

Position description

Postdoctoral position in Sociology (Qualitative Methods)
 within the ERC-funded project WE-COOP on Labour, Gender, and Democracy
“Gender and Cooperative Labour”
 2 years (with possible 1-year extension)

The WE-COOP project is opening a full-time postdoctoral research position in Sociology. The postdoctoral researcher will be expected to take part in the project’s fieldwork (conducting interviews) and to contribute actively to the scientific activities of the WE-COOP project. Hosted at the University of Strasbourg, WE-COOP is funded by a European Research Council (ERC) Starting Grant and is led by Prof.-Jun. Ada Reichhart (Principal Investigator).

1. Identification du poste

Title of post: Postdoctoral Position in Sociology “Gender and Cooperative Labour”

Type of contract: Fixed term contract (35h/week)

Category (A, B or C) :

Contract period: 2 years (with possible 1-year extension)

Expected date of employment: March 2026 (flexible)

Workplace: SAGE Laboratory (UMR 7363), University of Strasbourg, France

Desired level of education: PhD

Experience required: -

Salary: commensurate with experience and in line with the University of Strasbourg salary scales

Contact(s) for information on the position: Pr.-Jun. Ada Reichhart, Principal Investigator, areichhart@unistra.fr

Date of publication: October 2025

Closing date for the receipt of applications: 15 December 2025

2. Research project

The WE-COOP project shifts our traditional androcentric perspective on workplace democracy by investigating the labour experiences of women in worker cooperatives. Studied for their high potential in the democratisation of labour relations, worker cooperatives have been systematically considered only from the perspective of class struggles. WE-COOP explores how and why worker cooperatives are also a locus where yet unexplored sets of representations, practices and justifications pertaining to women’s emancipation and gender equality at work are produced.

Focusing on France as a case study, the project relies on a multi-layered survey of worker cooperatives as well as on rare forms of all-women cooperative experiments. It combines quantitative and qualitative methods with

innovative participatory research in four incremental steps, allowing for the appropriation by women workers of their narratives and struggles.

More info: www.we-coop.eu

3. Job description & Role

The postdoctoral researcher will join Phase 2 of the WE-COOP project, dedicated to a qualitative and participatory study involving women workers in production cooperatives (SCOPs) in France. Drawing on radical feminist epistemologies, the study aims to collect a series of interviews as oral archives of gendered experiences of workplace democracy, understood broadly as the production and reproduction of social life. Several case studies will be conducted as part of a travelling fieldwork project.

Responsibilities:

- Conduct oral interviews with volunteer cooperative members within the framework of the travelling fieldwork project.
- Participate in the activities of the WE-COOP project (group meetings, two participatory workshops with cooperative members).
- Present findings at international conferences, research seminars, and other scientific events.
- Write and submit articles to academic journals, with a preference for open-access publications.
- Contribute to the scientific life of the project, including organising research events (invited lectures, study days, workshops, etc.).
- Participate in research dissemination activities.

Beyond research activities directly related to the project, the postdoctoral researcher will be able to dedicate part of their time to developing and promoting their own research in connection with the themes of WE-COOP.

4. Skills

Education:

- PhD in a Humanities or Social Sciences discipline closely related to the project (Sociology, Political Science, Philosophy).

Research:

- Research profile demonstrating a strong interest in feminist theories and intersectional approaches to power relations at work.
- Interest in participatory research and radical feminist epistemologies.
- Proficiency in qualitative data collection and analysis (interviews, observations, etc.).

Other skills:

- Ability to work independently while contributing effectively within a team.
- Communication and facilitation skills suitable for diverse audiences.

5. Working context & Benefits

The postdoctoral researcher will be part of the SAGE laboratory (Sociétés, Acteurs, Gouvernement en Europe; UMR 7363) at the prestigious University of Strasbourg, renowned for the quality of its research and its international scope. An office space will be provided at the MISHA (Maison Interuniversitaire des Sciences de l'Homme d'Alsace)

on the Esplanade campus situated in the city, with the possibility of working remotely depending on personal circumstances.

They will be part of a supportive team, committed to professional development and intellectual discovery, and will have the opportunity to advance her/his own research career as part of this prestigious international research project.

They will benefit from the support of the project's PI, collaborators, and network to develop her/his academic skills and career.

They will benefit from additional dedicated funding for her/his research dissemination activities and participation in international scientific events.

6. Languages of the project

French and **English**: Good oral and written communication skills for academic research (C1 level for both languages).

Additional languages are welcome.

How to apply?

Please send the following documents (in English or French) in a single PDF via e-mail to Jun.-Pr. Ada Reichhart (areichhart@unistra.fr) with "WE-COOP application" in the subject line:

- (1) Letter of motivation** describing your profile, your interest in the position and the overall project, and ideas about how your research interests connect with the aims of the project.
- (2) CV** detailing your education and career path, language skills, publications and the contact information for 2 references who may be contacted during the recruitment process.
- (3) Two writing samples** sole author (can be work in progress).

Please submit these documents by **15 December 2025**.

We will consider all applications that meet these requirements.

Informal enquiries about the position are welcome: Prof.-Jun. Ada Reichhart (areichhart@unistra.fr).