

**Joining forces to better understand transitions in eating habits:
The University of Lyon 2 and Institut Paul Bocuse launch the TrALIM joint research Chair**

17 March 2021

Since 2008, researchers from the University of Lyon 2 and Institut Paul Bocuse have been combining their knowledge of gastronomy and the human & social sciences to study changes in eating habits, which often coincide with societal transformations. Launched on 17 March, the TrALIM joint research chair (for *TRansitions ALIMentaires* or 'Transitions in Eating Habits') officially recognises these cross-disciplinary research initiatives and proposes partnerships with the public and private operators concerned, in order to make a contribution to understanding changes in eating habits as we move into the society of tomorrow.

Our societies are seeing an increasing number of calls and recommendations to change the way we eat. **To explore the different facets of what eating means today and what eating will be tomorrow, the role of the human and social sciences¹ is essential.** These fields analyse dietary transitions from complementary angles and open up dialogue with a range of audiences and stakeholders.

It is with this perspective of analysis and dialogue in mind that the Institut Paul Bocuse Research Centre and the University of Lyon 2 have decided to create the TrALIM joint research Chair, at the crossroads of their respective areas of expertise: gastronomy and food science for Institut Paul Bocuse, and human & social sciences for the University of Lyon 2.

TrALIM will define and support research projects aimed at **studying and promoting a transition towards healthy, quality food that is locally embedded, responsible and fair.**

Its programme will focus on **four areas**: Eating habits and representations associated with food / Eating dynamics and diversity of regions / Ethics and equal access to quality food / Governance, operators and food policies.

A number of approaches will be used:

- **Collaborative research:** research programmes, surveys, assignments, doctoral theses, publications
- **Training:** undergraduate and postgraduate, apprenticeships, CPD, e-learning, MOOCs, etc.
- **Dialogue between science and society:** involvement of the general public, awareness-raising activities, dissemination of research findings (exhibitions, conferences, films/videos, website), knowledge transfer to practitioners (collaborative workshops).

Operators from the socio-economic community are invited to attend a presentation of the Chair on **30 April** to learn more about the contents and the different types of partnerships proposed as part of the Chair.

What is a Joint Research Chair?

A joint research chair associates **higher education and research institutions** with **participants from the socio-economic world** (companies, associations, local authorities, etc.) around a **common theme** in order to jointly develop **research, training and knowledge transfer** activities. It is also a place for **reflection on innovation**.

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¹ Economics, management, psychology, geography, political sciences, law, sociology, anthropology, history, etc.