



CLERSE

AREAS OF RESEARCH / TOPICS

Until 2013, the research activities at the Centre Lillois d'Études et de Recherches Sociologiques et Économiques (Clersé) were divided into nine programmes. Since January 2014, our research activities have been reorganised into three key areas to enhance multidisciplinary and to better reflect changes in contemporary society.

Area 1 - Comparative political anchor points and dynamics (Coordinators: Gilles Chantraine and Brigitte Steinmann)

This area brings together researchers focusing on the different expressions of the relation between individuals and "politics". This refers both to the challenging of institutional powers (private and public powers, particularly the State and its ideological and coercive instruments) and to the formulation of political alternatives, separate from these powers (against them, external to them, despite them). Researchers therefore take into account both official or traditional political institutions, and the political, institutional or activist conflicts, struggles and mediation which shape and give substance to their action, occasionally influence or redefine them, or even oppose them and depart from them.

Area 2 - Working worlds and private worlds (Coordinators: Bernadette Tillard and Alexandre Léné)

This research approach is based on two distinct points:

- Adoption of a deliberately empirical perspective that takes into consideration social relations. In fact, research centred on "social worlds" provides an opportunity to better understand complex collective processes and social transformations. The "world" notion underlines, on the one hand, the stability of the organisation of a certain number of "collective activity structures" and, on the other hand, the dynamics of the segmentation and reconfiguration of the frontiers between these worlds, resulting from power relations between collective players;

A MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR

I would like to highlight three positive points that reveal the laboratory's full potential:

- The first point relates to the remarkable involvement of our teaching research staff in the laboratory's research activities and dynamics. In addition to performing teaching-related tasks and carrying out their educational duties and research activities, many are actively involved in the Laboratory Board, the Programme Management Committee and the Faculty Board. Together, they played an active role from the end of 2011 onwards in discussions on the restructuring of our nine programmes into three areas of research. These programmes were implemented in early 2014.
- The second point is the internationalization of the laboratory's research, one of our key assets. It has allowed Clersé to forge an identity for itself, to gain in attractiveness and to win recognition across Europe and worldwide. Clersé researchers have worked in numerous countries and have had a keen eye for the most interesting research to conduct in a wide range of regions, including Africa, Latin America and Japan.
- The third point is the interest shown in our local environment and "civil society" by our research community. Many researchers have established long-lasting relations with administrative authorities, non-profit organisations and other local public action players, within institutional (CNAV, CAF, DIRRECTES, etc.) or academic partnerships (MESHS, PUDL, Céreq)/schemes initiated by the Nord-Pas de Calais region (researcher/citizen research projects) or by the LMCU/networks of organisations or professionals (ONED, CRES, etc.).



Sébastien Fleurie
Director CLERSE-UMR 8019

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- Associated analysis of the social relations (particularly class, gender and generational) within and between these worlds. Each of these worlds is impacted by dynamics of appropriation of others' work and dynamics of leveraging individual and collective material and symbolic resources. These dynamic approaches lead to the complex development of separation and prioritisation processes, and reproduce social inequalities in renewed and often intensified ways.

Area 3 - Economies and societies: development, wealth, innovation and regulation (Coordinators: Richard Sobel and Laurent Cordonnier)

From an academic point of view, our aim is to highlight the institutional structures and political regulations which are always based on historically and geographically contingent conventions of wealth, and which make economic development possible. The aim is also to explore forms of development and innovation, by linking them to local or global institutional contexts. From a standardisation point of view, the challenge is to question the legitimacy and sustainability of these economic systems. Our research combines a macroeconomic structural analysis with a comprehensive analysis of the interactions between individual and collective players, who are never considered simply as homo economicus, but as endowed with real cognitive, constructive and ethico-political capacities, allowing us to grasp the uniqueness of crises, to consider the specific features of institutional change and innovation dynamics, and to shed light on the public debate.

THE LABORATORY'S KEY PROJECTS

Clersé conducts sociological, economic and anthropological research by promoting **dialogue and exchange between disciplines** with shared issues (work, social economy, development, etc.). In practical terms, over the last ten years, this has been achieved by integrating a number of anthropology and demography teaching research staff and researchers into the research unit, and by implementing research programmes involving sociologists and economists or sociologists and anthropologists. These partnerships, exchanges and interactions are made possible, qualitatively and quantitatively, by the laboratory's human resources, which included 89 teaching research staff, seven researchers, eight engineers, technicians and administrative staff, 15 post-doctoral students and 67 doctoral students as of September 1, 2014.

Clersé conducts research on contemporary, post-industrial and developing societies. The work performed by its members focuses on European societies and other world regions, particularly Africa and, more recently, Latin America and Asia. This research work explores both the transitions experienced by post-industrial socio-economic systems, and emerging and developing societies. Researchers conduct mono-disciplinary or multidisciplinary work, according to the subject and project, in a variety of institutions, such as the Agence nationale de la recherche (Anr), or as part of the Capes-Cofecub1 partnership. Through the Research Quality Bonus programme run by the Université Lille 1, the laboratory actively supports emerging projects and the consolidation of international relations, translation and publications in international reviews.

Academic cooperation within French, European and international research programmes, or through informal contact between researchers, lies at the centre of Clersé's strategy. The research conducted abroad is generally comparative and relies on fieldwork. Clersé has formed solid partnerships in three main areas outside Europe: Maghreb and African countries (Algeria, Central Africa and West Africa, South Africa)/ the American continent, and especially Latin America (Brazil and Argentina)/ Asia (Japan).

The laboratory also takes part in regional activities, including regional calls for projects, such as the call for researcher/citizen research projects made by the *Conseil régional Nord-Pas de Calais*, among others.

SPOTLIGHT ON...

Clersé's origins

A number of new universities were created in the 1970's, and the Institute of Sociology, then part of the Faculty of Arts, along with economists from the Faculty of Law decided to form a single research (UER) and training unit at the University of Science and Technology Lille 1.



Michel Simon

Clersé evolved out of the research initiatives launched by this unit. It started out as a small CNRS-associated research team (ERA) formed in 1974 by Jean-René Tréanton within the Institute of Sociology. The same year, an inter-regional entity of the Centre for Qualification Studies and Research (CEREQ) was founded in Lille, and placed under the responsibility of Jean-René Tréanton. The ERA was integrated in 1978 into the Work, Education and Employment Sociology Laboratory (Laboratoire de Sociologie du Travail, de l'Éducation et de l'Emploi), with Claude Dubar, also under the direction of Jean-René Tréanton. Some economists, for their part, joined François Stankiewicz in the Systems and Work Analysis Laboratory (LAST, Laboratoire d'Analyse des Systèmes et du Travail).

The integration into the CNRS in 1980 of several local sociologists, initially from the Development Analysis Centre (CAD, Centre d'Analyse du Développement), provided an opportunity to bring together sociology entities into a single research center. The economists from LAST decided to join the new unit. From the start, Clersé's staff therefore included researchers from both disciplines. It was Michel Simon, professor of sociology, who was chosen as the person best suited to lead and ensure unity of action in this new laboratory. Created in 1981, Clersé was recognised by the CNRS as an associate laboratory in 1982.

When the CNRS decided to bring together local universities within a social sciences research federation, Ifrési, in 1986, Michel Simon was appointed director of the new unit, whom Clersé was one of the leading components.

Bruno Duriez.

Key figures

1,000 publications between 2009 and 2013, including 461 in peer-reviewed journals, and 57 books

9 ANR research contracts (including CLEAN, ILERE, PORQUE, Groundwater, ARENA, TRANS-ENERGY, etc.), 10 Conseil Régional Nord-Pas de Calais projects, three European projects (SERVPPIN, KNOW&POL, SOBRIETE)

Organiser of three international symposia; 376 papers delivered at international symposia

Member of several networks (GERN, RIODD, RESER, MaghTech)

67 doctoral students in 2014, including 33 economists and 34 sociologists

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