



CENTRE DE RECHERCHES EN ARCHÉOLOGIE, ARCHÉOSCIENCES, HISTOIRE (CReAAH) - UMR CNRS 6566

CENTRE FOR RESEARCH IN ARCHEOLOGY, ARCEO-SCIENCES, HISTORY (CReAAH) - UMR CNRS 6566

Universities of Nantes, Rennes 1, Rennes 2 and Le Mans, Ministry of Culture, CNRS

Archaeology (*archaia*) and history (*historiè*) are the sciences that study the past. They were forged and practised in the 5th century B.C. by Herodotus and Thucydides. They seek to understand ancient human societies through material vestiges, artefacts or ecofacts, and textual and illustrated/iconographic documents. This knowledge makes it possible to take a long-range and explanatory look at current societies. The laboratory studies the societies of Antiquity and the Middle Ages and more specifically addresses the themes of landscapes and the environment, colonisation and interchanges, cultural and social identities.



140 people including

77 researchers and teachers-researchers | 6 at Le Mans

30 doctoral students | 10 at Le Mans

33 administrative and technical staff | 3 at Le Mans



Partnerships

- Close cooperation with other French, European and international laboratories, including in Italy, Romania, Greece, Israel, Morocco, Australia and Spain.
- Close partnerships with Cultural Affairs Directorates, Regional Archaeology Services, Heritage, Culture and Archaeology departments of local authorities, particularly in Western France, INRAP, ADRAMAR, private archaeology companies (Archeodunum, Dendrotech, Evéha, Hades), the ONF (National Forestry Office), the natural parks of Normandy-Maine and Baronnies provençales, French schools abroad.



Robotic laser tacheometer, Atlantic and Mediterranean charcoals collection.

The scientific positioning of the laboratory is situated at the interface of Humanities and social science and biological, chemical and physical earth sciences in order to develop archaeosciences.

The projects carried out have strong territorial roots (Ancient walls of Le Mans, medieval Mainiote fortifications, habitat and activities in the forest of Perseigne/Bercé).

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6 research teams including 3 represented at Le Mans



Societies, cultures, identities

Collective reflection is based on a social history and historical anthropology approach to social and cultural identities understood as the cultural hallmark(s) characterising an individual or a group of individuals by determining common behaviour or practices. Three unifying themes are emphasised: the name, the body and the rank. The construction of these identities is done through norms identified in particular by prosopography thanks in particular to epigraphy, but also with regard to deviations from the norm. The study of bodies outside the norm (disability, physical violence against persons) is a particular focus.



Societies, environments and climates

The team looks at the current landscape as the legacy of a long series of close relationships between societies and their environments, not only as a biological object, but also as a social object. At the interface of cultural archaeology, history, ethnology, mythology and environmental archaeological sciences, it is a question of understanding the evolution of the inherited landscape forms, while at the same time being selective about the impact of climatic variations on the environments and those of cultural changes. This scientific bias involves a long-term diachronic approach and recourse to a wide variety of skills (geohistory, geoarchaeology, geomorphology, geomythology, xylology, anthracology, ecology, botany and archaeo-entomology).



Archaeology of the sea, the coastline and rivers

Researchers work mainly in the Mediterranean in order to understand the processes of colonisation, settlement and land and sea trade in Antiquity through the comparison of textual, epigraphic and archaeological information. Excavations are carried out both in coastal and undersea environments to gain a better understanding of shore and coastal systems and to better understand the history of uses, men and techniques related to the sea. Investigations began around the river waterways of the Loire region.



12 research operations and 4 cross-disciplinary axes

