



**MARGARETA TENGBERG**

*From France to Sweden*



Project: **Archaeobotany in the Middle East and Central Asia**

Research topic: **Humanities**

Swedish Institution: **Linköping University**

French Institution: **French National Museum of Natural History**

Dates of mobility: **29/10/2014 to 30/10/2014**

Program: **SFVE-A (ex-TOR)**



## PRESENTATION

[Margareta Tengberg](#) is Professor and Research Director in Archaeobotany at the National Museum of Natural History ([MNHN](#)) and the National Centre of Scientific Research ([CNRS](#)). She defended her PhD in Evolutionary Biology and Ecology at [University of Montpellier](#) in 1998 and was habilitated at the [University of Franche-Comté](#) in 2007. She is interested in Archaeobotany in the Middle East and in Central Asia, the analysis of botanical macro-remains (wood, seeds, fruits), the dynamics of plant communities during the Holocene in relation to human activities, the evolution of agro-pastoral practices in the Indo-Iranian borderlands and in Central Asia, and the origin and evolution of oasis cultivation, and the diffusion and exchange of plants species and products in the ancient Middle East.

## ACTIVITIES IN SWEDEN

Tengberg visited Prof. [Joyanto Tough](#) at the [Department of Thematic Studies](#) and the [Environmental Change division](#) of [Linköping University](#). They discussed Tough's project on Holocene climate change in southeast Iran. He was looking for specialists in the ancient societies of this region to bring an anthropological and archaeological dimension to its project, which was essentially based on a biogeochemical approach. Collaborations were envisaged, not only with Prof. Tough, but also with Prof. [Henrik Kylin](#). Their approaches are indeed complementary: the Linköping team favors a biogeochemical approach to past environments, while the French team uses the faunal and floral remains found on archaeological sites to reconstruct the biodiversity, and indirectly the ecosystems traversed and exploited by man in ancient times. As a collaborative project can now be funded, they agreed to submit a joint application for additional funding for a post-doctoral contract on anthracological (charcoal) studies.

Tengberg held a presentation on the organisation of the MNHN and the CNRS and a seminar on the origins of agriculture, with enriching discussions ensuing.