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For a radical Right to the City: Lefebvre, *autogestion* and urban democracy

On April the Third 2018, the Paris School of Planning invited Mark Purcell (Department of Planning, University of Washington) to give a conference and to debate afterwards with a public of researchers, teachers and students.

Mark Purcell was in Paris on the occasion of a celebration organized at the Paris City Hall for the fiftieth anniversary of the publication of the *Right to the City*. Henri Lefebvre's influential book and its main arguments have in the past fifty years broadly transgressed the French borders, in particular in the direction of the United States after its translation into English in the early 1990s. Purcell himself has contributed in his work to the ongoing scientific discussions triggered by the book, in particular with his analysis of the "scar trap", but also with his assessment of the impact of the Right to the City on traditional forms of urban democracy and on the State's centrality with regard the production of and action on the city. This last avenue was at the center of his conference in Champs-sur-Marne.

Mark Purcell's presence was the occasion to put together a panel of discussants stemming from various research collectives interested in the spatial dimension of inequalities, in spatial justice, and in the Right to the City's translation to the Global South. All of them were familiar with Purcell's work and were asked to discuss his theoretical propositions in view of their own research interests and positionings.

The main discussants were: Aurélie Quentin (University Nanterre, editor in chief of *jssj*), Fabrice Ripoll (University Paris Est, Work Group JEDI) and Melora Koepke (Simon Fraser University, Work Group JEDI), and Amandine Spire and Marianne Morange (University Paris Diderot, programme Right to the City in the South).

The event was organized by Sophie Didier (University Paris Est), and it also gave way to a work assignment in epistemology for the School's 2nd year Master's students who attended the conference.

Link to the podcast : podcast.u-pem.fr/channelcatmedia/19/MEDIA180716111828152