

# LIVING IN SMALL AND MEDIUM-SIZED CITIES

SOCIAL RELATIONSHIPS, RESIDENTIAL TRAJECTORIES AND PUBLIC ACTION

PROGRAM

CONFERENCE

Overview of Tulle (Corrèze, France) in 2022.

JANUARY 26<sup>TH</sup> AND 27<sup>TH</sup> 2023

Campus Condorcet · Aubervilliers · France

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# 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 Grove, 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; Guérault 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.

# JANUARY 26<sup>TH</sup>

9.30 – 10.00 // WELCOMING COFFEE

10.00 – 10.15 // CONFERENCE INTRODUCTION

10.15 – 10.45 // KEYNOTE SPEAKER

[EN]

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 Toppel · 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 Guéraud · 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

# JANUARY 26<sup>TH</sup>

4.00 – 4.15 // COFFEE BREAK

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**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

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**[FR/EN] Exit, Conquest, Loyalty - Housing Operator Strategies in Four Small and Medium-Sized Cities in Normandy**

Dr. Marie Mondain · UMR Géographies-cité · CNRS

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**[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

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**[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)

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**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

# JANUARY 27<sup>TH</sup>

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'Etat

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 · Mosaiques · 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 IRISSE · 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

Abandoned *goutte de lait* – infant health centre - building in Romans-sur-Isère (Drôme, France) in 2021.

CONSULTATION ENTREE

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# 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.



# SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE

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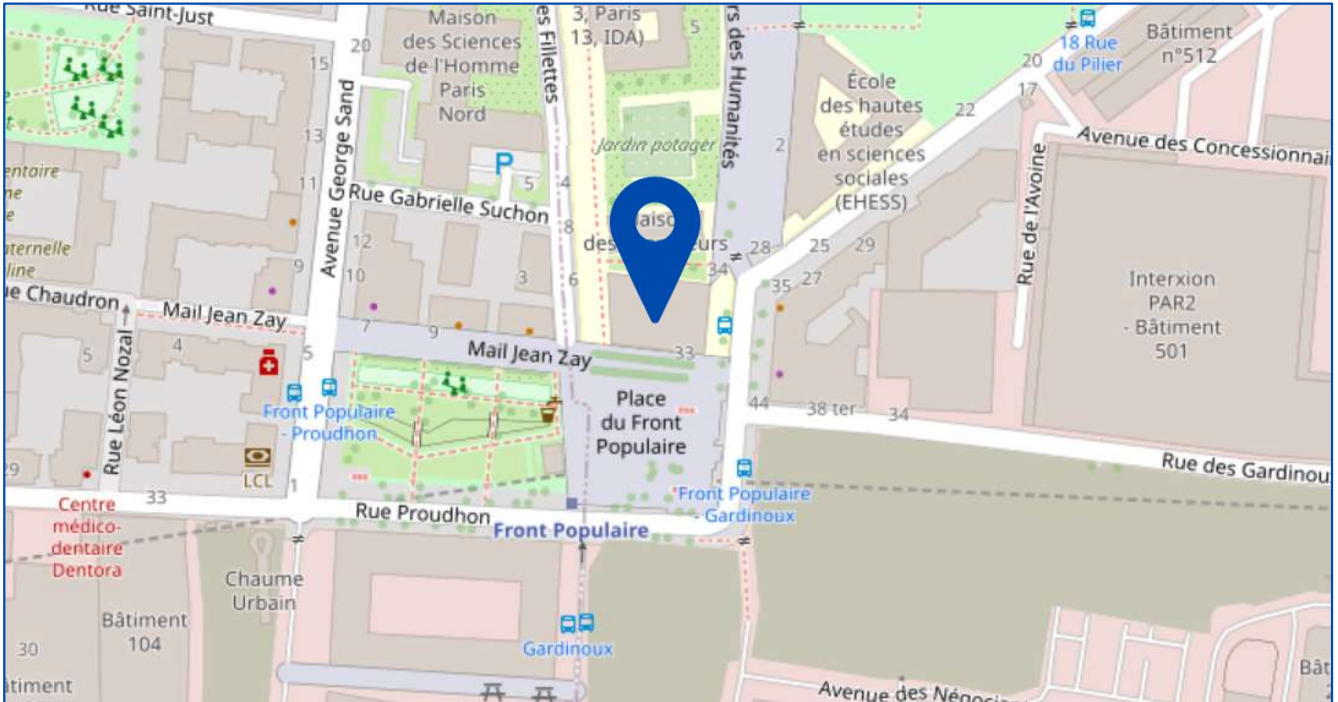
Pr. Serge Weber ACP • Université Gustave-Eiffel



# PRACTICAL INFORMATION

## GET TO THE VENUE

Campus Condorcet – Centre des colloques  
Place du Front Populaire  
93300 Aubervilliers



### SUBWAY

Line 12  
Front Populaire Station  
Exit n°2

### BUS

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

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