

PhD position - Deadline: 30 January 2023

Laboratory of Experimental and Comparative Ethology (LEEC), University Sorbonne Paris Nord, 93430, Villetaneuse, France

Under the direction of **Professor Patrizia d'Ettorre**

In collaboration with Dr. Jean-Christophe Sandoz (CNRS – University Paris Saclay) and Dr. Tim Linksvayer (Texas Tech University)

Funded by the French National Research Agency (ANR)

ABOUT THE RESEARCH PROJECT

Cognitive performance and inter-individual behavioural variation in ants

The study of inter-individual behavioural variation is key to understand cognitive differences. Like humans, most animals differ individually in how they perceive, learn, memorize and understand the world. This project aims at characterising and understanding the possible link between cognitive performance and animal personality (consistent inter-individual variation in behavioural expression).

The project is based a comprehensive and inter-disciplinary approach addressing: a) neural and physiological mechanisms; b) ontogeny; c) adaptive significance; d) evolutionary history. As model organisms, we will use several species of ants, in which all these questions can be addressed simultaneously.

ESSENTIAL BACKGROUND OF THE STUDENT

Applicants are expected to hold a **Master degree** (or equivalent) in a relevant discipline (e.g. Behavioral Biology, Cognitive Neuroscience, Evolutionary Biology, Ethology).

Experience or demonstrable interest in social insects is desirable. **Prior experience with experimental work and statistical analysis is absolutely necessary.**

Knowledge of the French language is welcome but not required.

APPLICATION PROCEDURE - DEADLINE: 30 January 2023

A cover letter (including the name of one referee) and academic CV should be prepared in a **single PDF file (max. 1Mb)** and sent to d-ettorre@univ-paris13.fr