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Le Cocon is both a research team and a think tank.

Research in “Le Cocon” team focuses on two main topics: multiscale evolution on one hand (*i.e.*, studying the evolution of genetic systems while considering different levels -nucleotides, transposable elements, genes, genomes, microbiomes, organisms, populations, species, geography-), and environmental issues on the other hand. In both cases, we rely on modeling and data analysis, using a combination of statistics and computer science.

Le Cocon is also a **place to think** about the responsibilities of research and researchers in the anthropocene era, and about the role of non-researcher citizens in orienting and conducting research.

Multiscale evolution

- We have a long history of working on gene transfers. We develop new methods to detect these events in complex systems involving more than two levels (host, symbiont and parasites for example) and
- We use horizontal transfer detection to date species trees and to infer yet unknown biodiversity (extinct and unsampled) (Sthoriz (ANR, 2018)).
- We have a lasting interest into convergent genomic evolution (
[Convergenomics](http://lbbe.univ-lyon1.fr/convergenomix/) (<http://lbbe.univ-lyon1.fr/convergenomix/>)
- ANR, 2015)
- We question the usual way of testing bioinformatic methods (
[Evoluthon](#) [↗](#)
- ANR, 2019)
- We study the interaction between human populations, their lifestyles, and their gut microbiota (Microregal - ANR, 2015). We are notably interested in identifying cases of host-microbe coevolution and in better understanding transmission dynamics.

Environmental issues

- We develop computational methods to support an agriculture that relies on ecosystemic relationships between crops, the soil, its microbiota, and wild plants and animals (
[Community Garden Book](#) [↗](#)
- Inria, 2019)
- We develop statistical approaches to understand and predict crop yield variability with respect to meteorological conditions

Research in the anthropocene

- We participate to the science shop (UdL), the ethics platform (UdL), Labo1.5, the open science committee, Sciences Citoyennes, the shift project
- We organize a series of seminars to help us think about the position of scientific research in the history of the anthropocene, and about the position of scientists in the future of the anthropocene.
- We assemble committees of citizens to investigate to what extent scientific research can be democratized.

Teaching and outreach

- We teach at University of Lyon, University Lyon 1, INSA, Inria, ENS Lyon, we organize bioinformatics internships
- We regularly participate in the Fête de la Science, have contributed videos in the [public transportation system](#) 
in Lyon, give conferences at [Université Populaire](#) 
and contribute articles in general public journals.
- We develop the software [Lifemap](#) 
to explore the tree of life on computers and smartphones.

Prospective students and postdocs are invited to apply, as we often welcome visitors for internships or research projects.