



## ***ANNOUNCEMENT***

THREE POSTDOCTORAL POSITIONS  
FUNDED BY THE ERC “SINOTYPE” PROJECT

*Director* : Hilary M. Chappell

Ecole des Hautes Etudes en Sciences Sociales  
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75006 Paris, FRANCE

### **PROJECT TOPIC: *The hybrid syntactic typology of Sinitic languages***

BACKGROUND: Three postdoctoral positions are available to work intensively on the project *The hybrid syntactic typology of Sinitic languages*, funded by the European Research Council (SINOTYPE, PROJECT NO. 230388). These positions each have a tenure of up to four years in duration (see below).

The primary objective of this project is to elucidate the reasons for why Sinitic languages possess a contradictory mixture of word order correlations, some of which tally with VO while others tally with OV. Various hypotheses will be addressed including those which suggest that this hybrid nature could be due to ongoing change in language type and thus explicable either in terms of language-internal development involving reanalysis (grammaticalization, analogy etc) or due to external change involving language contact and areal diffusion. A detailed study of the main syntactic features of a solid sample of Sinitic languages is thus essential for attempting to solve this conundrum as well as to enable us to describe this major branch of Sino-Tibetan more thoroughly in terms of its typological features.

An international team of seven researchers and doctoral students will be established to carry out this project in which each member will be responsible for the grammatical description of one representative Sinitic language.

POSITION PROFILE: The candidates will be linguists who are trained in linguistic typology, with a specialization in Chinese languages, and will also be well-versed in contemporary theories of syntactic and semantic change. They will be expected to undertake research on a previously undescribed Sinitic or Chinese language, each chosen from different branches of this taxon, and to produce a descriptive grammar of this language, written in English, in terms of current typological theory. The project will require annual fieldwork trips to China of at least two months' duration, funded by the ERC, to record and collect materials and begin the data analysis.

- A good knowledge of Mandarin Chinese is essential for both research and field work.
- A basic level of French would be useful but is not a requirement at the commencement of the project.

DURATION OF POSITION: A total of four years: in order to satisfy certain requirements of French industrial relations laws, there will be an initial two-year contract, followed by one renewal of the contract for a further two years. This is a full-time position.

COMMENCEMENT DATE: 1<sup>st</sup> April, 2009 or as soon as possible thereafter

PROJECT DIRECTOR: Hilary Chappell, Chair Professor in “Linguistic typology of East Asia”

SALARY: **€2 365** euros per month (*gross*)

*Note:* There is provision for relocation expenses in terms of reimbursement of an economy-class airfare (or train fare, whichever is the more practicable). The SINOTYPE Research Centre can also provide assistance to the successful applicants in obtaining a scientific visa and in finding appropriate accommodation in Paris.

APPLICATION PROCEDURE: Applicants should compile a dossier, including their curriculum vitae, publications list, two referees willing to provide references (who will be contacted once the short list has been determined), and a copy of their PhD diploma. They should indicate in their application letter exactly how their research meshes with the present project on the typology of Sinitic languages and should also include a short proposal (maximum 2 pages) as to which Sinitic language they would choose to carry out their fieldwork and analysis on, and why.

(Website: [crlao.ehess.fr/contrats](http://crlao.ehess.fr/contrats) or [crlao.ehess.fr/membres/Hilary Chappell](http://crlao.ehess.fr/membres/Hilary%20Chappell))

DEADLINE FOR APPLICATIONS: March 15, 2009

CONTACT FOR FURTHER INFORMATION :

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Hilary Chappell

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OTHER INFORMATION :

Two smaller projects, jointly directed by Hilary Chappell and Alain Peyraube (EHESS-CNRS), will also be housed in the same SINOTYPE Research Centre, located between Chinatown and the Parc Montsouris on the left bank. These are *Diachronic change in Southern Min* (DIAMIN), and *Languages in contact in Northwestern China*, funded respectively by the Agence Nationale de la Recherche (ANR, France) and the Chiang Ching-kuo Foundation for International Scholarly Exchange (CCK, Taiwan). The Ecole des Hautes Etudes en Sciences Sociales (EHESS) is the designated host institute for all three projects which have a combined budget of more than 2 million euros.