

CHORAL

RESEARCH PROJECT *(max. 5 pages)*

APPLICATION FORM TO REQUEST FOR FUNDING FOR JOINTLY SUPERVISED DOCTORAL THESIS

TITLE OF THE RESEARCH PROJECT

Contributing to the creation of cultural heritage through the choice of French as a form of artistic expression

SUPERVISORS

From recruiting University	First name	LAST NAME	University	Department
Supervisor	Caroline	FISCHER	UPPA	Lettres
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5 main KEYWORDS

plurilingual literature, romance languages and literatures, migration, cultural identity, collective and individual memory

ABSTRACT (250 words max.)

In today's world, multiple migrations have led a large number of authors to adopt a language other than their mother tongue, and many writers (outside the French-speaking world) have chosen French as their means of artistic expression, to name only S. Beckett, M. Kundera, A. Makine (who has become a member of the *Académie française*) or A. Weber. More rarely, their colleagues of Romance mother tongue, such as E. Ionesco or J. Semprún, have taken this route. The thesis will be devoted precisely to this last movement of intellectual and cultural migration: it proposes to first list the writers corresponding to this model for the period from 1945 to 2020, to then analyze (based on specific cases) by what strategies (translation, self-translation, change of language, appropriation of literary models etc.) they have succeeded - or not - in inscribing themselves in the French cultural heritage - thus participating in the construction of a European identity in Romance languages.

By changing the language of literary expression, those writers obtain also the possibility to bequeath their individual memory, that is generally linked to a collective one, to a broader public who can explore experiences of other nation by this means, for example every day life under the communism in the books of Romanian authors written in French.

Research aims and methodology

Migration is one of the crucial societal realities of our current world, leading to many challenges, including multilingualism and language change. As a result, many studies have been devoted to it over the past two decades. A first challenge of the thesis will consist in establishing a state of the art of this research in relation to literary expression, for which the article by Franca Bruera of 2017 (<https://www.ojs.unito.it/index.php/COSMO/article/view/2523>) can be used as a starting point.

Writers integrating through immigration and / or translanguaging in a new context encounter the additional difficulty of having to inscribe themselves in literary history and thus in the cultural heritage of the adopted language and country. Since many famous authors have chosen this path, it is well explored for those who have succeeded in making themselves known. One of the interests of this thesis will be in the attention it will pay to those who are less known and who live in the shadow of these "lighthouses".

One of the objectives of this work will therefore consist in a register as complete as possible of authors whose mother tongue is Romance, other than French, and who have opted for the latter as a means of artistic expression. The choice of this type of language change represents a particularity, because a majority of studies in the field concern authors whose language change occurred in a post-colonial or mass immigration context (e.g. for authors of Turkish origin in Germany), which is generally not the case for those analyzed here.

Relevance and added-value of the proposed research in relation to the current state of knowledge

Beyond the state of the art and the establishment of an important corpus, this thesis can, through precise stylistic analyzes, bring out the peculiarities of a translingualism between two Romance languages, shed light on the question if the integration of a cultural heritage other than that of the first socialization is easier between countries of Romance language, and finally study the different strategies applied for the change of language.

Moreover, this thesis can serve as a model to study literary translinguism between other Romance languages, as practiced for example by Antonio Tabucchi, Italian writer who has also become Portuguese writer, being one step in the exploration of notions as circulation between idioms and cultures. The register will serve the common goal of UPPA and UNITO to set up an online platform for a reasoned mapping of contemporary multilingual Romance-language writers.

Interdisciplinary nature of the research together with the alignment with the CHORAL programme and complementarity expertise of the teams

This PhD project is completely integrated into the WP4 project HPVM-A3LS "Auteur.e.s plurilingues de langues romanes", as well into its training component as into its research component. It questions narratives of cultural identity through the work of authors living and creating between different cultures. It is absolutely interdisciplinary since it involves different romance languages and literatures. The methods of Comparative literature are as important as those of different philologies. The exploration of borders and of cultural identities being the research subjects of different members of ALTER, their expertise will be very helpful for the candidate.

Output plan including publication and dissemination activities

During the doctoral research study, opportunities will be given to the Ph.D. student to participate to different scientific manifestations in the field of his/her research. These communications will be followed by the publication of articles or book-chapters. The Ph.D. student will also be invited to participate into manifestations of dissemination of scientific knowledge to a broad public (SAPS). One part of this thesis consists in the elaboration of an internet-site dedicated to plurilinguals authors writing in French. After graduation, the thesis will be published in book form.

Estimated schedule

01/09/2024	start of the doctoral research study
01/09/2024 – 31/08/2025	doctoral research study at the UPPA
01/09/2027 – 31/08/2026	doctoral research study at the UNITO
01/09/2026 – 31/08/2027	doctoral research study at the UPPA
31/08/2027	submission of the thesis

