

# What is planned for the next year

> We used the Wacker’s Manual and No Small Plans as inspiration to design a series of workshops with teenage girls. These workshops (approximately 4) have a two-step objective: to raise awareness and empower adolescent girls on urban issues, both from a planning perspective and on the functioning of decision-making bodies. These four workshops have a total duration of approximately 12 hours and would involve approximately 8 adolescent girls. We are looking for partners for the organization of workshops. Also, a final report in the form of an article should be sent for publication by May 2020.



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## Type of products envisaged in the coming year

- > Event;
- > Scientific publication.

2019



# TEENAGE GIRLS IN PUBLIC SPACES

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THIS CASE STUDY EXAMINES ADOLESCENT GIRLS, PUBLIC SPACES FREQUENTED AND THEIR TRANSGRESSIVE PRACTICES, SPECIFICALLY IN TWO PUBLIC SPACES IN POINTE-AUX-TREMBLES, A BOROUGH OF MONTREAL.

# What was done this year

> Review of scientific and grey literature; characterization of all Pointe-aux-Trembles parks within a 600-metre radius of the two high schools; writing of the report; observation of behaviors and uses and in situ interviews in two parks, writing an article.



Photo credit: Nathalie Boucher

# Highlights

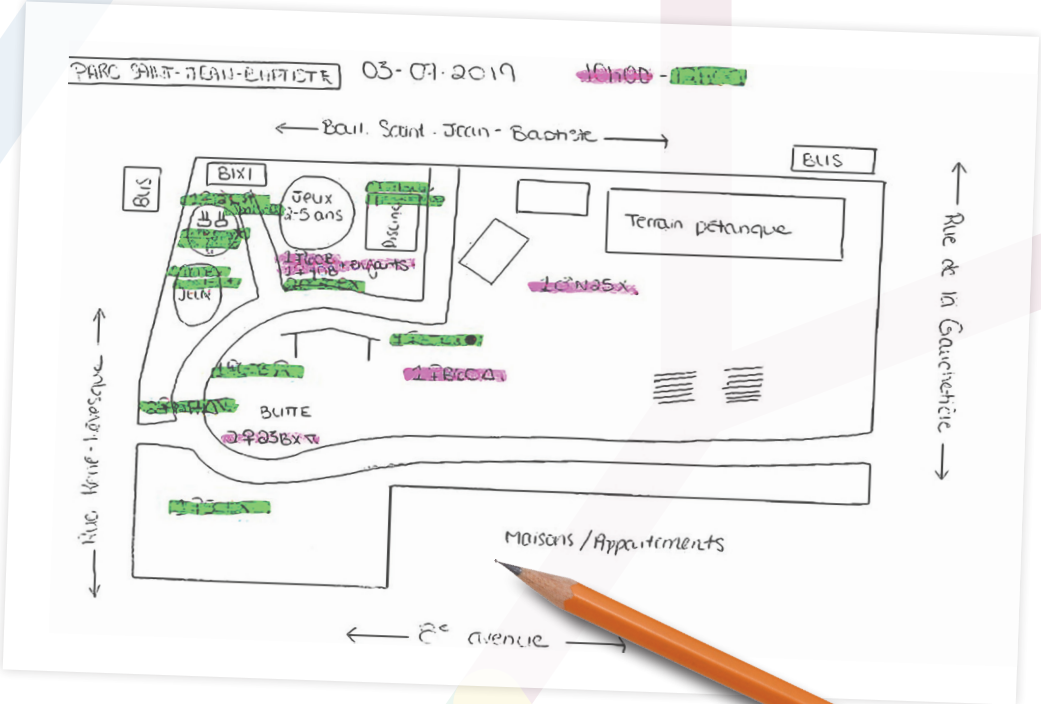
> The research question is: what are teenager girls' practices in public spaces, and how do they live, perceive and experiment transgressions? The limited research on the subject shows that adolescent girls particularly (but not exclusively) appreciate sociability activities such as discussions on picnic tables. On the one hand, these sociability activities are considered passive or sedentary, pejorative adjectives in societies promoting physical activity and that does not apply to the male sphere which, in the same context, "(re) produce democracy". On the other hand, these practices are considered vulnerable and potentially victimizing. Management therefore ensures that these practices are monitored or even that they do not occur at all. Hypothetically, the transgressive practices of adolescent girls would therefore be based on these social activities practiced in or outside public spaces (including digital public spaces) despite the lack of appropriate equipment or social pressure.

> Nowadays, it is impossible to address young girls' transgressions in urban public space without taking into account digital networks, which open spaces of socialization that complement, and sometimes dominate, what is happening in urban public spaces. Another objective of this research is to understand the expression of emotions that are considered transgressive between girls (e.g., anger and desire), and to explore the links between urban and digital spaces in the trajectories of violence experienced between girls. More specifically, how do some practices considered transgressive (e.g., slutshaming, sexting, snooping, and ghosting) manifest themselves in digital space in relation to urban public places (buses, parks, schoolyards, malls, subway stations).

> In the Living Lab perspective promoted by TRYSPACES, and in partnership with high schools and community organizations, we promote a collaborative approach with adolescent girls aged 16 to 18 years to collect, analyze and disseminate data. Observations, in situ interviews, mental mapping are among the methodologies used. We anticipate this case study will reveal that many of the transgressive practices displayed by adolescent girls in public space are commonplace but negatively perceived by society, and that for this reason, transgression provides an opportunity to learn about gender norms in the urban landscape.

## Preliminary results

– By adopting the posture of feminist studies that underline the co-construction relationship between the physical environment, its symbolic meaning and gender, we affirm that public space is designed for and used by men, which relegates women to the private sphere. Despite the desired democratization of urban public spaces, they remain stigmatized for women of all ages, who are positioned in terms of security and physical and moral integrity. In this context, adolescent girls, struggling with a socially exclusionary dual identity (of gender and age), find themselves on the margins of the public space. This perspective has led us to develop three types of transgressions: those committed by teenage girls (for example, swinging while swings are reserved for the youngest, due to a lack of equipment that interests them), those committed by teenage girls (smoking), and those committed against teenage girls (through interactive harassment by teenage boys and men against them).



03-07-2019				Proxémie écologique et intra-unitaire		Événement	Interprétation
	Heure						
#1	10h30 à 10h40	Q				Elle marche dans le gazon en écoutant de la musique.	Transit par le parc
#2	10h40 à 10h50		Distance intime, mode éloigné			Elles sont assises dans le gazon et parlent. Elles marchent vers les balançoires, une des 2 regarde leur copain celle. Elles se balancent légèrement et parlent. Une des 2 tente à l'oreille.	Moment entre amies.
#3	11h20 à 11h30	Q				Traverse le pont à pied. Uniforme de travail.	Transit par le parc.
#4	11h40 à 11h50	Q				Elle se balance légèrement, tient son cell. Semble attendre sa famille avec qui elle est pressée plus tôt.	Se balance / attente