

IC - (20914) - LIVING PLACE APPROPRIATIONS AND IDENTITY PROCESS ON COASTAL TERRITORIES

Anthony Farge¹; Elisabeth Guillou¹; Fabrice Buschini¹; Kimberley Page-Jones¹

1 - University of Western Brittany

Background and objectives

The objective of this study is to analyze living place appropriation related to coastal territories. These places are not only living spaces; they are also endowed with meaning which is necessary to the process of appropriation. More precisely, we want to understand how these different place appropriations (i.e., place control, practices, attachment) can shape identity (including or not the living place). Depending on the importance given to the living place in the identity process, the individual will be able to project himself in this place and adapt to it.

Our research has a comparative approach, conducted among populations living with two different cultural lifestyles – Brittany (France) and Westfjords (Iceland) – but both having in common close ties to the sea and a rich maritime history.

Process and methods (for empirical research)

To study these different forms of space appropriation, a qualitative survey was led among 25 inhabitants in each country. The information was collected by semi-structured interviews and mind map using four topics: living territory (geographical space), life story, place transformations and interrelations between actors.

Main results (or main arguments in the case of critical reviews)

The different forms of place appropriation (i.e., experienced, conceptualized) as illustrated in the mind maps (i.e., cartographic, landscape) will be presented in this paper.

Implications for research and practice/policy | Importance and originality of the contribution

The maritime space in these two regions is linked to numerous issues (economic, social, environmental and sanitary) involving a variety of individuals and groups. Conflicts occur frequently (e.g., fishing quotas, urban planning issues, restricted sites). Reconciling the needs and interests of fishers, tourists, residents, environmentalists, etc., requires an understanding of the knowledge and practices of these different groups. An understanding of this knowledge may help to comprehend the position of these groups towards local issues, adjust communication and, consequently, anticipate the adaptation of practices to allow a sustainable use of these increasingly populated environments.

Palavras-chave : social psychology, social representations, social identity, place attachment, intercultural study