance in situ: incunabula, old editions by Franciscan and non-Franciscan authors, antiphonaries and other liturgical works, as well as scientific treatises, literary works and contemporary bibliophile editions. Supplemented by regular acquisitions, it constitutes an essential resource for Franciscan research and, more broadly, for the religious and cultural history of the West.

The Jacques and Raïssa Maritain Collection

The Jacques and Raïssa Maritain Collection (1882–1973; 1883–1960) brings together the archives, library and collection of objects, including works of art, belonging to a couple of intellectuals whose work had a significant national and international influence in the 20th century. A philosopher involved in the major debates of his time, Jacques Maritain was a leading figure in the renewal of Catholic thought and neo-Thomism, at the crossroads of metaphysics, political thought and reflection on art and artists. An eminently mystical personality, Raïssa Maritain (born Oumançoff) produced an abundant poetic and philosophical oeuvre inspired by Jewish and Christian traditions.

To go further: Le fonds Jacques et Raïssa Maritain et Le fonds Jacques et Raïssa Maritain : dix ans de présence à la Bnu et Inventaire sur Calames du fonds Jacques et Raïssa Maritain.

Other special collections

- The Kirschbaum collection, the library of German pastor Kirschbaum documenting the history of the German Church during the Nazi period.
- The Suzanne De Dietrich collection, archives of the Alsatian theologian and pioneer of ecumenism.
- The Sarreau collection, copies of fifteen autograph letters addressed to Calvin.
- The CERDIC (Centre for Research and Documentation on Christian Institutions) collection, a multilingual source on Christianity and the sociology of religions in the 20th century.

- The Edouard Reuss library, a collection of 16th- and 17th-century Bibles and extensive biblical studies, also including manuscripts in Greek and Alemannic dialect.
- The Paul Sabatier collection, archives devoted to research on the sources of Franciscanism at the turn of the 20th century, but also including a letter from Tolstoy to Paul Sabatier and the latter's reply on the separation of church and state;
- The Jules Lutz collection: specialist in the Reformation in Mulhouse (Prügner) in relation to the religious history of this part of Alsace.
- The Charles Pfleger, Theobald Süss, Gabriel Vahanian, Gustave Stricker collections, etc.

This list is not exhaustive. For further information, please contact **aapchercheurs@bnu.fr**

Appendix 2: SCIENTIFIC FOCUS OF THE RELIGIS PROGRAMME

For scientific details on the areas of focus: ***Recherche | Maison Interuniversitaire des Sciences sociales et des Humanités d'Alsace | MISHA***

Theme: Situating religion: forms and spaces

- Group 2.1 - Globalisation and (re)nationalisation of religion
- Group 2.2 - Religious heritage and memories
- Group 2.3 - Situating worship: domestic and institutional spaces

Theme: Interacting with religion: pluralism, politics, ethics

- Group 3.1 - Pluralism, diversity management and discrimination
- Group 3.2 - Religion, politics, secularism
- Group 3.3 - Religion in the face of global changes: health, gender, environment

Theme: Analysing religion: knowledge and epistemology

- Group 4.1 - Epistemology and methods of understanding religion
- Group 4.2 - Discourse, texts, medias