LIVING IN SMALL AND MEDIUM-SIZED CITIES
SOCIAL RELATIONSHIPS, RESIDENTIAL TRAJECTORIES AND PUBLIC ACTION

PROGRAM

JANUARY 26TH AND 27TH 2023
Campus Condorcet • Aubervilliers • France

Overview of Tulle (Corrèze, France) in 2022.
INTRODUCTION

While small and medium-sized cities remained on the side lines of urban research for a long time (Bell and Jayne, 2009; Demazière, 2017; Édouard, 2012; Wagner and Growe, 2021), they have recently experienced renewed interest (Grossmann and Mallach, 2021). Mainly studied in the field of urban shrinkage – which concerns them more frequently than growing cities (Chouraqui 2021; Wolff and Wiechmann 2018) – it is argued here that they cannot be studied solely through this perspective. Despite their common structural features, namely, their position between metropolitan and rural areas, the geography of productive activities or the territorial deployment of the State (Chouraqui, 2020; Santamaria, 2012), small and medium-sized cities constitute a set of heterogeneous places (Servillo et al., 2014).

If small and medium-sized cities are relevant categories in the field of urban studies, what social, political, geographical or economic facts do they allow us to grasp? How do certain national or even transnational processes (contemporary transformations of capitalism and public action, reinforcement of austerity policies, accentuation of social and economic inequalities, mistrust of the State, increase in international migration, etc.) materialise in these cities (Béal and Pinson 2014; Peck 2012)? What are the resources and practices of inhabitants and institutional actors in the face of these transformations? What are the specificities of the urban policies carried out in these cities and how do they renew the existing works, essentially focused on metropolitan areas? How the distance with metropolitan areas can foster or constrain the development of small and medium-sized cities?

This conference seeks to open new paths of reflection on housing and ways of living, by considering the geographical, economic and sociological characteristics that shape small and medium-sized cities as singular objects heterogeneous places with multiple functions: settings and contexts, but also actors in their own right (Bozon 1984; Weber 1989; Guéraut 2017; Pribetich 2017; Glick Schiller and Çağlar 2011). The topic of housing will be analysed in its threefold dimension spanning from the social, the urban to the economic (Driant, 2015), and more precisely, be explored through the analysis of residential pathways in small and medium-sized cities, lifestyles and modes of cohabitation, and public policies. Are the modes of cohabitation of local populations and social relations the same as in rural areas or in large urban agglomerations? What can we learn from the variations between the different representations (academic, media or political) of these territories and their inhabitants? Finally, are there any specificities of small and medium-sized cities with regard to housing issues and ways of living, or should we rather understand them as a 'particular but not singular' research framework (Maget, 1989, p. 79) to which similar questions apply to other spatial contexts?

The aim of this conference is to open up a space for interdisciplinary (geography, sociology, urban planning, demography, history, political science, etc.) and international dialogue on these subjects. We invite empirical studies on these cities, in order to better know and understand the phenomena that take place there. These empirical analyses could contribute to theoretical reflections on the meaning and relevance of the categories of small and medium-sized cities.
9.30 – 10.00 // WELCOMING COFFEE

10.00 – 10.15 // CONFERENCE INTRODUCTION

[EN] 10.15 – 10.45 // KEYNOTE SPEAKER
Dr. Olivier Sykes · Department of Geography and Planning · University of Liverpool

10.45 – 12.45 // FIRST SESSION: RESIDENTIAL MOBILITY THROUGHOUT THE LIFE-COURSE
Discussant: Pr. Sylvie Fol · UMR Géographie-cités · Université Paris-I Panthéon-Sorbonne

[EN] Urban or Rural? Residential Mobilities, Expectations and Experiences of Inhabitants of Small Towns and Medium-Sized Cities
Dr. Annett Steinführer · Thünen Institute of Rural Studies, Braunschweig
Dr. Aura Moldovan · Thünen Institute of Rural Studies, Braunschweig
Dr. Cornelia Tippel · ILS Research gGmbH, Dortmund

[EN] Very Small Towns and Ageing: Questioning the Relevance of Local Public Policies in the Light of Demographic Dynamics
Anton Paumelle · UMR Géographie-cités · Université Paris-I Panthéon-Sorbonne · EHESS

[FR/EN] Does Moving to a Mid-Sized French City Increase Work Commutes?
Dr. Alexis Poulhès · LVMT · Université Gustave-Eiffel
Angèle Brachet · LVMT · Université Gustave-Eiffel

2.00 – 4.00 // SECOND SESSION: DISPERSAL POLICIES AND RESIDENTIAL PATTERNS OF REFUGEES AND ASYLUM SEEKERS
Discussant: Pr. Serge Weber · ACP · Université Gustave-Eiffel

[EN] Staying or Leaving? Housing Trajectories of Refugee Families Transferred to Small Towns in France
Pablo Runet · LAB'URBA · Université Paris-Est Créteil Val-de-Marne

[EN] Between Acceptance(s) and Resistance(s) While Facing Imposed Mobility. Grammar of Attitudes and Practices of Beneficiaries of International Protection Oriented Outside Major Urban Centers
Soazig Dollet · Centre d'études européennes et de politiques comparées · Sciences Po Paris

[EN] How Dispersion Policies Influence Residential Experiences and Trajectories of Migrants in Mid-Sized Cities?
Dr. Camille Gardesse · LAB'URBA · Université Paris-Est Créteil Val-de-Marne
Pr. Christine Lelévrier · LAB'URBA · Université Paris-Est Créteil Val-de-Marne

[FR/EN] Leaving Paris to Get By. Dispositions Towards Mobility Arrangements and the Effects of an Experimental Public Policy
Dr. Violaine Girard · LDS · Université Rouen Normandie · INED
Dr. Elie Guérault · LESCORES · Université Clermont Auvergne · INED
Pr. Gilles Laferté · CESAER · INRAE
Dr. Lilian Lahieyte · LDS · Université Rouen Normandie
Dr. Gaspard Lion · EXPERICE · Université Sorbonne Paris Nord
4.15 – 6.30 // THIRD SESSION: PRODUCE, TRANSFORM, RENOVATE, DEMOLISH: HOUSING OPERATORS AND POLICIES IN SMALL AND MEDIUM-SIZED CITIES
Discussant: Dr. Sarah Dubeaux · LATTs · Université Gustave-Eiffel · LIFTI

[FR/EN] Homes at a "Price of an Espresso": Interrogating the Commodification of Housing in a Small Town of Southern Italy
Dr. Margot Delon · CENS · CNRS · Université de Nantes · École Française de Rome · ICM Fellow
Dr. Teresa Graziano · Department of Agriculture, Alimentation and Environnement · Università di Catania

[FR/EN] Exit, Conquest, Loyalty - Housing Operator Strategies in Four Small and Medium-Sized Cities in Normandy
Dr. Marie Mondain · UMR Géographies-cité · CNRS

[FR/EN] When an Urban Renewal Policy of the Condominiums Stock Makes the Rebuilt Medium-Sized City
Dr. Kévin Chesnel · CRENAU · AAU · UMR 1563 CNRS · MCC · Nantes Université · ENSA de Nantes
Dr. Élise Roy · CRENAU · AAU · UMR 1563 CNRS · MCC · Nantes Université · ENSA de Nantes

[FR/EN] Social Housing and Revitalization of Very Small Towns
Dr. Hélène Roth · UMR Territoires · Université Clermont Auvergne

[FR] Followed by a discussion with a practitioner:
Jean-Denis Mège · Managing Director of OPAL 02, Aisne County Social Landlord (Hauts-de-France)

6.30 // COCKTAIL
Opening of the exhibition « Return from La Souterraine (Creuse, France) »
Scientific and Artistic Guidance: Jean-Robert Dantou, Alix de La Gaignonnière, Mathis Nouel, Paco Rapin, Rafaël Traper, Olivia Vieujean, Florence Weber
8.45 – 9.00 // MORNING COFFEE

9.00 – 11.00 // FOURTH SESSION: COHABITATION, ACQUAINTANCESHIP, SOCIAL SEGREGATION: SOCIAL RELATIONSHIPS IN SMALL AND MEDIUM-SIZED CITIES
Discussant: Dr. Anne Lambert · INED

**EN**
Understanding ‘Neighbourhood Effects’. Residential Trajectories and Local Sociability in Two Towns on the Fringe of Large Metropolitan Areas
Dr. Joanie Cayouette-Remblière · INED
Dr. Eric Charmes · RIVES · UMR EVS • École nationale des travaux publics de l’État
Dr. Josette Debroux · Centre Max-Weber · Université Lyon-II · CNRS

**EN**
Friends in the City. Redefining the Meanings and Implications of Friendship in a Rapidly-Growing Small City of India
Hugo Ribadeau-Dumas · EHESS

**EN**
Social Cohesion Between Everyday Perception and German Angst
Dr. Jakob Hartl · Research Institute Social Cohesion · University of Halle-Wittenberg
Dr. Katja Klebig · Institute of Sociology · University of Halle-Wittenberg

**EN**
Hidden: Segregation of Ex-Untouchables in Ajmer, India
Jusmeet S. Sihra · Sciences Po Paris · Hebrew University of Jerusalem

11.00 – 11.15 // COFFEE BREAK

11.15 – 1.15 // FIFTH SESSION: LIFESTYLES AND SOCIAL RELATIONS IN SMALL AND MEDIUM-SIZED CITIES
Discussant: Pr. Jean-Yves Authier · Centre Max-Weber · Université Lyon-II

**FR/EN**
Living in “Ordinary Cities” : Lifestyles and Representations of Heteronormativity for Non-Heterosexual Men in Hauts-de-France
Théophile Plouvier · Laboratoire TVES UMR 4477 · Université du Littoral Côte d’Opale

**FR/EN**
Living in the City, Claiming the Village
Arthur Bertucat · Mosaïques · LAVUE · Université Paris-Nanterre

**FR/EN**
How to Live in Small and Medium-Sized Towns When You Are a “Migrant”? A Presentation of the Conditions of Refugees in These Spaces, Through the Prism of the Local Context and Social Action
Margaux Verove · Espaces et sociétés · Université de Caen

**FR/EN**
Political Domination and Social Co-Optation. The Selection of Municipal Councilors in a Small Rural Town Since 1945
Pr. Julian Mischi · UMR IRISSO · CNRS · INRAE · Université Paris-Dauphine
2.30 – 4.15 // SIXTH SESSION: LIVING IN SMALL AND MEDIUM-SIZED CITIES: ACCESSIBILITY TO PUBLIC SERVICES AND HEALTHCARE

Discussant: Dr. Olivier Sykes · Department of Geography and Planning · University of Liverpool

[EN] Using TOPOI – a Novel Settlement Classification Approach – and Autoregressive Models to Understand Urbanization Patterns Across Small and Medium-Sized Cities in Lower Saxony, Germany
Grace Abou Jaoude · Institute for Sustainable Urbanism · Technische Universität Braunschweig
Dr. Olaf Mumm · Institute for Sustainable Urbanism · Technische Universität Braunschweig
Dr. Vanessa Miriam Carlow · Institute for Sustainable Urbanism · Technische Universität Braunschweig

[EN] Left-behind places? Foundational economy vs invisible austerity in French declining spaces
Dr. Maryame Amarouche · UMR EVS-CRGA · Université Lyon-3
Dr. Vincent Béal · UMR SAGE · Université de Strasbourg
Dr. Max Rousseau · UMR ART-DEV · CIRAD

[EN] The closure of a rheumatology office in the small town of Ambérieu-en-Bugey: reconfiguration of the health care offer and practices
Dr. Pauline Iosti · Environnement, ville, société (UMR 5600) · ENS de Lyon

4.15-4.45 // CONCLUDING THOUGHTS
ORGANIZING COMMITTEE

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Dr. Quentin Schnapper  
LaSSP • Sciences Po Toulouse

Achille Warnant  
Géographie-cités • École des hautes études en sciences sociales

View of Sète (Hérault, France) in 2018.
Pr. Jean-Yves Authier  Centre Max-Weber • Université Lyon II
Dr. Matthias Bernt  Leibniz-Institut für Raumbezogene Sozialforschung
Dr. Eric Charmes  RIVES • UMR EVS • École nationale des travaux publics d’État
Dr. Anaïs Collet  SAGE • Université de Strasbourg
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Dr. Camille Gardesse  LAB’URBA • Université Paris-Est Créteil
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PRACTICAL INFORMATION

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Place du Front Populaire
93300 Aubervilliers

SUBWAY
Line 12
Front Populaire Station
Exit n°2

BUS
Lines 139 and 239
Front Populaire - Gardinoux Stop

BIKE
Vélib’ Station
Place du Front Populaire -
George Sand

Billboard of a real estate developer on a vacant plot in Colmar (Haut-Rhin, France) in 2020.