

URBAN OPEN SPACES AND ENVIRONMENTAL MOBILIZATIONS: FROM STRUGGLES TO NEGOTIATIONS FOR URBAN RESOURCES

*Espaces ouverts urbains et mobilisations environnementales :
des luttes aux négociations pour les ressources de la ville*

Research seminar - 2021-2022

LabEx Dynamite

**Groupe de travail Productions de l'urbain entre Nord et Sud
& Biodiversité, savoirs, pratiques et engagements**

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Urban open spaces and environmental mobilizations: from struggles to negotiations for urban resources

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Séminaire de recherche - Programme 2021-2022

Many of the slogans raised during environmental demonstrations and mobilizations point directly or indirectly to urban production as the cause of the destruction of environmental and urban resources. In the era of “stop soil artificialisation” and the reinforcement of densification policies, these collective actions testify to the growing commitment of urban societies to take part in the evolution of their living environments. Parks, gardens, wastelands, interstices, these spaces contain resources that are highly coveted in a dense urban environment: fertile soil and a potential for appropriation by a diversity of actors and forms of life. By being most obviously embodied in protest perspectives, urban open spaces seem to have become the scene of an opposition between environmental protection on the one hand and the production of the city on the other. However, urban struggles contribute strongly to the advancement of certain environmental issues by making them visible, particularly in contexts of urban transformation, because open spaces are both the supports and the places where these mobilizations are enacted.

The objective of this seminar is to question the vision of an urban production that is destructive of urban resources and to interrogate the relations and tensions that are established in open spaces, through the prism of environmental mobilizations. By identifying, collecting and questioning the actors, postures, figures and media of environmental

mobilizations in urban open spaces, the seminar intends to focus attention on the materialities and political horizons of these territories of engagement.

The seminar will focus on a diversity of objects and levels of mobilization in order to grasp the plurality of territories of engagement. The seminar sessions will be organized around three series of questions, combining classroom sessions with field sessions in the Ile-de-France region:

What places and registers of discourse participate in the construction of environmental mobilizations on open spaces?

And how do open spaces and the forms of urban nature they shelter help shape environmental mobilizations?

How do the figures and types of actors mobilized (associations, elected officials, informal groups, administrations, private actors...) shape the uses and practices invested in urban open spaces?

What are the values defended by these environmental mobilizations and what scales of the urban environment do they question? How are the ethics of collective action constructed between the mobilized (conflicts of interest, power relations, shared values, co-creation)?

A monthly meeting over the academic year 2021-2022 will allow us to collectively paint a portrait of urban environmental mobilizations by grasping the relations between materialities and political horizons of urban open spaces.

Seminar programme

25 octobre 2021 : Les scènes des mobilisations

- Introduction par les organisateurs
- Nathalie Blanc, directrice de recherche au CNRS, laboratoire LADYSS
- Stéphane Tonnelat, chargé de recherche au CNRS, laboratoire LAVUE

14 février 2022 : Les engagements environnementaux

Engagements environnementaux et citoyens dans la fabrique d'espaces ouverts urbains en Europe. Regards croisés entre Rome et Strasbourg

- Sarah Lilia Baudry, docteure en géographie, laboratoire Géographie-cités
- Victoria Sachsé, docteure en géographie, laboratoire LinCS (UMR 7069)

11 avril 2022 : Produire dans les villes du Sud

Entre mobilisations et appropriation de l'espace

- Corten Pérez Houis, doctorant en géographie, laboratoire Géographie-cités
- Diane Robert, doctorante en géographie, laboratoire LADYSS

9 mai 2022 : La place de la biodiversité dans les mobilisations

- Emilie Guitard, anthropologue et chargée de recherche CNRS, laboratoire Prodig et Christine Raimond, géographe et directrice de recherche au CNRS, laboratoire Prodig
- Hugo Rochard, doctorant en géographie, laboratoire LADYSS

20 juin 2022 (en Anglais) : Socio-ecological practices in global metropolises

- Matthew Gandy, professor of Geography at the University of Cambridge
- Flaminia Paddeu, assistant Professor in Geography at the Sorbonne University Paris Nord

6 juillet 2022 (sur le terrain à Saint-Denis) : « Faire terres communes »

- Ségolène Darly, géographe et maîtresse de conférences, laboratoire LADYSS
- Cécile Mattoug, architecte et docteure en géographie, ATER, laboratoires LAVUE/LAREP

Seminar organisation :

Cécile Mattoug is educated as an architect, PhD in Geography, teaching and research ing associate at the University Paris 8 Vincennes Saint-Denis (associate at LAVUE & LAREP).

Hugo Rochard is educated as a Geographer, PhD Student in Geography (Université Paris Cité - LADYSS), teaching at the University Paris Cité and at Paris 8 Vincennes - Saint-Denis.

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2022, JUNE, 20TH : SOCIO-ECOLOGICAL PRACTICES IN GLOBAL METROPOLISES

In English and only on videoconferencing.

5th seminar session

- **Matthew Gandy** : *Natura urbana: ecological constellations in urban space*
- **Flaminia Paddeu** : *Under the pavement, the earth. Urban agricultures and resistances in metropolises.*



Matthew Gandy is professor of Geography at the University of Cambridge and an award-winning documentary film maker. His books include *The fabric of space: water, modernity, and the urban imagination* (MIT Press, 2014) and *Natura urbana: ecological constellations in urban space* (MIT Press, 2022). Matthew Gandy will present arguments from his new book on urban nature by exploring a series of different vantage points for the study of socio-ecological assemblages in urban space. He

will reflect on the possibilities for a new conceptual synthesis that combines observational approaches with urban political ecology and the recognition of non-human others within the ecological pluriverse.



Flaminia Paddeu is an Assistant Professor in Geography at the Sorbonne University Paris Nord and at Pléïade laboratory. She analyses the socio-ecological issues of urban agriculture, gleaning and foraging in northern metropolises (France, United-States). She is the author of *Sous les pavés la terre* (Seuil, 2021). Flaminia Paddeu will present her new book. It stems from ten years of research about urban agriculture and resistance strategies in northern metropolises such as Detroit, New

York and the Greater Paris area. It aims at theorizing the disappearing and reappearing of growing food within cities using the Anthropocene framework, as well as synthesizing results emerging from multi-sited and international case studies.