Gendered representations, territory, places: what link?

Presentation

Sophie Louargant,
PhD. Student
(2nd year)
TEO-CERMOSEM,
Alpine Geography Institute
Joseph Fourier University, Grenoble 1
-France

CERMOSEM

A center of studies and research
A thematic:
Local development and environment

Study areas
The dry mountains in Europe and North Africa

Gender, Territory, Dry Mountains: what types of knowledge and methodologies?

Outlines

• Introduction: context and topical issue of research

• Why are gendered representations a relevant issue in geography?

• What is the link between places, systems of values, micro-activities?

• The choice of a qualitative approach creating qualitative information data

• Synthesis and limits
Main objectives

- **Objective 1**: Identify and explain the link “gender-place-territory”
- **Objective 2**: Show how far the field of rural tourism is a place that reveals gender
- **Objective 3**: Analyse if the social and spatial trajectory of farmers has an impact on the place construction and valid the taking into account of time in the gendered approach
- **Objective 4**: Demonstrate that actual experiences are linked to imagination and representation to a specific relation to the norm of agricultural tourism
- **Objective 5**: Analyse the necessity of a comparatist approach to justify the way the common Western Mediterranean representations are built.
Social construction of place and gender

- Social stereotypes
- Transgression
- Construction of gender
- Collective identity
- REPRESENTATIONS
- Social stereotypes
- Norms
- Discourse
- Practice
- Transgression

Central question

- Are places the expression of the territorial production of meaning through a system of gendered values in which gendered norms issued from a dominant rural tourist model contribute to feed the process of construction-re-construction of rural territories?
Hypotheses

1. The values present in the women’s life’s project reveal the existence of gendered distinctions in their social relationships and their spatial transcriptions.

2. Rural tourism is an activity in which the appropriation of places generate a sexual, gendered identity.

3. The actual experiences allow to identify these identities and to determine the interaction with a gendered norm which is inscribed in the territory.

4. The life’s stories are an explorer approach which allows to understand the representation, the praxis and the spatial expression – comparing actual experiences instead of backgrounds in West Mediterranean countries.
“From a metaphorical viewpoint, life’s stories are signifiers [...] there are two approaches: some are interested in the signified – the meaning contained in what the people express in the interview; and others are interested in the referent, that is to say the norms, relations and processes that underlie social life”.

Daniel Bertaux, 1998
Prescription of time’s life, the reality of space...

FULFILMENT

REALISING ACTIVITIES

DEVELOPPING

CARRYING OUT A PROJECT

THE POSSIBLE

"THEMAKING"

THE CONCILIATION

"SELF-SUFFICIENCY"

CHANGE

TO BE A FARMER

TOURISTM ACTIVITIES

"I" | "WE"

HUSBAND  CHILDREN  FAMILY

EXPERIENCES

INSTRUCTORS

TO HAVE A JOB

PROFESSIONAL BREAK

PRESSURES

MY PATH OF LIFE

EXTERNAL "ACTORS"

CONSTRUCTION OF "ME"

STABILITY

Reconstructing oneself

Social Networks

PRESSURES

STABILITY

Synthesis and perspectives

LIMITS

- The lack of articles & books about « gender geography » translated in French
- Comparative studies are difficult to validate
- Making interviews in many languages

ADVANTAGES

- For French geographers, it's a new line of research
- This gives a better vision of discourse in each country
- It's an East/West conception of the Mediterranean relations