



**UNIVERSITÉ  
DE GENÈVE**



**FONDS NATIONAL SUISSE  
DE LA RECHERCHE SCIENTIFIQUE**

We are seeking, starting **1 March 2024**, a highly motivated candidate for a postdoc position within the project **TextEnt (Textual Entities in Time)** at the University of Geneva (85-100%).

## Working conditions

- Contract duration: 1 year contract
- Employment rate: 0.85-1.00 FTE
- Wage: CHF 78'625 (~82'000 €)
- Remote work: to be discussed
- Experience: PhD, 5 years maximum after the viva
- Starting date: March 1st

## Project

Literary stories are anchored in imaginaries located in space and time. Depending on discoveries, fashions and tastes, writers speak of different places: ancient Rome, Spain of the Golden Age, romantic Germany, and others. Toponyms define a "geographic horizon" of literature in constant movement. However, places do not only have geographic coordinates, but also diachronic ones. In other words, it is not enough to know that we are talking about a location: we need to know what era it is located in to better understand the meaning of the text. Maps may be useful in illustrating certain aspects of this data, however, they are not without their restrictions. To overcome such limitations, **the project will develop a Computational Atlas of Francophone Literature, i.e. a reusable analytical framework for the study and representation of the dynamicity of the geographic horizon in literature. By building a pipeline for the extraction, disambiguation, validation and projection of textual toponyms, it is possible to study the geography of literature at scale (c. 5'000 French prints published between 1550 and 1900), discovering how authors have used place names over time, and thus how their outlook on the world has evolved and how they have reshaped their past.**

## Tasks

1. *Corpus building*: (i) constitution of a corpus (c. 5,000 documents in Historical French) from existing digital libraries, (ii) extraction of the information with HTR, (iii) encoding in TEI. Data and HTR and layout analysis models are provided.
2. *Geographic entities*: recognition and extraction from the retrieved corpus of referenced entities (current, historical and imaginary). Data and NER models are provided.
3. *Reconciliation*: development of a novel knowledge-driven pipeline for linking identified geographical entities with their corresponding historical entity retrieved by a list of public Knowledge Graphs (e.g. Wikidata). To be built from scratch.
4. *Analysis*: development of methodologies for the quantification of the impact in time of geographic entities through the analysis of their spatial and historical dimension.

## Academic context

This position, funded by the Swiss National Science Foundation (SNF), will be part of the Digital Humanities Unit at the University of Geneva, and it will last 12 months at 85%. The researcher will be jointly supervised by Simon Gabay (Textual Data, Computational Philology) and Nicola Carboni (Linked Data, Graph Analytics).

## Degree

The candidate will have a PhD in Digital Humanities, Information Sciences, Computational Linguistics or Engineering Sciences. Similar doctorates will be evaluated by the selection committee.

## Skills

- Good programming skills (Python, R or other).
- Good knowledge of Natural Language Processing methods and/or Good knowledge of Linked Data/Knowledge Graph.
- Proven scientific research experience (publications, participation in conferences, scientific events, etc.).
- Good command of English, French is a plus.

# Application

Applications may be submitted **before the January 15th** in either French or English to [simon.gabay@unige.ch](mailto:simon.gabay@unige.ch) and [nicola.carboni@unige.ch](mailto:nicola.carboni@unige.ch) and should include:

1. Curriculum Vitae, with a complete list of publications;
2. a statement (max 2 pages) of why you are the ideal fit for the position;
3. One paper you (co-)wrote;
4. additional documents to support your application (e.g. portfolio), including the names and contact details of two references.