

« Small and medium-sized cities, services and territories: a Franco-German perspective »

Paris, Friday, 5th of July 2019

Seminar founded by LabEx DynamiTe



Summary:

Small and medium-sized cities have not been the subject of much international research interest, which has focused more on large cities, or has often been limited to applying to these cities a reading grid designed to analyse metropolitan areas, without taking into account the specificities of local contexts (Bell and Jayne, 2009). However, research has shown that despite the dominant trends towards metropolization, small and medium-sized cities still play an important role, whether in terms of local economic development or in terms of infrastructure and service provision. Even if small cities have been weakened by processes of de-industrialization and reorganization of public services, they still play an essential role in the urban system and in the structuring of the territory.

The objective of this seminar is to put into perspective the work carried out in France and Germany on the role of small and medium-sized cities in urban systems and in their local territories. The aim is to identify the specific transformations of this type of city in economic, social and demographic terms and in the provision of equipment and services. We will test the notion of "peripheralization" developed by German researchers to describe the evolution of certain types of territories. This seminar a continuation of several workshops funded by the "Labex DynamiTe" on the retraction of services and shops in small and medium-sized cities in France. It opens up the field of international comparison with Germany, and is in line with the problematic areas of the working group "Networks, infrastructures, services: cross-fertilization". It will combine the contributions of geographers, sociologists, social planners.

Date: Friday, 5th of July 2019

Location : Institut de Géographie, salle 316 (3rd floor), 191 rue Saint-Jacques, 75005 Paris, France.

Seminar Program

8h30: Reception of participants, coffee

9h-9h30: Sylvie Fol and Christophe Quéva (Panthéon-Sorbonne University): “Small and medium-sized cities, a challenge for public policies in France”

9h30-10h15: Sophie Baudet-Michel (Paris-Diderot University) and Julie Chouraqui (Panthéon-Sorbonne University): “Shrinking public services: small and medium-sized cities at stake”

10h15-11h: Hélène Roth (Clermont-Auvergne University), “Crossed perspectives on the concepts of periphery and peripherization in French and German scientific debates on small and medium sized cities”

11h-11h15: Coffee break

11h15-12h: Joséphine Lécuyer (Panthéon-Sorbonne University), “Contrasting paths of two small cities in a rural and peripheral region of Mecklenburg-West Pomerania”

12h-12h30: discussion moderated by Sophie Baudet-Michel (Paris-Diderot University), Sylvie Fol and Christophe Quéva (Panthéon-Sorbonne University)

12h30-14h: lunch
(Lunch will be provided for speakers and discussants only)

14h-15h30: Katrin Grossman (Erfurt University), Tim Leibert (Leibniz Institut, Leipzig), Manuel Wolff, (Humboldt University, Berlin), “The re-shaped role of small and medium sized cities in Germany after 2010”

15h30-15h45: Coffee break

15h45-16h30: Paul Gourdon, Ivan Glita and Anne Bretagnolle (Panthéon-Sorbonne University), “Demographic shrinking of German and French small cities through the prism of a European harmonized database over half a century (1961-2011)”

16h30-17h30: discussion moderated by Antoine Laporte (ENS of Lyon)