Virginie Simonet is a senior scientist (directrice de recherche au CNRS) at the Institut Néel in Grenoble. Her scientific interests have led her to work on the physics induced by the general concept of frustration, first structural, then magnetic. She has studied the local order in quasicrystals at the Laboratoire de Physique des Solides (Orsay) and then of metallic melts, in collaboration with a German team. This has led to the first experimental evidence of icosahedral local order in liquid metals demonstrating a prediction of 1952. After a short period at the Laboratoire de crystallographie in Grenoble where she has studied supercritical liquids, she has bifurcated towards non-conventional magnetism where magnetic frustration is a key ingredient. This encompasses the experimental study of materials with various spin lattices and interactions generating competition phenomena and complex behaviour, such as frustration induced novel states of matter and their exotic excitations, multiferroism, magnetic chirality, quantum magnetism. Her expertise is mainly in neutron scattering but also in the use of complementary synchrotron based techniques. She is at present head of the French neutron consortium (Fédération française de Diffusion Neutronique 2FDN).