# PENS-314 ATLAS POLIPHILO

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| Cursus                 | Sem. | Туре | Langue   | français               |
|------------------------|------|------|--|------------------------|
| Projeter ensemble ENAC | BA6  | Opt. | d'enseignement   | nançais                |
|                        |      |      | Crédits  | 4                      |
|                        |      |      | Retrait  | Non autorisé           |
|                        |      |      | Session  | Eté                    |
|                        |      |      | Semestre   | Printemps              |
|                        |      |      | Examen   | Pendant le<br>semestre |
|                        |      |      | Charge   | 120h                   |
|                        |      |      | Semaines   | 12                     |
|                        |      |      | Heures   | 4 hebdo                |
|                        |      |      | Cours  | 1 hebdo                |
|                        |      |      | Exercices  | 3 hebdo                |
|                        |      |      | Nombre de<br>places  |                        |
|                        |      |      | It is not allowed to withdraw<br>from this subject after the<br>registration deadline. |                        |

# Résumé

L'atlas peut être utilisé comme un outil dans le contexte de la réalité urbaine contemporaine complexe. Il permet la construction d'un Denkraum au-delà des disciplines à travers un processus de configurations itératives de matériel visuel et ouvre ainsi la porte à l'innovation.

# Contenu

The *Unité d'Enseignement ATLAS POLIPHILO* focuses on techniques and methods for an open and systematic compilation of images. Forms of visual information are major manifestations of a culture and will be explored in respect to their symbolic, intellectual or emotional power. All these documents ask for a proper frame and knowledge for their deciphering. And they will remain open for further interpretations, as does a work of art (see Umberto Eco, Opera Aperta, 1969).

While the learning and mastering of instruments from diverse fields of expertise will help us to better analyse and understand given questions and problems, the output of these instruments bears new potential for knowledgeable associations. A holistic vision of a given problem may relocate it at the outset and new questions may have to be asked, not necessarily evolving directly out of a specialised and specific focus, but rather appearing in the 'situatedness' of a given problem and its complex interdependencies.

The UE therefore places equal emphasis on the different aspects of the course: fieldwork, collection of data, representation, interpretation and discussion.

Each year the students will survey a given territory of the *Region Lémanique*. Specific mapping techniques will permit them to produce visual descriptions of dynamic phenomena in space. Inputs from complementary disciplines will allow for the exploration of further methods of visual transcription according to three different approaches: systemic, experiential and prospective.

If the perception and the representation of space is of particular interest for architects, then students in civil and environmental engineering will find equally attractive challenges in modelling space, in representing it in digital tools as GIS or virtual globes, and in developing innovative tools to interactively analyse and visualise information on the urban fabric, on environmental conflicts, and on mobility trajectories across space.

Students will then engage in an interdisciplinary discussion informed by the results of their investigations. Visions of the territory will emerge as much from the conversation between visual data as from the discursive exchange between all the participants.

### **Mots-clés**

territory, analogy, image, transdisciplinary research, space, co-presence

### Acquis de formation



A la fin de ce cours l'étudiant doit être capable de:

- Identifier identify spatial phenomena which are relevant to territorial construction and set criteria for the production and selection of material for visual transcription (mapping techniques)
- Ordonner Work on configurations of visual content and transpose them into an immersive interface
- Investiguer Engage in projective and associative thinking while constructing virtual boards
- Produire Produce an expanded and interdisciplinary Denkraum through a discursive and experimental process
- Synthétiser Propose an operational figure in visual or written form â## distilled from the ATLAS boards

# Méthode d'enseignement

During the course, configurations of visual content will be proposed by the students on the virtual boards in precisely advised moments and formats. The virtual boards will be printed and later presented as immersive interfaces in order to exchange with diverse experts. In each critique instruments, method, criteria and outcome will be exposed and reassessed.

The study of the territory will be implemented in 4 phases:

1. Parallel description.

Applying tools developed by the 3 different labs involved: (responding to the first 3 approaches) analysis of the spatial structures through GIS, exploring on foot, capturing sensorial and environmental features, elaboration of mental maps. 2. Synthetic immersion.

Development of an immersive interface that is able to:

- Reunite different media and different types of information and representation
- Reproduce an innovative and immersive experience, creating a new mode of interaction between different manners of seeing and apprehending the environment, and therefore allowing for novelty in comprehension to emerge.

3. Analogical friction.

In this phase the results of the immersive interface will be confronted with different spatial and temporal conditions or narratives. As such, they will be complimented by further visual documents that are brought into associative configurations in view of specific questions and selected criteria derived from the student work – in order to form a *Denkraum* or a *field of potentials*. Each configuration of each board will be recorded.

#### 4. Prospective figuration.

In this exercise students and teaching teams will synthesise visions for future development that respond to the "emerging figure" explored through the combination of the different angles of reading. These visions take the form of a figure that can be summarised in words or in a visual transcription understood as the most salient feature of a deep and complex mode of interrelation present in the territory.

### Méthode d'évaluation

Ongoing evaluation.

Students will be evaluated on the basis of the four following criteria:

- 1. Ability to work between fieldwork, drawing and discursive exchange
- 2. Capacity to use testing as a means of developing a spatial comprehension and intuition
- 3. Collaboration (communication, team work, flexibility within different roles)
- 4. Engagement (participation in exercises, analytical work, initiative)

# Ressources

### Bibliographie

- Aby Warburg, *Atlas Mnémosyne*, with essay by -Roland Recht, Paris, L'Écarquillé/Institut national d'histoire de l'art, 2012.

- Bernardo Secchi, "Urbanistica descrittiva" in Casabella (1992): 588.

- Michiel Dehaene, "Essaying the city: elements of a descriptive urbanism" in *The NETHCA colloquia* series, 3 (University of Ghent, 2011):127-140.

- Douglas Hofstadter and Emmanuel Sander, "Surfaces and Essences: Analogy as the Fuel and Fire of Thinking", Basic Books, 2013.