

### Interview with Shiwen Li CNRS-IRCELYon

*Currently, I am a PhD student in IRCELYON (France). I come from Jilin province, north of China and also the coldest part of China!*



#### Where do you come from and what has your training been so far?

I got my bachelor degree in Jilin University majored in Chemical Engineering and Technology, after that I started a co-supervised master study which was carried on between Jilin university and Institute of Process Engineering (Chinese Academy of Sciences, in Beijing). And then I decided to pursue my study in France, the most beautiful country in the world. Luckily, I found one PhD proposal of European Framework Program "CARENA" which interested me a lot in the group of David Farrusseng in IRCELYON.

#### What is your PhD project about? What objectives do you have to reach?

My PhD project is about design, synthesis and testing of novel membrane catalyst, for which the selectivity is driven by the permeability of a zeolite shell.

The objective is to design membrane catalysts for the selective CO oxidation in the presence of propylene and propane. The most difficult part is the removal of poisonous by-pass product-CO in the industry process.



## CAtalytic membrane REactors

based on

## New mAterials for C1-C4 valorization

CARENA is a large-scale integrating project funded by the EC

### What is the best thing about taking a PhD? How challenging is it?

The best thing is the improvement of knowledge and capacity in the chemistry career and the chance to do novel research under the supervision of my supervisor and European project partners. It is a big challenge! Some issues are quite new for me, but I am really interested in my PhD subject, and I feel great working in the European project where we collaborate, exchange ideas and discuss very often and I enjoy the working atmosphere of IRCELYON!

### What did you learn your participation to national/international events during your PhD?

Thanks to the CARENA project and my supervisor, I have been provided several chances to participate the conferences. My capacity of presenting our work publicly is improved. Moreover, it helps me to enrich the professional knowledge, to grasp the newest results about my work, to excite new ideas related to my work. And of course, it is a good chance to meet and discuss with people who are not only researches and the students in academia, but also work in industry!

### Do you have some advice to master/engineer students considering taking a PhD?

Think about whether you are really eager to take a PhD or not. If yes, then choose a subject which you are really interested in, because this can give you endless energy in the following years!

### What are your plans after completing the PhD?

I would like to continue the work in the area of materials and catalysis, especially, in the development and application of novel catalysts. Personally, I prefer to work in industry, because the application of catalysts in industry is the most attracting part for me at this moment!

*Thank you for answering my questions,  
and all the best for CARENA.*

*Interviewed by Sadika Guedidi*

#### CARENA in brief

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