

## Summary Atlas

Today, neither the city nor the metropolitan area bear full witness to the territorial dynamics underway. In a world dominated by exchange, a shift in perspective on how we manage and think territorial questions is necessary, since territorial transformations question the very meaning of urban and metropolitan spaces, all too often defined by overly narrow perimeters, and this in the name of an areal reading and management of territories, rooted in contiguity and continuity.

Before one can understand the changes at work in urban and metropolitan systems, one must first accept that we have now entered an era of territorial mobility and that our society functions as a network. Only a relational approach to given spaces enables us to integrate the notion of changing reality into their development and urban management. In this light, territories should be approached in such a way as to account for their inter-dependency and inter-connections, rather than in terms of distribution and localisation. This in turn enables us to take full measure of the fact that a given territory interacts 'with' other territories rather than 'against' them, and not only with those closest to it, but also in a spirit of connectedness with those more distant.

The idea of a reticular territoriality remains partial and is a source of fear for many. The obstacles are numerous. Some are symbolic in nature, born from the metaphysics of a sedentary lifestyle which prevents us from fully considering the question of movement in how we represent territories and the urban environment. Others are conceptual, the result of our inability to encompass networks and territories within a single thought process. Yet the most challenging impediments to overcome are those of an institutional nature, in that they question our modes of governance and the regulation of discontinuous spaces. This obstacle weighs more heavily than all the others, because it calls into question the ability of the stakeholders involved to transcend the way in which clearly demarcated territories with specific budgetary envelopes are managed.

The Atlas of Metropolitan Spaces in Bordeaux succeeds in painting the portrait of the city as a network alongside that of the city as a territory. It deciphers the functional organisation of Bordeaux through the way it operates on a variety of scales, thereby resituating the city's metropolitan spaces within the context of its roots and the paths it has taken. 'All about Wine' is an absolute must, to be enjoyed without reserve.

The cartography presented explores a wide spectrum of exchange processes shedding unprecedented light on the existence of networks composing a coherent system. Page after page, examples of the daily itineraries of commuters, student mobility, economic ties, academic partnerships and diplomatic cooperation eloquently voice the ways in which Bordeaux fits into the flow of the modern world.

This atlas fosters a global approach to exchange systems, breaking away from segmented, sectorial perspectives on territorial dynamics. Appraising the potentialities born from accumulation, attractiveness, innovation and interconnection provides the means of transcending traditional methods for measuring the capacity for concentration and polarisation of a given urban space. The atlas also sheds light on changes in the intrinsic nature of metropolitan spaces whose evolution takes place at a distance from a single polarity, thereby establishing excellently inter-connected sets of poles. It explores the specificities of the dynamics inherent to the Bordeaux metropolitan area, characterised not only by the strong polarisation still exerted by the city centre, but also by the consolidation of horizontal relations from pole to pole, creating multiple canals of inter-dependency.

At once connected, attractive and fashioned by its inhabitants, Bordeaux boasts colourful networks which speak volumes of the intense process from which the metropolis is emerging, at once embracing the world and proud of its strong local identity. The reality of mobility does not signal the demise of territories. Rather, it is an unprecedented challenge for the political decision-makers on whom we rely to design frameworks capable of accommodating new forms of lifestyle which are ephemeral, short-lived or transient in nature.

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