

SOCIO-SPATIAL REPRESENTATIONS AND DAILY MOBILITY OF THE CITY

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SOCIO-SPATIAL REPRESENTATIONS

Jodelet (1982)

- Representations of geographic space are socially constructed and refer to a socially significant space
 - Can be studied using the same tools as for social representations:

○ Abric (1976)

- Social representation is organized around salient elements (central core) that determine the meaning and the organization of representation.
 - These elements are consensual and collectively shared

DIFFERENT FORMS OF REPRESENTATIONS

- Lorenzi-Cioldi (2002)
- The representations of social groups depend on whether they are dominant or dominated
 - The dominated represent themselves and are represented as a homogeneous group
example: workers
 - The dominant represent themselves and are represented as a heterogeneous group
example: ministers

URBAN SPACE

- Ledrut (1968)
 - The city is regarded as a social object
 - In its production and practice
- Raymond (1984)
 - Urban space is specific to society
 - It expresses the ideological organization of the state at the spatial level
- Lefebvre (1974)
 - Symbol of urban space maintains the social relations
 - Each code space is characterized according a social practice and each practice by a space code

HYPOTHESIS

- Urban space is a social object with codes, representations and spatial mobility reflects a special relationship with the city depending on the social position of individuals
- The homogeneity of the representation of the city varies according to social position, like the representation of social groups
- Thus, social segregation is reproduced in the relationship with the city through representations and daily mobility

METHOD: POPULATION

- Women
- Library staff, engineers, administrators, technicians, service and health staff (BIATSS) from the University of Strasbourg
 - 101 class A
 - 43 years old 60% bac+3 to bac+5
 - 77 class C
 - 40 years old; 54% bac or less
- Residence

$\chi^2(4)=4.51, p=.34$
Respectively 60% and 73% living in nearby towns

Residence time in Alsace

 - $\chi^2(2)=1.74, p=.42$
Respectively 78% and 86% for over 10 years

METHOD: QUESTIONNAIRE

- Hierarchized evocations
 - 5 places – Strasbourg / ordered by importance
- Evaluation of dimensions
 - functional – normative – physical
 - Likert scale from 1 to 4
- Second set of associations
 - For each of the five places (homogeneous or heterogeneous spatial category)
- Exploration of unknown places during daily mobility
 - Likert scale from 1 to 6

RESULTS: SOCIO-SPATIAL REPRESENTATIONS

- Prototypical analysis (Verges, 1992)
 - Salient places (frequent and significant)

Class A	11; 3.2	Class C	9.8; 3.1
Cathédrale	63; 2.2	Cathédrale	48; 2
Université	36; 2	Université	29; 2.5
Institutions Européennes	15; 2.9	Institutions Européennes	17; 2.7
Esplanade	30; 3	Esplanade	12; 2.7
Gare	22; 2.3	Gare	20; 2.6
Place Kleber	47; 2.8	Petite France	29; 2.7
Quai de l'Ill	11; 2.7	Les Halles	16; 3.1
Neudorf	11; 3.2		
Residential		Shops use	
Local symbolic		External symbolic	

RESULTS: DIMENSIONS OF PLACES

Class A

	functional	normative	physical
Cathédrale	2.72	2.63	3.82
Université	3.83	3.2	2.77
Institutions	2.62	2.47	3.56
Esplanade	3.17	2.68	2.89
Gare	3.73	2.25	3.14
Kléber	3.24	2.28	2.83
Quai de l'Ill	3.15	2.85	2.62
Neudorf	3	3.45	2

50% salient places are apprehended in their three dimensions

Class C

	functional	normative	physical
Cathédrale	2.32	2.48	3.64
Université	3.69	3.21	2.26
Institutions	2.67	2.27	2.4
Esplanade	3.68	2.81	2.82
Gare	3.72	2.42	3.2
Petite France	2.79	2.86	3.17
Les Halles	3.26	2.09	2.56

29% of the salient places are apprehended in their three dimensions

RESULTS: SPATIAL CATEGORIES

- Second set of associations
- We observed three types of associations:

Associations by inclusion: associations are places which belong:
heterogeneous spatial categories
(eg Place Kléber → Fnac)

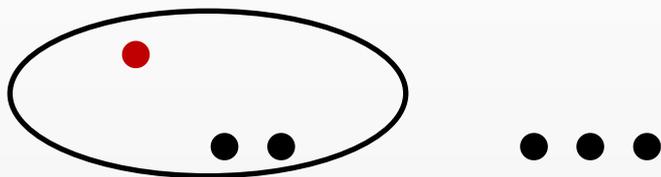
Associations by extrapolation: associations are places which
include: homogeneous spatial categories
(eg Place Kléber → Downtown)

Associations by layer: associations are places of a similar nature:
categories of homogeneous families
(eg Place Kleber → Place Broglie)

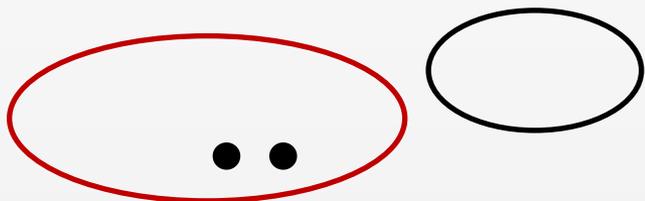
RESULTS: SPATIAL CATEGORIES

Class A

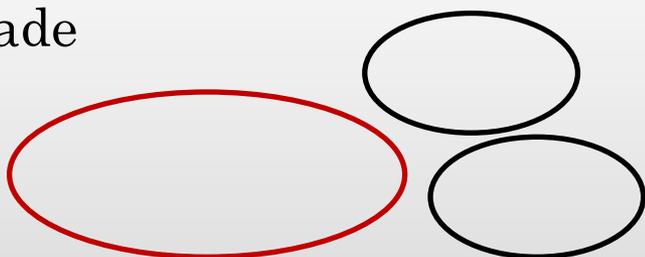
Cathédrale



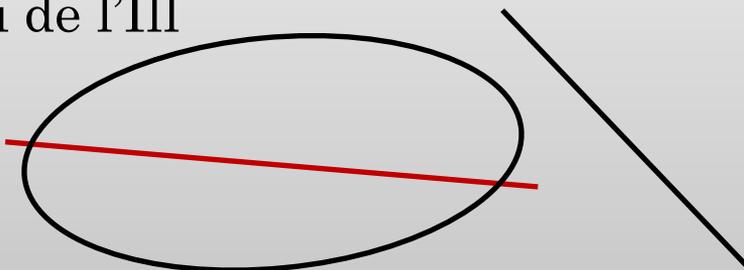
Université



Esplanade

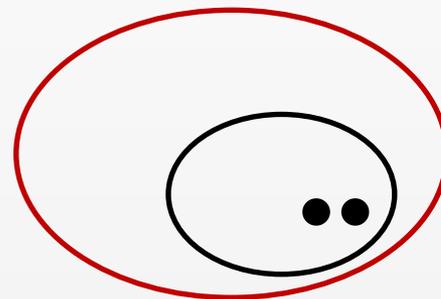


Quai de l'Il

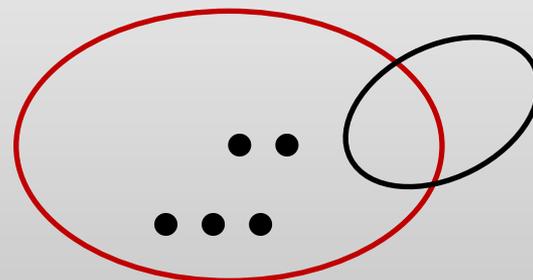


Class C

Esplanade



Petite France

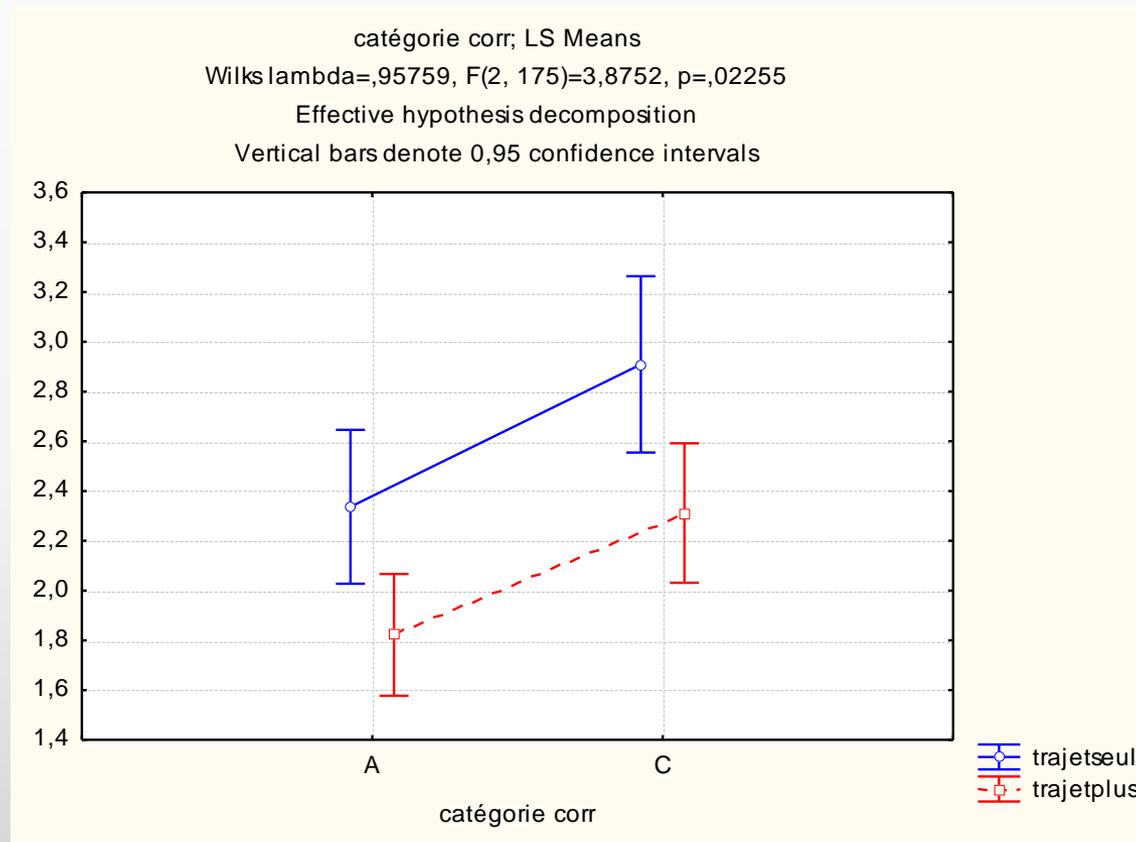


RESULTS:

- Class A:
 - Associations by extrapolation and layer
 - The different spaces of representation summarize spatial categories – (Make unity)
 - Representation of the city with homogeneous spatial categories

- Class C:
 - Associations by inclusion
 - The different places of representation represent the spatial categories – (Make diversity)
 - Representation of the city with heterogeneous spatial categories

RESULTS: REPORTED EXPLORATION



DISCUSSION

Occupation of a higher social position is correlated with more homogeneous urban representations and easier exploration of unknown place

The socio-physical codes of urban space are treated unequally according to social position

This asymmetry reproduces and maintains social segregation through a differentiation of spatial representations and mobility

Individuals with a low social position tend to have a representation of the space where each place is unique

→ which could explain the difficulty in exploring new places

With a higher social position: a more global representation allows to attribute characteristics of known places to unknown places

→ which could explain the facility in exploring new places

○ Thank you.