

What is planned for the next year

> To publish an article and participate in a scientific conference.



Type of products envisaged in the coming year

> Scientific Publication;

> Presentation at a conference.

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ADOLESCENTS IN PUBLIC SPACE

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THIS CASE STUDY FOCUSES ON ADOLESCENT GIRLS, THEIR TRANSGRESSIVE PRACTICES, AND THE PUBLIC SPACES THEY FREQUENT (SPECIFICALLY, TWO PUBLIC SPACES IN POINTE-AUX-TREMBLES).

Highlights

- > The research question is: what are the practices of adolescent girls in public spaces, and how do they violate rules, norms, and expectations? The scant research on the subject shows that teenage girls in particular (but not exclusively) enjoy social activities, such as picnic table discussions. However, the development of urban public space does not allow for these types of activities for adolescent girls. First, these social activities are considered passive or sedentary, pejorative qualifiers in societies promoting physical activity. In contrast, in the same context, the male sphere is considered to “(re) produce democracy”. Second, these practices are seen as fostering vulnerability and potentially victimizing. Planning practices therefore ensure that these activities take place under surveillance, or not at all. Hypothetically, the transgressive practices of adolescent girls could therefore be understood as these social activities practiced in the heart or on the fringes of public spaces.
- > Following the living lab method promoted by TRYSPACES, and in partnership with high schools and community organizations, we are promoting a collaborative approach with adolescents aged 14 to 18 in order to collect, analyze, and diffuse data. Methodology will include observations, in situ interviews, and mental mapping. We anticipate that this case study will reveal that many transgressive practices of adolescent girls in the public space are mundane activities, but negatively perceived by society. As a result, transgression in the urban landscape provides an opportunity for learning behavioral norms associated with their gender.

What was done this year

- > We analyzed our data from St-Jean-Baptiste parc that resulted from forty hours of observation, ten semi-structured in-situ interviews, 22 maps, and observation of over 190 users. Some interesting results emerged which will be considered in an article we are in the process of completing.
- > We organized four workshops in collaboration with the Maison des Jeunes in Pointe-aux-Trembles and the Conseil de jeunesse (Youth council) of Montréal. Participants included adolescents so as to validate the data we collected in the summer; deepen our reflection with the youth; and train them on municipal operations so they can better communicate their needs concerning public space.
- > We presented the workshop results and our challenges at the alternative mapping workshop the 4th of February 2020 organized by Hien Pham and Stéphane Guimont Marceau.
- > In May 2020, we participated in the #TRYinnerSPACES workshop. It was a series of 6-hour workshops over 3 weeks. The workshops took place online and in French. Eight youth participated. The objectives of the workshop series were:

- 1) to provide a space where the youths can share on their experience with the confinement and on their relationship with the public spaces under the imposition of new public health measures;
 - 2) to validate the results from the observation and interviews conducted in 2018-2019 on the perceptions and use of public space and to get additional feedback from the youths;
 - 3) to train the adolescents so municipal administrative operations to they can submit their own recommendations (corresponding to the Montreal Youth Council's 2015 policy paper);
 - 4) to obtain multimedia content to promote TRYSPACES on different platforms and in four countries.
- > The workshop results were presented at the opening panel on public space challenges in COVID-19 times in the Digital Laboratory on public space in June 2020 in collaboration with the Montreal Youth Council and Alexia-Bhéreur-Lagounaris.

Preliminary results

> A feminist studies stance highlighting the co-construction of the physical environment, its symbolic role and gender, has allowed us to affirm that public space is conceived for and used by men; thus, relegating women to the private sphere. Despite the desire for a democratization of urban public spaces, they remain stigmatized for women of all ages, thereby challenging their security, and moral and physical integrity. In this context, adolescent girls - already struggling

with an identity that is doubly socially excluding (gender and age) - find themselves on the fringes of public space. This perspective has led us to develop three types of transgressions: **1)** Those committed by teenage girls (for example, swinging on swings reserved for younger children because there is no equipment that interests them); **2)** those observed by teenage girls (eg. other people smoking); **3)** those that target adolescent girls (through interactional vandalism against them by adolescents and men).

Credit : Charlotte Bellehumeur

