



CECILE VAN DER AVENNE

From France to Finland



Project: **Multilinguisme et Francophonie**

Research topic: **Humanities**

Finnish Institution: **University of Helsinki and Åbo Akademi University**

French Institution: **EHESS**

Dates of mobility: **28/03/2022 to 04/04/2022**

Program: **Maupertuis Programme**



PRESENTATION

After having studied at the [Ecole Normale Supérieure Fontenay Saint Cloud](#) (Classical Humanities), and having obtained the agrégation of grammar (1994), [Cécile Van der Avenne](#) received her PhD in linguistics in 1999 ([University of Provence](#)). From 2001 till 2017, she worked as an associate professor of linguistics at the [Ecole Normale Supérieure of Lyon](#), then as Professor of Sociolinguistics at [Sorbonne Nouvelle University](#). Since 2021, she is Directrice d'Études at [EHESS](#) (Ecole des Hautes Etudes en Sciences Sociales) After her PhD, which was focused on linguistic biographies of migrants from Mali to France, she worked in a linguistic and anthropological perspective on writing activities in West Africa and especially Mali (writing practices and public space ; contemporary multilingual writing practices). Her research then took an historical turn and is now focused on linguistic practices in the situations of colonial contact in West Africa.

ACTIVITIES IN FINLAND

At [Åbo Akademi](#), Cécile Van der Avenne gave a talk at the [Faculty of Arts](#), which was an opportunity for her to meet colleagues of different disciplines. During a combined workshop, she also discussed future collaboration with colleagues at the [Department of French language and literature](#) to enhance the presence of African varieties of French at the university. First, she spoke with Prof. [Meri Larjavaara](#) (Åbo Akademi) and Senior lecturer [Soili Hakulinen](#) ([Tampere University](#)) about their ongoing research project. Secondly, she talked with Senior lecturer [Svante Lindberg](#) about sociolinguistic methodology in the study of African francophone texts. The second part of Cécile Van der Avenne's stay was at the [University of Helsinki](#), where she deepened an existing collaboration with Prof. [Lüpke](#) and she participated in the workshop "Multilingualism and Francophonie. Reconceptualising Spaces, Interactions and Spaces." She gave a talk on colonially created registers of French and African standard languages, and their lasting impact on language ideologies. Members of the French section, in particular [Simo Määttä](#), Associate Professor of Translation Studies, and [Mari Wiklund](#), University Lecturer in French, participated. Their interests in varieties of French

among African migrants to Finland, on variation, prescriptivism and linguistic rights are closely related to Cécile Van der Avenne's research foci.