Center for Economic Research
ENS de Lyon Governance Inequality Conflict

Call for Ideas

Satellite-based Human Impact and Environmental Land Data Workshop
ENS de Lyon (France)
26-27 November 2026

SHIELD — *Satellite-based Human Impact and Environmental Land Data* — is a new research chair hosted within CERGIC at ENS de Lyon and supported by the European Space Agency (ESA). The chair aims to promote research using satellite and other spatial data to better understand human living conditions, environmental change, natural resources, and population dynamics.

To mark the launch of the chair, we are organizing the inaugural SHIELD Workshop on 26–27 November 2026 in Lyon. As part of this event, we are launching this Call for Ideas inviting early-career researchers to present promising projects, receive high-level feedback, and explore future collaborations within SHIELD.

We are looking for early-career researchers, in particular PhD students in the final stages of their dissertation and postdoctoral researchers, who have a research idea at the intersection of remote sensing and economics and who would value serious, high-level feedback on it. The workshop is designed as a space to present that idea, discuss it openly with researchers working at this frontier, and explore the possibility of taking it further with us. **We see this as the starting point of a collaboration: selected participants may be invited to join the chair to develop their idea within SHIELD**, from January 2027 onward or on a rolling basis thereafter, ranging from short research visits of a few months to fully funded postdoctoral positions of up to several years. Researchers who join the chair benefit from cutting-edge access to ESA data and to the agency's broader resources.

Ideas can speak to any of the chair's four pillars: environment and deforestation; agriculture and food security; natural resources, minerals and water; and urbanization and population movements. We welcome ideas at any stage of maturity — from a well-framed question to a project already underway. What matters is the ambition of the idea and its fit with the chair's mission, not the polish of a finished paper.

The two days will combine these contributed ideas with high-level presentations by leading researchers who use satellite data in their work, together with members of the European Space Agency. The aim is to bring cutting-edge methodological and substantive talks into direct contact with the projects you bring to the table.

Travel and accommodation for selected participants will be fully covered.

To apply, send a short description of your idea *(max. 2 pages)* together with a short CV to Julia Hélie (julia.helie@ens-lyon.fr) and Mathieu Couttenier (mathieu.couttenier@ens-lyon.fr) by **8 September 2026**.

We look forward to reading your ideas and, we hope, to building something with you.

The SHIELD Team

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