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LSCP - Laboratoire de sciences cognitives et psycholinguistique

Rapport Hcéres

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REPORT ON THE RESEARCH UNIT:

Laboratoire de Sciences cognitive at
Psycholinguistique
LSCP

UNDER THE SUPERVISION OF THE FOLLOWING INSTITUTIONS AND RESEARCH BODIES:

École Normale Supérieure – ENS Paris

École des Hautes Études en Sciences Sociales -
EHESS

Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique -
CNRS

ÉVALUATION CAMPAIGN 2017-2018
GROUP D



In the name of Hcéres¹ :

Michel Cosnard, President

In the name of the experts committees² :

Frédérique Liegeois , Chair of the
committee

Under the decree No.2014-1365 dated 14 november 2014,

¹ The president of HCERES "countersigns the evaluation reports set up by the experts committees and signed by their chairman." (Article 8, paragraph 5) ;

² The evaluation reports "are signed by the chairman of the expert committee". (Article 11, paragraph 2).

This report is the sole result of the unit's evaluation by the expert committee, the composition of which is specified below. The assessments contained herein are the expression of an independent and collegial reviewing by the committee.

UNIT PRESENTATION

Unit name:	Laboratoire de Sciences Cognitives et Psycholinguistique
Unit acronym:	LSCP
Requested label:	UMR
Application type:	Renewal
Current number:	8554
Head of the unit (2017-2018):	Ms Anne CHRISTOPHE
Project leader (2019-2023):	Ms Anne CHRISTOPHE or Mr Jérôme SACKUR
Number of teams or themes:	

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Chair:	Ms Frédérique LIEGEOIS, University College London, United Kingdom
Experts:	Ms Christine ASSAIANTE, Aix-Marseille Université (representative of CoNRS) Mr Stéphane DUFAU, Aix-Marseille Université (representative of supporting personnel) Mr Nabil Hathout, Université de Toulouse, (representative of CoNRS) Mr Olivier Pascalis, Université de Grenoble
HCERES scientific officer:	Ms Céline SOUCHAY
Representatives of supervising institutions and bodies:	Mr Yves LASZLO, ENS Mr Bernard POULAIN, CNRS Mr Etienne de la VAISSIERE, EHESS

INTRODUCTION

HISTORY AND GEOGRAPHICAL LOCATION OF THE UNIT

The LSCP is located within the ENS campus in central Paris (29 rue d'Ulm, 5th arrondissement).

When it was founded by Jacques MEHLER in 1986, it was attached to both CNRS and EHESS. It became attached to ENS in 2006.

The LSCP has been consecutively directed by Jacques MEHLER (1991- 1997), Emmanuel DUPOUX (1998-2009), and Anne CHRISTOPHE (2010-present).

The LSCP is currently part of the Département d'Etudes Cognitives (DEC), which became Labex IEC in 2011. Within CNRS, it is both part of INSB (60% of its activities) and INSHS (40% of its activities).

MANAGEMENT TEAM

The current Director is Ms Anne CHRISTOPHE.

HCERES NOMENCLATURE

SHS4_2 Psychology

SCIENTIFIC DOMAIN

Research at the LSCP focuses on the development of higher order cognitive functions, with a special focus on language and consciousness. The LSCP activities are cross-disciplinary and involve cognitive psychology, neurosciences, linguistics, modeling, big data, and neuroimaging.

There are four main themes, each led by a team, namely

- (i) Language and its acquisition
- (ii) Computational mechanisms of cognitive development
- (iii) Cognitive Development and pathology
- (iv) Brain and consciousness

The lab has two specific platforms at the ENS. A babylab consisting of 3 booths at ENS (various experimental techniques, two video-based eye-trackers) and one booth at Maternité Port-Royal (Functional near-infrared spectroscopy-fNIRS), video-based eye-tracker, Electroencephalography-EEG-HR). An adult lab consisting of 5 booths (computers, one eye-tracker). The lab has also a computer cluster for simulations (120 CPU, three NVidia GPU and 768 GB of RAM). Finally, the lab shares 4 extra booths at the department level mainly dedicated to EEG. The lab has up to date equipment and produces state-of-the-art research. Methodologies are sound and are suitable to be used by the unit for the next five years.

UNIT WORKFORCE

Unit workforce	Number 30/06/2017	Number 01/01/2019
Permanent staff		
Full professors and similar positions	2	2
Assistant professors and similar positions	0	0
Full time research directors (Directeurs de recherche) and similar positions	5	5

Full time research associates (Chargés de recherche) and similar positions	1	1
Other scientists ("Conservateurs, cadres scientifiques des EPIC, fondations, industries, etc.")	0	0
High school teachers	0	0
Supporting personnel (ITAs, BIATSSs and others, notably of EPICs)	5	5
TOTAL permanent staff	13	13
Non-permanent staff		
Non-permanent professors and associate professors, including emeritus	NA	
Non-permanent full time scientists, including emeritus, post-docs	13	
Non-permanent supporting personnel	19	
PhD Students	19	
TOTAL non-permanent staff	51	
TOTAL unit		
	64	

GLOBAL ASSESSMENT OF THE UNIT

Within the last five years LSCP has published high quality outputs, and made significant scientific discoveries within their fields. Team members have secured prestigious, significant and recurrent competitive external income from both international and national funding bodies. Their frequent involvement in public engagement events and lay publications shows evidence of the wide impact of their research (including health and education). The LSCP attracts PhD and postdoctoral researchers from across the world, and staff members take part in national international editorial and funding review boards. This testifies of the LSCP's national and international reputation. The five-year plan proposed was judged realistic, innovative, and with high potential to attract further funding and to increase visibility.

Minor points for improvements noted were : develop more cross-team initiatives; increase opportunities for support staff to co-author publications for career progress.

To conclude, the LSCP is a competitive research unit by both national and international standards. The unit benefits from considerable support (5 permanent staffs for 8 PIs), research platforms and soon to be refurbished facilities. The number of publications per PI is therefore expected to rise in the next 5 years. The proposed projects are at the forefront of their disciplines, and should allow them to attract further funding within the next five-year contract period.

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