

Research Topic for the ParisTech/CSC PhD Program

***Field:** Economics, management and social sciences / Urban planning and Transport

Subfield: Sociology, Political Science, Geography, or Urban planning

Title: Agricultural activities in land use planning and food planning policies

ParisTech School: AgroParisTech

Advisor(s) Name: Romain MELOT, researcher in sociology, INRA Sadapt/AgroParisTech (co-advisor : Frédéric WALLET, researcher in economics and regional science, INRA Sadapt/AgroParisTech)

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Short description of possible research topics for a PhD: (10-15 lines in English + optional figure)

The land use policy instruments typically deployed to support local agriculture are characterized by a tension between two objectives: preserving farmland and containing urban growth. Taking agricultural activity into account in planning documents is an issue that has been raised by research on periurban land use planning, since planning tools have historically been designed primarily to organize urbanization rather than to preserve agricultural land resources.

Besides the traditional role of land use planning, local governments in France has recently fostered the implementation of food planning policies which propose innovative strategies to support sustainable food procurement systems. “Local food plans” elaborate territorial projects to maintain and promote agricultural activities connected to cities and contribute to the political design of the rural-urban link. Combining sustainable land use, re-territorialization of agriculture and food autonomy is at stake in most of local authorities’ strategies.

The PhD research project will be dedicated to a comprehensive understanding of local planning tools dedicated to agricultural development, by comparing the place of agricultural activities in both land use planning and food planning instruments in a sample of case studies in France highlighting situation and differences between mid-size cities and metropolitan areas. The research will propose avenues of improvement for territorial development policies dealing with periurban agriculture, in a perspective of providing valuable results for cities of foreign countries.

Required background of the student: The applicant should have worked on the issue of regional development or planning policies in sociology, geography, political science or urban planning.

A list of 5(max.) representative publications of the group: (Related to the research topic)

Melot R. (2016). How to Regulate the Peri-urban Town. Local Political Decisions and Styles of Justification, French Sociological Review 57-4, 2016, 501–521

Melot, R., Paoli, J.-C. (2016). Testing the waters of coastal urbanization: contested projects on protected lands. European Planning Studies, 24 (11), 1959-1977. DOI: 10.1080/09654313.2016.1219698

Melot R. (2018) Pre-emption rights in France: disputes over pre-emptions and the ‘land scarcity’, In Gerber J.-D. (ed.), Hartmann T. (ed.), Hengstermann A. (ed.) Instruments of Land Policy. Dealing with Scarcity of Land. New York, USA : Routledge. 370 p.

Torre, A., Wallet, F. (2015). Towards New Paths for Regional and Territorial Development in Rural Areas. European Planning Studies, 23 (4), 650 - 677. , DOI : 10.1080/09654313.2014.945812

Wallet, F., Torre, A. (2014). Regional development and proximity relations. New Horizons in Regional Science. Londres, INT : Edward Elgar Publishing, 392 p., DOI : 10.4337/9781781002896