



**PhD Thesis Proposal Form**  
**China Scholarship Council (CSC)/ENS Rennes**  
**Call for projects 2018**

**FIELD open**

Thesis subject title: History of Table Tennis from 1988 to 2015, Compared between China and France

- Laboratory name: VIPS2
- PhD supervisor (contact person):
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- Thesis proposal (max 1500 words):

The table tennis is introduced in Olympics Games in 1988. Table tennis in China have a short history, but it has soared up quickly in the last few decades and became the top of the world in 1995 for keeping this pole position. Many factors contribute to its legendary: the globalization, sporting educations, the Olympics, etc.; Likewise, France gained laurels and reputation during its history of table tennis, with champions like Jacques Secrétin or Jean-Philippe Gatien. However, as the time progressed, it made differences and went forward in a different pace. In term of the table tennis in China and France as the research object, it is necessary to build cooperation towards history of table tennis of Sino- France.

This research needs to include a comparative history. For build a topic epistemologically correct, we must create a point of comparison, the tertium comparationis. It's the reason why we will choose the field of social-ecology, the joint research aims at tracing back to the history of table tennis in France and China, and investigating the underlying reasons of the divergence between French table tennis and Chinese one.

1. Based on the social-ecology, constructing a socio-ecological model towards the issue;
2. Combing the history of table tennis in France and China, and attempting the history stage;
3. Digging the veiled factors attributing to the divergent results of table tennis in France and China, from the different dimensions according to the socio-ecological model;
4. Highlighting a trajectory about table tennis of social history and cultural history, and changes of human mind and other transformations, and offering the reference to our history researches.

This research attempts to use the theory of social-ecology, which is based on Ecological System Theory, by Bronfenbrenner, holding the standpoint that human development is shaped by a number of systems or contexts, containing five parts: the micro-system, the meso-system, the exo-system, the macro, and the chrono-system[1].

On the basis of this theory, social-ecology, widening the horizon, changes the human development into more objectives in the society. It analyses the five parts more specific - *“as a philosophical approach, social-ecology investigates the ontological, epistemological, ethical and political dimensions of the relationship between the social and the ecological, and seeks the practical wisdom that results from such reflection... In doing so, it develops an analysis that is both holistic and dialectical, and a social practice that might best be described as an eco-communitarianism”*[2]. According to the explanation, the social-ecology demonstrates complex but systematic characteristics. Therefore, the research are meant to construct its own socio-ecological model on the basis of social-ecology to attain the research objectives.

Some preparation can be considered, and by means of the research method, it should be attempt to clarify the needful resources and archives, classify it, and dig it: at first, Archives of ITTF Museum (Shanghai). Secondly, Archives of CIO (Lausanne); thirdly, Archives of Chinese Federation; finally, Archives de la Fédération Française (AN – PierreFitte-sur-Seine / 20040996/boites 1 à 820).

The research aims at seeking for the various factors to influence the development of table tennis in France and China, some hypothesis are considered as followed, and then the relations with social-ecology are deeply thought : 1) Political perspective: Table tennis, in China, is not only a sport like basketball, volleyball, and etc., more importantly, it condenses the Chinese spirit and symbolizes the growth of a miniature of China in sport field. 2) Populations and educational perspective: China owning large populations, the athlete reserve of table tennis is abundant. For France, there isn't enough number of table tennis athletes reserve and this practice isn't the most popular sport; 3) Public perspective: In consideration of the symbolic meaning of table tennis, Chinese table tennis has gotten the preliminary success in public - table tennis becomes one of the most important sports. In France, the trajectory is very different but the federation have an important activity in the heart of Olympics movement.

## References:

[1] John Clark. A social ecology[J].Capitalism Nature Socialism, 1997,8(3):3-33.

[2] Sue N. Moore, Simon Murphy, Laurence Moore. Health improvement, nutrition-related behaviour and the role of school meals: the usefulness of a socio-ecological perspective to inform policy design, implementation and evaluation[J].Critical Public Health, 2011, 21(4): 441-454.

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### ▪ Publications of the laboratory in the field (max 5): (Laboratory researchers in **bolt**)

Vivier Christian, **Renaud Jean-Nicolas**, (2010). « Les plaisirs nautiques au tournant des 19e et 20e siècles - Les mises en scène sportives organisées sur le Léman (Suisse) et sur le Doubs (France) - », in *Loisir & société*, automne, pp.333-360.

**Mousset, Kilian, Renaud Jean-Nicolas** (2016) « L'image du tennis de table dans la presse sportive presse sportive (1900-1939)- l'exemple de l'Auto : du jeu de salon au sport moderne ? », *Réseaux*, vol. 34, n°199/2016, pp. 183-214 DOI : - A2 en section STAPS ; A en section Sciences politiques ; A en section Sociologie, classé Q2, IF : 0,35.

**Attali Michaël** (2016). « The 2006 Asian Games: self-affirmation and soft power ». *Leisure Studies*, 35/4, 470-486

Lemonnier J.-M. **Attali M.**, Parisse E. (2016). Young people's disillusionment with French education before 1968: sport, the school curriculum and social change. *Social History*, 41/1, 54-71

Lemonnier Jean-Marc, **Fortune Yohann, Attali Michaël** & Saint-Martin Jean, « La socialisation sportive des jeunes Français scolarisés dans les années 1960 : au-delà des intentions généreuses », *Sport History Review*, Mai 2017, vol. 48 : 1, p.18-36.

More information : <https://www.vips2.fr/>

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- Joint Phd (cotutelle) : **YES or NO**
  - Co-directed PhD : **YES or NO**

**In case of a co-directed or a joint PhD, please detail:** This study needs to give a regard both French and chinese. The PhD student will compare two cultures very different. He/she needs to obtain a double expertise. Also, at the end of the study, we can think about two presentations: one in France and the second in China. The manuscript must be in French for the French PhD diploma.

- Partner university name: ECNU
- Laboratory name and web site:
- PhD co-direction (contact person): a dual-supervisor
  - Name: JiLiu / Gao Qiang



- Position: Professor / Associate professor

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- Provisional duration and timetable of the PhD student's stay at ENS Rennes:  
For this thesis, the PhD Student's must stay one year in France at the beginning. During this period, he/she will work on the French archives possibilities; make a heavy work of reading and a lot of books on French and European conditions of sport development. For the second year, he/she will be in China for archive's consulting and interviews with personalities of china's table tennis federation. The third year will be program for analysing data at the light of social ecology system. The fourth year may be entirely used to write the manuscript.  
During the three first years of the PhD, student will submit one paper per year in three different (and international) journals.
  - If previous collaborations with the Chinese co-director/university, please detail:  
/
  - Interest of the Joint PhD for the French co-director, for his/her laboratory, for ENS Rennes:

This thesis is a first step for the development of the Sino-French Joint Research Laboratory in Sport Science (SF-JRL2S), concluded during the 2017's years. After many journey at Shanghai, the French co-director can have a very interesting point of view on the most popular sport in China: table tennis. If his favourite topic of research is about monographs', this collaboration is an incredible opportunity to considered the evolution of the sport at the eye of an other culture. At the level of laboratory, the same way will give to the laboratory's research a new visibility in the world. In Europe, France is a very important spot of sport's and physical education historians. In China, it's not only a historian comparison, but many sociological or psychological studies who would be open. At the level of ENS-Rennes, the partnership with ECNU will give to 2SEP department new research perspectives. The globalization of the research needs to open the institution to other culture and, finally, other ground.

Date: 01-15<sup>th</sup>-2018

Signature of the PhD director  
PhD Jean-Nicolas Renaud \_\_\_\_\_

Name and signature of the Laboratory director  
Professor Michaël Attali