

Demo Hour

Foresight Europe Network

21 march 2024

{ΧΩΡΟΣ}



Spatial justice and political urbanism

Standing here today, among foresight professionals...

Background (as part of collectives)

Architect and urban planner, School of Porto, Portugal

Professional urban design practitioner in London, UK

PhD in « Social sciences of the city », École Polytechnique Fédérale de Lausanne, Switzerland

Post-docs and consulting projects in France and Belgium

Shifting roles

Share an experience and animate a debate

Seek advice

Contents

1. What's in it (spatial justice) for you ?
2. The research behind the spatial justice toolset
3. Operationality : pilot projects
4. Main attributes of spatial justice toolset
5. Open questions for reflexion

1. What do you think spatial justice can bring to your foresight practices?

What's in it (spatial justice) for you ?

Can you answer with one sentence on each sub-question :

- What do you think spatial justice is about ?
- What is your practice about ?
- Why are you here today ?

Spatial justice toolset, What's in it for foresight practices?

Citizen participation is everywhere, and we know it is present in methods of foresight.

A trend also in planning, urbanism, spatial development

The focus : debating issues and stakes related to the ways in which people (want to) inhabit our common World – *Spatial dimension of society*

You can see how that is both an existential and a political question...

To my knowledge, most methods are not equipped to deal with the actual political divisiveness that we observe and experience in European societies

Spatial conflict (or tension) can be sensed easily...

Between tourists' practices and demands of more permanent residents...



© Ana Povoas



© Ana Povoas

Between
car users and inhabitants
seeking other mobility
forms and other haptic
experiences



Between increasing inequality/spatial segregation and the right to housing



Spatial justice and political divisiveness

Spatial justice is one toolset to deal with such divergence, acknowledging that dissensus is often :

A matter of values underlying the kind of society inhabitants want to live in

A matter of knowledge – it is not because an issue has a local expression that it is mono-scalar...

Local, national, European and the World scales are often relevant to understand the sources of injustice and identify leverage for change

2. The research behind the spatial justice toolset

Arrival :

Ways to treat political diversity in urbanism and spatial development

A procedural approach for the legitimate co-construction of a spatial contracts

At the heart of legitimacy: listening to people as citizens (not as stakeholders, nor *users*)

| User : | Inhabitant-citizen : |
|---------------------------------|--|
| residents, passers-by | permanent, temporary and future inhabitants |
| needs | aspirations |
| personal preferences | project : personal and collective dimensions |
| usage expertise | cognitive + affective elements |
| complaint = response to request | proposal = responsibility |
| nimby | ethics |

A theoretical synthesis of this collective work : 2018

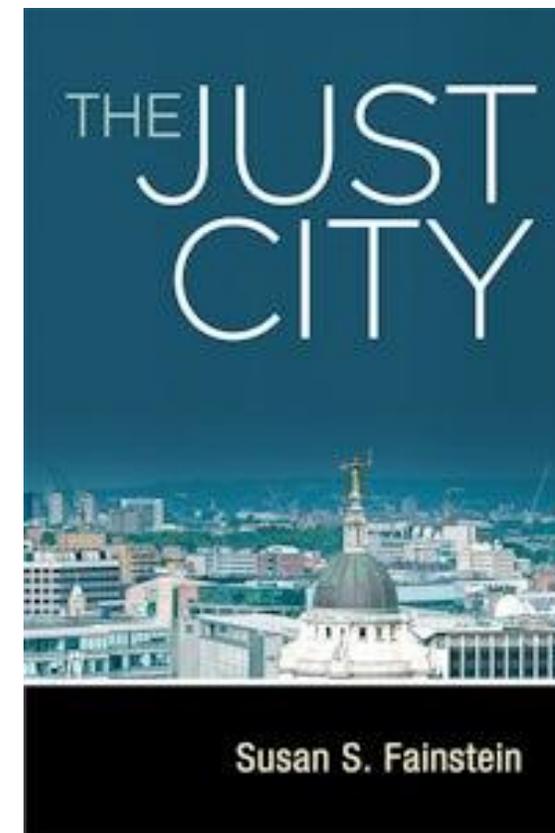
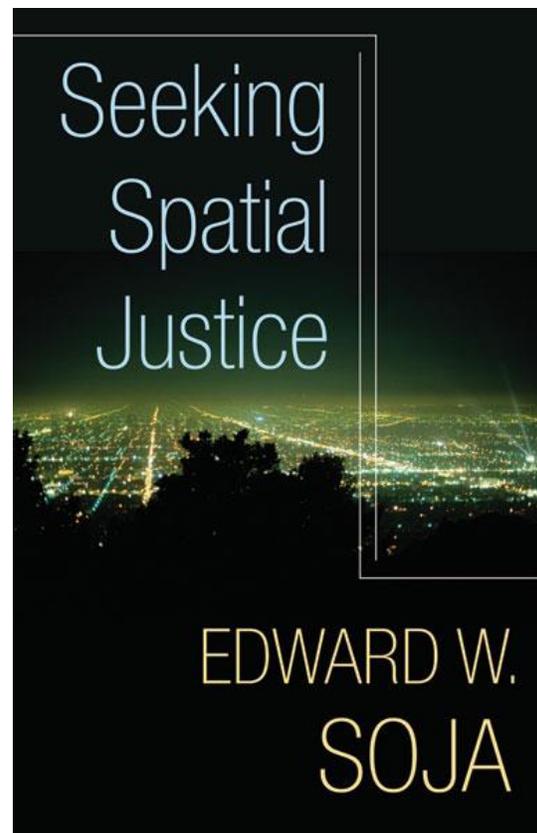
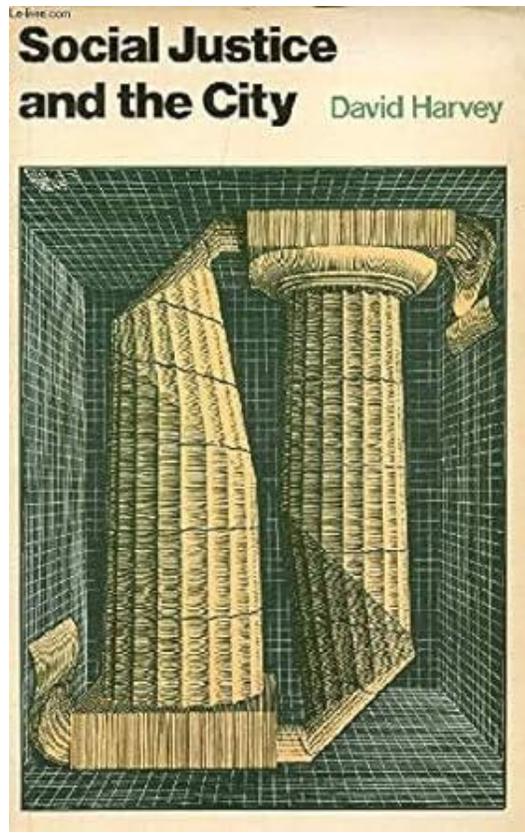
JACQUES LÉVY
JEAN-NICOLAS FAUCHILLE
ANA PÓVOAS

**THÉORIE DE LA
JUSTICE SPATIALE**
GÉOGRAPHIES DU JUSTE
ET DE L'INJUSTE



Departure :

An approach original in regards to the anglo-saxon scholarship on the topic



❖ David Harvey ([1973] 1998)

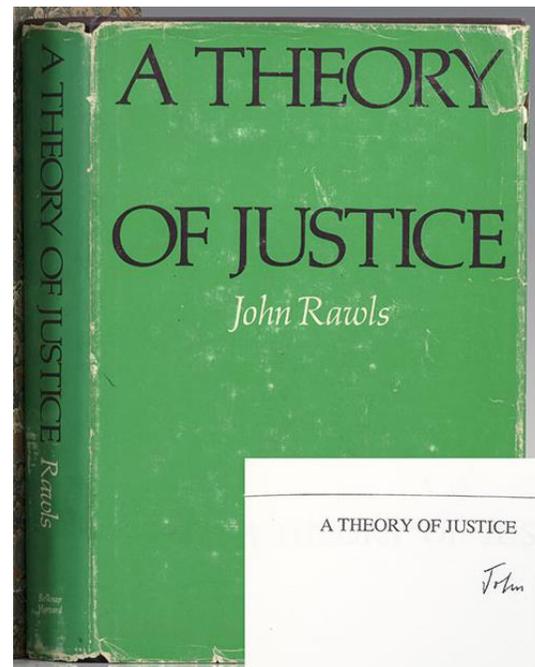
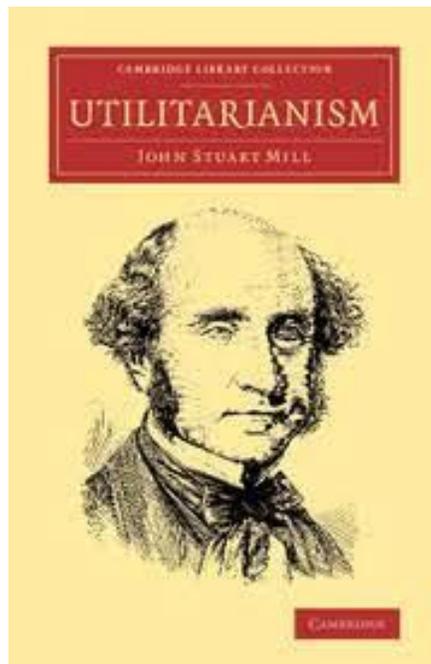
❖ Social justice and the city



John Stuart Mill (1861)

Karl Marx (1867)

John Rawls (1971)

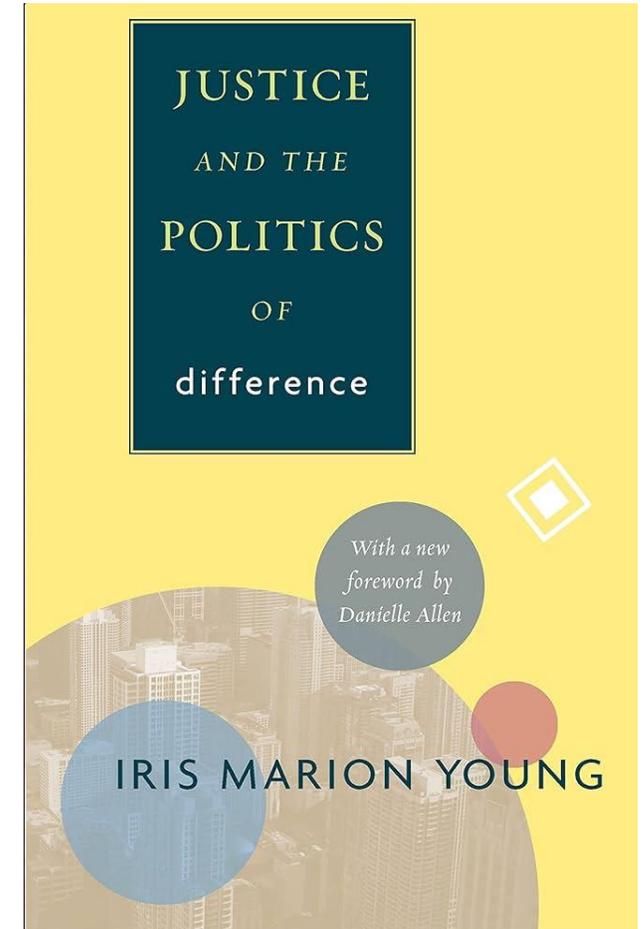


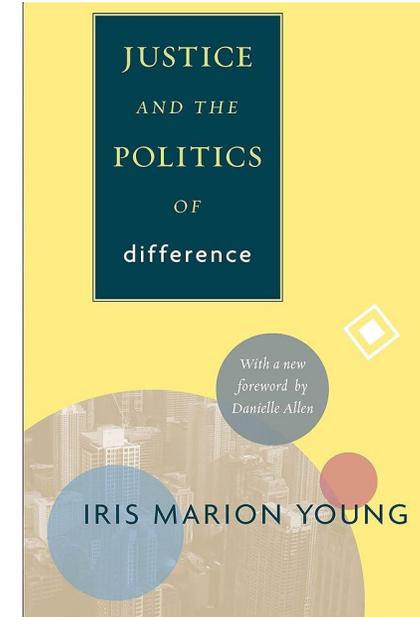
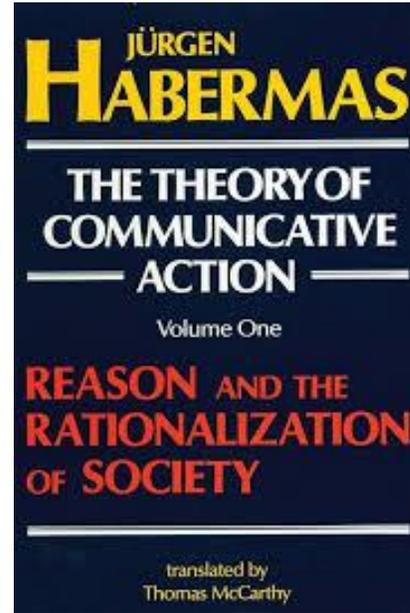
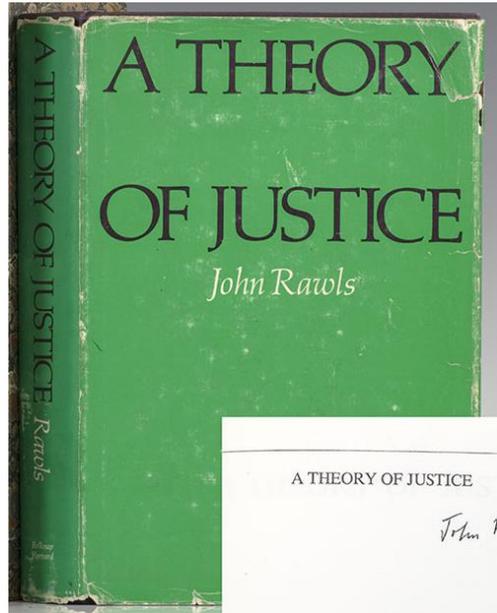
❖ Edward Soja (2010)

❖ Seeking spatial justice



Iris Marion Young
(1990)





❖ Susan Fainstein (2010)

❖ The just city



John Rawls (1971)

Jürgen Habermas (1984)

Iris Marion Young (1990)



The Idea of Justice

'A major advance in contemporary thinking'

John Gauthier, University of Toronto

*'The most important contribution to the
subject since John Rawls's A Theory of Justice'*

William P. Gauthier, Harvard University

AMARTYA SEN

'Sen is one of the great thinkers of our era'

David Ambrose, The Times

Amartya Sen (2010)

The research programme (Laboratory Chôros, EPFL, 2010-2017)

- ❖ *Connecting Space and Justice in Metropolitan Porto. The Discourses of Inhabitants on the Spatial Dimension of Justice* (2010-2016) ONLINE
Doctoral thesis de Ana Póvoas, under the direction of Jacques Lévy
- ❖ *La Justice spatiale comme pragmatique. Une approche expérimentale de réagencement de la carte hospitalière suisse* (2010-2016) ONLIGNE
thèse de doctorat de Jean-Nicolas Fauchille, sous la direction de Jacques Lévy et Boris Beaude, et projet postdoctoral Ogier Maitre
- ❖ *Atlas politique de la France* (Editions Autrement, 2017)
dirigé par Jacques Lévy, avec Ogier Maitre, Ana Póvoas et Jean-Nicolas Fauchille;
- ❖ *Les Français et la Justice spatiale* (2015-2017), commandité par le Commissariat général à l'égalité des territoires
dirigé par Jacques Lévy et Jean-Nicolas Fauchille, avec le concours de Manouk Borkazian et Ana Póvoas

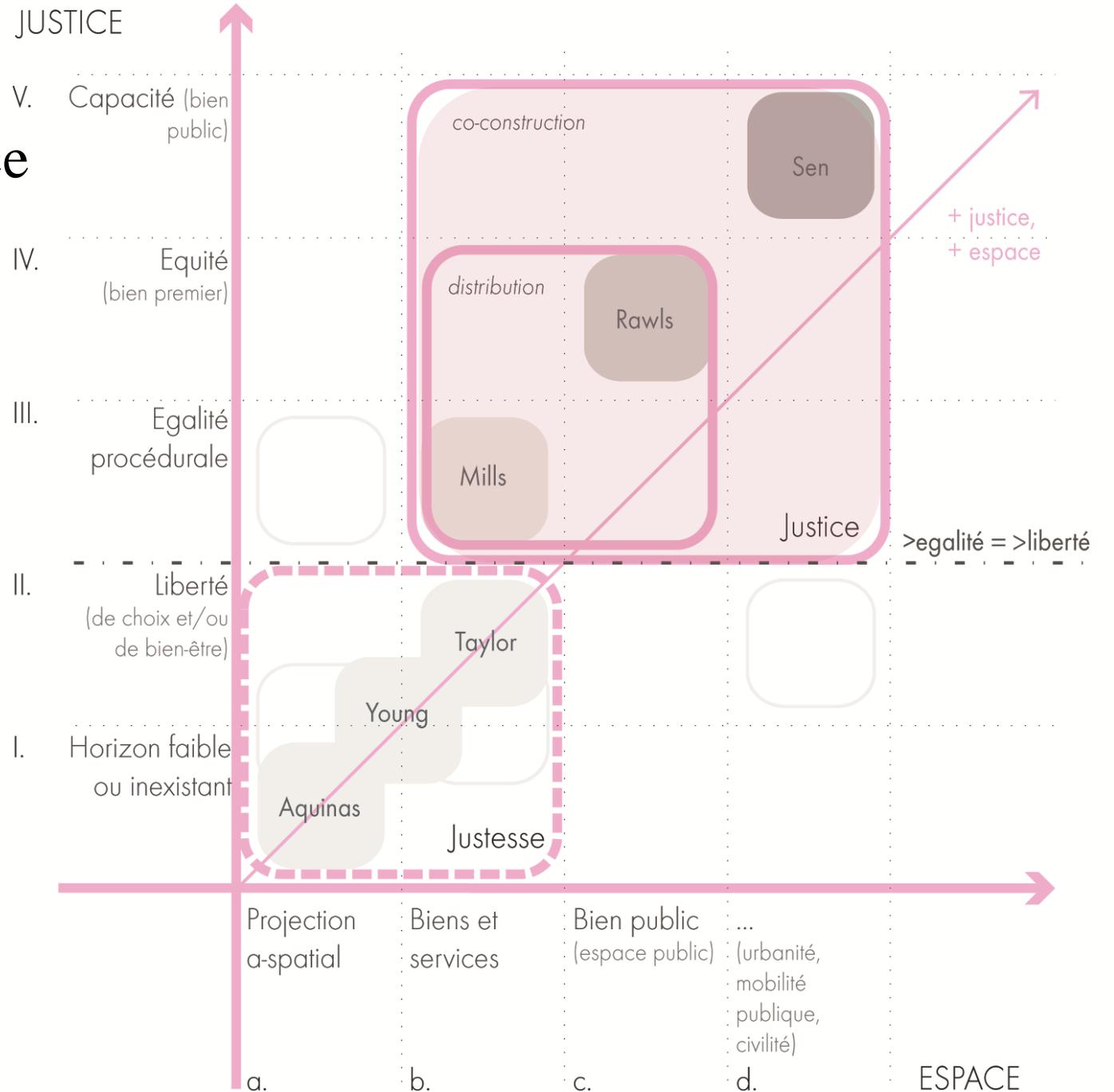
Connecting Space and Justice in Metropolitan Porto

Theories of justice | Inhabitants discourses

Exploring the encompassing ideas of equality and freedom | Geographic translations of these ideas and their relationships



Back and forth between the philosophers textbooks and the inhabitants' discourses : Better understanding of what, in both cases, produces the coherence of standpoints



3. The operationality of spatial justice

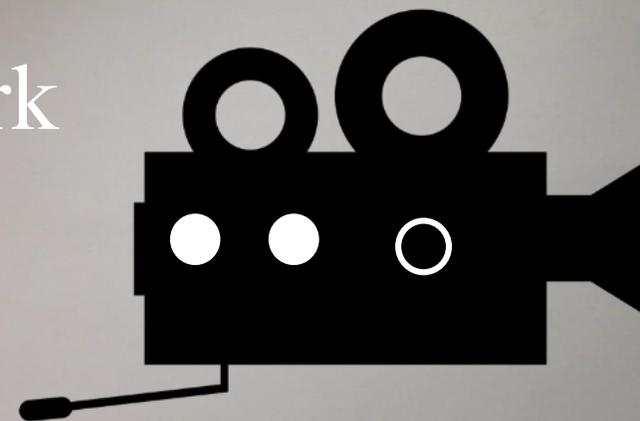
A crossroad : from theory to practice

A different road in many aspects, but mainly :

Conceiving and directing pilot projects which attempt to organise the processes of such a definition of a just space

From individual, on shot interviews, to dynamic process

Bassin minier : a continuous citizen work
on a project of a « more just territory »



Eight sessions in presence

Homework before, after and in-between

Homework A
Objects
and photos



#01
26 September 2023
Presenting oneself





Arnaud-01



Christine-02



Fabrice-03



Florence-03



Phillippe-01



Jean-Paul-03



Mamuela-05



Arnaud-02



Christine-03



Jeremy-01



Jean-03



Phillippe-02



Phillippe-03



Mamuela-03



Arnaud-03



Fabrice-01



Florence-01



Jean-01



Jean-Paul 01



Mamuela-02



Mamuela-01



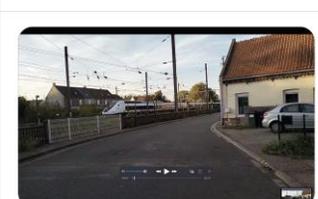
Christine-01



Fabrice-02



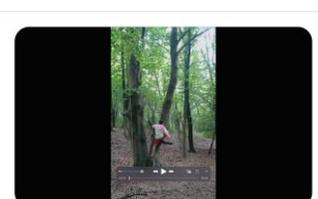
Florence-02



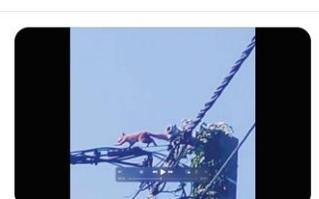
Jean-02



Jean-Paul-02



Mamuela-04



Mamuela-06

Homework B Filming one's inhabitant narrative



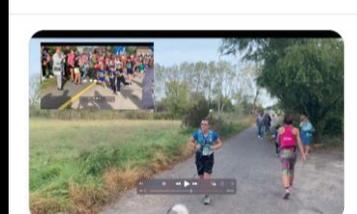
Maryse-01



Maryse-02

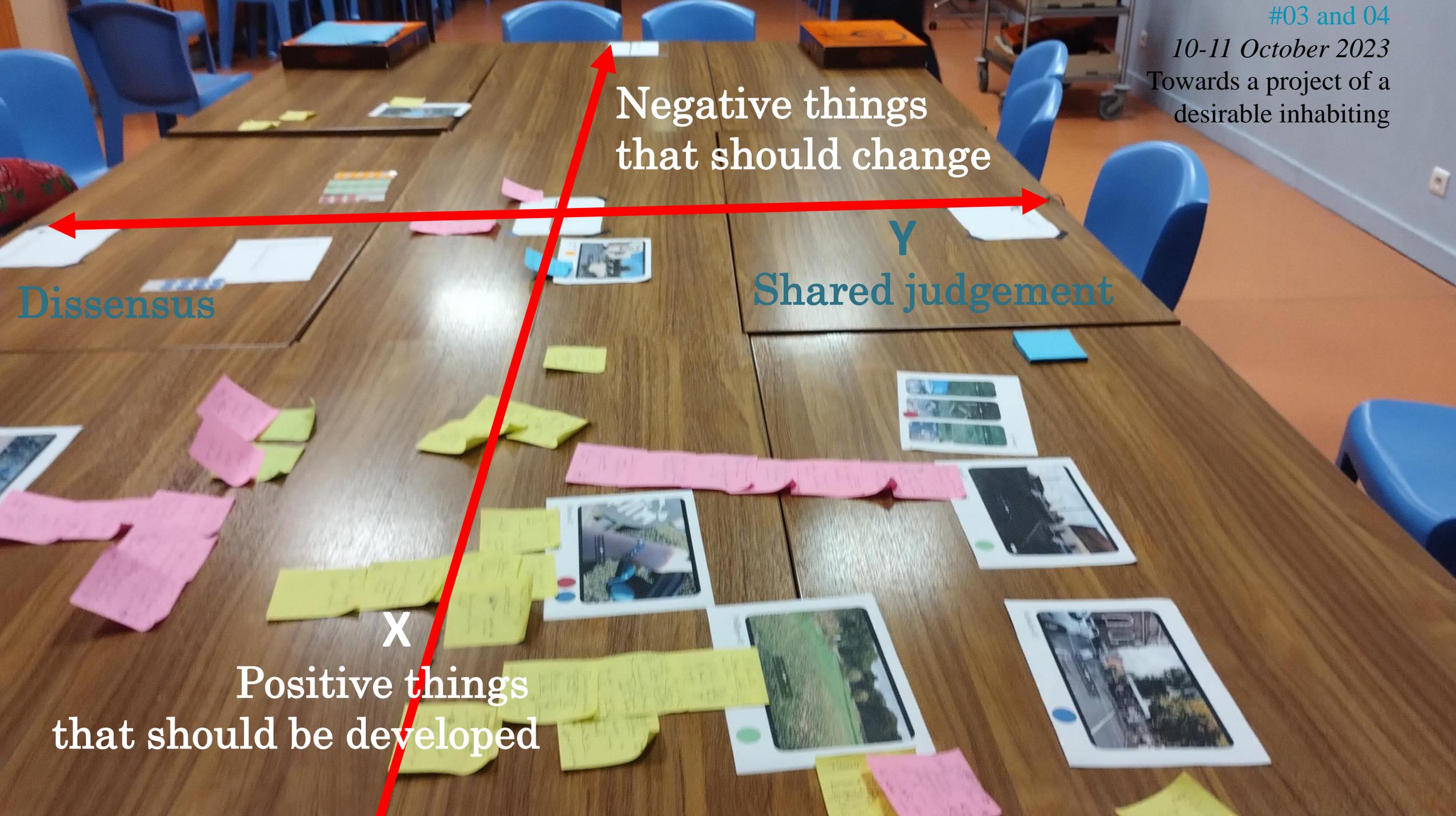


Nathalie-01



Nathalie-02

#02-03
26-27 September 2023
Inhabitants' narratives in debate



Negative things
that should change

Dissensus

Y
Shared judgement

X
Positive things
that should be developed

A man in a dark suit and light-colored shirt is sitting at a desk in an office. He is looking towards the camera with a slight smile. On the desk in front of him is a large stack of papers, a computer monitor, a globe on a stand, and various office supplies like a blue pen and a teal spray bottle. The background shows a window with vertical blinds and a brick wall outside.

#05 21 November 2023
Nourishing the project with
further information

○ ●
Homework C
Interviewing
stakeholders
(group homework)

Prof. François Benchendikh
jurist

Actors
Territories
Tools
Municipal council
Procedures of territorial making
Governance



#05 21 November 2023
Nourishing the project with
further information



#06 22 November 2023
Debating on spatial justice

Égalité

Primary goods



Just processes



Égalité non-solidaire



Equality on non-egalitarian terms



Capability



Individual opportunity



Common goods

Liberté



Public goods

Développement

“Liberties” incompatible with justice



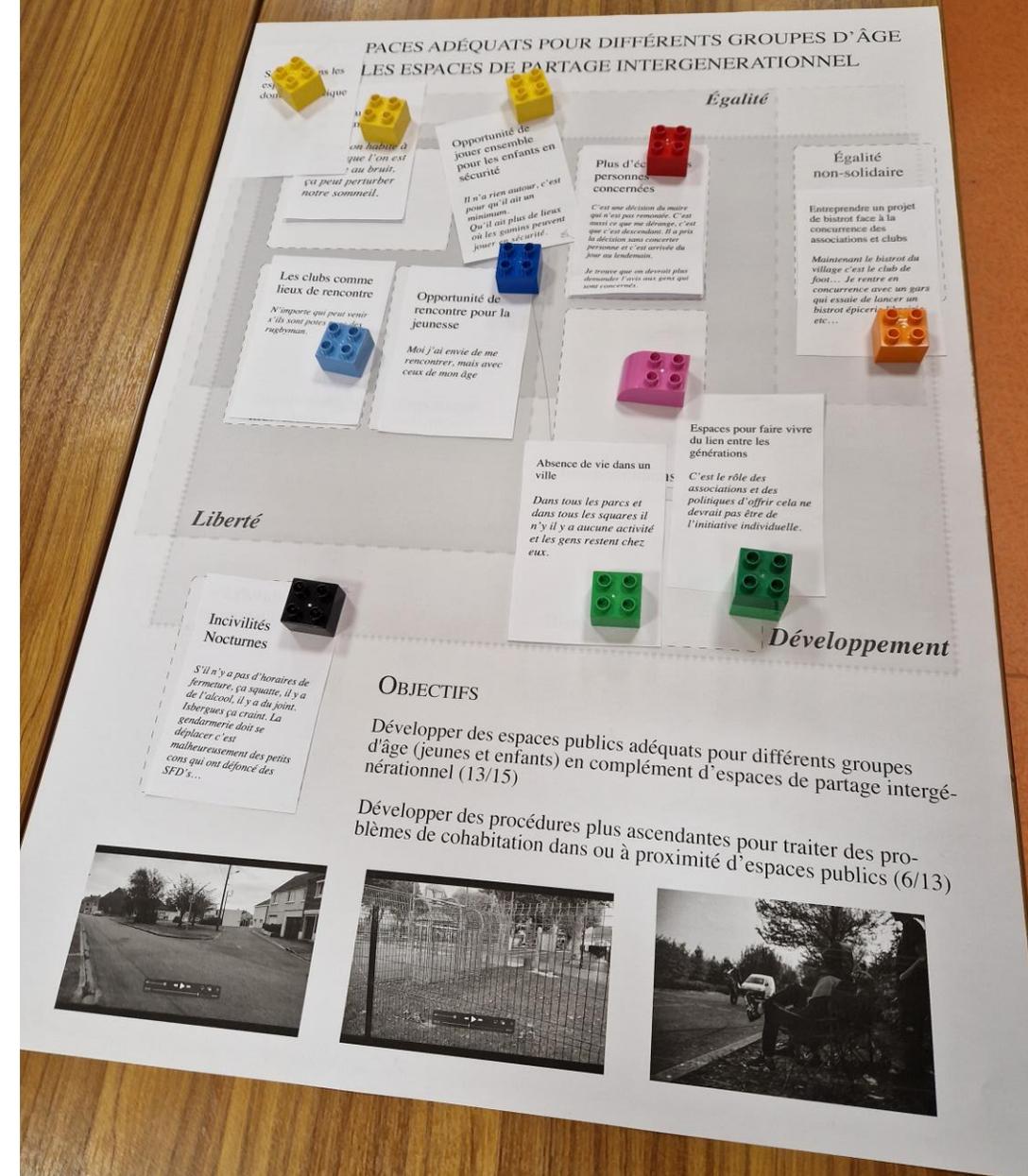
The bricks of spatial justice

“Visualising the values that you want to support through your project for a more just territory”

The notions of spatial justice are difficult to grasp at the beginning

The practice within the collective enables a better comprehension at the end of the session

The group corrects an individual if a definition is not employed in the sense that has been put to practice



Nature's place in the agglomeration

NATURE

Liberté

Egalité

Opportunité individuelle

Opportunité individuelle

Biens communs

Développement

OBJETIFS

Garder la grande place que l'agglo fait à la nature (12/15)

Développer davantage la place de la nature dans les centres des villes et des villages (15/15)

Prendre en compte l'équilibre entre construction et préservation de la nature (12/15):

- investir les logements libres avant de construire des nouveaux
- densifier des villages aussi pour maintenir l'école
- prendre en compte la question de la taille des logements

Collective and soft mobility

SERVICES DE BUS

Egalité

Liberté

Opportunité individuelle

Opportunité individuelle

Biens communs

Développement

OBJETIFS

Plus de flexibilité des service de bus notamment lors d'événements exceptionnels (15/15)

Développer le système de transport à la demande (allobus) avec des temps d'attente raisonnables (15/15)

Développer le système de bus normaux, là où il en a moins (pas voté)

The role of associations in the territory

LE TRAVAIL DES ASSOCIATIONS A U SERVICE DE L'ANIMATION DU TERRITOIRE

Egalité

Liberté

Opportunité individuelle

Opportunité individuelle

Biens communs

Développement

OBJETIFS

Développer des activités sportives/artisanales/de partage par l'associatif (au service de l'animation du territoire) (15/15)

MARYSE (pessimiste)

18 octobre 2044,

J'ai 91 ans aujourd'hui et je suis très surprise d'être arrivée jusque-là. Surtout en ayant gardé toute ma tête, bien que, évidemment je n'ai plus mes jambes depuis au moins 10 ans. Je suis en fauteuil roulant et je sors très très peu étant donné l'état des trottoirs. Impossible de pouvoir circuler en fauteuil avec les trottoirs défoncés et les voitures stationnées. Même si ce sont des voitures électriques, pour la plupart, elles sont là faute de pouvoir les recharger (l'électricité et devenue si chère) et on ne peut pas circuler sauf sur la route. Bien sûr je peux commander un véhicule de transport en commun qui viendra me chercher chez moi et me conduira à destination gratuitement mais c'est peu pratique car on doit remplir le petit bus avant de se rendre aux différentes destinations, et idem pour repartir, ça

NATHALIE

Lundi 18 février 2044,

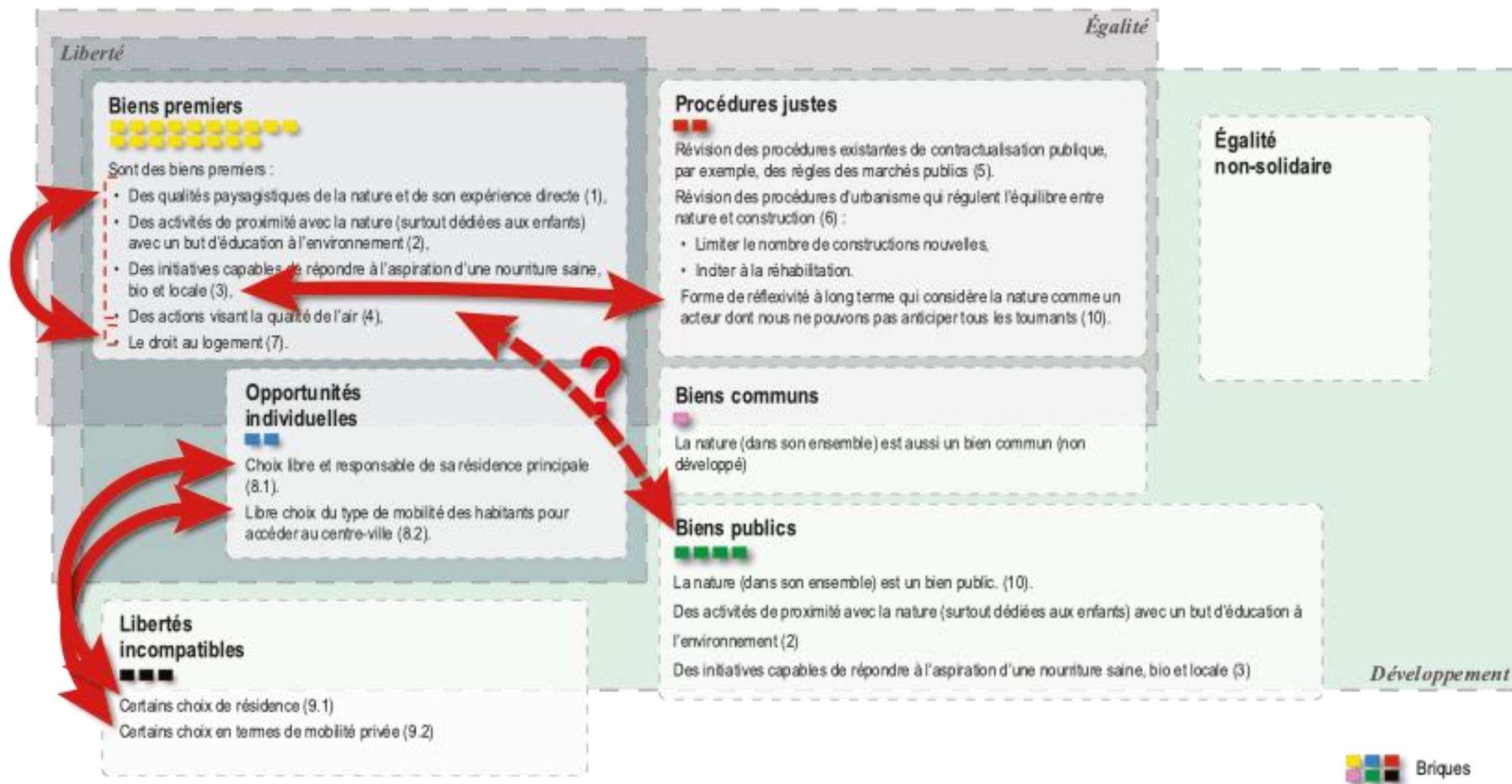
Je sors de chez moi pour me rendre au jardin public, pas la peine de regarder à droite et à gauche avant de traverser, normal, la route appartient en principale partie aux piétons ou aux vélos.

Sur le chemin qui mène au jardin public, je croise des nombreux oiseaux et une multitude de petits animaux (disparus jusqu'à lors du paysage urbain). Arrivée au jardin public, l'odeur des fleurs est prépondérante, les gaz d'échappement ont quasiment disparu, les citoyens se déplacent désormais avec des véhicules qui sont respectueux des gaz à effet de serre. Au jardin public, les enfants jouent sous la surveillance des parents qui ne sont pas inquiets, la bienveillance entre chacun fait partie de notre quotidien. L'inclusion n'a plus de sens puisque nous nous



Homework D
Writing the narrative of
one's future mode of
inhabiting

LA PLACE DE LA NATURE DANS L'AGGLO

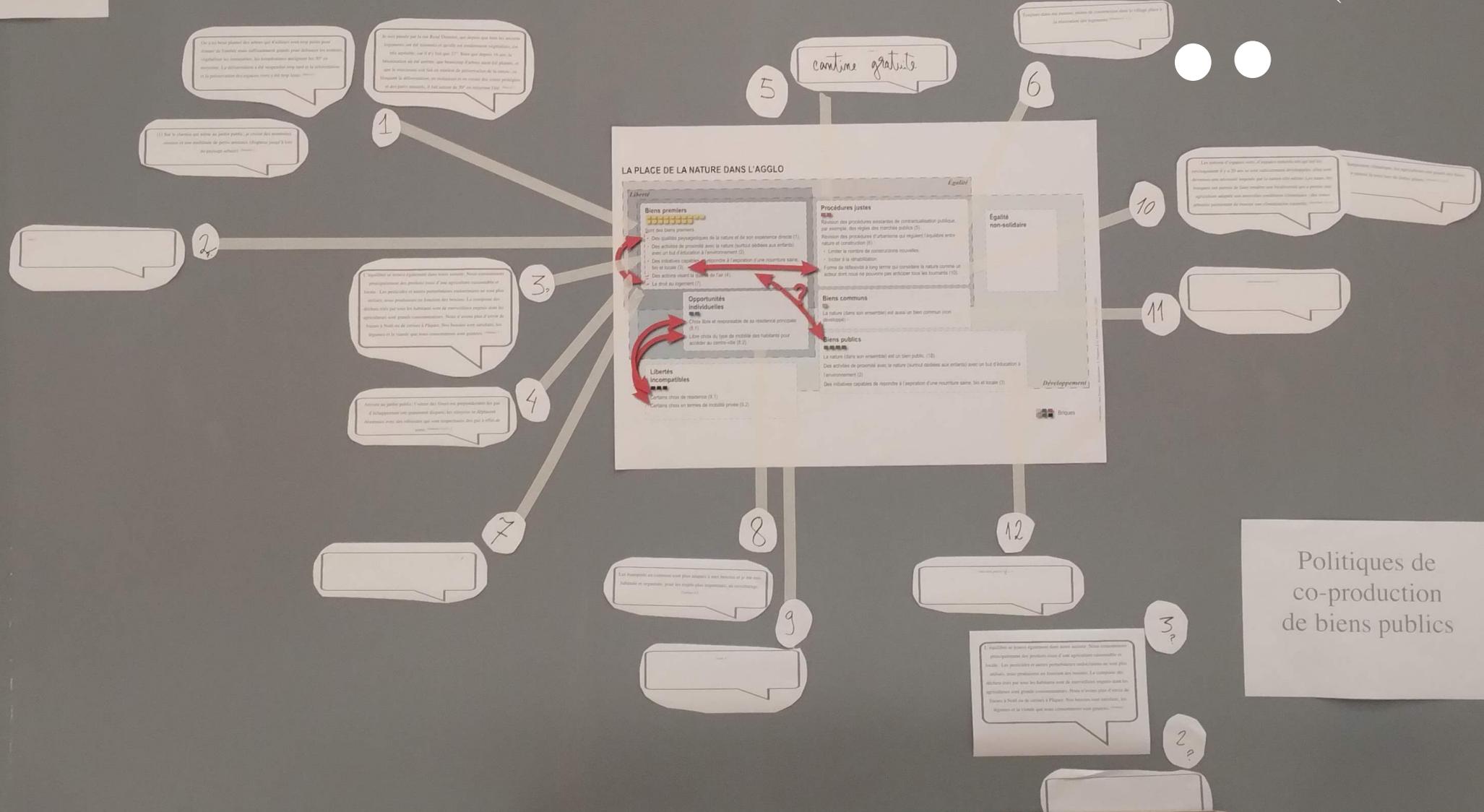


Politiques de justice (re)distributive

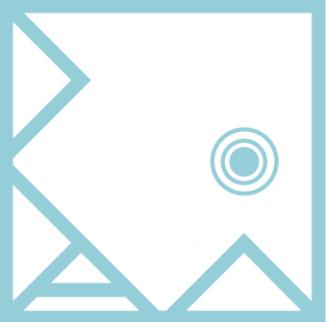
#07-08

27-28 February 2024

Telling the future of the territory (collective scenario)



Politiques de co-production de biens publics



#07-08

Telling the future of the territory



8 sessions in presence

#01

Presenting oneself



#03-04

Towards a project of a
desirable habitat



#05

Nourishing the project with
further information

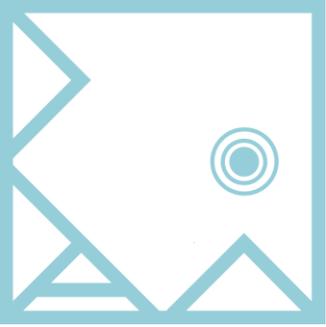


#02

Preparing the inhabitants'
narratives

#06

Debating on spatial justice



Homework

Homework A

Objects



Homework B

Filming one's inhabitant
narrative



Homework C

Interviewing
Stakeholders
(group homework)



Homework E

Rewriting the future narrative of
their mode of inhabiting
(integrating collective scenario)



Homework D

Writing the narrative of one's
future mode of inhabiting



The progression of participants' « hats »

Individual and collective stances
become more aligned

7-8

The inhabitant-person-citizen
in the future

1-2

The inhabitant-person

(each person arrives
with his/her subjective spatial
preferences)

3-6

The inhabitant-citizen

(the group forms and debates,
spatial choices become more
collective and political)

Homework 4

The inhabitant-person in the
future

PAUSE

Progression towards a more
collective stance

Spatial
justice

Foresight

Some important innovations

Create and define a vocabulary of concepts= justice values coming from a wide range of theories of justice (spatial justice bricks)

Teach these conceptual bricks to citizens

Let citizen decide the empirical (=real world, spatial) content they assign to each brick

Help citizens identify where they agree and where the tensions are

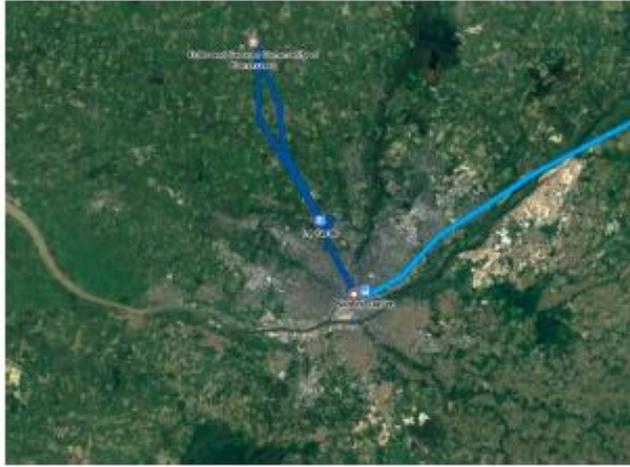
Use this collective work as a support for citizens' writing of the future scenario(s) for their territory in a more just and desirable society.

... While doing a scientific experimental film

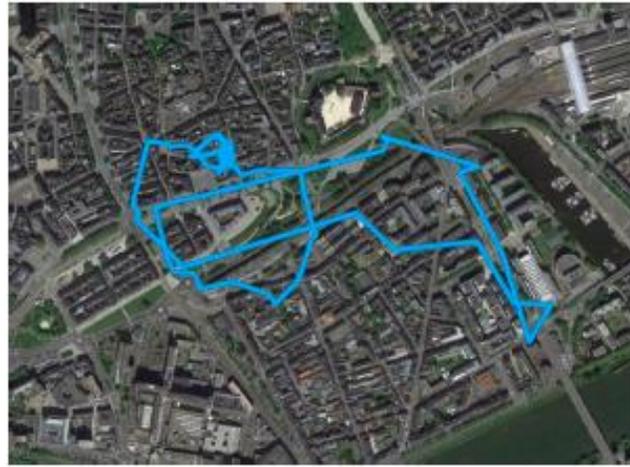
Nantes : a flash method to identify major stakes (for subsequent debate)

Centrale à charbon de Cordemais, par JKn
Licence via AdobeStock.

A sensitive stroll through Nantes Metropolitan Pole



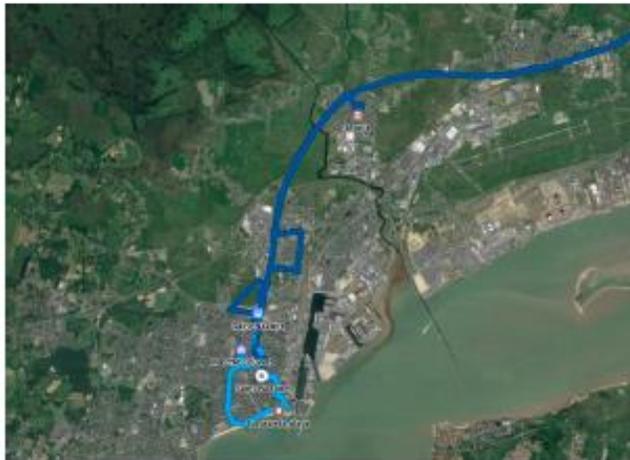
Centre de Nantes <-> Erve et Gesvres
(bus/voiture)



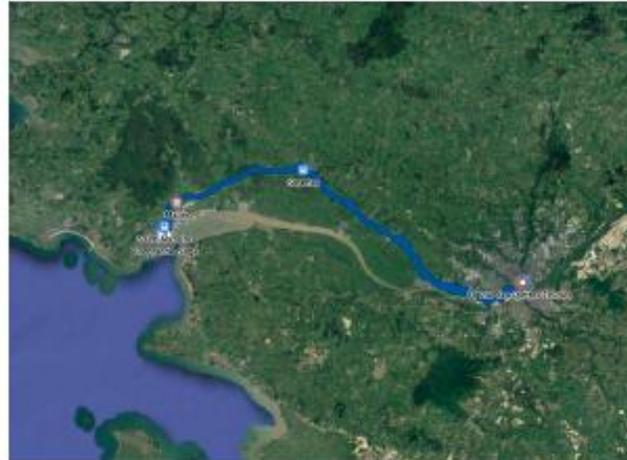
Centre de Nantes (pied)



Centre Nantes <-> Rezé (pied/tram)



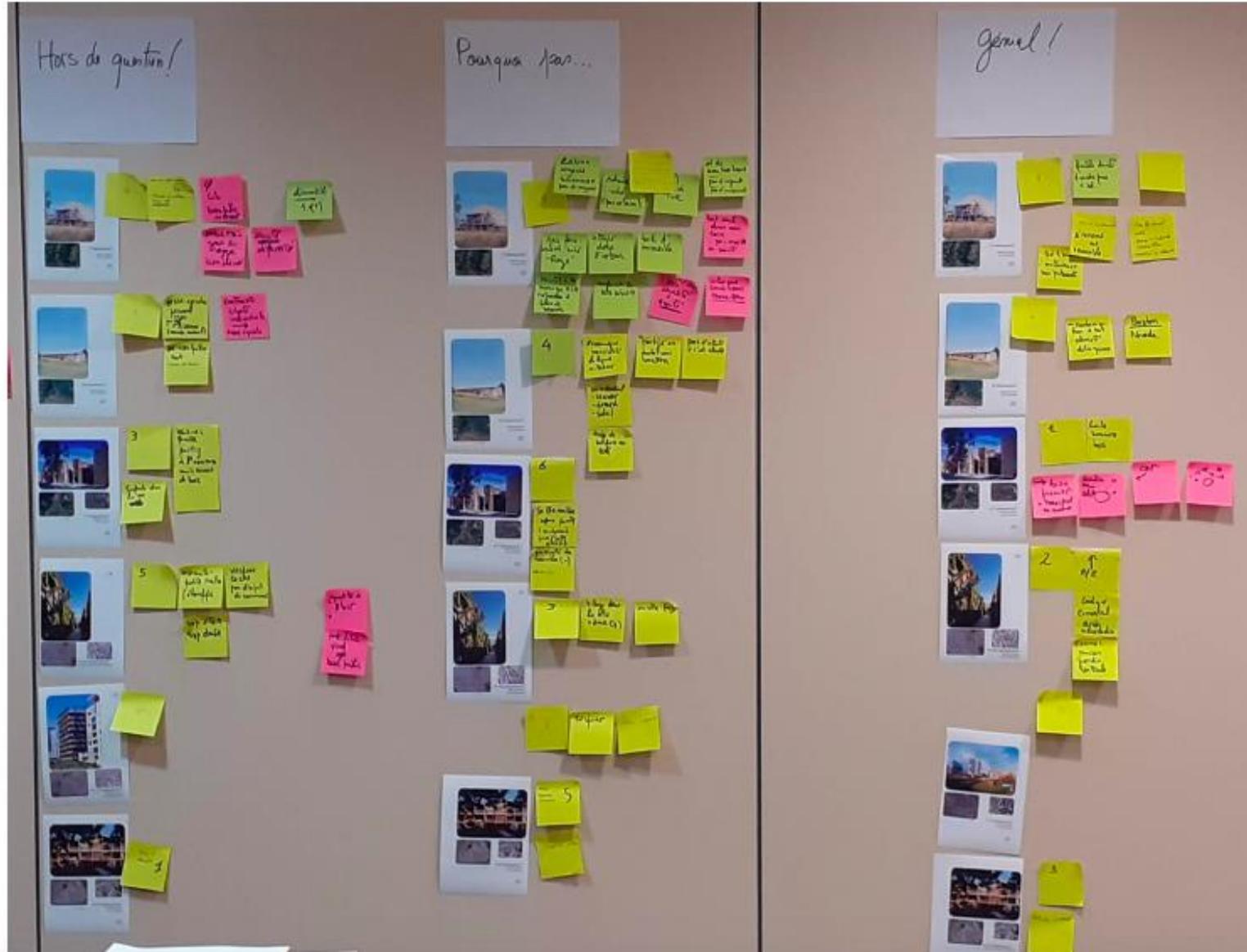
Centre de Saint-Nazaire <-> Trignac
(bus/pied)



Centre de Nantes <-> Centre de Saint-Nazaire
(train/bus)

Des parcours définis par mes soins,
réalisés en transport en commun et à
pied, en contact direct avec l'espace
public et ses habitants.

A two hours atelier on spatial justice





12



7 515 habitants/km²
(densité moyenne de la commune)

09



14



39 566 habitants/km²
(densité moyenne de l'arrondissement)



15 992 habitants/km²
(densité moyenne de la ville)

Barcelona

Lille

Paris, XIe

Figure 1 Référentiels d'habitat les plus rejetés. L'image 12 a été jugée hors de question ! par 15 parmi les 19 habitants consultés, la 9 par 13/18) et la 14 par 10/18.

Street interviews with random inhabitants, in specific places



Two pilot projects comparing processes

<https://www.choros.place/2023-hiver-printemps/justice-spatiale-ana-povoas-vincent-dussart>

<https://www.nantessaintnazaire.fr/trajectoire-2050/>

| | | |
|---|--|---|
| | Nantes Saint-Nazaire  | Bassin minier du Nord Pas-de-Calais (BAMI)  |
| Duration of fieldwork | 4 days | + 6 months |
| Scale of territory of study | Functional area | |
| Sampling method | Available maps | Customised mapping |
| Number of participants | 15-20 | 12-20 |
| Definition of topics of debate | Narrow(er) | Large |
| Role of researcher in outputs | Producer of insights, foresight narrative | Analyst, mediator |
| Researcher's implication in research impact | Low : role of advisor | High : construction of relationships and bridges |

4. Main attributes of the spatial justice toolset

Inhabitants and citizens

Cultivating a dialogue beyond direct personal experience, including other people's perspectives and new information...

... Towards a horizon of future possibilities

Societal scale: cartographic study of the functional area

Representativeness of the society at work : citizens of a diversity of socio-economic profiles and political visions

The thematic focus can be narrower or broader, but it should allow space for a problematisation which is meaningful to participants

A vocabulary of spatial justice translated into accessible « games »

An experimental participatory film procedure that supports, motivates and empowers participants...

And that can continue to support questioning and debate in other time and places

Before fieldwork

Phase 0 : Funding

Phase 1: Literature review, study of the territory and the existing territorial policies

Phase 2: Creating institutional partnerships to assure relevance of results to real actors

Phase 3: Cartography, sampling and citizen recruitment (varying degrees of refinement)

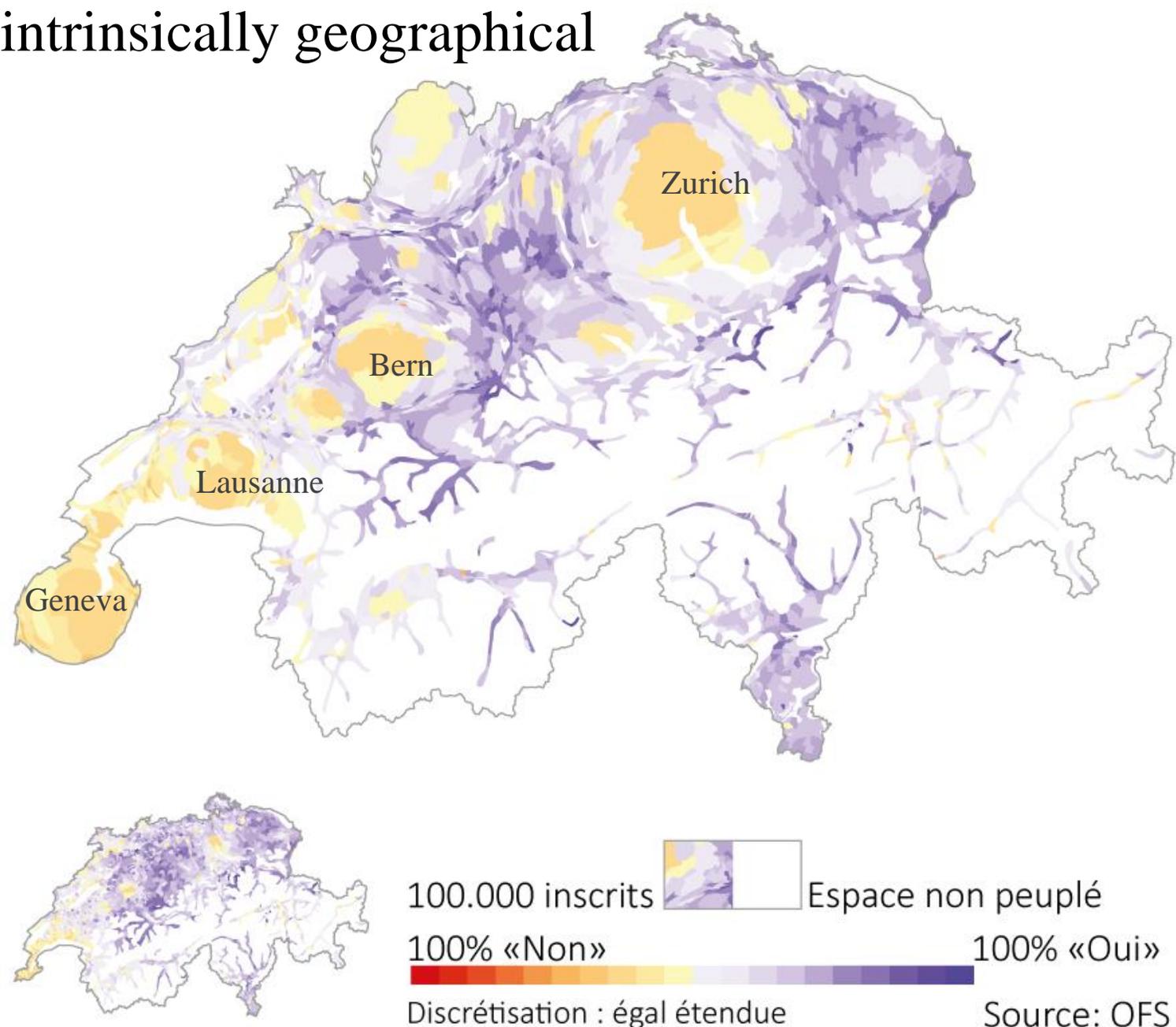
...

Political divisiveness is also intrinsically geographical

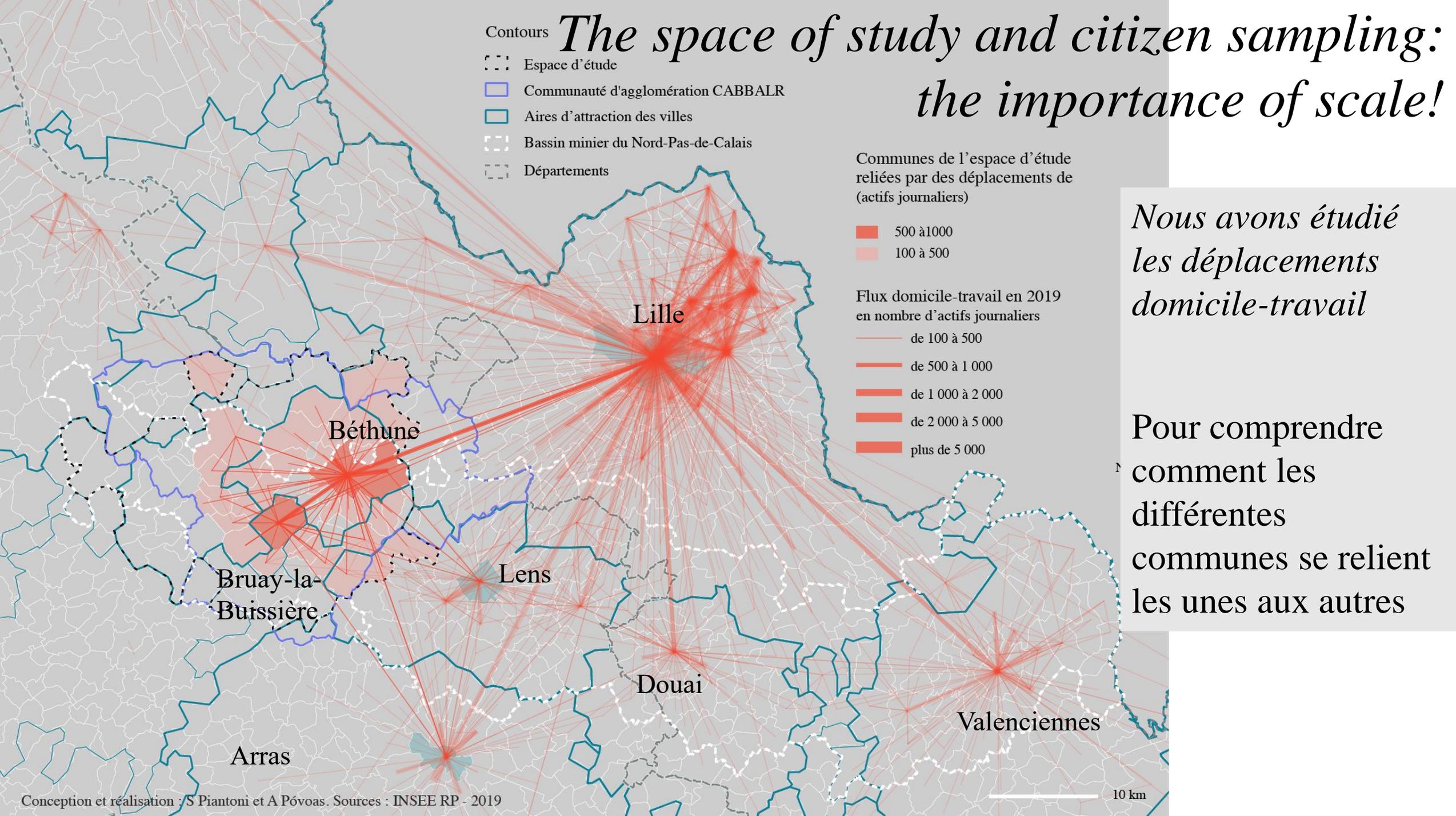
Political cartography reveals a reality of polarisation which is spatialised.

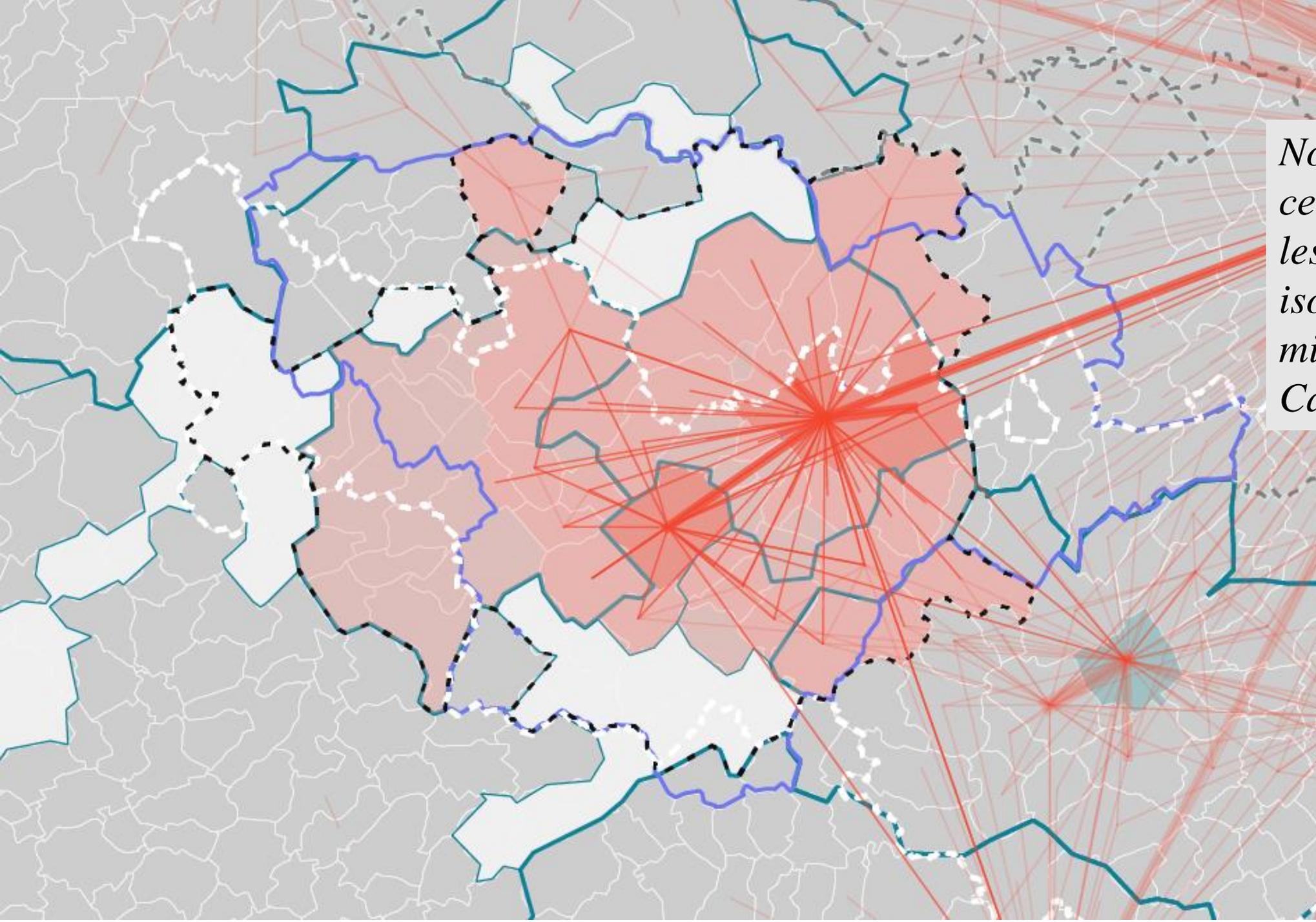
For several spatial topics, voting behaviour shows the same territorial distribution : city vs non-city.

Ex: Swiss referendum leading to the constitutional amendment banning the construction of new minarets, approved by 57.5% of the participating voters in 2009.

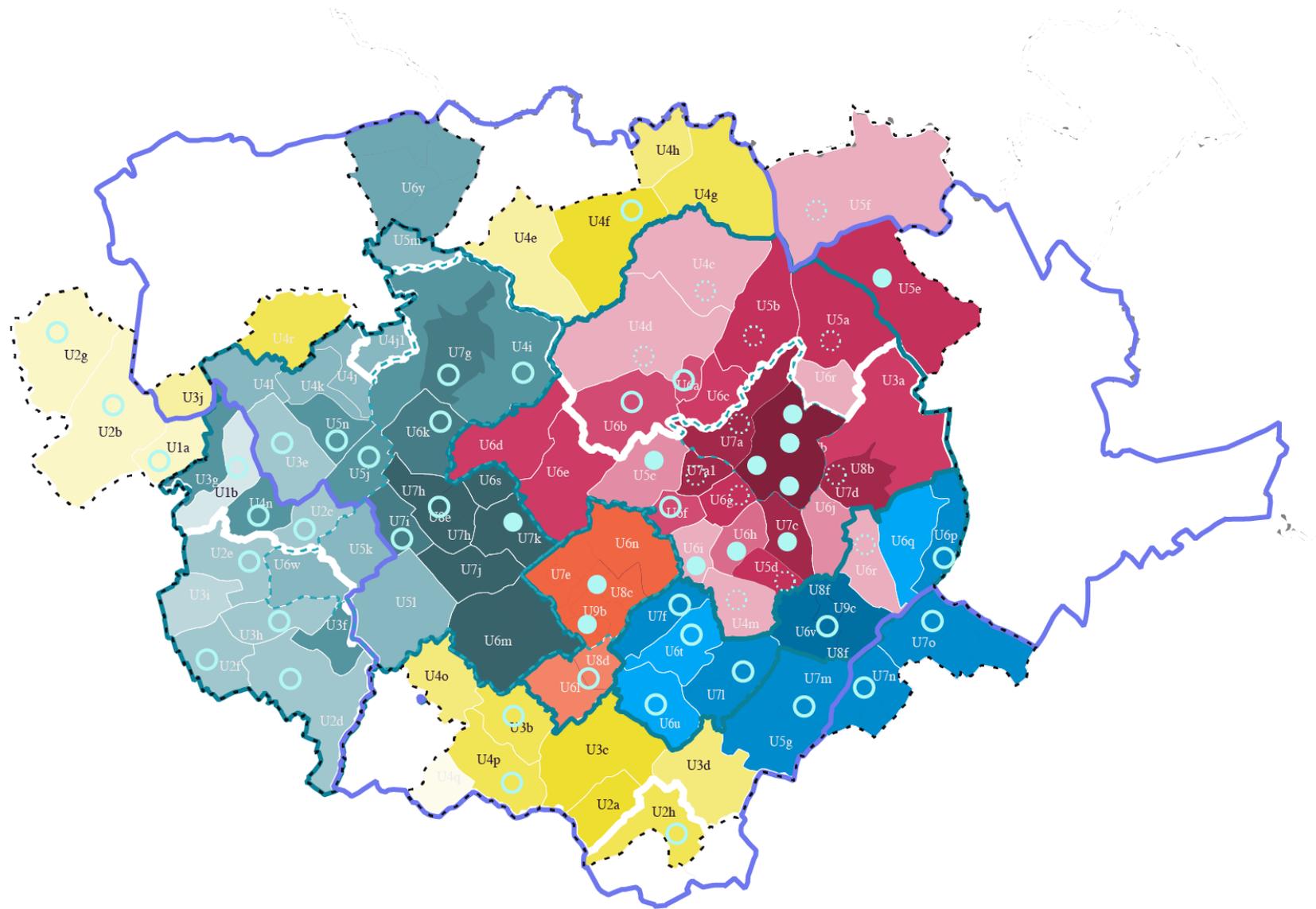


The space of study and citizen sampling: the importance of scale!





Nous avons ajouté à cet espace d'étude, les communes plus isolées du bassin minier et de la Cabbalr

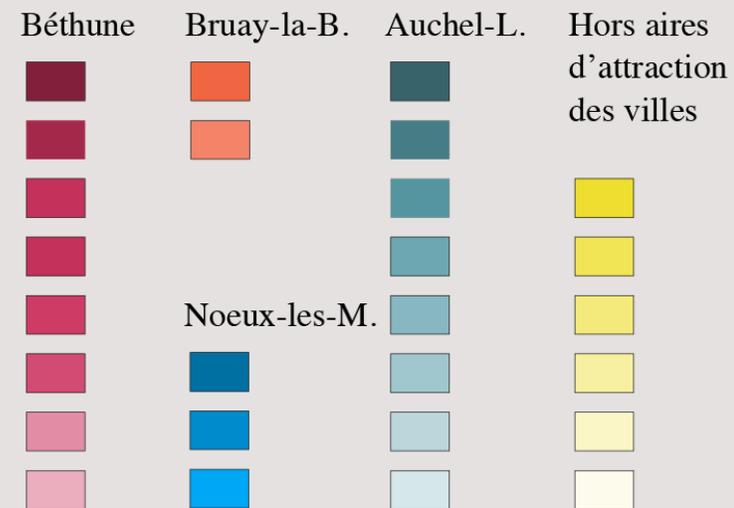


Communes de recrutement des citoyens

- Confirmées
- Hypothétiques
- écartées pendant recrut/

Contours

- Espace d'étude
- Communauté d'agglomération CABBALR
- Aires d'attraction des villes
- Bassin minier du Nord-Pas-de-Calais



10 km



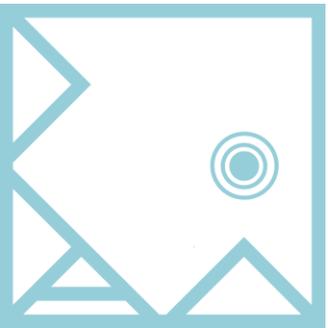
The space of study gains
from being

Diverse in density

Diverse in electoral behavior

Diverse in revenues

Diverse in overall indicators of quality of life



5. Current reflexions

Diversity and participants

Difficulty in convincing some social profiles to participate

When accepting, difficulty to keep them on board

Though a general respect for the ethical framework that we set,
racist/xenophobic propositions during moments of informal sociability

Would the method work with less culturally equipped individuals ?

Knowledge input

Difficult to bring knowledge from research to nourish the debate :
dissensus in academia, control for normative stance, open process

Relationships with future

How to approach people's different relationships with future : *live the present* versus projecting oneself into the future ?

How to ensure that participants understand that a future narrative (with elements of fiction) is politically engaging ?

What to think and do when outcome is actually just present-day stuff :
embeddedness in a universe of ecological transition, of social and solidarity economy)

Contexts of practice

Considering questions of

funding

risk management

logistical complexity

political legitimacy

duration

analytical demands ...

Which environments outside academia can be hospitable to these kind of processes ?

Other references

Póvoas, Ana (february 2024) « L'horizon de la démocratie habitée à l'épreuve du cinéma participatif du Centre Vidéo de Bruxelles ». *Lien social et Politiques*, 91.

<https://www.erudit.org/fr/revues/lsp/2023-n91-lsp09123/1109667ar/>

Thank you for your attention!

anampovoas@gmail.com