

What is scheduled for next year

- > Information and research booth with MAPP_MTL to hold a visual mapping workshop «Teens projecting themselves into public space» during the Status of Women event on September 18, 2021, in collaboration with the Pointe-aux-Trembles Women's Centre and the Maison des Jeunes Desjardins of Pointe-aux-Trembles.
- > Publication of the article Cossette, S.-M. and N. Boucher (co-author) (submitted in June 2021). Adolescent girls, tacticians of the public space. Engaged uses and transgressive experiences of adolescent girls in the parks of Pointe-aux-Trembles (Montreal). (To be potentially published in the Canadian Journal of Urban Research).



Type of products planned for next year

- > Multimedia co-production
- > Event (participation);
- > Scientific publication

2021

Highlights

- > The research question is the following: what are the practices of adolescent girls in public spaces and what are their experiences with transgression? The few research studies on the subject reveal that adolescent girls particularly (but not exclusively) enjoy socializing, such as chatting at picnic tables, and that they appreciate confidential, secluded spaces for this purpose. However, the design of urban public spaces is not favorable to its practice by adolescent girls. On one hand, these social activities are considered passive or sedentary, which are pejorative terms in a society that promotes physical activity, and yet it does not apply to the male sphere which, in the same context, «produces democracy». On the other hand, these practices are considered vulnerable and potentially victimizing. The development, therefore, ensures that these practices take place under surveillance, or that they do not take place at all. Hypothetically, the transgressive experiences of adolescent girls would therefore be based on these activities of sociability practiced in the heart of public spaces or on their margins.

In the perspective of the Living Lab promoted by TRYSACES, and in partnership with community organizations, we are encouraging a collaborative approach with adolescent girls aged 12 to 21 in order to gather data, analyze and disseminate it. The methodology includes participant observation, in situ interviews (summer 2019), and a series of workshops (fall 2019) (discussions around adolescent girls' practices and needs, mind mapping, municipal training, and recommendations to elected officials).



Teenage girls in public spaces of Pointe-aux-Trembles

MONTREAL

Students:

Sarah-Maude Cossette, UQAM

Socio-community partner:

Nathalie Boucher, partenaire Respire

THIS CASE STUDY FOCUSES ON TEENAGE GIRLS AS USERS OF PUBLIC SPACES. IT FOCUSES ON THEIR DAILY PRACTICES AND TRANSGRESSIVE EXPERIENCES, MORE SPECIFICALLY IN TWO DIFFERENT PARKS WITHIN THE POINTE-AUX-TREMBLES NEIGHBORHOOD IN MONTREAL.



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What was accomplished this year

- > **Preparation and training meetings** (Valérie Amiriaux, students, Respire): We had two preparatory meetings where the literature review and methodological tools were presented.
- > **Writing an article:** Cossette, S.-M. and N. Boucher (co-author) (submitted in June 2021). Adolescent girls as tacticians of public space. Engaged uses and transgressive experiences of adolescent girls in the parks of Pointe-aux-Trembles (Montreal). Canadian Journal of Urban Research.
- > **Conference in a scientific symposium:** Cossette, S.-M. and N. Boucher (May 2021). Engaging Practices and Transgressive Experiences of Teenage Girls in Montreal Parks. Presented at the Annual Conference of the Canadian Anthropological Society (CASCA).
- > **Public intervention:** Boucher, N. (June 4, 2021). Do we have enough public spaces for young teenage girls? Interview conducted on the [Geneviève Pettersen, QUB Radio](#).
- > **Creation of a virtual Jane's Walk**, as part of Jane's walks conducted by the Montréal Urban Ecology Centre (May 2021). An article in the digital section of the Centre for Interdisciplinary Research on Montréal (CIRM) will focus on this walk (September 2021).
- > **The organization of a booth with MAPP_MTL** to hold a visual mapping workshop entitled « Teens Projecting into Public Space » during the Status of Women event on September 18, 2021, in collaboration with the Pointe-aux-Trembles Women's Centre and the Maison des Jeunes Desjardins of Pointe-aux-Trembles.



Preliminary results

By adopting the perspective of geography and feminist studies, which emphasize the relationship of co-construction between the physical environment, its symbolic meaning, and gender, we affirm that public space is designed for and used mainly by men, which relegates women to the private sphere. In spite of the desired democratization of urban public spaces, they do not invite the frequentation of women and adolescents, who are positioned within issues of security, along with physical and moral integrity. In this context, adolescent girls, struggling with a double socially excluding identity (gender and age), find themselves on the margins of public space. This perspective led us to elaborate on three types of transgressions: those made by adolescent girls (for example, swinging when swings are reserved for younger girls, due to the lack of equipment that interests them), those observed by adolescent girls (other adolescent girls smoke) and those of which adolescent girls are the target (through interactional vandalism by adolescent boys and men towards them).

However, we maintain that adolescent girls are not lacking in agency. They know how to draw on a range of behaviors and actions that, although discreet, position them as active and experienced actors in their appropriation of public space. They are, in the words of de Certeau, tacticians of the public space.

