



The French CNRS/MITI SPA ("Savoir, Pouvoir, Avoir") Project

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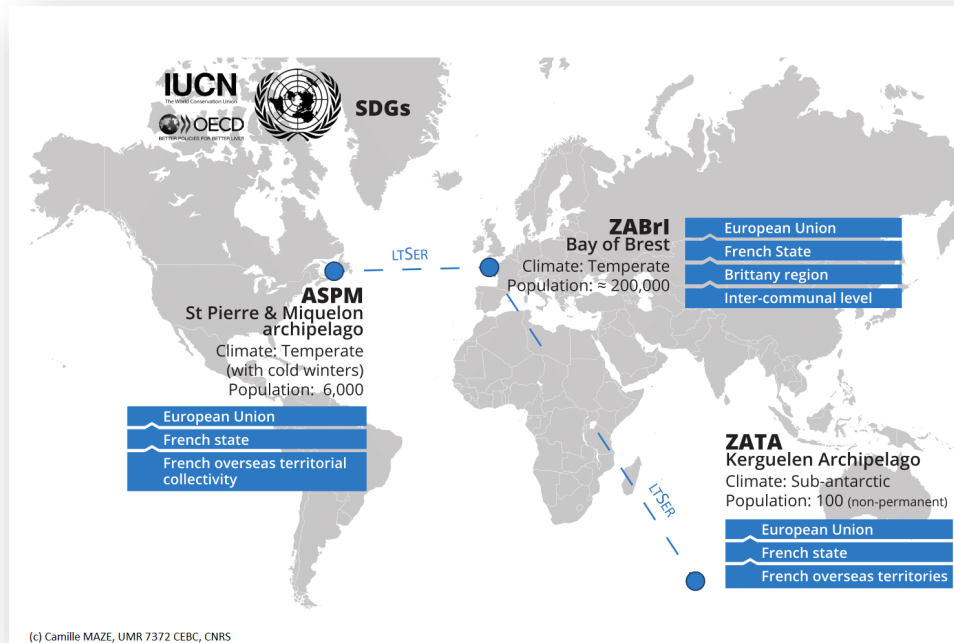
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The French CNRS/MITI SPA (“Savoir, Pouvoir, Avoir”) Project

By Camille MAZE, CNRS Senior Scientist and Anatole DANTO, CNRS PhD Candidate



Savoir, Pouvoir, Avoir, For a cross-fertilization between the social sciences of politics and the sciences of the marine environment in the study of the governance of marine and coastal social-ecological systems in order to foster transformation towards sustainability.

The SPA project presented here aims to open the black box of the “governance” of socio-ecological systems (Mazé and Ragueneau, 2017), by developing a critical analysis of impact assessment policy, chosen as the gateway to this theme at the interface between knowledge (Savoir), power (Pouvoir) and ownership (Avoir). The key to SPA's success is the incorporation of the social sciences of politics (SSP) with a deep anthropological dimension, into the science of sustainability and research on resilience. This allows the decision-making process to be explored, not only in terms of norms, tools and instruments for “good governance” towards sustainability, but also in terms of representations, practices, discourse, with an emphasis on actors, sociological networks and power balance. Associated with the natural sciences (in particular biogeochemistry, biology and ecology), SSPs make it possible to compare the scientific knowledge used in decision-making with the most recent descriptors of ecosystem complexity.

Different types of social-ecological systems mod-

elling are also taken as model for study and action. Combined with the new political sociology of science, SSPs explore the use of different types of knowledge (academic, traditional, local) in decision-making, particularly in relation to the notion of impact and impact studies.

SPA combines these theoretical innovations with empirical observations (socio-history and ethnography), conducted in an interdisciplinary, multi-level and multi-site approach, in three study sites (see map) corresponding to two LTSEr areas (Zone Atelier Brest-Iroise ZABrI, French Atlantic coast and French Southern and Antarctic Lands ZATA) and one site of global ecological interest (SEEG Saint-Pierre and Miquelon French Subarctic Archipelago, SPM), allowing a crossover approach along a north-south gradient (climate, types of ecosystem, biodiversity issues). These three sites offer also a strong political, sociological and anthropological gradient, within the case of the French State (resource management in regional and overseas post-colonial situation), with different anthropological pressure on the sites, institutional and public / private constellation and difference in the relation to nature. In the austral case, we have a strong links between science community, management administration and toothfish fishermen's group for conservation in the ZATA. In SPM, oppositions between economical motiva-

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tion to fish or to conserve new species in SPM (holothurian and seals) are dominant. And in the bay of Brest, the problem concerns the scallops and the ecological and social conditions for new fishing scenarios.

Thus, SPA proposes to compare different social-ecological system modelling frameworks by comparing the complexity descriptors (Science) with the quality of impact assessment (Expertise) and by analysing the decision-making process (Policy) implemented on different social-ecological systems for their sustainable management.

This research action is part of the general problem of international interdisciplinary thematic network in eco-political anthropology of the sea ApoliMer (see: <http://apolimer-cnrs.fr/>) and have scientific, socio-economic and political repercussions:

- ♦ Strengthen the place of the social sciences of politics in the science of sustainability, to give a new idea of power relations in the governance system of the SES, in particular coastal and marine;
- ♦ Breaking with the vague notion of “governance” by reviving the more effective concept of “collective action” to restore its complete complexity to the contemporary social construction of the modes of “government” / governance” and regulation of human-nature relations;
- ♦ Provide a new understanding of the dynamics and distribution of power in the interface between knowledge and politics, society and industry;
- ♦ Test the power of the different conceptual frameworks for representing SES and their modelling approaches (qualitative, quantitative) to improve SES governance by producing an integrated approach and a critical look at the data used in the decision-making process in relation to the complexity descriptors;
- ♦ Co-construct plausible SES management scenarios (“adaptive co-management”) with stakeholders involved in resource management that lead to a more sustainable transformation, integrating the study of power

relations around the concept of interest.

- ♦ This project hopes to contribute to the reconciliation of nature and culture, exploitation and conservation, through the political ties.

This project enters its third and final phase in 2019. Many ethnographic missions have been conducted in the three territories concerned by the project between 2017 and 2018, others are still scheduled around the summer 2019 by the consortium set up for the project. Four interdisciplinary papers have already been published:

- ♦ Choquet, A., Faure, C., Danto, A., Mazé, C. (2018). Governing the Southern Ocean: The science-policy interface as thorny issue. *Environmental science & policy*, 89, 23-29. DOI: 10.1016/j.envsci.2018.06.017
- ♦ Danto, A., Mazé, C., & Ragueneau, O. (2018). Sur le terrain de l’océanographie politique : carnets de terrain, ethnographie multi-sites et modes de gouvernement de la Mer au croisement des sciences sociales et des sciences de la nature. *Social Science Information*, 57(3), 448-475. DOI: 10.1177/0539018418794329
- ♦ Mazé, C., Coston-Guarini, J., Danto, A., Lambrechts, A., & Ragueneau, O. (2018). Dealing with impact. An interdisciplinary, multi-site ethnography of environmental impact assessment in the coastal zone. *Natures sciences sociétés*. DOI: 10.1051/nss/2018050
- ♦ Mazé, C., Ragueneau, O., (2017). Governance of the ocean: where science meets politics / La gouvernance de l’océan, un chantier politique multi-niveaux », in *L’Océan à découvrir*, Ed. CNRS.

The last phase will also be published in scientific journals or international conferences. For more information, please contact Mrs Camille Mazé: camille.maze@cebc.cnrs.fr. The authors would like to thank the MITI of the CNRS for funding this research, as well as the French RZA (French LTSER Network).

Map: sites of the project © Camille Mazé/CNRS, 2017.