CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANIZATIONS FOR URBAN NATURE IN FRANCE
Collaboration France / USA

- Formal and informal civil society associations in urban governance at various levels through public-private hybrid networks.
- Inhabitant engagement in living environments via natural spaces in cities.
- What governance of urban nature?
France situation

Association and citizen activism = a marginal phenomenon

But:

a « freedom to represent the possibility of another type of world” (Hannah Arendt) ?

a political space emerging from the plurality of ways in which the same world may be seen.
FRENCH HISTORY

From representative democracy to deliberative one
1960/70: URBAN FIGHTS

The rise of social fights in the streets for the quality of the built environment
1922 (dec 5th)  Inhabitant’s participation
1947 (dec 3rd)
1960s
1970s
...
City-dwellers
participatory democracy
residential unionism
municipal action groups (GAM)
The 80s’ : The promotion of neighborhoods’ « social developpement ». 

- an innovative policy
1980s: slowdown in this process

- economic crisis, unemployment, etc.

- 1981, socialist government: a new political conjoncture
  → activists merged into the Socialist Party
  → participatory ideal grows (poor built environment)
  → creation of a « commission for the social development of neighborhoods ». Social development quality of city-dweller?
Since the 1990s: formalizing and legitimizing participatory action
- late 1980s, criticism mobilizations for the environment

- Users’s participation « legally » developed by authorities
  → greater democratization in decision making for a better « public » control of protest movement
  → specialized technical skills required: engineering participation, various expertises

National Commission for Public Debate 1995

power lines storage of nuclear waste construction of an airport...
Today, engagement can be

- *protective investment* (the "natural" reserve, model of naturalistic commitment)

- *protester investment* (against major infrastructures): ZADists, Occupy Wall Street...

- *recreational investment* ("sensitive« and up to «religious » practices)

- *productive investment* (ethical and subjective relationships of individuals and groups to build living environments): community gardening movements, urban agriculture; Citizen Power Movements, TEPOS (Territories with Positive Energy)
Therefore, if not consumers and presented as such, the city-dwellers and specific CSOs (different of the generalist consumer CSOs, for example) that ensure the translation into the public space illustrate what causes this type of political subject: a faulty representation of public authorities to invest that political representation. The city-dweller is the negative side of the consumer.
→ What did we highlight in the public space as city-dwellers mobilizations?
IN FRANCE
Des initiatives de collecte aussi exhaustive que possible des données sur les actions et collectifs existants ont été engagées par des associations (Graine de Jardin, Guerilla gardening) et/ou des institutions (collectivités publiques et programmes de recherche tels l’ANR-JASSUR). Elles visent à constituer des bases de données, plus ou moins partagées : c’est le cas en Île-de-France (BD Espaces Verts de la Région Île-de-France et de la Direction des espaces verts et de l’environnement de Paris) et à la communauté urbaine de Strasbourg (SIG) ou à New York. Elles s’accompagnent du développement de cartographies citoyennes ou institutionnelles (cf. fig. 2). Mais, à notre connaissance, ces cartographies restent sommaires : il s’agit généralement de la spatialisation des localisations des espaces cultivés ou des sièges d’associations. Échappent à la représentation les échanges (réseaux) et informations de fonctionnement qui pourraient pourtant contribuer à la connaissance et à la publicisation de la ressource collective que constitue l’environnementalisme citoyen.
A public policy that creates a partnership with citizens: shared gardens (community gardens) 
In France, amongst the major cities, Lille, Montpellier, Nantes, Bordeaux, Paris and Lyon allocate plots to residents in the public domain, usually grouped in « associations » (Law of 1901 governing their organizations). This mode of governance based on shared responsibilities, formalizing a partnership between community residents, allows multiplication of initiatives.
CONVENTION AND « MAIN VERTE » CHARTER

- Community gardens usually find their place on plots of the City of Paris but can also be developed in other fields (social landlords, Réseau Ferré de France, etc.).
- The occupation of a plot of the City respects the terms of a convention co-signed by the CSO organizations and the City of Paris. In this case, the CSO organizations automatically adhere to the Chart « Main Verte » states the rules and good practices in the Parisian Community Gardens.
- In addition, all Parisian Community Gardens installed on other lands who wish to join the « Main Verte » program can sign the Chart « Main Verte ».
- The inhabitants who are community gardens managers agree to open the public garden and maintain it according to environmentally friendly method.
The example of Faidherbe street in the 11th arrondissement - The text of the charter, which adopts an administrative tone, tends to discourage initiatives (need for institutional structure, to take out liability insurance... ). The density of traffic sidewalks (pedestrians, parking motorcycles, dog excrement) is also an obstacle.
Urban Beekeepers meet in Paris as part of a working group organized by the elected responsible for green areas, and with the participation of the veterinary services of the Prefecture and firefighters.

The objective is to determine the criteria for the hives installation, to develop ways to fight against the Asian hornet (arrived in Paris and which threatens bee colonies), encourage the choice of plants in parks and gardens, finally, to facilitate the formation of new urban beekeepers in schools.
The law of 6 January 1999 "Law on dangerous and stray animals", section 213.6 authorizes mayors to opt for sterilization, tattoo, and the release of cats together with CSO.

According to the School of the Free Cat: "The field work is devoted to small CSO, that is to say volunteering. " In Paris a free cat management protocol organize cats health monitoring on municipal property in collaboration with veterinary services of the prefecture.
Mobilizations and organizational effects at the metropolitan level

A reticular organization and not hierarchical

Forms of citizen investment planning = polycentrism related to pragmatic modes of action very criticized

The work on this type of organization instead showed their strength and relevance of their effects associated with enhanced locality.
A SURVEY ABOUT GUERRILLA GARDENING PRACTICES IN THE PARIS GREATER AREA
Elements of history and various influences on the guerrilla gardening movement
SHOE-TOSSING PLANT, 20th arrondissement
An example of the shoe tossing tradition (without plants) in the USA
Adapted plants and soil composition to extreme outdoor exposures
Hanging of the planted shoes
SHOE TOSSING PLANT

1 person
- Mostly in the 20th arrondissement (area of the gardener’s home)
- No authorization asked
- Inspired from street art and street culture
- Occupying street furniture, especially hanged on street lights
- Soil compostion inspired from the cultivation of bonzaï on rocks
SACADAMS, concept by Paule Kingleur / Paris Label
Sacadams circulating in the streets
DADAGREENS, concept by Paule Kingleur / Paris Label
SACADAMS, DADAGREENS & POTOGREENS

1 person, artist

initiating school childrens, elderly women, migrant people...

• Mostly North East area of Paris, popular districts
• Often working with local associations and schools
• Objects on wheels so they can be circulated in public space
• Objects designed to ‘ride’ street furniture
• Objects adopted by inhabitants or shopkeepers so that someone cares, waters and defend them from being stolen or vandalised
• Containing a wide biodiversity (seeds and species coming from communities specialized in organic agriculture and old species)
TREE-BASE GARDEN, from above, 12th arrondissement
Same tree-base garden, cultivated since 3 years by a local retired inhabitant
Other tree-base gardens, 11th arrondissement, cultivated by inhabitants already having a community garden inside their private building.
Example of a collective greening of a tree base in the 18th arrondissement, rue Ordener
Cleaning of a tree base (removing cigarette butts), before setting a garden, 18th arrondissement, rue Ordener
Same tree base, a few hours later, 18th arrondissement, rue Ordener
TREE-BASE GARDENS

From 1 person to a collective of 10-20 inhabitants

• Mostly North and East of Paris

• No legal association of people, no authorization asked

• On the pavement, in-between the trunk and the grids

• Highly difficult place to cultivate, because of pedestrians, motorcycles parking, garbage bins and collecting etc.

• Adding compost, sometimes depaving, adding wood protections and little informative signs

• Implementation of an alternative economy: plants and seeds collected from forest, countryside, neighbours, damaged plants in cemeteries / collect of green leftovers from the local open air market to make compost

• Often in contradiction with the advices of the City guideline designed in response of this growing trend among inhabitants (no protections, no edibles, no climbing plant...)
GALERIE CEINTURE
20th arrondissement
Gardening along the disused ring railway inside Paris /
Collect of the market leftovers to re-constitute a soil
Galerie Ceinture, a few months later
Galerie Ceinture, extension of the garden along the disused railway
Galerie Ceinture, extension of the garden a few months later
Galerie Ceinture, the harvest of potatoes cultivated in the ballast
GALERIE CEINTURE

1 person, artist, living/squatting on the site since 10 years (owned by the National Railway Company) + 1 regular gardener + 5-8 other persons involved (among which local teenagers)

• North of Paris, along a disused railway

• No authorization asked, no official association

• Complicated space because of all kinds of unauthorized strollers (graffiti artists, teenagers, drug dealers, homeless people, researchers...)

• Experimental urban agriculture, between artistic intervention and permaculture concepts

• Food production and interest for developing biodiversity

• Implementation of alternative economy: seed exchanges about special old species, collect from market leftovers (compost), collect of rubbish material to build low walls, greenhouses and shelters

• Associated to local alternative art and ecological events, but not to the local official events
GUERRILLA GARDENING PRACTICES OUTSIDE PARIS
LA FERME DU BONHEUR
Nanterre
Plot of the Experimental Rural Field
(in the far back, la Défense)
End of the Experimental Rural Field, settled on a disused area covering the highway
Manure from horse and pigs at the Experimental Rural Field, handled by volunteers
THE EXPERIMENTAL RURAL FIELD

Association ‘La ferme du bonheur’, funded by a theater actor, helped by 2 gardeners + 2-4 homeless people + 5-12 volunteers coming every Sunday (mostly students and a few local inhabitants)

- 8 hectares, along the Nanterre University campus, council housing bars, the railway and above the highway
- Occupied since 9 years without authorization, but legalisation in process
- Urban agriculture (recent analyses showed the soil contains various pollutants, more analyses are needed to know which pollutants and to what levels they migrate into the various vegetables)
- Food served to local people in need
- Associated to the other events the farm hosts: concerts, theater plays, exhibition, sauna...
ZAD PATATES (Zone To Defend - potatoes), Montesson (20km West of Paris) 1st day of occupation, mowing of a disused space in a shopping mall
ZAD Patates (documentation)
ZAD Patates, a few months later, picknicks held every month to garden and discuss further actions against the extension of the shopping mall and the building of a new road.
Collectif « PLAINES-TERRES »

POUR DES LÉGUMES, DES FLEURS, DES ABEILLES,
DES ARBRES, DES OISEAUX, DE L'OXYGENE...
CONTRE LE BITUME DE LA RD 81 ET LA ZAC LA BORDE !
ZAD Patates, protected fauna regularly observed in the garden, just along the shops
ZAD PATATES (Zone To Defend - potatoes)

An association of ci. 20 members + regular sympathisers

- 20km West from Paris, in the last agriculture plain around Paris
- Associated to the long-lasting resistance against the building of a regional airport (Notre-Dame-des-Landes)
- Politically committed to a green party and anarchist movements
- Developed as a visible action in the middle of the shopping mall to raise awareness about the project of extension of the mall and the building of a new road (destructing agriculture areas)
- ci. 100m² of organic agriculture, implementation of local compost
- Food production given away to inhabitants
Anonymous site, 35km North-West of Paris
Experimental site in agro-forestry
Same site, harvesting oregano, in the back a high-voltage line and a waste centre
Documentation of the site: wild cherry trees and oaks in the back, various types of seed-catchers (to introduce local species), re-use of leftover materials (railway beams)
ANONYMOUS SITE

1 person, landscape designer, + a regular visiting community (ci. 10-15 people)

- 30km North-West of Paris, 35 hectares along a railway, a huge waste centre, a road and a high-voltage line

- 1 year of official occupation (under a contract with the National Railway Company) + 11 following years of unauthorized occupation (no more agreement from the company)

- Agro-forestry and organic vegetable garden

- Producing food and selling of baskets (supplying every week baskets of organic vegetables)

- Development of a local network of services (non-monetary exchanges)

- Permaculture trainings organised every year

- Awareness and visits regularly organised

- Long-term collect of data about the restoration of a damaged and severely compacted soil
SOCIAL INNOVATION AND SUSTAINABLE CITY
LIMITS AND RESISTANCES

- Privatization of nature portions over other users of the urban space: access to the gardens, etc.
- Difficulty of defining the horizon in common: ex. Public transport.
- Collective assessment of public good management: which device?
- Local institutional culture can be an obstacle to this approach: some countries are entirely constructed from hierarchical and centralized systems - other erecting dogma "invisible hand" of individual decisions that contribute to the expression of collective good
- How to define the scale of the "community" in countries built on a universalist approach to the organization of society?
Scale question - how micro-scale user communities will fit with other scales (region-state-supra-national level - global market?)

Question of "bandits vagrants" ("roving bandits ").


Privatization: cheap tasks previously carried out by the authorities.
PERSPECTIVES

- Rebuilding local resilience through co-produced adaptation policies
- Identification, activation, and the synergy of local capabilities, in order to simultaneously ensure the liveability of the environment, the capacity of local initiative and to deal with otherness.
- Helping local policies to adapt to climate change by a private-public co-production based on collective and individual springs of adaptation and the synergy of local civic and economic resources.
Exemplify the "capabilities" in play at two levels of local resilience:

- territorial resilience, the territory being understood as a socio-natural environment supporting human activities,
- community resilience, in the sense a community of actors sharing the same territory, and therefore the same destiny, forged on the basis of their co-constructed decisions.
Identify how individuals and collectives are based on elements of their natural and built environment and develop skills to cope with changes (current and future) of the environment in the broad sense.

How public action can build on these CSO experiments that could lead to social entrepreneurship and more broadly to new economic initiatives (collaborative economy, etc) to co-produce local political adaptation to environmental change.
SOCIAL ENVIRONMENTAL MOBILIZATIONS

A methodological stake
"PLAINE COMMUNE" TERRITORY OF CULTURE AND CREATION + UNIVERSITY AND TOURISM

- Population: 403,833
- Number of employees in the private sector: 101,117
- Number of private sector establishments: 8011
- Share of residents assets: 33%
- Establishments creation rate: 21%
- Number of hotel rooms (1 * -2 * -3 *): 2587
- Number of students: 42,000
- Part of social housing: 46%
- Number of craft enterprises registered in the trades register: 4766
What do the CSO actors in these social mobilizations want to know for themselves? How do they account for their ability to act, to deal with the environmental issues?

What the CSO actors are able to produce? Aside from the social link?

What it important for observers to know about these mobilizations?

We have to look and understand the networks + related environmental issues and the territory to produce new visualizations
A FEASIBILITY STUDY

- A panorama of the mobilizations on urban natures in Plaine Commune
- Inventory from natural sciences to represent the main territorial dimensions for carrying capacity
- Complementarities and antagonisms between disciplinary and thematic perspectives
- Interviews with local actors (CSO actors, meso actors or interface, data producers and experts, actors of local public policies, economic actors...)
- To gauge support for these different dimensions
- Needs and opportunities for visualizations
- Conditions of production or co-production of representations between actors and researchers

- Visualizations Feasibility Analysis
- Production of a common survey protocol to produce visualizations
- Identification of key issues (theoretical and political): conditions for the production and use
A MIXED SAMPLE OF SOCIAL MOBILIZATIONS

- Social objects and differentiated space attachments
  - Action areas, territory concernment, mobilization trajectory...
  - Attachement, insertion, maintien d’un agriculteur
  - Resistance, moving front, ...
    - Locations reported or observed
    - Diversity of forms of representation: canvas, surface, flow ...
    - Heterogeneity of mobilization patterns

- Forms of mobilization of members
  - creation of a permanent social link
  - permanent political mobilization
  - Anonymous approach

- Link to elected officials and community services (municipal)
  - Mapping networks
  - Location of the residences of members
Why give to see the CSO’s management capacity of the « ecossocial » purpose
- A managerial injunction performance ...
- ...Probably required for access to public funding in a project approach
- Which representation would be most useful for the continuation or improvement of the mobilization of the collective?
  - Mirror of the extent of the mobilization and networking
  - Or measure the achievement of a goal? (external political weight, ability to produce an effect)
  - See that giving to enlist new members? Dévoiler ou révéler, pour quoi faire, pour qui?

Production of data
- What are the necessary data?
  - Localization, forms of mobilization
  - Data on activist/members
  - Data on consequences
- What are the dat produced by activists
- What are the calls for external expertise?
Un prisme pour revisiter la multi-fonctionnalité de l’agriculture urbaine

L’agglomération en chiffres:
• 9 communes
• 403 833 habitants

Les acteurs du groupe participatif « agriculture urbaine »

Principal enjeu des acteurs enquêtés
- Aménagement
- Environnement
- Lien social
- Education

Acteurs à enquêter
- Associations
- Administratifs

Occupation du sol
- Seine
- Surfaces bâties
- Surfaces agricoles
- Milieux semi-naturels
- Forêts

Sources: enquêtes de juin 2014, F. Garlatti
LOCAL FORMS OF GOVERNANCE

Exemples de représentations qualitatives

→ A diversity of understanding by the actors, collective services and scientists


