



FABLABS AND HACKERSPACES IN CITIES: ROLE & INTEGRATION WITH EXISTING ENVIRONMENT (FRANCE, BELGIUM)

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Flavie FERCHAUD
Univ. Lille, Univ. Rennes 2

EMBLEMATIC PLACES OF THE “MAKE” MOVEMENT

Continuum of places : digital fabrication, programming, hacking



Fablab, Rennes, FR

Experimentation, prototyping, apprenticeship through test and error



Hackerspace, Ghent, BE

What answer do these places and communities bring to the “liquid society” theory (Bauman, 2000)?

What relations with their environment?

FABLABS: LABELLED PLACES

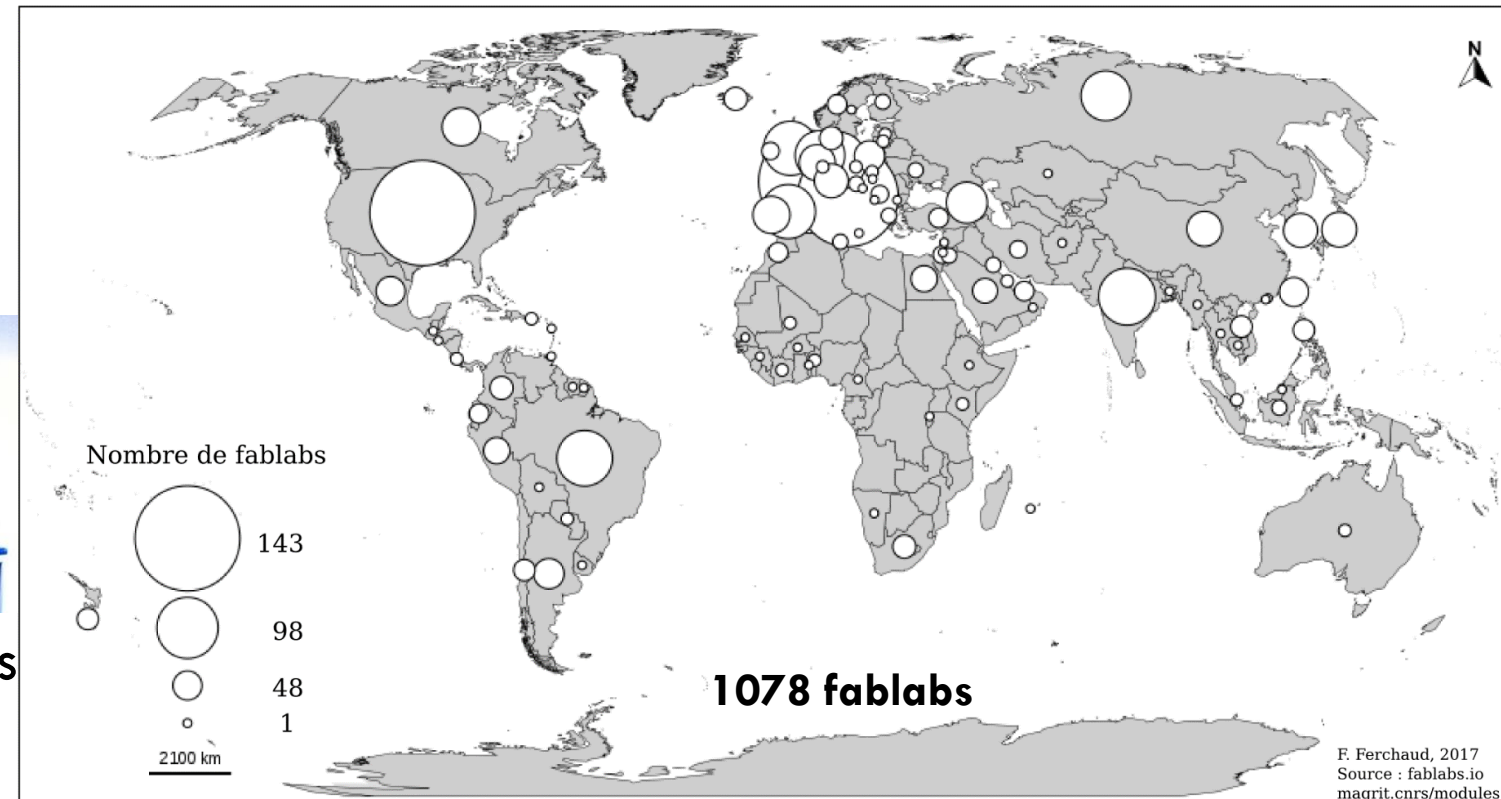
- Massachusetts Institute of Technology (N. Gershenfeld)
- Course - machines - places
- Charter - logo



Montpellier, FR

- Diversity : orientations, business model, publics...
(Bosqué, 2016 ; Troxler, 2010 ; Eychenne, 2012)

Fablabs in the world in 2017

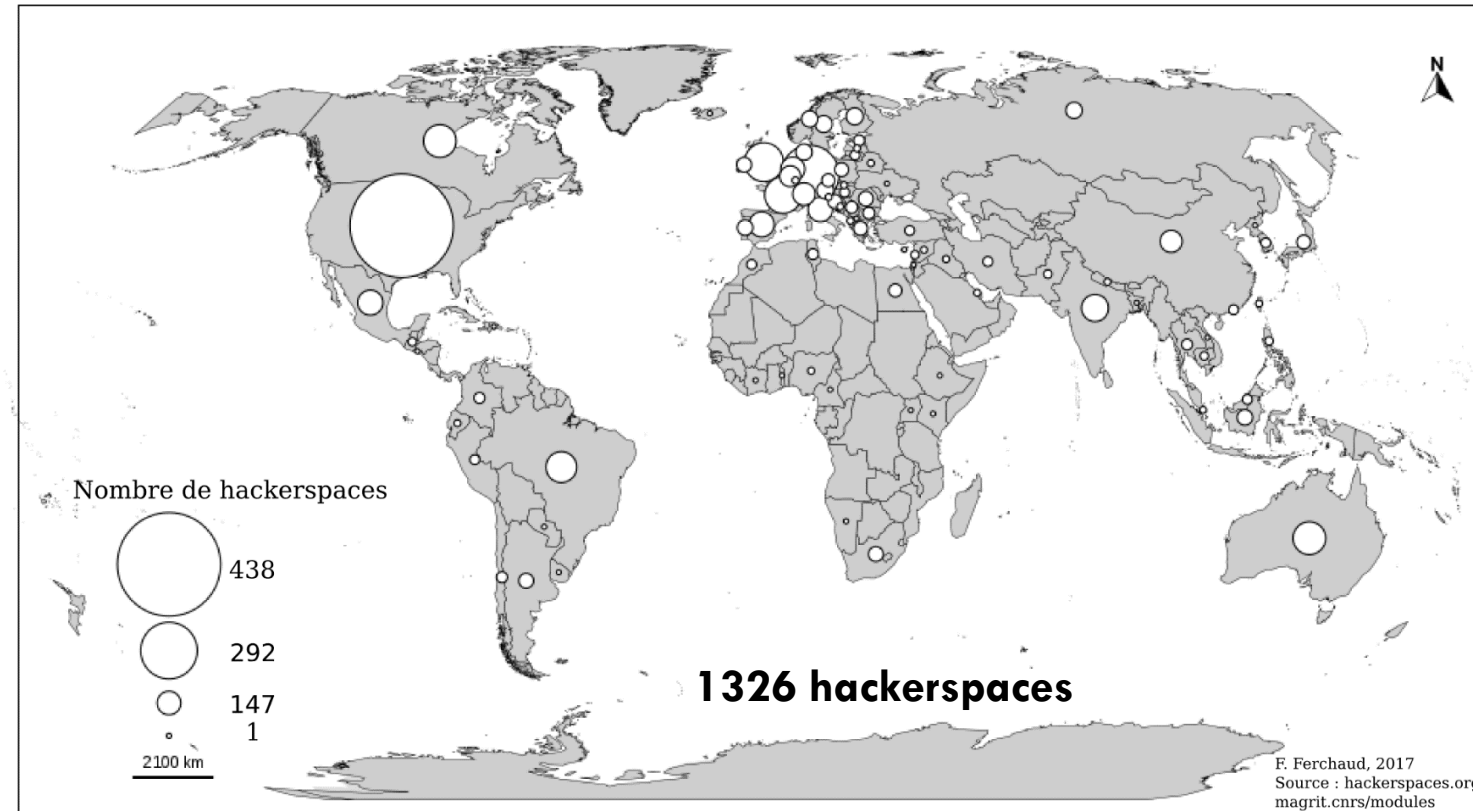


HACKERSPACES: SELF-MANAGED PLACES

- Clubs
- Programming, hacking...
- Horizontality & self-management
(Lallement, 2015)



Hackerspaces in the world in 2017





INTERNET – TECHNOLOGIES & TERRITORY

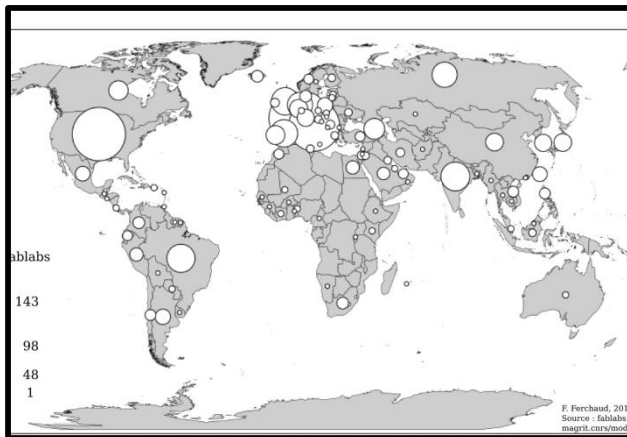
Internet, digital technologies...



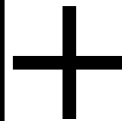
Globalization

The end of the territory?
(Virilio, 1984 ; etc.)

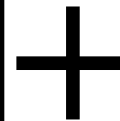
- Interactions (Eveno, 2004 ; Beaude, 2012)
- Persistence of local anchorages (Venard, 2008)



Global scale



Practices on-line and off-line



Physical places, trucks, events, workshops...

AIM

To bring inputs to the analysis of the territory's changes

SOCIAL INNOVATION

- Third places, fablabs, hackerspaces...

= "social innovations"

Nedjar-Guerre et Gagnebien, 2015 ;

Bosqué, 2016 ; Cléach, Deruelle, Metzger, 2015...

- Positive and optimistic discourse

→ How to distinguish promises and realities?

Social innovation can be understood through its representations and hopes that it is bringing (Evers, 2015)

AIMS

To decrypt representations and hopes about these places

To understand the scope of these representations on public action

To put into perspective representations and realities



DISSEMINATION PROCESS

3 types of social innovation's dissemination process (Richez-Battesti, 2015)

- Informal
- Territorial (institutionnal)
- Based on network

SME, innovation and digital economy's Minister of France in 2012



Yes, we want #fablab everywhere in France. And no worries, @nodesign, design will have a special place ;)

Twitter, 2012

AIM

To characterize logics of dissemination processes according to the type of the place (fablab, hackerspace) and the context where they emerge

PUBLIC ACTION : TWO APPROACHES



1) Collective characteristic of public action (Hasseunteufel, 2008)

- Institutionnalization
- Instrumentation (Lascoumes et Le Galès, 2004)
- Context of neo-liberalism (Dardot et Laval, 2009)

2) Local public spheres: discussion of procedures, aims and objectives of public authorities (Ion, 2001; Mélé, 2009)

AIMS

To analyse the relation of these places with public action according to their type and their existing environment

To study the scope of this relation on makerspaces's dynamics

URBAN CHANGES

- Urban neo-liberalism
(Peck, Theodore, Brenner, 2009)

= knowledge economy, innovation, entrepreneurship, creativity

Fablabs, hackerspaces...

→ Kits of the “creative city” (Landry, 2012)?

OR

→ “Urban commons”? (Festa, 2016, 2017 ; Nicolas-Le Strat, 2016)



AIMS

To understand the role of these places towards urban neo-liberalism. Do they come from it? Do they nurture it? Are they contesting it?

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HYPOTHESIS

De-territorialization

Places influenced by international norms

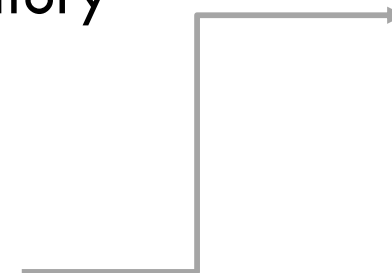


Territorialization

Progressive integration to the local context

Re-territorialization

Depending on diverse variables, places become resources for the territory



Time



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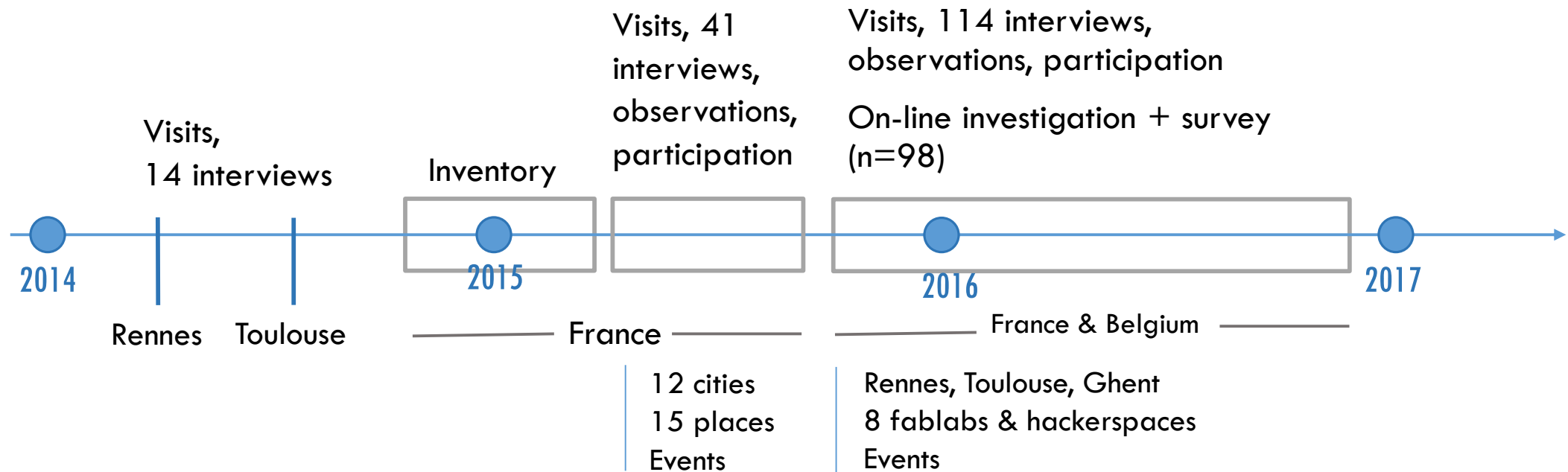
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METHODOLOGY



155 interviews with individuals from fablabs, hackerspaces... ; elected people ; civil servants, city planners...

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FINDINGS #REPRESENTATIONS #DISSEMINATION PROCESS

- About knowledge, technologies, social, economic & political scope

- Contradictions

Links with counter-culture et digital utopianism (Turner, 2006)

Dissemination process related to institutions or private companies

Tensions



- In fablab's and hackerspaces's groups
- Between fablabs and hackerspaces
- In their relations with the territory



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FINDINGS #SOCIAL DYNAMICS

REPRESENTATIONS

Openness

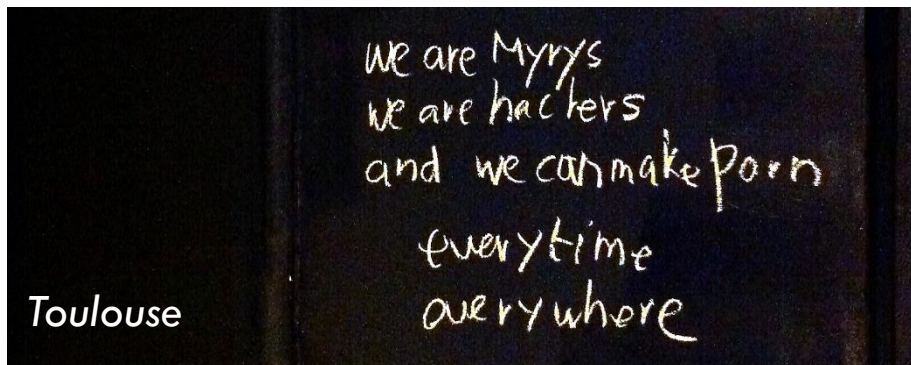
Sharing

Community

Collective practices and collaborations

FINDINGS

- “Social capital” (Granovetter, 1973)
- Social homogeneity
- Social codes
- Like to stay between themselves
- But flows between fablabs and hackerspaces
- Communing under controlled conditions
- Governance: power relations



FINDINGS #URBAN DYNAMICS

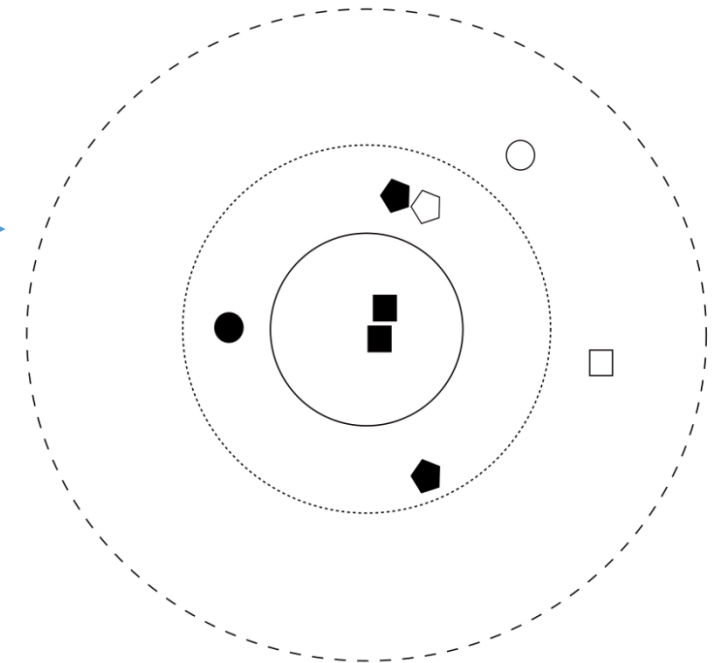
REPRESENTATIONS

- Smart city
- Urban anchorage
- Creative city
- Creativity & innovation

FINDINGS

- Productions: a limited scope on urban space
- Limited urban anchorage
- Localization: diversity
- A majority of former vacant buildings
- Few collaborations with creative neighbours

Localization and city center



Légende :

	Fablabs		City center
	Hackerspaces		Peripheral areas
	Toulouse		
	Rennes		
	Gand		



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DISCUSSION #THEORETICAL AIMS VS. FINDINGS

THEORETICAL AIMS

Internet, technologies & territory

Social innovation

Dissemination process

Public action

Urban changes

FINDINGS

- Off-line and on-line practices: independence & complementarity
- Diverse and contradictory representations
- Combination of dissemination processes, different according to the type of places (fablabs, hackerspaces...)
- Central role of institutions: to answer demands, ask for support or to avoid them
- Places related to urban changes but few contestation
- “Urban commons” (Festa, 2016...)?
- Theories being questioned: proximity, creative city

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DISCUSSION #HYPOTHESIS VS. FINDINGS

HYPOTHESIS

De-territorialization → Territorialization → Re-territorialization

- Representations unrelated to the territory
- Process of dissemination & localization dynamics in relation with the territory

- Places related to global urban changes
- Places in relation with historic, social, economic, political and urban context

- Resources which scope is limited for the territories

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A RESEARCH TO BE CONTINUED...

- New analysis using existing data
- To work more on the individual's scale
- To compare at different scales :
 - Rural spaces
 - Bigger cities and peripheral urban spaces (Berger et al., 2014)
- Fabcity concept: what effects?

THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION



Flavie Ferchaud, PhD in geography - urban planning (University of Rennes 2 – ESO)

Post-doctoral researcher in University of Lille (TVES)

Flavie.ferchaud@univ-lille.fr