

PRESENTATION OF PROJECT

A resolutely inter-disciplinary approach, a dual empirical and theoretical horizon

To guard against an artificially unified theoretical perspective on relations between the diversity of market-based approaches and urban production, we seek **to place theoretical and epistemological dialogue at the heart of our approach** insofar as it focuses on ways of knowing these relationships. Our collective brings together disciplines as diverse as architectural analysis and history, urbanism, economics, history, geography, sociology and political science. Far from constituting an obstacle to scientific practice, we feel that the diversity of these corpus, methods, practices, questions and purposes from one researcher and one research team to another, constitute a fertile environment in which to base our project.

Our group wishes to **structure its reflections and activities around a number of major debates underpinned by alternative hypotheses** concerning the links between markets and urban production and their transformation. This small number of debates will constitute the real **methodological backbone of our working group**. In-house, they will have a strong methodological function by acting as the common thread between various different workshops, research and study days. Therefore, each activity will become part and parcel of these debates and help to provide a response from both an empirical and a theoretical perspective. These debates will also play a role in showcasing the TG and making its research clearly identifiable.

The **disciplinary and geographical variety** of our research, which has been analysed and reworked in the light of these **structuring debates**, will make a major contribution to the debate. Comparing and contrasting different perspectives, **from political economy to the sociology of organisations, via social geography and the political sciences**, encourages us to cast a critical eye on the epistemological determinants (ways of knowing) that underpin our understanding of these phenomena. The complementarity of the **political and theoretical ties** of members of the group, bringing together urbanism practitioners and professionals focused on building theoretical systems, should also encourage “cross-fertilisation” through collective exchanges that we would like to be of a resolutely inter-disciplinary nature, open to a wide variety of contemporary urban production exploration practices.

Consequently, our initiatives will be focused on **different horizons**: after a brief “topic identification” phase, we will tackle both empirical exploration of current reconfigurations between markets and urban production in different geographical contexts, and analyse the theoretical issues surrounding the interpretation of these new configurations.