



International Congress  
Sustainable Urban Agricultures: Vector for the Ecological Transition,  
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Session 2 – Urban Agriculture in the urban projects and experiences

## ***Community gardens.***

***The city dwellers contribution to the agro-food system  
in Rennes: a self-sustainable development perspective***

**GIULIA GIACCHE'**

giacche.giulia13@gmail.com

**YVON LE CARO**

yvon.lecaro@univ-rennes2.fr



# JARDISAT PROJECT (02.2016 - 07.2017)

Scientific Coordinator: Yvon Le Caro; Post-doc fellow: Giulia Giacchè  
Funded by Brittany Region (SAD program)

Understand the community gardens' contribution  
to the territorial agri-food system.



## Brittany

- Inhabitants: 3,300,000
- UAA : 66% of the regional area
- Intensive farming area:  
Dairy, Pork, Poultry, Tomatoes,..

## Rennes

- Inhabitants: 207,000 / 450,000 (RM)
- Main economic sectors:  
Communications / Cars

# Food Policies and Urban Agriculture

## Sustainable Food Plan

- Public Procurement : 12,200 meals/day
- 96% producers are localized on the “Grand Ouest”

## Goals:

- + 40% of food/ sustainable farming (20% organic)
- - 50% of food waste

**PLAN D'ALIMENTATION DURABLE**  
de la Ville de Rennes

**OBJECTIFS DU PLAN À 2020**  
20% bio  
40% durable  
- 50% de gaspillage alimentaire

12000 repas/jour préparés par la Ville

4M€ d'achat de denrées alimentaires

2200 exploitations des aires de captages en eau potable

Valorisation de la production locale

La fabrique citoyenne de Rennes

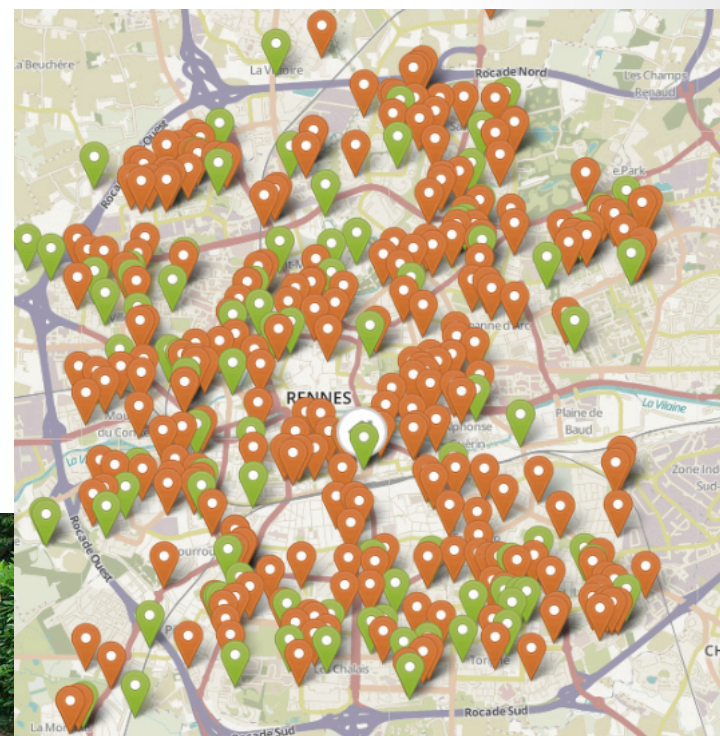
Logo: UEB, Eau du Bassin Rennais, MCE, rennes

# Urban Agriculture : actors, spaces, models

Source : site Ville de Rennes



Source : IC rennes



Source : <https://www.vertlejardin.fr/spip.php?rubrique34>



## Techniques / tools

Interviews / interviews grid

Participant observation / field notebook

Participation at meeting, round table, happenings

## Data Collected

45 interviews / 31 gardeners, 7 referents gardens or facilitators; 4 associations, 3 institutions)

Field Notes and Photos

Notes and Photos

# Interviews and Participating Observation (2016)

Source: goole map

## Legend

- 📍 jardin MCE
- 📍 Projet Jardin Esplanade
- 📍 Jardin Saint Cyr
- 📍 Garden Papu
- 📍 jardin bonheur
- 📍 jardin du Gacet
- 📍 Jardin Haut Ourmes
- 📍 Jardin Esperance

Livello senza titolo

Mappa base

Jardin Bonheur  
3 Interviews  
5 times (juin-sep)

Garden Papu  
1 Interview  
2 times

Jardins S.Cyr  
10 Interviews  
19 times +1CA

Projet Jardin  
Esplanade  
1 Interview  
2 meeting

Jardin MCE  
7 Interviews (3)  
18 ateliers +1 meeting (mai-oct)

Jardin Esperance  
2 Interviews (4)  
5 times (mai-sep)

Jardin Gacet  
3 Interviews (2)  
13 times (mai-sep)

Jardin HO  
5 Interviews (4)  
10 times (mai-oct)

# Theoretical background

- The territorialist's approach
  - Investigate the self-sustaining local development models, giving special attention to the inhabitants who take care of the places they inhabit (Poli, 2003; Magnaghi, 2010, Dematteis & Magnaghi, 2016).
  - **3 Level of analysis : individuals, resources, process**
- The research of economists and sociologists on territorial agri-food systems
  - Identify concrete issues and stakeholder systems in urban contexts (Rastoin & Gherzi, 2010)
  - **3 main categories : social morphology, spatiality, economic dynamics**
- Social geography
  - Analyse the agri-urban issues and the power relations that are at the root of the spaces of urban agriculture "in transactions" (Séchet, Garat & Zeneidi, 2008)
  - **Exploring dimensions of "espaces enjeux" (living space/spatial issues)**

# Method : A- Thematic analysis

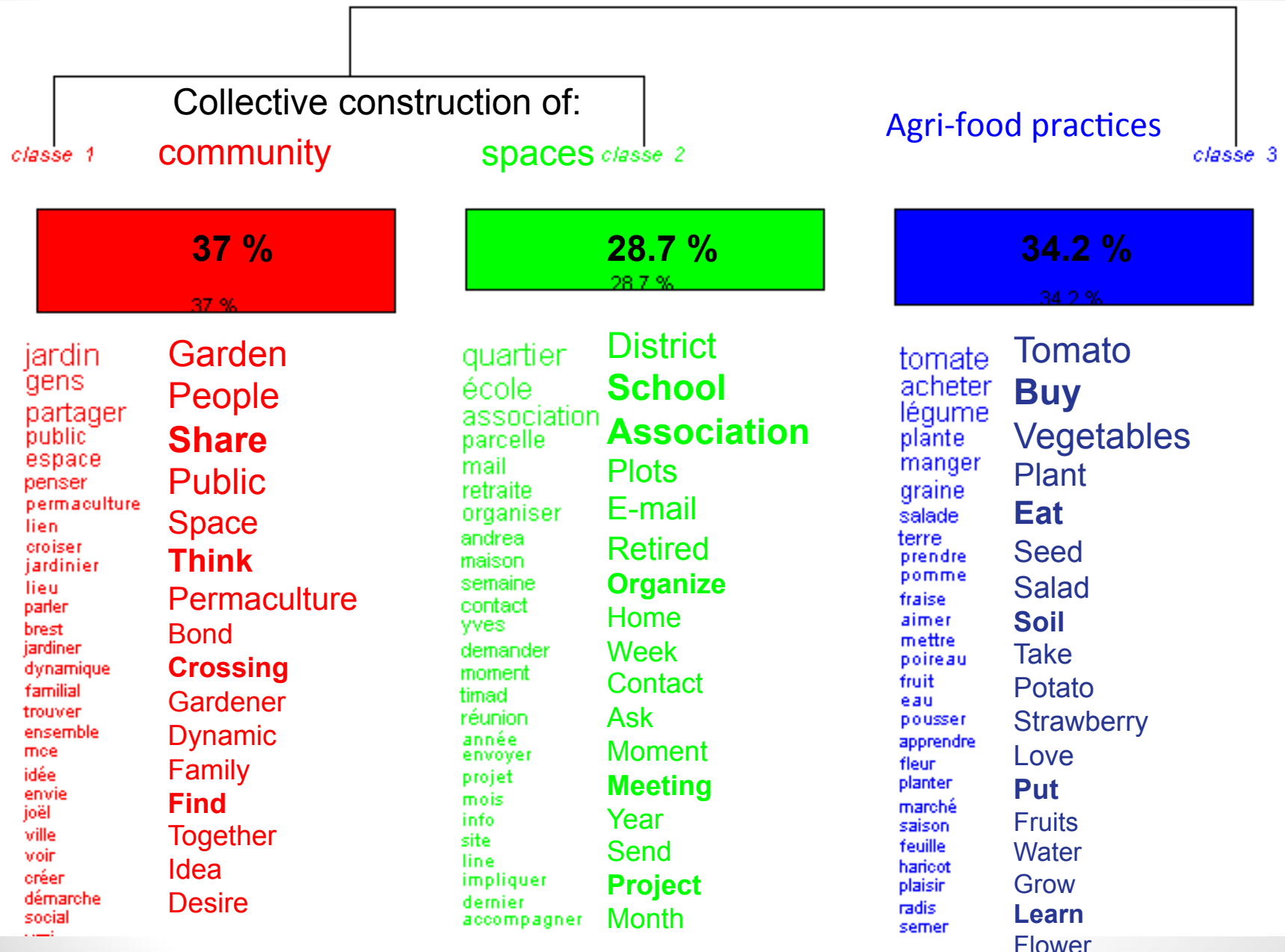
Code	Analysis Level	Code	Topic / Issues	Code	Dimension
I	Individuals	A	Agriculture	I	Ideologies
		M	Food		
		L	Ties and Network		
		Q	Scale: garden / district		
R	Resources	X	Space construction	E	Key Space
		I/E	Inputs / Outputs	F	Flows
		S	Knowledge	T	Temporalities
P	Processes	J	stakeholders, leadership	P	People / Key actor
		C	Coordination vs competition	H	Scale /level

**HP1** : The construction of **linkages** and **places**, though they result from the «inhabitants-gardeners» agri-food **practices**, are structuring their motivations

**HP2** : The process of territorialisation of the agro-food system is due to the richness of the **interactions, flows** and **networks** that are mobilized more than to the localism of the economic chains

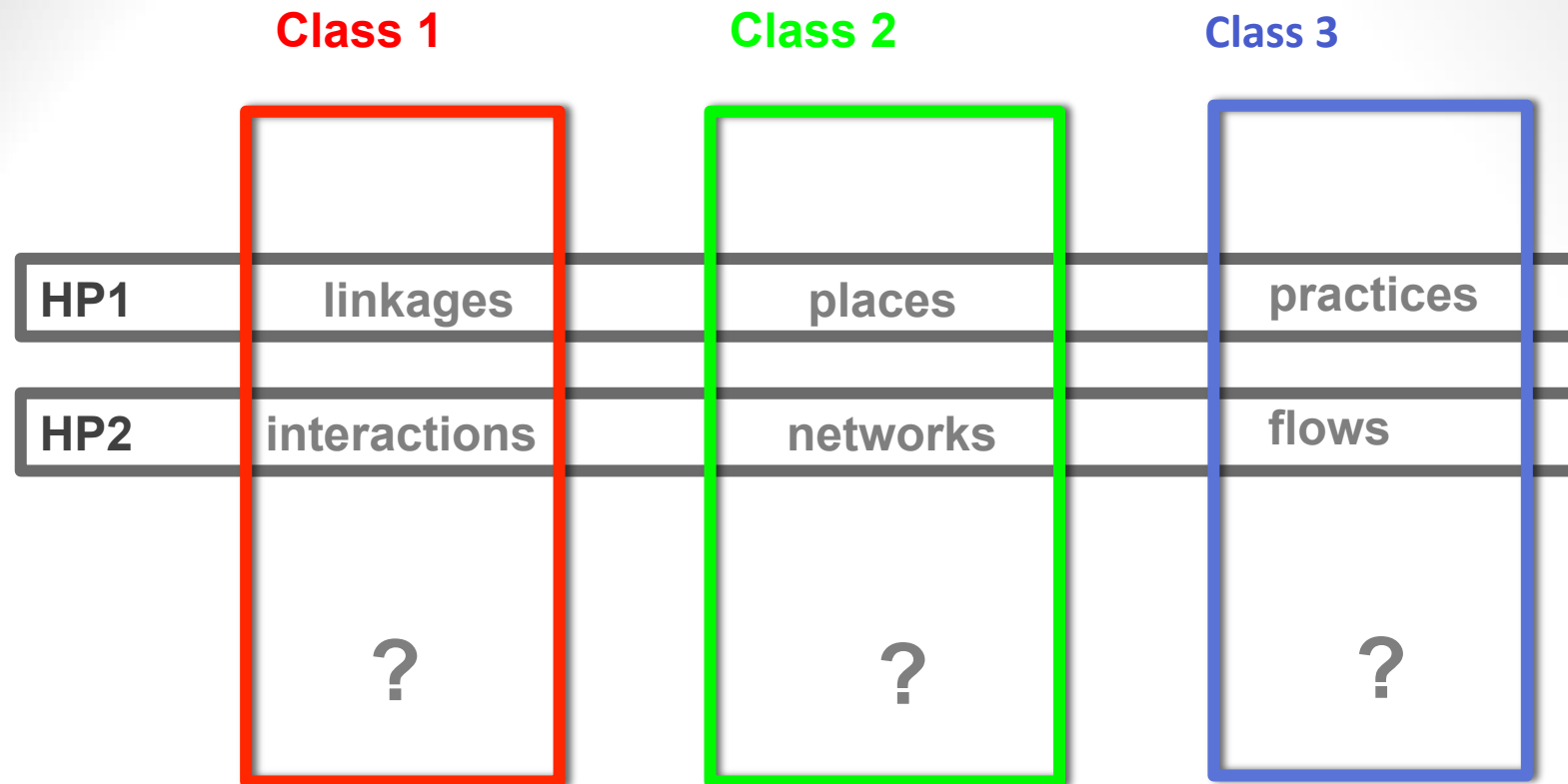
# B- Lexicometric analysis

30 Interviews : 80,000 forms









the construction of the social **linkages** results from positive (“exchange”) as negative (“pollution”, “difficulty”) **interactions** .

the construction of **places** with the **networks** construction and coordination by stressing the different roles and functions

the **flow** of resources with the gardeners' **practices** in relation with their relatives

# Linkages / Interactions

The community gardens are a places to share, exchange and discuss and the inhabitants are looking for spaces to forge ties with neighbours

*"my motivation is also to be at my door, before we lived in a house with a garden and we decided to move to an apartment and we are very pleased with this choice because in our garden we did not see the neighbours, we did not see people and I've tried to make my vegetable garden but I was not interested in do it alone and now I spend more time in this garden than in my own, even if I do not spend much I still spend a lot of time"* (Héloïse, interview conducted in November 2016)

Photos. Giacchè G. (2016)



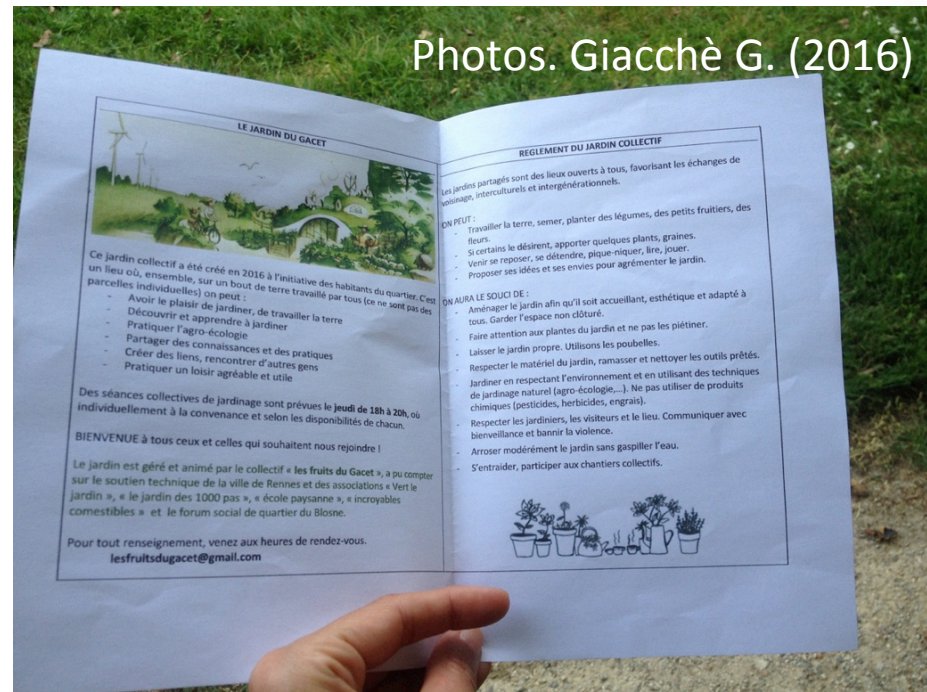
# Places / Networks

bottom-up driving-force / "top down" approach of the public body

*Vert le Jardin* facilitates the access to these process and tries to create a network at neighborhood level.

*"For us the most important is the consultation ..... we organize the "door to door" and we do very regularly ... .to each project we meet people with either the technicians of the municipality or with the manager of their building, there are people who are not used to go therefor, garden is also a pretext to take part in the city life. After the definition of the values there are other stages .....the agreement with the municipality of Rennes anyway, all the time we try to bring closer to the neighbourhood association» (Veronique, interview conducted in March 2016).*

*"Vert le Jardin association asked us to write a charter because the municipality asked for it and at the beginning It was not easy to do it considered that people were not necessarily motivated to do that it, they would be a totally freedom status but at the same time it is the municipality that provides us the plot ". (Jonas, interview conducted in May 2016)*



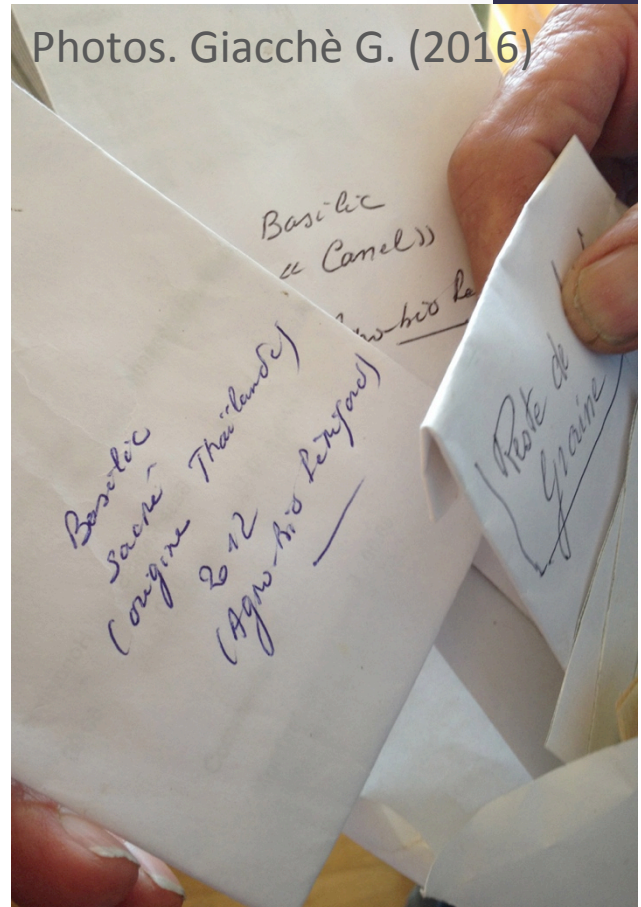
# Practices / Flows

”Genealogical Flows” determine the gardener’s agricultural and food practices

**Agricultural practice in rupture:** *"in the 80s it was the chemical and I am everything except chemical today ..., movements like permaculture and agroecology are top and those could be the norm and there are some studies that demonstrate that agroecology it is no less productive .... we can produce in a quantitative and qualitative way we just have to accept to produce differently we can not ask to the soil to produce all the year and all the time the same thing, the rotation and then it show that it is better to have several small farms than big players in the sector”* (Charles, interview conducted in 2016)

**Food practice in continuity** (after a break-up period) *“I did not discover new stuff in the garden, my parents were really oriented to organic food and naturopathy and I’ve really needed to break with that for a while because they were too militant...*

*I was tired of this morality because their speech was ...that people ate badly and that we must eat only the natural and organic and at the same time I thank my mother because she really educated us to organic, vegetables and everything, she allow me to discover all those varieties”* (Maelle, interview conducted in 2016)



# Final Remarks

- **Method:** lexicometry analysis ex-post confirms and enriches the thematic analysis
- **Background theory:** a pluralistic approach allow us to understand and explore the complexity of the CG / territorial AFS

**HP1 :** The construction of linkages and places, though they result from the «inhabitants-gardeners» agri-food practices, are structuring their motivations

**HP2 :** The process of territorialisation of the agro-food system is due to the richness of the interactions, flows and networks that are mobilized more than to the localism of the economic chains

The city-dwellers involvement in agro-food practices indicates some objectives and issues of territorial AFS e.g. territorial anchoring, diversified diet, technologies adapted to the environment, proximity in the food chain though that proximity refers more to the organisational and relational patterns than to spatial ones.

## Literature

Dematteis G., A. Magnaghi., 2016, « Relazione introduttiva », communication à la *Conférence annuelle de la Société des Territorialistes*, 20-21 octobre 2016, Galicano (Italie) [en ligne : <http://www.societadeiterritorialisti.it/wp-content/uploads/2016/11/Relazione-introduttiva-Dematteis-Magnaghi.pdf>]

Magnaghi A., 2010, *Progetto Locale*, Bollati Boringhieri, 256 p. (2ème édition).

Poli D., 2003, *Attraversare le immagini del territorio : un percorso fra geografia e pianificazione*, All'insegna del giglio, Firenze, 89 p.

Rastoin J.-L., G. Gherzi, 2010, *Le système alimentaire mondial : concepts et méthodes, analyses et dynamiques*, Quae, Anthony , 584 p.

Séchet R., I. Garat, D. Zeneidi (dir.), 2008, *Espaces en transactions*. Presses universitaires de Rennes, Rennes, 359 p. (Coll. Géographie sociale).

A photograph of a person with long, wavy red hair sitting on a wooden bench in a lush, green garden. The person is seen from behind, looking towards a stone wall and trees in the background. The garden is filled with various plants, including white and red flowers. The scene is bright and sunny.

Merci pour votre attention....