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Le Corum, Montpellier
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Information and territory: from data to action.

Organizers

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Rationale

In recent years, the explosion of available 'territorial' information (thanks to open data, new sensors...) and the participation of actors (crowd sourcing, digital traces...) have marked the 'construction of territories'. Many instruments, tools, procedures and mechanisms have been experimented and implemented. They combine, on the one hand, data and information sourcing and production, processing, organization and publication, and, on the other hand, users, their dialogue and consultation. Yet, are we truly in an ideal process in which territorial actors obtain information on appropriate territorial issues and develop relevant action plans that are subsequently recognized by the authorities?

During this session, we will first study the capabilities and limitations of techniques and tools such as remote sensing, data mining and modelling. These techniques and tools are supposed to help generate 'objective knowledge and models of territories'. They make possible the extraction and organization of information to promote 'rational' decision-making. Nevertheless is their implementation likely to add risk of constraining innovation, by imposing normative representations or restrictive information frameworks? And does their adoption and use mean an inescapable acceptance of their implicit and unique representation without any possibility of alternative models for stakeholder's dialogue?

We will then present collective approaches based on participatory processes that explicitly highlight the different representations of the territory actors can have. We will explore how these approaches can contribute to the emergence of territorial projects that synergize actors and practices in the face of collective challenges. Experiences of participatory mapping, counter mapping, and co-construction of observatories will be discussed. Here, too, we will identify the biases that can exist in this type of approach.

Finally, we will address the impact on citizens of online dissemination of various forms of territorial information. To illustrate such purpose we will focus on land grabbing issues and related information systems. How to source, mediate and use information so that it can modify the initial projects without necessarily generating or reinforcing opposition? How to play a positive role of 'whistleblower' while avoiding simplistic media representations? What are the risks and consequences of disseminating information to a wide audience?

Organization and speakers

Introduction: What determines the map, culture or technology? *I. Hirt (CNRS - Université Bordeaux Montaigne)*. (14h-14h20). *To confirm*

- I. Dreaming of objectivity: tools and techniques (14h20-15h10)
 - Novel remote sensing tools for the characterization and monitoring of territories: the example of Land Cover/Land Use mapping.
R. Gaetano (CIRAD)
 - Towards an emerging animal disease surveillance system based on textual media analysis.
S. Valentin, R. Lancelot, M. Roche (CIRAD)
 - Spatial modelling as a tool for organizing territorial information: Case of West Burkina Faso using Ocelet.
C. Jahel, M. Castets, P. Degenne, D. Lo Seen (CIRAD)
- II. Building at the crossroads of subjectivities: participatory processes (15h10-16h)
 - Bootstrapping the development of the Congolese littoral by enhancing intermediation.
B. Ngoukoulou (GFF Congo), Ph. Lemoisson (CIRAD)
 - Participatory mapping for sustainable and just land systems: Examples of co-design and co-production of knowledge from the Global Land Programme's scientific community
A. De Bremond, (Executive Officer, Global Land Programme - GLP)
 - How to connect risky landscapes with end-user companies willing to make changes?
B. Patentreger (Transitions)
- III. Using and disseminating information, what are the risks? (16h30-17h15)
 - IT and open data at the service of territorial planning and development – the case of the Land Matrix.
A. Ward (International Land Coalition)
 - Beyond whistleblowing: the role of research in the land grabbing debate.
L. Toure, (Université de Saint Louis- Sénégal) ; J. Bourgoïn (CIRAD)

Round-table discussion (17h15-18h30).