

FINAL RESUME ON THE RESEARCH UNIT:
Structures Formelles du Langage (SFL)

UNDER THE SUPERVISION OF THE
FOLLOWING INSTITUTIONS AND
RESEARCH BODIES:

Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique –
CNRS

Université Paris 8 Vincennes-Saint Denis

EVALUATION CAMPAIGN 2018-2019
GROUP E



In the name of Hcéres¹:

Michel Cosnard, President

In the name of the experts committee²:

Mariapaola D'Imperio, Chairwoman of the committee

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

1 The president of Hcéres "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 experts committee". (Article 11, paragraph 2).

Tables in this document were filled with data provided by laboratories and supervising bodies in the unit's application and in the Excel files "Données du contrat en cours" and "Données du prochain contrat".

UNIT PRESENTATION

Unit name:	Structures Formelles du Langage
Unit acronym:	SFL
Requested label:	UMR
Application type:	Renewal
Current number:	7023
Head of the unit (2014-2019):	Ms Sophie WAUQUIER
Project leader (2020-2024):	Ms Marzena WATOREK (Director) & Mr Mohamed LAHROUCHI (Deputy Director)
Number of themes:	3 themes → 5 themes

EXPERTS COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Chair:	Ms Mariapaola D'IMPERIO, Aix Marseille Université (representative of CNU)
Experts:	Ms Anne BAKER, Universiteit van Amsterdam, Netherlands
	Ms Angela BARTOLO, Université de Lille
	Mr Giancarlo LUXARDO, CNRS, Praxiling, Montpellier (supporting personnel)
	Mr Gabriele PALLOTTI, Università di Modena e Reggio Emilia, Italy
	Mr Benjamin SPECTOR, Institut Jean Nicod (representative of CoNRS)

HCÉRES REPRESENTATIVE

Ms Anne CARLIER

REPRESENTATIVES OF SUPERVISING INSTITUTIONS AND BODIES

Ms Hamida DEMIRDACHE, CNRS

Mr Arnauld REGNAULD, Université Paris 8

INTRODUCTION

HISTORY AND GEOGRAPHICAL LOCATION OF THE UNIT

The laboratory "Formal Structures of Language" (SFL), under the dual supervision of the University Paris 8 and the CNRS, was created in 2001. Its premises are spread over two sites: University Paris 8, rue de la Liberté, in Saint Denis, for a surface of 90m² (4 offices and a meeting room) and CNRS building, rue Pouchet, Paris, for a surface of 168m² of offices to which is added an experimental platform of 68m².

MANAGEMENT TEAM

Ms Sophie Wauquier

HCÉRES NOMENCLATURE

SHS Sciences humaines et sociales
SHS4 Esprit humain, langage, éducation
SHS4_1 Linguistique

SCIENTIFIC DOMAIN

Since its creation, the unit is organized around three strong teams, which have given it a strong national and international visibility: formal linguistics, sign languages and gestures, psycholinguistics and language acquisition.

UNIT WORKFORCE

	Unit workforce	
	SFL	
Active staff	Number 30/06/2018	Number 01/01/2020
Full professors and similar positions	12	11
Assistant professors and similar positions	17	18 ¹
Full time research directors (Directeurs de recherche) and similar positions	3	2
Full time research associates (Chargés de recherche) and similar positions	8	9
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)	4	5
Permanent staff	44	45

¹Subject to obtaining, in 2020, a frozen post for the 2019 campaign.

Non-permanent professors and associate professors, including emeritus	2	
Non-permanent full time scientists, including emeritus, post-docs	39	
<i>PhD Students</i>	38	
Non-permanent supporting personnel	2	
Non-permanent staff	43	
Total	87	45

GLOBAL ASSESSMENT OF THE UNIT

The SFL unit has proved to be at the forefront of linguistics research in the last period, with a scientific output that is quite remarkable in terms of presence in some of the main international journals, as well as with other publications, in several domains: formal linguistics, psycholinguistics and sign language studies. Its visibility, both national and international, is strong, witnessed by the involvement in the organization of various events (conferences, workshops, etc.) and several national and international invitations to give talks at various venues. The committee notes that the recommendations of the previous evaluation report have been successfully implemented by the unit. Valorization of knowledge transfer has also been successfully carried out thanks to the elaborations of several applied themes and projects.

Its future reorganization in themes is seen as a promising way to encourage cross-team collaboration and is thus welcome. The committee recommends though that the unit attempts to increase financial support to unfunded PhD students which will result in shorter thesis completion and a stronger presence on the job market. Also, they recommend that, with regard to the Paris 8 site, all linguists (UFR and UMR) currently having access to separate premises (UFR in Building A and UMR in Building D of the University of Paris 8) be grouped together in a single location on the University of Paris 8 site. Finally, dispersion of scientific themes and lines of research should be closely monitored in the proposed reorganization.

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