



ESPACES ET SOCIÉTÉS (ESO), LE MANS - UMR CNRS 6590

SPACES AND SOCIETIES (ESO) - UMR CNRS 6590

Universities of Angers, Caen, Nantes, Rennes and Le Mans

The laboratory gathers geographers, regional and urban planners and researchers from other disciplines (sociology, environmental psychology, architecture).

From its historic roots in social geography, the UMR ESO's scientific project has expanded into the spatial dimension of social relations and the study of inequalities in all their forms, using all of the disciplines represented in the laboratory.

The scientific objective is to contribute to the awareness and understanding of the spatial aspect of societies.



280 people

120 researchers, professors and assistant professors | 17 at Le Mans

130 doctoral students | 22 at Le Mans

20 administrative and technical staff | 4 at Le Mans



Partnerships

Local governments and agencies, Non-Profit Organizations, private companies, Le Mans Métropole, Syndicats mixtes de Pays (Le Mans, Haute Sarthe), Syndicats mixtes de Schéma d'aménagement et de gestion des eaux (Mayenne, Sarthe amont, Huisne), Pôle d'équilibre territorial et rural du Perche, Direction Départementale des Territoires (Sarthe, Mayenne), Conseil d'Architecture, d'Urbanisme et de l'Environnement, Chambres consulaires, Agence de l'Environnement et de la Maîtrise de l'Énergie, Agence française de développement, Processing companies - management of waste, commercial distribution and promotion and urban planning companies (Eiffage, SETEC). International collaborations are particularly dynamic with Tunisia, Cameroon, Algeria, Morocco, Brazil, Canada and China.



- Equipment: two drones registered with the CNRS and a large-format A0 printer
- Multidisciplinarity: Geography, urban and regional planning, sociology, environmental psychology and Architecture and urban designer
- From local territorial studies to international development projects

Member of TourismLab, Research Training and Innovation Institute in Pays de la Loire

Director: Emmanuelle Hellier (Rennes 2 University)
 Director of the Le Mans site: Gérald Billard | gerald.billard@univ-lemans.fr
 Avenue Olivier Messiaen 72085 Le Mans cedex 09
 eso-lemans.cnrs.fr



Research axes and themes

Researchers at the ESO Le Mans laboratory are more specifically developing several themes around sustainable development and the socio-ecological transition of territories.

Environnemental studies and public policies

The main objective is to encourage the territories to take better account of the environment, particularly with regard to energy, greenhouse gases and water supplies. The researches are focused on territorial policies applied to urban planning, local development, natural and cultural heritage, waste and on the circular economy, biodiversity, forests and agriculture.

The laboratory characterises and models the biophysical impacts of stakeholder practices at the level of territories or watersheds.



Urban planning and local development

The new social and political issues (housing, governance, @-governance and citizenship, trade, mobility, aging, segregation etc.) lead to the design of new strategies for planning and evaluation of territorial policies in conjunction with many local communities.

Social identities, gender and life experiences

By focusing on a micro-social entry point the research moves from individuals and groups to look at space and the relation to space. The aim is to appreciate how the courses and trajectories of life, the social and gender provisions influence or even structure the spatial practices. Social representations and experiences of space, as well as the configuration of the space, also come into play.



■ ESO laboratory topics particularly developed at Le Mans

