



European Research Council
Established by the European Commission

Research contract (2024-2026)

Post-doctoral position in papyrology (Roman Egypt)



SORBONNE
UNIVERSITÉ

1 Information about the research contract

- **Supervisor:** Anne-Valérie Pont, Senior associate professor in Roman History, UMR 8167 Orient et Méditerranée, équipe Antiquité Classique et Tardive, Sorbonne Université.
<https://cv.hal.science/anne-valerie-pont>
- **Location:** Office in the centre of Paris (Maison de la Recherche, Sorbonne Université - 28 rue Serpente, 75006 Paris), easily accessible by public transport.
- **Duration:** 24 months, full-time.
- **Keywords:** Roman history, papyrology, Greek epigraphy, institutional history, social history, Digital humanities.
- **Project:** ERC Consolidator Grant **PECUNIA** – *Private interests in public functions: Framing a new paradigm of power in the cities of the Roman empire (70 BC-284 AD)* (Grant number: 101088477). <https://cordis.europa.eu/project/id/101088477>
- **Environment:** The post-doc fellow will belong to Orient & Méditerranée research department (<https://www.orient-mediterranee.com/>).
- **Remuneration:** following the current remuneration scheme for post-doctoral positions established in Sorbonne Université.
- **Start date:** September 1st, 2024

2 Project background

The PECUNIA project - *Private interests in public functions: Framing a new paradigm of power in the cities of the Roman empire (70 BC-284 AD)*, funded by an ERC Consolidator Grant (2022), aims to study the economic and material resources made available to various socio-political profiles by their involvement in public life in the cities of the Roman Empire. PECUNIA employs an ambitious methodology, involving an empire-wide survey; exploiting data from a wide range of written sources (epigraphic, papyrological, legal, so-called 'popular' literature, corpus of private or official correspondence, etc.); and analyzing them using survey concepts derived from political science and sociology of the elites. All data extracted from the sources will be structured in a database which will ultimately allow to implement multiple modalities of modelling and visualization of knowledge.

Over a period of 5 years, this project is bringing together, in addition to the PI, historians, epigraphists and a papyrologist specializing in different regional areas and different documentary corpora, a post-doc in computer sciences who is in charge of the database of the project, a doctoral student and a scientific communication officer.

3 Job description

In the project, due to the specificities of the Roman province of Egypt, papyrological sources are especially considered for their input regarding two main subjects: on the one hand, the undue capture of material and financial resources in local functions, its cultural perception by the societies concerned, its regulation as well as the socio-cultural conditions for corruption to become visible in papyrological sources; on the other hand, the economic opportunities made available by civic operations, such as the leasing of public property in 3rd-century cities, their risks and beneficiaries. The post-doc will be responsible for the following tasks, under the supervision of the PI and in regular interaction with the team, notably with the post-doc in charge of the documentary system:

- Collecting relevant papyrological sources;

- Preparing and entering the sources into the database, when the database is made available to the team;
- Reporting on the advancement of the assigned tasks and attending the internal seminars and meetings of the team;
- Analyzing the data, notably through an authored chapter in the final monograph of the project, following the investigative lines of the project regarding the various strata of local elites, the resources available in the management of local communities, and their relation with institutional stability (or instability), notwithstanding other research paths at the initiative of the post-doc fellow;
- Disseminating the results of the research.

It would be appreciated that the post-doc fellow also take interest in collecting epigraphic evidence from the Near East. For data collection, the post-doc will be able to benefit from documentary research missions in various research centres. In addition, for their work in relation to the database, they will benefit from specific training as needed.

4 Profile of applicant

Applicants are required to have:

- A Ph.D. in Classics or Ancient history (Roman world).
- Advanced skills in papyrology or analysis of papyrological sources;
- Research interests in Roman administration; local institutions; local societies.

5 Application

Any enquiry and all applications should be sent to Anne-Valérie Pont (anne-valerie.pont-boulay@sorbonne-universite.fr) with:

- A curriculum vitae including a list of publications;
- A transcript of higher education records;
- A short research statement motivating the interest into the offered position;
- Two support letters from persons who have worked with them.

Application deadline: May 19th.