# LABEX Structuration des Mondes Sociaux (SMS) – Structuring of Social Worlds (SSW)

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## *SUMMARY*

This is what has been achieved after almost six years of effective operation of SSW (Structuring of Social Worlds). We have funded 15 theses, with the first three defences planned in 2018, which corresponds to the average timing in our disciplines. We have also funded 25 post-doctorate years for junior researchers, half of whom have later been recruited by research centres or by universities. The 11 research groups and the 3 methodological workshops have completed 110 projects. The analyses of networks have shown that even if electronic communication is now a significant element of social interactions, it has not completely changed interpersonal networks, whose basic characteristics have remained quite stable. The research work on mobility has integrated the analyses of networks to reveal the complexity of interpersonal relations, of collective affiliations, of political and market regulations formalized so as to construct a formal/ informal, legal/illegal « globalisation of the poor », which has so far been poorly apprehended. The geographical analysis of the world's scholar publications has led to unexpected results, which question a great number of clichés. The studies conducted on production worlds have refined the analysis of economic clusters and confirmed the emergence of local economic networks built around generic activities across traditional industry sectors in such conurbations as Toulouse. The work on start-ups has also drawn quite a different picture, away from common representations. The survey conducted on aging has strengthened the hypothesis of a socially differentiated « relational process of aging ». Relational analyses in historical studies have been further developed and led to a better understanding of modern and current political processes, with some insights into the existing networks in mediaeval worlds. The research work on rural worlds has corroborated the blurring of rural-urban boundaries and unveiled the drastic changes undergone by spaces located outside large urban areas. The longitudinal study of voting behaviours has underscored their stability in relation to social positioning. The study on market systems has confirmed the relevance of cross-analysing market systems and social networks. SSW researchers have also explored the motivations at work in religion by focusing on its various instruments of mediation – whether material, physical, language or natural – that make up the interactions with the invisible. Abound fifty yearly publications give a full account of the whole set of these studies, with an increasing number of them being published in English, thanks to the translation budget made available by SSW and significantly on the increase since mid-term assessment.

The online magazine « Mondes Sociaux » (Social Worlds) has been increasingly successful and is now holding a significant position in the dissemination of social science research findings. The Think Tank « Laboratoire des idées » has organized focus groups on themes and has increasingly turned to collaborative research work. ComUniTic has continued its facilitation activities to develop collective debating about information technology. As for the network of Master's degree programmes, it now claims over 30 Master's degrees.

The EUR project presented in 2016 was not accepted as such, but we have been encouraged to submit a second version and we plan to do so and implement an English-taught Master's degree programme in Social Science. The project will also include the addition of another three research units in archaeology, environmental geography and architecture.

Our choice to focus SSW on empirical research, on an inclusive conception of excellence and on support of junior researchers has enabled the creation of a community which facilitates collaborations and is currently enjoying significant recognition in the world of Social Science as well as in exchanges with other disciplinary fields

# 1 CONTEXT AND PREVIOUS ACHIEVEMENTS

## 1.1 CONTEXT AND SCOPE OF THE PROJECT

**Theoretical Bases**

The goal of SSW is to refine the analysis of the intermediate levels of the structuring of social worlds by rallying the community of researchers in Social Science of the Toulouse region. It brings together 9 research units in history, human geography, sociology, anthropology, political science, information-communication and political economics.

The project is organized around four themes: social networks, devices, regulations and territories. These themes define the ingredients of the « thickness » of the social world, which, according to the position adopted by SSW, cannot be reduced to a set of independent individuals smoothly interacting within a vast market, as traditionally understood under the term « social structures ». If we depict the phenomena traditionally studied by the human and social sciences in two dimensions, corresponding to the number of people involved and the duration of the processes (see Table 1), the central squares are of particular interest here. They cover a range of phenomena that last longer than mere interactions, and which may involve a considerable number of people, but which, for all that, does not reach the level of great masses and very long periods. This intermediate level is naturally connected to other orders of magnitude and duration. Thus, research on this level can naturally be extended to more macro levels or, on the contrary, focus on more micro levels.

**Table 1. Typology of Social Phenomena by Magnitude and Duration**

| Scale of time (Order of magnitude) | I short time, immediate or very short term | II biographical time (< human lifespan) | III historical time (> human lifespan) |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1 interaction (a few dozen at most) | interactions | life stories, lasting relationships (networks, communities, groups, families) | family lineages |
| 2 organisation, action system, network, (a few thousand at most) | group assemblies, shows, conferences, sound volumes, environments | organisations, networks / local economic systems | dynasties, religious movements / villages / small towns |
| 3 mass | media events, or concerning large organisations, institutions | creation or evolution of large companies or institutions (schools, the army, etc.). / cities, transportation infrastructure | creation of institutions (States, markets, schools, science, etc.). / cities, transportation infrastructure |

The concept of temporality has been added to these concepts which are regularly discussed in the seminar « L'espace des sciences sociales » (The Space of Social Science), and increased attention is given to social processes.

**Implementation**

Research is conducted by tenured researchers and lecturers-researchers involved in the project, research assistants (master's degree or Ph.D. students) recruited for the project, as well as by SSW

funded PhD students and post-docs. All graduate students and postdocs pursue their own research projects.

SSW includes **eleven empirical research groups** so as to ensure complete coverage of our overall research programme and to be able to study a variety of social phenomena and worlds that Social Science seeks to better document: the Internet and electronic communication, migrations, aging, academic activities, industrial worlds, rural modes, historical contexts (the Greco-Roman Empire, the Middle-Ages, the Americas at the time of the Independence, …), market, political and religious activities. Depending on the particular research group, studies are done on large collections of data (on communication, aging, networks of scholars in Antiquity) or on a more limited scale which contribute to the broader themes. Each of these research groups will be described in greater detail below. All the groups work on producing data that help develop knowledge about social worlds.

The three **methodological workshops** seek to strengthen collective expertise and to innovate on computerized textual analysis, on the ethnography of electronic devices, and, of course, on the analysis of social networks. Each workshop regularly organizes training for all SSW researchers and seminars to share and compare experiences.

Exchanges with colleagues from other cities or countries take the form of **short stays** (1 week to 1 month) of SSW researchers in outside institutions and/or of colleagues from these institutions who come to Toulouse. We also fund **translations** of articles or books by SSW researchers into foreign languages. Finally, we fund **research grants** for faculty who, after a period of working in administration and/or teaching (i.e. being Department Head, running a Master's program, etc) need support to return to writing articles or books.

A **network of Master's degree programmes**, implemented in 2014, now counts up to 33 different Master's degrees and enrolled students are given the opportunity to complete their training by taking classes chosen from among the network of other Master's programmes or participating in SSW seminars. This interdisciplinary approach is credited by an additional certificate to the degree awarded by the UFT (Toulouse Federal University).

**SMS and its local, national and international environment.**

SSW brings together the majority of researchers in Social Science within the local higher education network (except for mathematical economics which has two labex) and the community has gained considerable visibility since its creation. The network of Master's degree programmes has also given birth to a community at the level of education as students from different disciplines are now used to exchanging together and seeking references in all the disciplines of Social Science. Workshops have been created to foster exchanges with those social sciences we share common practices with. We have also worked with some Labex in mathematical economics, a sociology post-doc from these labex having applied in 2018 for a CNRS position with the goal to join one of our research units. (She was later recruited by SciencePo Paris). Above all, exchanges with colleagues in mathematics, physics, biology and computer science have significantly increased over the last three years and have resulted in the SSW researchers' strong commitment to a project of an institute for studying complex systems (XSYS) conducted by one of our members. The Think Tank (Laboratoire d'idées, LDI) and ComUniTic have led to establishing lasting relations with association co-ordinators, citizens, entrepreneurs and elected representatives who willingly participate into collaborative research work with SSW researchers. Along the CNRS or INRA approach to valorization and in a spirit of collaborative science for citizens, the SSW researchers engage with citizens, associations or small businesses who cannot afford funding research. For the projects requiring external funding, we apply to local authorities. SSW has thus contributed to the development of a number of  platforms about children or about creation.

At the national level, SSW has reinforced the already significant visibility of the research cluster on social networks (among others, via the CNRS thematic schools organized by SSW in 2012, 2015 and 2018) while extending recognition to a far broader community. Beyond academic publications,

visibility has been boosted by the far-reaching success of the online magazine *Mondes Sociaux* (*Social Worlds*). An increasing number of papers are being submitted to our magazine by researchers from all over the country and it has established regular collaborations with CNRS-images (http://www.cnrs.fr/cnrs-images/), the CNRS image production and management department whose magazine releases a selection of films. It also cooperates with the Cereq (French Centre for Research on Education, Training and Employment), which regularly submits papers.

At the international level, the research cluster is more and more clearly identified, particularly on the theme of networks and social structuring, but also through its contribution to methods in Social Science, with Iramuteq, the textual analysis software, in the process of becoming a standard, with experiments in quantitative ethnography and innovative methods for studying relational chains The magazine *Social worlds (Mondes Sociaux)* publishes papers in English which contribute to disseminate SSW findings.

## 1.2 *MAIN PREVIOUS ACHIEVEMENTS*

### 1. Seeking excellence in our activities

SSW is based on a definition of excellence described in the original project as follows: "While Labex SSW researchers are concerned about the visibility of their work, their priority is the overall quality of the research work conducted by the Labex and their capacity to produce results whose relevance will be proven over the long term, as tested through debate among the academic community. Obviously, SSW benefits from the experience of some of our researchers in sociology and history of science. The well-known phenomenon of concentrating on a minority of authors and on academic visibility, generally known as "Lotka's law", falls under the social common trend of accumulating advantages. We think that the much-cited researchers are the most visible part of the vast collective research work conducted by the whole academic community. If this « elite » was to be cut from its « base », it would very quickly wither away. (…) That is why the Labex SSW will include all the researchers working on the issues that the project seeks to study". (Page 8 of the project). We see excellence as characterizing activities, research or education, not individuals or organisations. Therefore, it is not a matter of selecting individual researchers, lecturers-researchers or students who would be regarded as « excellent » and then isolating them from the others. Our goal is to establish the very conditions that are conducive to the excellence of all activities.

### 2. Activities

The initial goal of SSW was to bring together all the researchers in Social Science of the Toulouse region under the theme of the structuring of social worlds as described above. The idea was to capitalise on the great number of researchers on the site, who were conducting complementary and high-quality research but working in poorly connected groups, in order to develop a community that would facilitate smooth exchanges and produce valuable interdisciplinary research work.

SSW research develops in four different ways: doctoral theses (since 2012, 12 in progress, 2 defended and 1 currently about to), post-docs (20 completed, 5 in progress), research groups (11 underway, with 10 projects approved), and methodology workshops.

**Ph.D** students are selected in two stages based on their previous work and on their research project (which must have been approved by a SSW research unit along with a researcher to supervise the thesis). The first stage is the examination of their application; the second is an interview with the Steering Committee to fill the three funded positions available. In 2016, for example, we reviewed 21 applications and interviewed 13 candidates.

**Post-docs** are selected on their track record, their publications and their post-doc project (which they must conduct within an SSW research unit). They are selected in two rounds, the first based on

their application; the second is an interview with the Steering Committee. In 2016, for example, we reviewed 48 applications and interviewed 11 candidates.

10 post-docs or research assistants gained tenured positions as researchers or lecturers-researchers (5 at CNRS, 4 in French universities and at the Ecole Pratique des Hautes études (EPHE), 1at INRA), 2 have created businesses and the others have pursued their research work on other available post-doc positions.

**Research groups** began in December 2012. The following report therefore covers over 5 years. It takes an average of 5 to 6 years to analyze the results and draw conclusions from a study in SHS (Humanities and Social Sciences). Of course, this also depends on whether the study is a continuation of previous work or whether it is an entirely new project. In the first case, the results are produced more quickly. Both cases are to be found in SSW research findings.

**Research group 1, « Networks and ICT »** comprises a series of field studies on the use of current communication tools in establishing and maintaining social relationships and on potential changes on personal networks. The team has developed two applications for tracking the most frequent phone calls on mobile phones and smart phones. Following up with the « Caen panel» (a longitudinal survey on personal networks conducted by colleagues from Caen and Aix-en-Provence since 1995) was undertaken in 2015 with the Research centre on the Economics and sociology of work in Aix-en-Provence, one of their Directors of research participating to the study. Another survey was conducted in collaboration with teachers in Economics and Social Sciences in the Toulouse school district. 1,346 students sent 2,462 questionnaires to young people aged 15 to 25. Among other things, this survey shows the importance of social media (77% of the people mentioned by respondents are "friends" with them in online media, mainly Facebook), but also their very generational nature (the proportion is only 25% for relationships with parents). The survey allows comparisons with US data and confirms that French young people are less frequently isolated. Finally, a large survey on personal networks (700 questionnaires) was conducted in 2017 to carry out systematic comparisons with a Toulouse survey in 2001 and with a San Francisco survey in progress (2017-2019). A workshop was organized in May 2018 to compare the first results of the two surveys (and others from SSW doctoral research, in China and in Guinea).

**Research group 2 « Mobility, migrations and networks »**, seeks to question the connections and social networks involved in mobility and international migrations, fields in which social network methods have been so far largely neglected. Research on migrations was already done on the Toulouse site before obtaining Labex but was limited to groups of researchers working in different research units. By providing a common guiding thread to relational approaches, we are now able to pool more researchers while increasing the national visibility of our specific approach. The first impact of the Labex was the creation of a regular seminar (5 sessions a year since 2013), for exchanging ideas and experiences between specialists of migrations and of networks from several disciplines (anthropology, geography, history, sociology, archaeology). It is a space for academic dialogue as well as for education due to the presence of many Master's and PhD students. The second impact has been the emergence of innovative approaches to subjects that have long been studied in Toulouse, on transnational issues, trade, gender and religion…. A cluster of a multidisciplinary research work (https://mondis.hypotheses.org/) associates geography, anthropology, sociology, geo-visualisation and studies the issue of globalisation using a bottom-up approach in different territories (China, Maghreb, Brazil, sub-Saharan Africa, Europe…). The third impact has been the implementation of a dialogue between different study areas which have only marginally addressed the issues of posted work in Europe, of the sociology of health, particularly that of patients' medical pluralism, of sex work.

**Research group 3, « Scientific worlds »** examines the conditions in which academic worlds operate and produce knowledge in the broad sense. The goal of is to highlight the extreme diversity, porosity and creativity of the academic world ever since Antiquity up to contemporary practices, while also paying close attention to what generates limitations, such as disciplinary boundaries, distances or

lack of resources. Studied as a specific ever-changing social world, the scientific world can be approached through a variety of methodologies: analysing and mapping networks, analysing discourses, the history of practices, biographical approaches, the sociology of organizations, public policies, the history of ideas, of concepts, of disciplines, etc. The most recently defended projects, often conducted in collaboration with other Labex research groups include "Economic heterodoxy: does the field have the networks it ambitions? A scientometric and network analysis applied to ecological economics"; "Academies of Art and their networks in pre-industrial France"; a considerable study on the geography of research based on a comprehensive geocoding of the articles recorded by the « Web of Science » ; « University and its students. Programmes for adult students in French universities in a comparative perspective. »; « Co-authoring practices among doctoral students and their supervisory committees in three fields (astrophysics, archaeology, economics). A network approach ». The group dynamics continues with biannual meetings to foster new research.

**Research group 4, « Transformation of production worlds »**. The expression « production worlds » is based on the hypothesis that economic activities do not form an undifferentiated space but are rather historically constructed and spatially situated sets that display significant similarities in their collective references, behaviours and modes of regulation. These sets may take the form of local industrial clusters, business sectors, or larger systems. The collaboration of economists, historians, geographers and sociologists makes it possible to study production worlds from their creation, their spatial deployment and their transformation in a transitional context (whether digital, societal, agro-ecological…). The research group has fostered innovative approaches to the formation, dynamics and changes over time of industrial clusters and of the innovation processes involved. These approaches are based both on actors' embeddedness within social networks that gives them access to resources and the opportunity to share them and on the analysis of the structural properties of these networks, which deepens our understanding of the long-term dynamics of these clusters. Research has led to building up sets of new common data about the changes in the different production worlds. Surveys have focused on innovative companies, « competitiveness clusters » in aviation industry and agribusiness and on different industrial clusters addressed in terms of social relations. These surveys combine into a whole research set: research on business clusters has been fuelled by the survey on start-ups (some of which participated in the clusters examined) and by discussions with representatives from the aviation and aerospace industry in the Think Tank *Laboratoire Des Idées*. The surveys corroborate the importance of historical continuities in production specialties, of spatial logics in company exchanges, and more broadly, the effects of embedding public action systems or legal frameworks into networks of interpersonal relations. This research work has produced several summaries and international publications (particularly on the economics of clusters, on start-ups or on the territorial dynamics of innovation) and is a key focus of our integration into international networks, especially in the field of geography of innovation.

**Research group 5, « New forms of aging »**, is a longitudinal study of people over 60 that analyses their lifestyles, their relation to aging, and their personal networks. After various workshops with specialists which enabled us to refine the method, a first wave of the study was done using a method that combines lengthy questionnaires with more qualitative and recorded parts. This survey was conducted in March-July 2014 with 470 people of the greater Toulouse area and from small rural towns of the Hautes Pyrénées and Aveyron departments. The data is rich and complex and is being processed. As for respondents' networks, they cited an average of 15 connections (from 1 to 50), and we have identified the relationships between people cited, making a subset of four relationships on average. The first significant result highlights the increasing age-related relational inequalities, notably among the less educated classes (paper currently under evaluation). We plan to repeat the same survey with the same respondents in 2019.

**Research group 6, « Historical Analysis of Social Networks and their Relationship to Power »**, first conducted historical studies on networks in a variety of contexts before expanding to other historical issues. The first two projects have studied elites of the former Spanish colonial

Empire. The first project involved contributing to the collaborative database FICHOZ which has served as a shared tool for research carried out both in France and Spain on powerful groups in the Hispanic world of the 18th and 19th centuries. The second project examined the Notarial Archives of Puebla, which enabled scholars to reconstruct life histories and family genealogies (1770-1830). Since 2016, several projects have been supported. One of them seeks to foster dialogue among historians working on networks and to promote the use of shared conceptual and methodological tools adapted to our discipline. Another project, on ordinary politicisation, examines political and practical skills, common knowledge, expertise and capacity for action of ordinary people in a broad historical perspective, comparing history and political science. Another project focuses on the itinerant Italian painters called the « barbouilleurs » (scrawlers) in Haut-Languedoc and Gascony (18th-19th centuries), and studies the position of itinerant Italian artisans in southern France, migrants and their networks from their arrival up to their professional integration in rural parishes. The goal of the last project on actors and practices governing the Spanish and Portuguese Empires (15th-19th centuries) is to analyze over the long term the political, cultural and social practices implemented by the powerful actors to establish their domination over vast territories.

Research group 7, « Rural Worlds » explores how social worlds are organized, recombine and evolve in rural areas. There, social networks function differently in a context of low density population and relationships to nature that primarily correspond to production relationships, inseparable from social and cultural relationships. The research group's main seminar (« The Diversity and Coexistence of Agricultural Worlds ») has fostered several collective and multidisciplinary research projects. A first phase of research developed a variety of perspectives on the processes for qualifying and managing natural resources, on the relations of interdependence between urban and rural worlds and the territorial contrasts involved. It also examined the globalisation routes of Chinese merchandise in rural areas in North Africa. A second phase of research studied innovation and agro-ecological transition processes in agricultural and food sectors from different angles (role of gender, nature of social networks, and the ways resources are mobilized, the process of circularity) and fostered interaction between the teams and the disciplines involved. The results bring to light the multiplicity of challenges faced by rural areas and clearly demonstrate that this research subject is a key element to better understand the dynamics of transformation in contemporary societies. Several publications and special issues of academic journals have been produced, as well as important work organising the research group around these subjects.

Research group 8, « Political Worlds » strives to renew the analysis of political practices by connecting them more closely to media discourse, to lifestyles and to social practices. A major longitudinal study was started in 2013 with online questionnaires (over 10,000 responses collected). Other studies explored discourses on the economic crisis, the political management of borders (survey on Lampedusa), the building of Europe, contemporary relations between law and politics or the governance of universities. The first outcome of this group has been coordinating previously fragmented research on the building of Europe, the sociology of law or relations between politics and the media. The group has also enriched the approach towards several research subjects by combining methods from different disciplines. For example, one project combines political science approaches with lexicometric textual analyses, particularly on discourses related to the economic crisis. Similarly, integrating perspectives from the sociology of sports into political sociology has opened up new avenues for research. The third result is methodological innovation, particularly with the longitudinal survey or the use of film analysis.

Research group 9, « Religious Worlds » addresses the forms of organization of religious practices and institutions in light of contemporary developments in religions and of the experiences of believers. Their main studies have focused on religion specialists, on ritual practices, on the forms of language predominant in religious activities and on the relations between nature and religion. Their work has also intersected with the research conducted by the group on mobility (on migrants' health and their use of religious cures; on the connections between different religious affiliations, mobility

and trade). The constitution of a religious world has been particularly examined from four angles: the role of objects in constituting religious contexts and experiences: the role of the body in ritual interactions and in religion; the role of speech in constructing the « invisible beings »; the role of places and natural beings in organizing relationships with the invisible. Further reflection has been conducted at the group's monthly seminar and on study days, bringing together anthropologists, classicists and historians. It has resulted in a number of collective or individual publications, as well as in the organisation on an exhibition on the theme of sacred mountains.

**Research group 10, « Market Worlds »** studies the ways in which markets are brought to life socially and, thereby, the ways in which trade « makes society », that is to say, builds relationships, creates identities, transforms cognitive schemas, creates or goes beyond asymmetries, arranges the spaces of exchange and adjusts ways of buying, selling and, ultimately, of being together. Several empirical studies have been conducted both on contemporary situations (tourism, discourse on the economic crisis jointly with group 8) and on earlier periods (trust in medieval trade). The first achievement has been to highlight and bring together the research work conducted in various fields from social science — history, sociology, geography… — on market questions. In addition to their diversity, these studies bring to the fore longitudinal, relational and situated processes that « bring to life » and « order » economic situations, *ipso facto* calling into question the mechanistic and ahistorical representations of economic facts. The second result concerns the centrality of social and technical mediations in economic ordering. Such are the importance of religion in the Middle-Ages, the role of the press, digital applications for tourist routes. The third result is the joint work in methodological innovation, such as taking an archaeological perspective on mediaeval history, the lexicographical analysis of the economic press or even an IT-sociology partnership that developed and experimentally tested a smartphone application in sociology of the tourist market in Albi, France.

**Research group 11, « Humanities »** brings together research in philosophy, literature and languages with social sciences. The first result has been to bring together scholars in history, social anthropology, political philosophy, literature, languages and art in Toulouse in order to work on the remembrance of social and political violence, on gender and racial minorities and on indigenous, colonial and post-colonial issues. This convergence has led to a cross-disciplinary seminar regrouping several pre-existing programs, whether the CAPES-COFECUB Remembrance of the Slave Trade, a team seminar "Literature and philosophy", and a more general programme with the *Collège International de Philosophie*. It has resulted in sharing and transposing the methodologies and concepts of different approaches to minority social worlds referring to the crisis of the social bond in situations of oppression, disaffiliation or of conflict within or between communities. The second result has been the increased interaction, within a platform for cooperation between scholars and the socio-economic actors of the Midi-Pyrénées Region, to promote action-research programs at doctoral and post-doctoral level in Literature, Languages, Art and Philosophy, particularly in the field of hospital reception and care. Thirdly, two databases have been developed in order to preserve the Toulouse heritage collections that are scattered throughout European archives.Their academic valorization has enabled the reconstruction of the cultural networks in the Early Modern period in the region and the analysis of the role they played in the French and European cultural processes of that period.

Finally, a small complementary budget has been allocated for projects that fall **outside the Research groups**. It has contributed to encourage the development of the programme « Infancy, Early Childhood in Contexts » that has funded a research project analyzing the way young children experience scientific exhibitions and other mediation schemes as well as another study which has finalised a software of digital puppets as therapeutic support to help troubled kids. A project launched in partnership with an association and using the software has been selected by the Fondation de France. In May 2019, an international interdisciplinary symposium will focus on early childhood.

Three methodology **workshops** complement this research programme to enable scholars to exchange experiences and disseminate knowledge on methods within the Labex.

**Workshop 1, « Textual Analysis »** is dedicated to discourse analysis methods and to their adaptation to the growing possibilities for creating (very) big corpora. For this purpose, the open software "Iramuteq" has been developed (for Windows, Mac OS X et Linux). It includes vocabulary mapping (correspondence analysis, similarity analysis), classifying text and text segments (hierarchical divisive clustering), defining speakers' profiles and situations (lexical specificities, modal responses). These analyses can be done in French, English, German, Italian, Portuguese, Spanish and Galician... Google Scholar references nearly 800 academic articles that have used Iramuteq. Upcoming versions will increase the number of languages (Latin, Greek, Swedish, Romanian, Hungarian…) with the contribution of the user community. They will also include new analyses (computation and visualization of intertextual distances, use of Topic Models (LDA), chronological visualization of lexical classes, dynamic visualization of the chronological evolution graphs…) and will simplify the creation of corpora, particularly by using online social networks (Twitter, Facebook…). Workshop 1 organizes one-day seminars to discuss methods and their applications. Training sessions are regularly scheduled in the Toulouse region, but also nationally and internationally

**Workshop 2, « Ethnography of Socio-technical Associations»** focuses on methods integrating technical objects into analyses of social phenomena. Two approaches are privileged: the first defined as the archaeology of the present time works in the manner of archaeologists without written sources and uses innovative sources of information to bring to light the contribution of socio-technical objects to action (photographic and video documentation, sociobiographies of objects…). The second approach is quantitative ethnography and uses observation checklists that ask questions about the elements observed, whether human or non-human. Based on the data collected, it develops specific statistical processing to account for the dynamics of sociotechnical associations. One-day seminars are organized with a focus on in-depth papers, enabling participants to fully get into the process of making research material and analyzing it, and to discuss different approaches. Several one-day seminars in various formats were held as well as an international Workshop in May 2015. The project of publishing a book in English on the Workshop subjects is in progress. Another aspect of the workshop research involves developing a set of online resources that compile the most significant publications, methods and tools on contemporary research work on socio- technical associations.

**Workshop 3, « Social Networks »** is the extension of a group of Toulouse researchers working on social networks in various disciplines (sociologists, historians, geographers, economists, management science specialists, mathematicians and computer scientists). This group served as one of the original bases for the SSW project. In this workshop, traditional approaches to social network analysis (personal networks, complete networks), relying on the latest models and software, are discussed and taught, as well as innovative approaches specifically developed by the workshop's researchers: combined methods for analysing the chains of relationships mobilized, methods for analysing academic networks from interviews about citations, multi-agent models applied to the analysis of social networks. The workshop organized summer conferences on Social Networks in September 2012, September 2015, and September 2018. Several introductory training sessions in social network analysis have been organized every year, as well as workshops on methods and software (Egonet, Venmaker PLACES, Visone, Pajek, R). The workshop has also organized a number of one-day seminars. As a result of these activities, SSW researchers have been introduced to and gained knowledge of the analysis of social networks; both national and foreign doctoral students have been trained into this approach. The workshop also helps the already trained scholars to keep up with methodological innovations. These methods are also detailed in an online collection of texts « Methodology Issues » (http://methode.hypotheses.org/).

### 3. Interacting with Social Worlds

The **ComUniTic** project has enabled citizens, economic or institutional actors and scholars to think and exchange on the current and future uses of Information and Communication Technologies since its creation in 2013. As a multidisciplinary community, ComUniTIC brings together over a

hundred researchers (in sociology, psychology, ICT, design, history…), and organizes about twenty events a year. These meetings of various sizes and formats (research seminars, conferences, debates, experiments...) designed for researchers or for the general public, are meant to bring together the people who create and use these technologies with those who analyse them.

In 2012, the « **Think Tank** » created a space for dialogue and collaboration with various representatives of non-profit, economic and political circles. The aim is to reinforce exchanges between research and social worlds in order to test the knowledge produced, identify new avenues for research, promote collaborative research work and take part in public debate. Meetings are held on average twice a month. The first theme addressed was social diversity as a « remedy for » to the effects of segregation. This theme helped deconstruct an ill-defined concept while acknowledging its praxeological value. These discussions, in which the researchers' critical stance was contrasted and compared with the pragmatic stance of social actors confronted to the « making » of the urban fabric, have led scholars to address the relationship to social diversity and segregation in different terms. The second theme was « matters of religion » and religion-related conflicts or the French notion of *laïcité* (secularism) in some of Toulouse lower-income districts. Today, reflection is carried on through a collaborative research project on the dynamics of normative equilibriums while avoiding reducing the diversity of conflictual situations to their mere religious dimension. The third theme is the labour market for engineers, a highly represented profession in the city, particularly in the field of design. This sector, which has driven the economic growth of Toulouse, is being threatened as the local aviation industry is refocusing on manufacturing. The SSW researchers' contributions to the studies on the local economic system have been used by various actors to find solutions. These last two years, new themes have been defined and collaborative research work on them is underway: unemployment and precarity; short food supply chains; pictorial church heritage in the region.

In May 2013, SSW created the **online academic magazine *Mondes Sociaux*** [Social Worlds]. The purpose of the magazine is to give the general public access to the most recent knowledge produced in the Social Sciences. It takes the form of texts illustrated with drawings (some of the original drawings by one of our researchers, Patrick Mignard), photos, videos or sound recordings. It is hosted by hypotheses.org. It is the only French-speaking magazine in the Social Sciences to bear the following 5 characteristics: all-digital, multidisciplinary, cross-thematic, open access and managed by researchers. By May 2018, the site had published 340 articles written by 222 different (co-)authors. It is highly successful, as attested by its broad circulation: so far, the site has had over 1 800 000 visitors and 15 500 000 pages have been accessed. Visitors are from France (between 53% and 62% depending on the month), the United States, Great Britain, Germany, Switzerland, North African countries, Canada, Belgium, Russia, China, Japan… and from 99 other countries. *Mondes Sociaux* also has its own You Tube channel (Avides de Recherche/ Research Fanatics) coordinated by a PhD student (13 254 subscribers in May 2018).

SSW has contributed to the festival « L'histoire à venir » (The history to come), a broad initiative to popularize history and the Social Sciences, under the form of a four-day festival created in 2017 by Labex researchers.

It is to be noted that the **cooperative Scool** and the **company « échelles et territoires »** (scales and territories) have been created in relation to SSW studies and with the legal support of the valorization department of Jean Jaurès University.

### 4. Education
In 2014, SSW created a Master's degree programme network comprising 33 Master's degrees in history, geography, sociology, political science, information and communication technology, and sports science. The network awards an additional certificate to students enrolled in one of the partner Master's degree programmes and having taken six additional classes chosen from those of the other Master's degree programmes or from specific SSW courses. The network has an average of 20 to 25 students a year and about fifteen are awarded the additional certificate. During meetings with these

students, they have regularly expressed their satisfaction with the network which enables them to reinforce their research skills and opens up new avenues in addition to their original discipline. At the meetings to set up the network, the directors of the Master's degree programmes have had the opportunity to learn about the subjects and the functioning of the other programmes: they have thus been able to discover new potential complementarities.

### 5. The emergence of a community

The time required for research in Social Science means that, in most cases, it will take another three of four years for all the results undertaken during the first years of Labex to be published and finalised. However, the impact of SSW is already tangible in the emergence of a Social Science community in Toulouse. The relationships between the multiple research teams of the Toulouse Midi-Pyrénées Federal University have considerably grown and sometimes enabled the discovery of disciplines or of methodologies that are present in only one of the partner institutions. For instance, knowledge about methods of network analysis or textual analysis has become widespread. Many researchers have thus acquired experience in multidisciplinary work within the SSW, whether in research groups and workshops, or in collegial initiatives such as the symposiums along the meetings of the Academic Council or cross-disciplinary seminars.

To be able to work together across various disciplines, whose diversity is an asset, it was necessary to share questions, methods, a common vocabulary, which is not actually self-evident and that requires ongoing serious work to foster dialogue and constructive confrontation. SSW has therefore gradually developed by working together, at all levels, both through research projects, seminars, events, etc. and through the collective governance set up from the very beginning. The transparent, simple and inclusive organisational practices within the Labex have done a great deal to ensure that everyone, at her or his own level, can easily appropriate the common resources. The quality of interpersonal and academic relationships has fostered fruitful exchanges and sincere collective involvement in the enterprise – which, to us, is what we wanted to achieve from the beginning.

### Project Progress in line with the suggestions of the examining board

Concerning the scientific direction of our project, the board encouraged us to continue our programme, which we have done, as new results have confirmed the direction we had chosen.

The board's primary suggestion was as follows: "The team could perhaps build further on their current successful publishing activities and adopt a possibly more instrumental and selective publication strategy to target more international top ranked journals". We have taken this suggestion into account by considerably increasing our translation budget and by making it more easily available to SSW members: 35 texts have thus been translated, given that other texts published in English or in other languages than French were directly written in the language or translated (or corrected) by means of other funding. The percentage of articles published in English was 14% in 2013; it had gone up to 26% in 2017.

# 2 PROJECT DESCRIPTION AND EXPECTED IMPACT
## 2.1 SCIENTIFIC SCOPE AND CONTENTS OF THE PROJECT FOR THE NEXT FINANCING PERIOD, EXPECTED IMPACT

### 1. Enhancing and developing the SSW academic activity.

Designed in 2011, SMS/SSW is bound to evolve if it is to be extended beyond 2019.While the overall research question remains the structuring of social worlds, we mean to give greater emphasis to the issues of temporality and processes (in line with authors like Andrew Abbott or William Sewell) on activity theories (by integrating the work of researchers such as Axel Honneth). The aim is to better

theorize action process situated in specific sociohistorical contexts (sequences, breaks, rhythms) and better understand the evolutions of these contexts over longer periods (social change, historical transformations, events).

The **seminar « The space of Social Sciences »** regularly brings together about sixty researchers and PhD students for exchanging on interdisciplinary and methodological subjects. It will continue and be complemented by other additional interdisciplinary seminars or study days. A specific seminar **« Complexity and Social Sciences »** will be dedicated to discussions with the other main disciplinary fields dealing with the theme of complexity in collaboration with the Toulouse Institute for Complex System Studies (XSYS), with the aim of developing interaction with other primary disciplinary fields. Designed as a means to establish connexions between mathematical models and the empirical approaches in Social Sciences, the seminar will favour interdisciplinarity to deal with the analysis of emergence, cascading or non-linear dynamics considering the multiplicity of scales of analysis.

The organization of the project has proved most satisfactory as it has enabled SSW to overcome disciplinary divisions and to help structure new avenues for research for both researchers and students. We wish thus to keep this organisation. The most significant changes will be introduced within the overall framework of the Labex activities.

Regarding junior researchers, we will maintain a **thesis** funding system, while adjusting it by developing co-funded theses and funding lines tied to a specific research unit, which is necessary in some disciplines. But we will keep a number of fully funded theses on submission of proposals by PhD students and their supervisors. We will devise a more systematic organization so as to be able to eventually finance a 4th year by requiring from PhD students to contribute regularly to our magazine or participate to other collective activities. We intend to increase the number of one-year **post-doctoral fellowships** and facilitate their extension up to two to three years, which will require developing co-funding. **Support for new researchers** will also be introduced to encourage international mobility.

The **research groups** will be redefined. Some of them will continue, others will disappear (after they have achieved their objectives) or be reorganized. Other groups will also be created. The research groups will be as follows (they may be readjusted over time if necessary):

**1. « Digitized Social Worlds ».** Digitized network technologies have invaded our daily life: everyday sociability, work, leisure, education; almost all our social life is being colonized by digital devices. Tools, networks, online services have become useful, yet intrusive additives to our personal, professional and public life. They clearly must be considered and analyzed, and yet, exclusively digital activities cannot be studied as an isolated research object, even less essentialized. The digital sector must be approached and understood as the activity equipment and not as its determinant. Studying the digitization of social worlds therefore requires dealing simultaneously with what is happening online and offline and conveying the transformation in a diachronic perspective, thus bringing to light the historical, social, political and economic processes at work. Hyper-technical and marketing approaches, stamped with technical determinism, overlook a great number of the challenges raised by the growing digitization of the social world. These are the challenges this research group means to comprehend by systematically questioning the foundation of social bonds from a theoretical and empirical critical distance. It must therefore produce academic knowledge that will equip citizens with an awareness enabling them to critically confront both the tools and the hegemonic discourse of the sector. This direction will be put forward by the research work with a particular focus on the fragmentation and digitization of public space and public policies, on the political economy of the actors from the digital sector, sociability and professional equipment.

**2. « Mobility, networks, migrations ».** This research group will continue working at the interface of theoretical reflection, methodological experiments and empirical research on networks and social relations structuring mobility and international migrations. It will be done through a variety of field surveys as part of a seminar. The primary research avenues (globalisation, transnational moves)

will still serve as the guiding thread, but broader new questions will be mobilized (environment and migration, circulation of objects …)

**3. « Scientific Worlds »** The group will pursue the most structuring aspects of their research work, such as the spatial analysis of academic networks worldwide, the issue of power and of centralities in the scientific world, the historical analysis of the emergence and interconnection of scientific communities. It will also investigate new subjects that have proved to be relevant in the course of previous studies. Among others, the focus will be on the national or regional academic spaces and on their transformations as a result of scientific policies, the digitization of scientific exchanges and its consequences (economic, social, scientific...), social disparity among researchers (genre, precarity…), or the challenges related to the development of crowdfunding or interactive research … It will more precisely concern singular actors, fields or spaces of research in order to thoroughly understand the complex machinery of contemporary research activities. Interaction within the group will continue under the form of one-day seminars and project follow-up meetings.

**4. « Economic worlds ».** This research group will expand the scope of both « production worlds » and « market worlds » to focus on a project of « social sciences of the economy », in line with authors such as Mark Granovetter or Michel Callon. The group will mobilize two primary concepts that founded SSW: personal networks and mediation devices to study the fundamental issue of « exchanging » knowledge, competences, products and resources. The aim is to bring to light the coordination and situated interaction systems of both the actors and communities who shape the dynamics of innovation and change and who influence the social construction of markets. Among the subjects to be studied, we will 1) bring to light the rules and norms regulating exchanges that these systems contribute to build and stabilize and their impact on the organization of the sectors of activity and on the construction of markets. 2) study the continuum between innovation and markets, which implies that design and marketing operations are not to be studied apart. Equally significant is the disputed part played by digital networks in relationships which can be seen as either favouring or counteracting the development of coordination and situated interactions, as contributing to consumers' cognition or, on the contrary, as aligning their opinions, even taking advantage of their personal data, etc.

**5. « Life course and personal networks ».** In all the Social Science research work, biographical approaches have highlighted the variations, depending on socio-historical contexts, of « life cycles » as well as of turning points and the way people, neighbourhoods and institutions manage them. The analysis of personal networks has contributed to develop new approaches by recording individual histories in personal and collective contexts and in numerous temporalities. The interaction between the singular and the collective, between « micro » and « macro », is an epistemological issue for historians, which has, over time, contributed to reassess the biographical genre or the prosopographical approach.  In the light of the debate, starting from the singular appears to be a relevant scale to understand the historicity of individuals but also the "making" of the social logics affecting them.  For example, some researchers work on individual paths in different imperial organizations, from the Middle-Ages up to the contemporary period. These « Logiques d'Empire » (Imperial logics) have been set into motion by singular actors, but have, in turn and sometimes deeply, affected their lives. The aim here is to understand the concrete and clearly delimited effect Empires have on social actors and the way they are caught in logics (administrative, political, religious, cultural, etc.) and in networks that both shape and escape them.

**6. « Political worlds: longue durée and contemporary logics ».** The research group will explore the way politics is built in relation to different levels of action, different kinds of institutions, different social groups, between ordinary people and élite members, subordinates and leaders, citizens and the powerful, insisting on the role of intermediaries , translators, mediators. It will include the study of contemporary political worlds.

**7. « Rural worlds and interactions with urban environments ».** The research work conducted in « Rural worlds » has clearly shown that they should be re-examined in a more global

perspective, considering that they are at the very core of the dramatic transformations undergone by contemporary worlds due to climate change, the evolutions of agricultural modes of production and the interactions with urban worlds. The aim is to lay the emphasis on the analysis of the ongoing reconstruction taking place in agriculture, in territories as well as in food systems and on that of new territorial dynamics that hybridize agricultural and urban worlds, cities and the countryside. Studies will focus on the socio-economic dynamics of rural worlds and on the alternative avenues through which our society seeks to reassess its rural worlds, meaning its relationship to nature as provider, which cannot be dissociated from social and cultural relationships. In a scientific and societal perspective, environmental issues are particularly relevant as they concern the construction of eco-system services, the characterization and management of « natural » resources. More broadly, it includes the processes of agro-ecological transition which imply both continuously repositioning agricultural modes to meet the expectations of the society and the coexistence of several agricultural models on the territories... Just like in the other Labex groups, the question of the digital media is central in its contribution to innovation (social, technical, organizational). It is instrumental in bringing about the transformations of agricultural models and of the users' logics that shape rural spaces and their interaction with the urban world. The study will rely on the Labex central concepts of networks, systems and territories to be able to understand the different aspects of these ongoing transformations in the territories and in the sectors with the notions of transition, coexistence and circularity. The study also relies on the conviction that a territorial approach is necessary to understand how actors appropriate the drivers of change.

**8. « Gender and social structuring »**. The group will rely on the network Arpège (Multidisplinary approaches to Genre) that brings together almost 80 lecturer-researchers and PhD students in gender studies from Toulouse establishments. Research will deal with gender relations in a variety of both past and present contexts and in their numerous systemic dimensions. One of the aims is to comprehend the connections between the macro social level of institutions and of the long term and the microsocial level of subjectivity, of agency and of changes. The cross-sectional nature of gender with other class, race or social relations as well as the processes by which gender is naturalized and recorded in bodies will also be examined. Ongoing dialogue with sciences with little questioning on gender so far (life sciences, engineering, law and economics) will be developed on the Toulouse site.

**9. « Childhood worlds ».** In a rapidly changing society, a growing number of specific policies and programmes are dedicated to children. They provide for various categories of behaviours or practices (bodily, food, health, digital, culture…). Using a multidisciplinary approach, the research group studies children's support and care programmes in various social contexts (family, social, health, school, cultural, living environment and housing, etc.) and the ways children's behaviours are regulated (as well as their families' – parents and siblings…) in these various contexts. The connection between cognitive categories and childhood-related experiences in care facilities is also considered. Bearing in mind that both programmes and regulation modes greatly vary depending on the territory, this dimension will also be examined. Incorporating the idea that children actively participate to their socialization, the work will include analyzing kids' networks or those they use and the role played by these networks in producing inequality. These new perspectives on methodological systems help better take children into account.

**10. « Networks for exchanging material resources ».** By combining spatial and temporal approaches, the research group will study the circulation of resources in various socio-historical contexts, from prehistoric lithic artefacts to contemporary electronic objects. The aim is to document these networks and to understand their logics of construction and evolution in a multidisciplinary perspective. SSW will thus be able to benefit from archaeological contributions insofar as studying material cultures helps construct global representations of the lifestyles of past populations, of their structuring modes, their reactions to constraints and their response capacity

We will also increase support for emerging themes through a non-thematized operation.

Methodological workshops will be reinforced and diversified. Two will continue the projects they developed in the first SSW phase:

**1. « Social networks ».** This workshop, one of the cornerstones of our project, will carry on sharing concepts and basic methods, but will further explore the dynamic analyses of personal networks, multi-level analysis techniques more particularly applied to complete networks and relational chains.

**2. «Textual analysis ».** SSW has fostered the expansion and dissemination of the open software Iramuteq (http://www.iramuteq.org). This activity will continue, as well as two of the workshop's other objectives (in-service and external training sessions to lexicometry and its applications as well as promoting a network for exchanging about methods and their uses). Further developments will include implementing new approaches for searching themes (improving classifications, topic models, deep learning), studying and visualizing chronological corpora and introducing new languages, for instance. Greater emphasis will be put on training and the workshop will organize the "seminar on the statistical analysis of textual data" in 2020 to celebrate the 30th birthday of this iconic seminar on lexicometry.

Other workshops will be created:

**3. « Combined methods ».** The SSW Labex, through the workshops, has provided an opportunity to explore methodologies integrating various data sources or to process different types of data (quantitative data, texts, visuals aids …). We mean to strengthen this methodological work by creating a workshop on combined methods that will associate qualitative approaches (documentary analyses, ethnographic observations, interviews, …) and formalization (quantification, statistical analyses, networks, cartography). There has been strong debate about the relevance of combining these approaches, but it is clear that they are being increasingly used in Social Science considering the wealth of results obtained. The SSW researchers who are already involved in several of these approaches (for example, « quantified narratives » or quantitative ethnography), will further share and structure these methods within this workshop. Another objective will be to study other approaches highlighting the diversity of possible « combinations » in terms of tools, data and aims.

**4. « Process analysis » (longitudinal / sequence analyses / time analyses / prosopography).** SSW researchers more and more often tend to conduct longitudinal surveys in order to understand in the long term changes in networks, organizations and social worlds. The workshop aims at sharing experiences and methods, while encouraging expert researchers who are not involved in SSW to come and present their work.

**5. « Data analysis and formatting » (« data analysis », « data visualization », « film and visual methods »).** The objective of the workshop is to improve sharing knowledge and know-how about data construction, formatting and analysis. It includes statistical analysis, visualization methods as well as visual and film methods.

**6. « Methods for handling environmental issues ».** This workshop aims to better share knowledge and know-how about research practices on the environment which draw on far-reaching interdisciplinary forms (associating vastly different scientific fields). Primary research material rests on different research questions and experiences in the field of interdisciplinarity, the conditions under which they develop, their impact, limitations or results. Exchanges may focus on the most practical methodological aspects, while addressing the more epistemological or conceptual dimensions underlying these research experiences. The workshop will equally concentrate on modalities for defining the programmes and research questions on the environment; collecting and producing data in the field of interdisciplinarity; it may also consider the perspective of an action-research programme whose objective here will be to provide a basis for part of the action. The workshop will open to those laboratories on the site outside the Humanities and Social Sciences (HSS) that study the environment. It will thus formalize the interactions between HSS and life sciences, examine the contingency of

environmental themes for research work in interdisciplinarity, and propose coherent, if not joint, forms of collaborations and knowledge production.

**7. « Research ethics and deontology ».** The empirical Social Sciences as practised within SSW are increasingly confronted to questions related to the information of interviewees and to the protection of data, either collected or used in surveys. This workshop will aim at sharing knowledge on these questions and devising robust solutions.

The **interface with social worlds** (the magazine *Mondes Sociaux*, the think tank LDI and ComUniTic) will remain and grow. The Think Tank is intended to develop as a space for experimenting and for collaborative research, beyond its primary function devoted to dialogue with the representatives of social worlds. *Mondes Sociaux* will further build up its partnership with academic and non-academic institutions (currently a dozen partners), increase the number of its fortnightly publications, start the section « in Spanish » as a complement to the section « in English » and will improve its dissemination policy, particularly towards social networks.

International mobility support schemes will be developed (or, in some cases, towards other French cities) and foreign researchers will be invited, in addition to the visiting professors currently hosted by the components.

Finally, and that is very important, if SSW is extended, the project will include two major UMR( Joint Research Unit), in archaeology (Traces) and in environmental geography (Geode) as well as an architectural laboratory (LRA).

*2.2 RESEARCH-LEARNING INTERFACE AND EXPECTED IMPACT*

In 2016, the SSW researchers devised a project for a Graduate School of Research (EUR). The project was founded on our Master's degree network and ambitioned to develop it by integrating foreign students by means of a transition year to help them gain good command of the French language and introduce them to the Social Sciences as taught in our Master's degrees. Another transition year was intended to benefit French-speaking students from other disciplines to help them gain basic skills in Social Sciences before taking on a Master's or a PhD degree. The project also planned to pool the classes delivered by the 50 visiting professors coming each year and to establish mobility grants.

The project was not accepted in the first submission phase but was ranked « A » and the examining board encouraged us to draft a second proposal with a stronger focus on English-taught classes and more closely integrating the various programs. We have therefore started to draw up this second version and propose the creation of an English-taught Master's degree in Social Sciences for non-French-speaking students. The Master's degree programme would draw on the offer from various existing Master's degrees and would also include original teaching from SSW research groups and methodological workshops.

*2.3* **VALORIZATION STRATEGY OF THE PROJECT AND SOCIO-ECONOMIC IMPACT**

Our definition of valorization is any creation of value for the social world that derives from academic research work. Value does not only refer to money and our approach to valorization does not necessarily mean obtaining financial compensations from the various social we interact with. In line with the approach privileged by research centres (CNRS, INRA), we think that valorization may include research-related books that are of interest to people beyond the academic scope, conferences or public talks that help move forward social debates, or collaborative research conducted with people or groups who cannot afford studies. Hence, valorisation is research results being passed on into business, institutional or associations' practices, that is, their practices being potentially transformed through their cooperation with the academic world.

## 2.4 SCIENTIFIC AND PEDAGOGICAL INTEGRATION INTO THE STRATEGY OF THE LEAD INSTITUTION AND PARTNER INSTITUTIONS

SMS is a site-wide project and therefore fits perfectly with the strategy of the Federal University of Toulouse (see letters of support).

# 3 PARTNERSHIP

## 3.1 GOVERNANCE

The management team consists of a director, four general deputy directors (who can be the SSW representatives for any activity), a general secretary and six specialized deputy directors in charge of the interfaces and the Master's programme network.

The main body dealing with SSW operations is the Steering Committee, composed of the research group coordinators; the list of its members (currently about forty people) is not fixed. It meets approximately every 2 months chaired by the director of the Labex and makes decisions on recruiting doctoral and post-doctoral students, ²financing empirical research projects and all other decisions related to SSW activities. All the Steering Committee's decisions and related documents are available to the Labex participants on the intranet. The Partial Steering Committee, composed of representatives of the research units involved in SSW (the director, one representative from each team, 2 for the 3 largest teams) is entitled to vote alone in case of necessity.

All SSW participants gather annually at a General Assembly, chaired by the Labex director, to discuss SSW activities.

SSW includes a Board of Directors, composed of representatives from institutions and research centres involved, as well as three representatives from civil society. The Board discusses the activities of the Labex annually and votes every two years on its organization. It is headed by the director of the Labex (who does not vote).

All SSW activities are evaluated by the Academic Council composed of 10 international experts (Johanne Charbonneau, Michèle Charpentier, Anne-Marie Gingras, Vladimir Kolossov, Giovanni Levi, Sebastian Lenz, Tom Snijders, Marc-Henry Soulet, Didier Vrancken, Jean-Benoît Zimmermann).. The Academic Council interacts with the Steering Committee members and draws up a report containing a number of recommendations.

Research groups and workshops operate as follows. Each research group or methodological workshop has coordinators and is given a certain amount of funding over the Labex period. To start a particular project, the researchers involved in the groups must formulate projects with a maximum duration of 3 years. Each project is evaluated by two reviewers, selected by the Steering Committee from among the research teams. On the basis of reports and project proposals, the Steering Committee decides to validate or reject the proposals. The Steering Committee may examine proposals at each of its meetings. A project that has been rejected may therefore be proposed again after appropriate changes at a subsequent committee meeting.

**Project leader: Michel GROSSETTI**
Current position: Research Director in the French National Research Center (CNRS) and School for Advanced Studies in the Social Sciences (EHESS). Michel GROSSETTI studied mathematics (Master in Applied Mathematics in 1981) and sociology (Ph.D. in 1985 and accreditation to supervise research in 1997). He has been a member of the CNRS National Committee and has served on several expert committees and selection committees in the area of sociology. He has conducted evaluations for many scientific journals (including *Social Networks, Computer Mediated Communication, Higher*

*Education, International Sociology...*). Michel Grossetti has conducted research into social networks, innovation, spatial dynamics, social science methodology and sociological theory. He has published or directed nine books and more than 60 articles in peer-reviewed journals (including the *Revue Française de Sociologie - French Review of Sociology, Les Cahiers Internationaux de Sociologie - The International Journal of Sociology, les Actes de la recherche en sciences sociales, - Social Science Research Proceedings, Sociétés Contemporaines -Contemporary Society, Social Networks , European Planning Studies, Built Environment, Urban Studies, International Journal of Urban and Regional Research, la Revue d'économie régionale et urbaine - the Journal of Urban and Regional Economics, les Annales de la Recherche Urbaine - the Urban Research Journal*). An important feature of his work is its strong involvement in multidisciplinary collaborations with historians, geographers, economists, and sometimes as chemists or phonetic experts. In addition to his books or articles in sociology, he has published, alone or jointly, numerous articles in economics or geographical journals, and contributions to collective historical works.

## Indicators

Our objective is to conduct the most scientifically relevant research work. Our main indicator is therefore the quality of our publications. It is peer-reviewed both by the journals and by our Academic Council. We do not ambition to publish more texts, but rather strive to achieve more forward and better circulated publications. We also wish to improve the visibility of SSW research work in the English-speaking world and in other languages than French.  The French-speaking world is, of course, a major inspiration for Social Science and French remains the first language for the SSW researchers' publications, but we seek to improve our dialogue with English-speaking researchers. French-speaking Social Sciences are moving in this direction and our community intends to be part of this evolution. We also mean to develop our participation to collaborative studies with citizens of all origins.

## 3.2 CONSORTIUM MODIFICATIONS

The consortium will be modified to include three additional research units.

## 3.3 PARTNERS, RELEVANCE AND COMPLEMENTARITY

### Presentation of the laboratories

**LISST (UMR 5193).** Interdisciplinary Laboratory Solidarities, Sociéties, Territories brings together several disciplines (anthropology, urban and rural studies, geography, sociology but also economy, psychology and management). This joint mobilization studies the transformations of the contemporary world under three different angles: the dynamics of networks and social solidarities, the reconstruction of urban and rural territories and the comparison of human societies at all levels, from local to global.

**CERTOP (UMR 5044).** Research Centre on Work, Organisations and Policies is mainly characterized by its commitment to opening up fields, disciplines and approaches. Its scientific project brings together sociologists and other social scientists  (information and  communication sciences, economics, urban development, ergonomics, law...) whose common mission is to understand the dynamics of change, of  legitimation as well as the increased insecurity and stigmatisation which characterize contemporary social spaces.

**FRAMESPA (UMR 5136)** regroups historians specializing in the mediaeval, modern and contemporary eras, archaeologists, art historians and specialists in literature and civilisations: as a whole, a hundred permanent members, sixty associates and over a hundred PhD students.. FRAMESPA which is the French acronym for France, the Americas, Spain – Societies, Power and Actors. There is still a strong Southern and Iberian focus with natural extensions to Latin America.. However, other spaces (Northern Europe, North America, Africa, and Asia) have been increasingly

studied over the last few years. The period covered is therefore large, from the Middle Ages to the XXIst century.

**PLH (EA 4601**, Heritage, Literature and History) adopts a long-term approach in the original research work it undertakes at the intersection of literature, linguistics, art, history and archaeology. The general sientific objective is to analyze the ways past, present and future interact from the viewpoint of philology, history and hermeneutics. The PLH members investigate how these transmissions occur and their multiple meanings. Regardless of the era concerned, these studies raise the question of the meaning of the past and the ways it is used. Heritage seems to be the most fruitful concept for designating such a collection of cultural legacies, but also, considering the debates around this term, for examining its multiple uses, paradoxes, purposes and configurations.

**AGIR (UMR 1248 INRA/INPT).** The Research Unit AGIR brings together researchers in Human and Social Sciences (economics, management, sociology, social geography) and in biotechnical sciences (agronomy, ecology, …). The objective is to produce knowledge about, methods and devices for agroecological transition towards diversified agricultural systems adapted to global challenges (climate change, conservation of natural resources, sustainable food). The ODYCÉE team (Organizations, Dynamics of Knowledge and Innovations in Territories and agro-chains), is involved in the labex SMS with its three lines of research seeking to produce knowledge on innovation processes and on practices for supporting changes in agro-chains and territories.

**LEREPS (EA 4212)** stands for Laboratory for Study and Research for Economics, Politics and Social systems. The work conducted by LEREPS is based on an approach centred on economics but in connection with other social sciences. It includes research into the economic coordination mechanisms that produce technological and social innovation in contemporary societies. LEREPS has become recognized for its work on the forms of development in the Global South, on the sustainability of production models, on the governance of public goods and on the economic geography of innovation.

**LASSP (EA 4175),** laboratory of Political Social Sciences, is a multidisciplinary team including political scientists, legal scholars, historians, sociologists, anthropologists, and researchers in information and communication sciences. Its research work examines political phenomena through a concrete approach, fuelled by the contribution of Social Science disciplines. They study political phenomena from a common practice-related and bottom-up perspective. Its two main lines of research are: Governments, Administrations and Public policies; the Media, Culture and Politics.

**CRESCO (EA 7419).** The Centre for Research in Sport and Physical Social Sciences brings together lecturers and researchers in Social Sciences (sociology, history, psychology) who specialize in the study of sports and physical practices with a general focus on « Education/training, health and inequalities». Their main objective is the study of socialisation and education policies in physical and sports practices.

**LERASS (EA 827)** is a multidisciplinary research unit which regroups 130 lecturers-researchers, PhDs and doctoral students in Human and Social Sciences. In its scientific research, Lerass draws on fundamental concepts at the intersection of several disciplines, particularly Information and Communication Sciences (ICS). Research primarily focuses on devices, networks, relationships, mediations and representations.

**TRACES (UMR5608)**, "Archaelogical work and research into Cultures, Spaces and Societies" comprises 160 permanent members, including over a hundred tenured staff (lecturer-researchers, researchers, cultural curators, INRAP archaeologists, ITA – ITAOS engineers) and fifty PhD students. In terms of both staff and equipment, TRACES is one of the largest archaeological units in France and in Europe. TRACES' core activity is archaeology, understood as the entire set of scientific disciplines and methodological approaches that help reconstruct past human societies, beyond geographical and chronological boundaries.

**LRA (EA 7413).** The Laboratory for Research in Architecture (LRA) regroups all the research activities of the Toulouse School of Architecture and comprises forty researchers, lecturer-researchers and tenured teachers, 29 PhD students, 1 administrative assistant, and 1 computer scientist. LRA helps

set the foundations for architectural, urban and landscape research. This means elucidating the processes used in architectural, urban and landscape projects, particularly the cognitive and methodological aspects in which references, models, techniques, heuristic teaching are predominantly used.

**GEODE (UMR 5602)** (Geography of the Environment) is a research comprising 37 permanent members and 30 PhD students. The team studies landscapes and the environment in an interdisciplinary and multitemporal perspective, from the reconstruction of natural and socio-environmental processes to establishing prospective models.

# 4 FUNDING JUSTIFICATION

## 4.1 EXPENSES JUSTIFICATION
See below

## 4.2 FOUNDING PLAN
The amount of funding requested has been calculated on our previous experience of SSW operations. We plan 6 fully funded theses that could eventually be combined with co-financing. Taking into account SSW previous functioning and the time required to complete a thesis in Human and Social Sciences, we tend to launch these projects at the beginning of the period (3 yearly during the first 2 years). We will maintain fellowships for post-docs selected on their research and career project with the aim of facilitating their access to more permanent academic positions. This system has proved successful both for our teams who benefit from the talented junior researchers' work and for the post-docs, most of whom have been later able to enter the academic system. We will also maintain the three project engineers for editing the digital publication (the magazine Social Worlds) and for the scientific coordination (Think Tank, ComUniTic and seminars). Lastly, the volume of salaries required for research assistants corresponds to what is needed to balance the SSW research groups and workshops. The other items also fit in with previous equilibriums. We plan for 20 post-doc years as some fellowships can be extended beyond the one-year period.

|  | Salaries |
|---|---|
| CDU | 541036,8 |
| Post-docs | 840000 |
| 3 ETP joint operations (electronic publication, pedagogical engineering, seminar coordination) | 465300 |
| 3 ETP research assistants on projects | 465300 |
| Total Salaries | 2311636,8 |
|  |  |
|  | Non-salary expenses |
| missions (joint 2000 * 600) | 1200000 |
| Other external expenses (small equipment) | 50000 |
| Equipment | 0 |

**The involvement of permanent staff in the project has been calculated: considering that 30% of the unit researchers will simultaneously work for the Labex, the SSW project amounts to 25% of their activities. It corresponds to 35 full-time equivalents in terms of permanent staff (15 professors or research directors, 16 lecturers, 4 engineers).**