



# Penser les espaces vidéoludiques comme des discours sociologiques : le cas des villes dans *EarthBound* et *Mother 3*

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UNIVERSITÉ  
DE LORRAINE

crem centre  
de recherche  
EA 3476 sur les médiations  
communication, langue, art, culture

OMNISHI





# MISSING GIRL RESCUED FROM CULT

A local teenager was rescued yesterday from the clutches of the Happy Happy Village cult by a heroic youth named Ness. The Happy Happy Cult, led by Mr. Carpenter, has been active in Twoson and the Happy Happy Valley where cult members have painted the town blue. Paula, the daughter of the owners of Polestar Day Care, was abducted several days ago in Twoson by Happy Happy cult sympathizers. The girl used her remarkable telepathic abilities to lead Ness to

the location where she was being held prisoner. Once Ness reached Happy Happy Village, he searched the cult hall and reportedly fought several Happy Happyists before reaching Carpenter's shrine. The cult leader was unwilling to hand over the keys for Paula's prison cell to Ness. Ness then battled the false prophet and won the key, releasing Paula soon thereafter. When the two young heroes returned to Twoson, there was great rejoicing.





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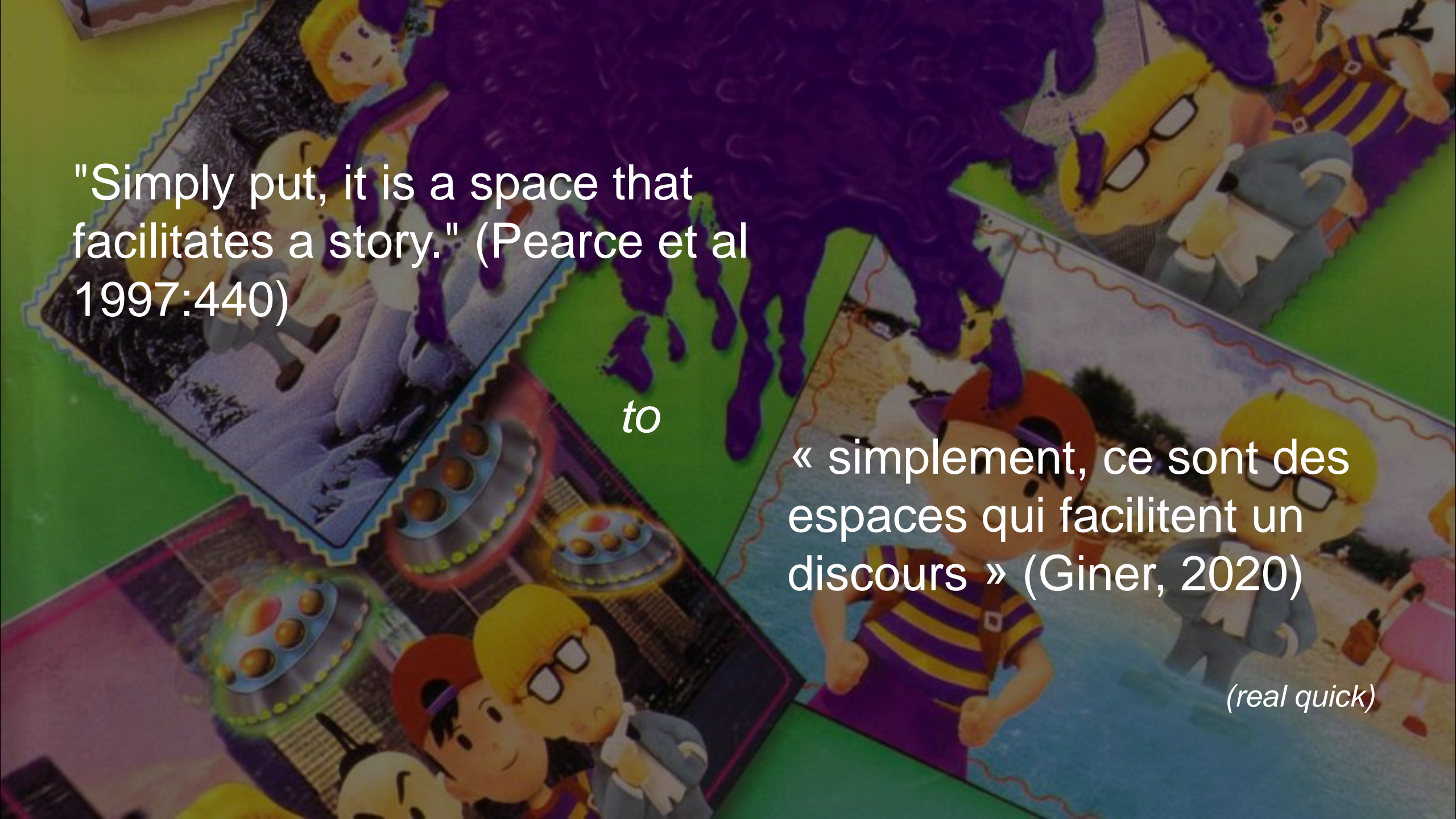




"des interprétations d'un morceau de réalité sociale construites à partir d'une boîte à outils conceptuels et méthodologiques."

(Fugier 2008:2)





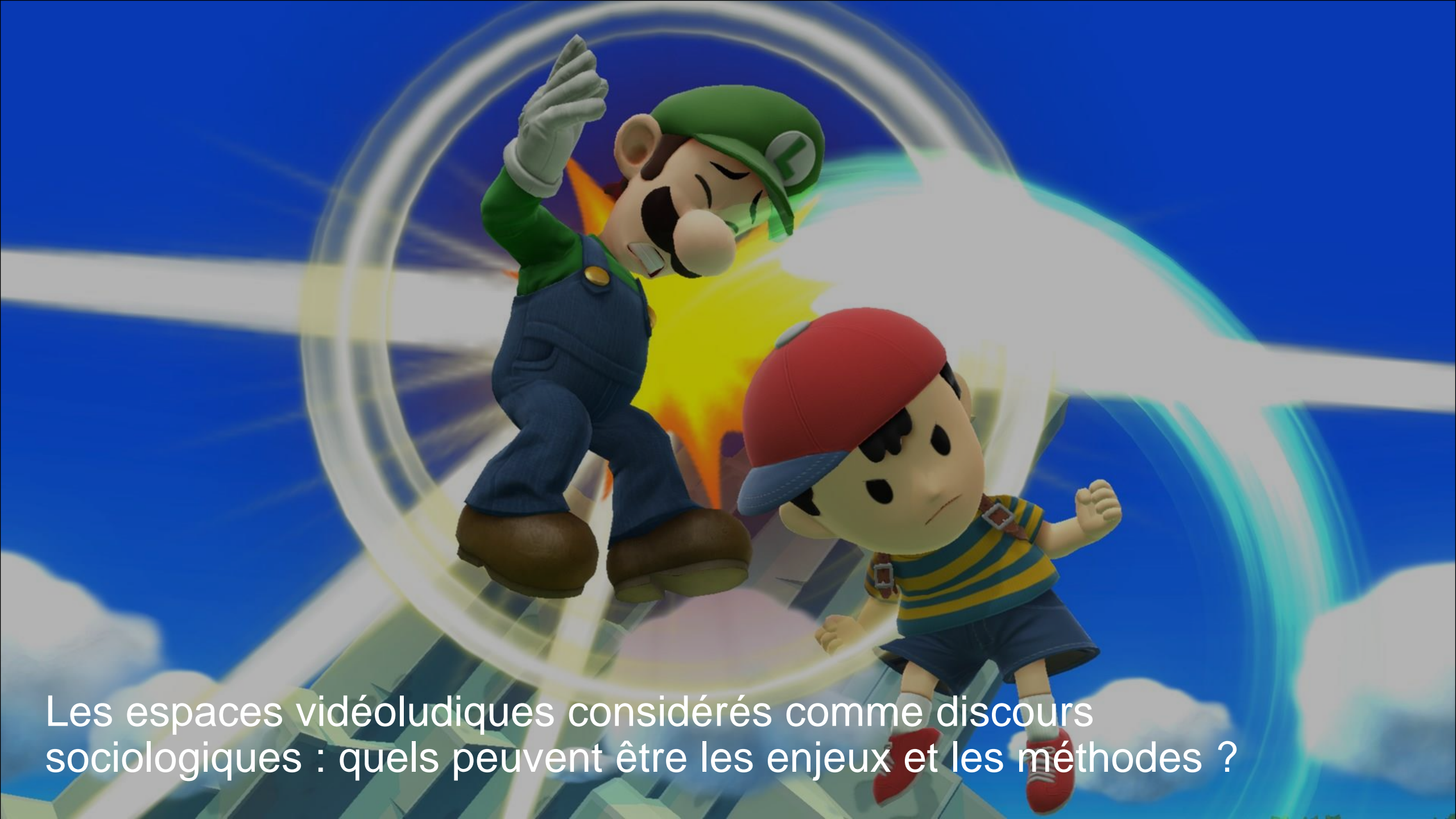
"Simply put, it is a space that facilitates a story." (Pearce et al 1997:440)

*to*

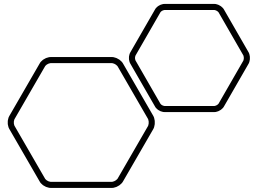
« simplement, ce sont des espaces qui facilitent un discours » (Giner, 2020)

*(real quick)*





Les espaces vidéoludiques considérés comme discours sociologiques : quels peuvent être les enjeux et les méthodes ?



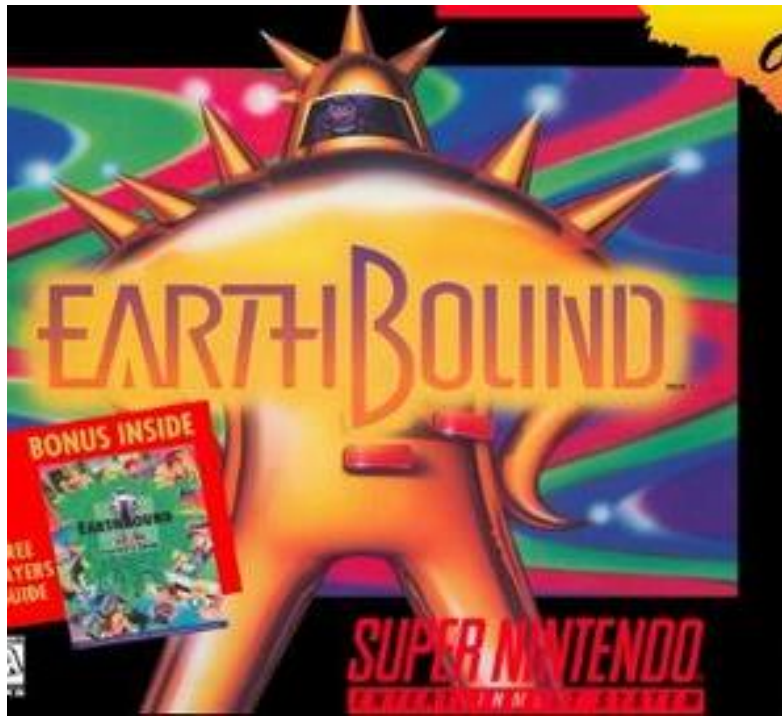
## Les *Mothertales*

des jeux de rôle  
linéaires qui  
subvertissent les  
codes du genre tout  
en abordant au  
premier degré des  
problématiques de  
sociétés.



# eltarun

## Chapter 1







# La spatialité des discours sociologiques dans *EarthBound*



**EagleLand**

イーグルランド

**ONETT**

オネット

**FOURSIDE**

フォーサイド

**DOKODOKO DESERT**

ドコドコ砂漠

**THREEK**

スリーク

**TWOSON**

ツーノン

**FoggyLand**

フォギーランド

**WINTERS**

ウィンターズ

**STONE HENGE**

ストーンヘンジ

**SUMMERS**

サマーズ

**TOTO**

トト

チヨンモ  
**Chommo**

**RAMMA**

ランマ

"Le décor urbain, pour sa part, a au moins deux utilités : d'un côté, il fait office de symbole du monde moderne et, de l'autre, il sert de référence au quotidien des joueurs. Les relations qui se tissent entre la ville physique actuelle et l'activité ludique sont au cœur des processus de transformation et des nouvelles appropriations possibles" (Filippo and Schmoll 2016:133)



# TRAVEL & SHOPPING GUIDE

## ONETT

Nestled in a northern meadow, Onett is a pleasant village with a small-town atmosphere that is relaxing at any time of year. Spring, summer, winter or fall, it makes a great place to get away from it all. When you visit, don't miss the crater south of town.

**STATE OF THE ART ARCADE**  
Onett has a great arcade in the downtown area. It has all of the biggest arcade titles, including, of course, the latest and greatest of them all: Killer Instinct. Players from all over Onett get together every afternoon, so if you're traveling with kids, be sure to put a stop here on your "to do" list.

**GIANT STEP**  
Just north of Onett is an unusual land formation that looks quite literally as if it were a giant's footstep. Of course, many local legends abound about its origin, it's a tourist favorite.

**Scenic Vistas**  
The people of Onett take great pride in their small hamlet. The streets are meticulously neat and are lined with towering maple trees that put on an incredible show in the autumn when their leaves turn to brilliant shades of yellow and orange. Be sure to take a short side trip to the coast just west of town to see the beautiful view from the bluff. During the summer months, when weather permits, a local musician plays to entertain visitors as they enjoy the view.

**SEASONAL ROAD CLOSURES**  
Be sure to call ahead when you're planning a trip to Onett. The police contract business wherever there's a hint of winter hazards on roads leading to or from the city.

**MEN IN BLUE PROTECT AND SERVE**  
Onett has a fine police force that keeps the streets safe for visitors and residents alike. When you see one of the public servants on the street, be sure to stop and say hello. Sometimes an officer can give you

**HISTORIC LIBRARY**  
Don't miss Onett's extensive library which is a rich source of local history as well as books that they give freely to visitors. Take your time exploring the stacks.

**FAST FACTS**

- Population: 2,500
- Days: 2
- Average Temperature: 72°F
- Annual Rainfall: 10"

# TWOSON

Sunny streets and a year-round mild climate beckon travelers to Twoson. There is plenty to entertain them in town and nearby. It's a town that should be on everyone's itinerary. Don't miss it!

**FAST FACTS**

- Population: 3,78
- Days: 1
- Average Temperature: 77°F
- Vendors in Park: 10
- Mushrooms: 15

**Congenial Customs**  
The people of Twoson are especially congenial and will tell you all about their fair city if you ask them to. Just talk to everyone you run into and find out everything of interest happening while you're there.

**SHOP THE FLEA MARKET**  
Don't miss the Flea Market in Burger Park. You'll find all sorts of goodies for sale there, some of them very rare and valuable. It's open daily during daylight hours. The park is a popular gathering spot for locals, too.

**CATCH THE RUNAWAY FIVE IN CONCERT**  
The famed Runaway Five appear in concert nightly at the Chase Theater. Tickets are \$10. First, on buy-one.

**GATEWAY TO PEACEFUL REST VALLEY**  
Although there is plenty to do in town, Twoson is also known as the Gateway to Peaceful Rest Valley. Making a beautiful backdrop of town, its unusual landmarks include L.I.F.E. and Sleeping Rabbits, attracting lights for their love. A pleasant stream runs through the valley, which is a great place to hunt for wild mushrooms.

**FAST FACTS**

- Population: 1,500
- Climates: 2,000
- Temperature: 62°F
- Rainfall: 56"
- Pumpkin Patches: 12
- Cryptids: 2
- Days: 2
- Less Tires: Seven 0

**GRAPEFRUIT FALLS**  
The Runaway Five of Grapefruit Falls cascade into the long lake. Indeed, visitors will find a variety of uses beyond the grapefruit in Three-Blue looks to this valley again. They should be warning! But many dangers await here, including a bad smelling monster.

**THE CLOUDS OF THREEED**  
One of the great meteorological mysteries of our age can be found in the overcast skies of Threeed. Although the city is located near the Dusty Dunes Desert where the intense sunlight can cause severe tan lines, Threeed itself languishes under a gloomy cap of clouds. Scientists from around the world have studied the phenomenon, but so far no reason can be found for the mysterious presence of the cumulo nimbus. Even stranger is the fact that Threeed was once a sunny resort city before the changing weather patterns and influx of undead inhabitants.

**GRAVEYARD TOUR**  
History buffs, mediums and scolders of all ages won't want to miss the graveyard tour in Threeed. Both ceremonies in town remain open to the public, though the latter is only available on special occasions.

**SATURN VALLEY**  
The Saturn Valley is home to an unusual race of people known collectively as the Saturns. In recent times, the journey to the Saturn Valley has become dangerous and difficult. Only the most adventurous travelers will want to make this side trip.

**MILKY WELL**  
One of the colorful legends of this region concerns a place called the Milky Well where unusual sounds emanate from the ground itself. Today, visitors can record the sound music and take a home with them.

**FAST FACTS**

- Population: 313,003
- Average Rainfall: 32"
- Average Income: \$59,000
- Major Industries: Finance
- Days: 10

# THREED

Threeed was once called the "Fun" capital of the world because it is home to the famous Threeed Circus. More recently, however, the city's fortunes have dipped due to an incursion of zombies. You may find the city less accommodating than in previous years.

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# TRAVEL & SHOPPING GUIDE

## FOURSIDESIDE

If you're traveling in Eagleland and would like to spend a night on the town, Fourside is the best place to go. This major urban metropolis boasts skyscrapers, theaters, hotels, department stores, parks and museums like any of the world's great cities.

**THE TOPOLLA THEATER**  
The Topolla Theater in downtown Fourside features many of the top acts now touring the country, including Broadway with its state-of-the-art Runaway Five. Nightly shows cost \$30 and special guests are well-known box office before they show. Like many of the big attractions in Fourside, the Topolla belongs to Manetta Enterprises.

**NEW YORK IN EAGLELAND**  
Fourside has often been compared to the Big Apple, New York City. The similarities are striking, from the towering skyscrapers to the constant bustle of the streets. Some visitors quickly note some less favorable comparisons, like the presence of shady businessmen and politicians in Fourside, but this seamy side of the city won't stand in the way of most tourists having a wonderful stay in the Big Apple, as it is fondly known to its inhabitants.

**DINOSAUR MUSEUM**  
You'll always find an academic researcher inside willing to answer your questions when you visit the Dinosaur Museum. Since the museum's opening, it has been a major attraction near Toronto and has been brought to the museum to be just an exhibit.

**FAST FACTS**

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Une ville pour une problématique

1. Un gang versus une police inefficace
2. Une secte religieuse
3. Une pollution des eaux
4. Du népotisme



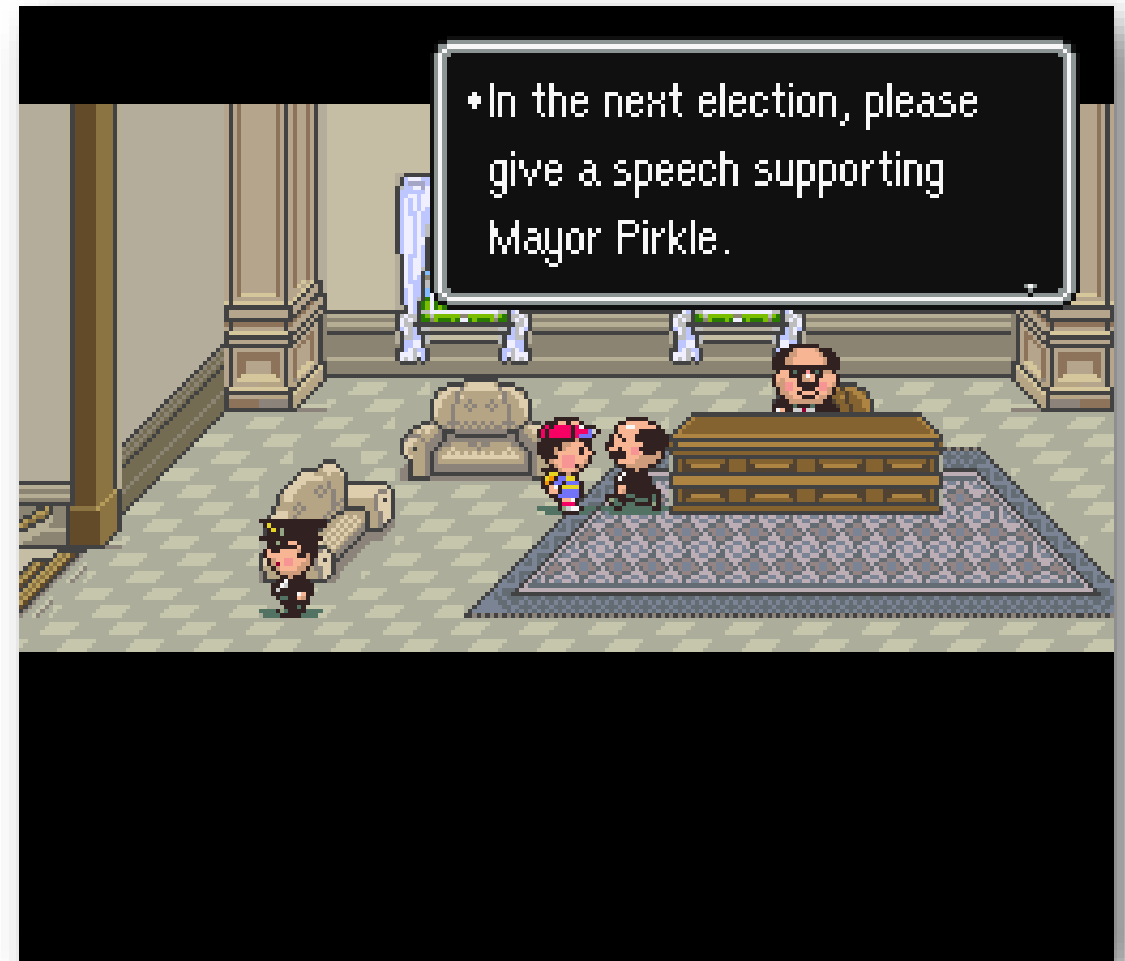








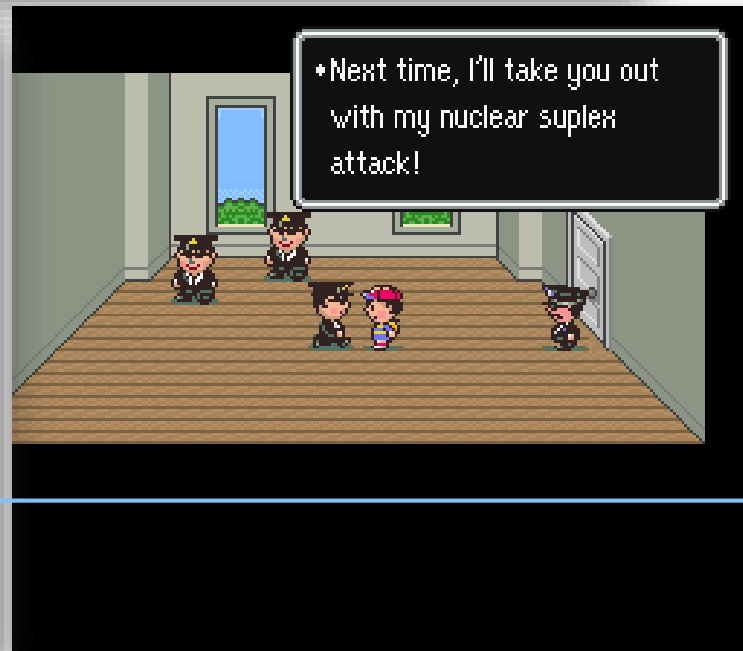




"You beat up the town bullies, punched them out big time, kicked their butts, bit their heads off, spit in their eyes, and made them wet their pants. Then you forced them to promise not to make any more trouble. Thank you! [...] However, if you encounter a dangerous situation, please don't ask me to take any responsibility. I'll be able to avoid any responsibility, right?" (Pirkle, ingame)



## POLICE ATTACK INNOCENT BOY!!



Five policemen, under the direction of Chief Strong, ganged up on a local youth who, they claim, was trespassing in closed territory. To their surprise, the boy trounced them all, including the chief. It was caught on video by a bystander and will be aired on this evening's news.



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# FOURSIDE POST

No. 23456  
Now available  
through subscription  
still only 45c

## THE GRAND GRANDE OPENS TO FEVERED SHOPPERS!

Fourside's premier shopping emporium reopens its doors today amid speculation that the interior lighting is susceptible to black outs. Department managers throughout the four-storey monument to consumerism in downtown Fourside commented that they expect record-setting crowds.



## TWOSON THIEF FINDS DEAD END ALLEY

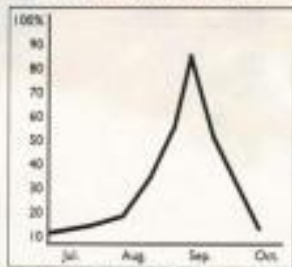
Convicted thief, Al Everdred from Twoson, was discovered battered in the alley beside Jackie's Cafe. One witness reported that the man was woozy yet rude. "He called Mayor Monotoli a thief," reported Ms. T. Owsen. "Can you imagine?"



## MONOTOLI SUPPORT FADES AS CRIME SPREE SPREADS

Fourside Mayor, Geldegarde Monotoli, rejected criticisms that his administration has aided and abetted the criminal elements in the city. "It's simply preposterous," blustered the mayor.

"Under my leadership, there has been an increase in public awareness of crimes, that's all. We've brought crime out of the back alleys and into the daylight where it belongs." Critics maintain that Monotoli operates numerous illegitimate businesses from his office tower.



## RARE STATUE OF PURE EVIL REPORTED MISSING

A rare golden statue said to be the embodiment of concentrated evil was reportedly lost in Fourside. Experts believe that the statue may cause unusual phenomenon. "We may experience a reversal of normal events," explains Dr. Hildebrand Pell. "Pigs may fly. It should be quite exciting." The ancient statue of Mami Mani was last seen in the possession of Mayor Monotoli.



## COMPLAINTS MOUNT OVER BUTTERFINGERED COURIERS

Continuing complaints aimed at Escargo Express Inc. may lead to a general boycott of the specialized delivery firm. Courier, Don Yawn, was indifferent to the accusations of his gratuitous carelessness. "So I dropped a priceless package down a gopher hole. Hey, they should've insured it."



## DINOSAURS REPORTED IN MYSTERIOUS EAST

The local Dinosaur Museum has reportedly received "fresh" dinosaur bones delivered from the Scaraba area. Proof of this was obtained when the curator opened a new restaurant that served ribs measuring 12 feet in length.



## U.F.O. SPOTTED OVER FOURSIDE

Dozens of citizens reported seeing an unidentified flying object in the skies above Fourside. According to some witnesses, the round, flying saucer-shaped vehicle wobbled across the sky as if it was



attached to a wire. "It looked like one of them movie spaceships," said eyewitness, T. Munson. Others reported seeing a weather balloon, swamp gas or a duck.







« In the old days, Mr. Monotoli was just a regular, unattractive real estate agent. Now he has the power to control the police force. I don't think the city of Fourside is better than before. »  
(un habitant de Fourside, Earthbound)



# THREED

## The Clouds of Threed

One of the great meteorological mysteries of our age can be found in the overcast skies of Threed. Although the city is located near the Dusty Dunes Desert where the intense sunlight can cause severe tan lines, Threed itself languishes under a gloomy cap of clouds. Scientists from around the world have studied the phenomenon, but so far no reason can be found for the mysterious presence of the cumulo nimbus. Even stranger is the fact that Threed was once a sunny resort city before the changing weather patterns and influx of undead inhabitants.



## GRAVEYARD TOUR

History buffs, mediums and occultists of all types won't want to miss the graveyard tour in Threed. Both cemeteries in town remain open to the public throughout the year. Self-guided tours only. May be subject to zombie attack!



## GRAPEFRUIT FALLS

The thundering waters of Grapefruit Falls cascade into the long lake. Intrepid travelers will find a secret road beyond the graveyard in Threed that leads to this watery region. They should be aware of the many dangers found here including a foul smelling monster.



# TRAVEL & SHOPPING FOURSIDE

If you're traveling in Eagleland and would like to spend a night on the town, Fourside is the best place to go. This major urban metropolis boasts skyscrapers, theaters, hotels, department stores, parks and museums like any of the world's great cities.



## THE TOPOLLA THEATER

The Topolla Theater in downtown Fourside features many of the top acts now touring the country, including favorites such as the Runaway Five. Nightly shows cost \$20 and special guests are welcomed backstage before the show. Like many of the big attractions in Fourside, the Topolla belongs to Manotel Enterprises.

## FIRST CLASS SHOPPING IN FOURSIDE

Fourside offers the casual or serious shopper a wealth of possibilities, from the food arcades near the lake to the towering Grand Department Store. The Grand, although temporarily closed from time to time, has a wide selection of goods.



# TWOSON



## Congenial Customs

The people of Twoson are especially congenial and will tell you all about their fair city if you ask them to. Just talk to everyone you run into and find out everything of interest happening while you're there.



## CATCH THE RUNAWAY FIVE IN CONCERT

The famed Runaway Five appear in concert nightly at the Chase Theater. Tickets sell out fast, so buy early.



## GATEWAY TO PEACEFUL REST VALLEY

Although there is plenty to do in town, Twoson is also known as the Gateway to Peaceful Rest Valley, a beautiful site east of town. Its unusual inhabitants include L1/LFOs and interesting sights on their own. A pleasant stream valley, which is a great place to hunt for wild musk.

# TRAVEL & SHOPPING ONETT

Nestled in a pleasant village that is relaxing summer, winter to get away from miss the crater!

## STATE OF THE ART ARCADE



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## GIANT STEP

Just north of Onett is an unusual land formation that looks, quite literally, as if it were a giant's footprint. Of course, many local legends abound about its origin. It's a tourist favorite.



## SEASONAL ROAD CLOSURES

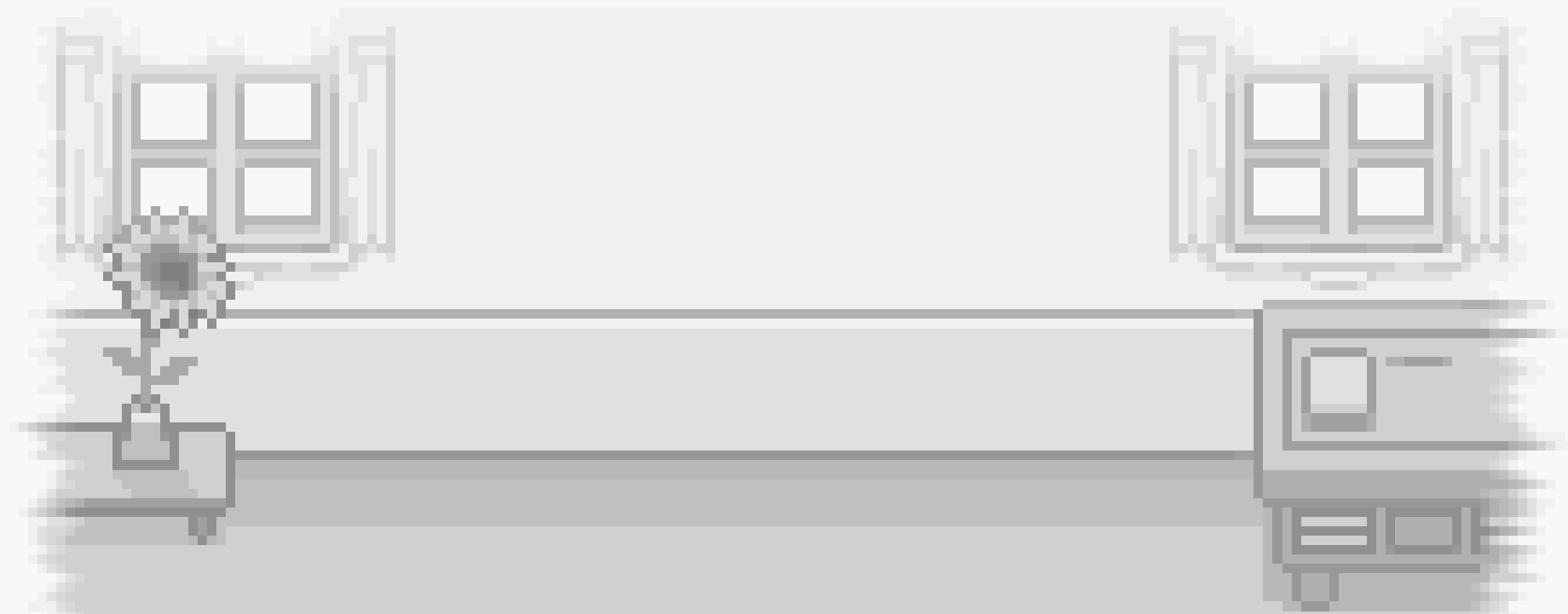


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## MEN IN BLUE PROTECT AND SERVE

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# La segmentation chronologique du discours dans Tazmily





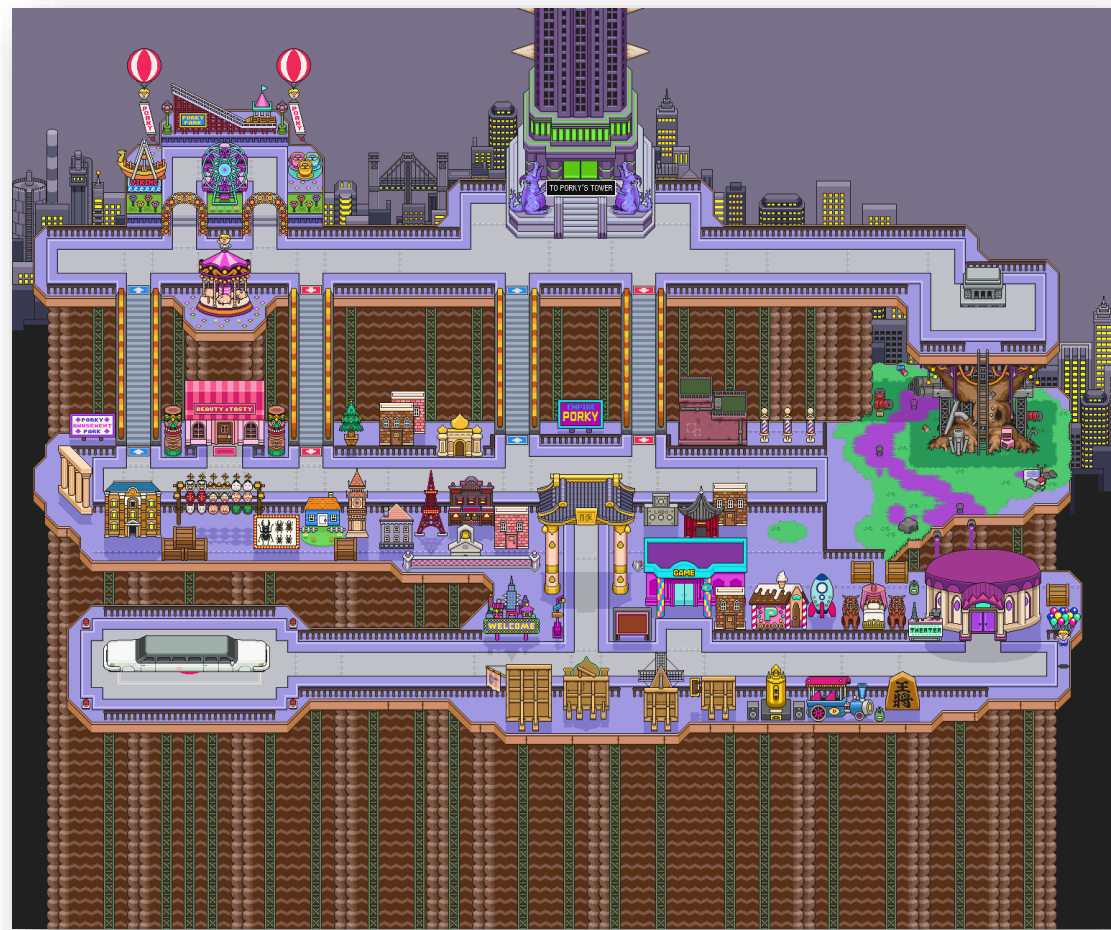
Alec

• Now then, it's time for me to return to the story.





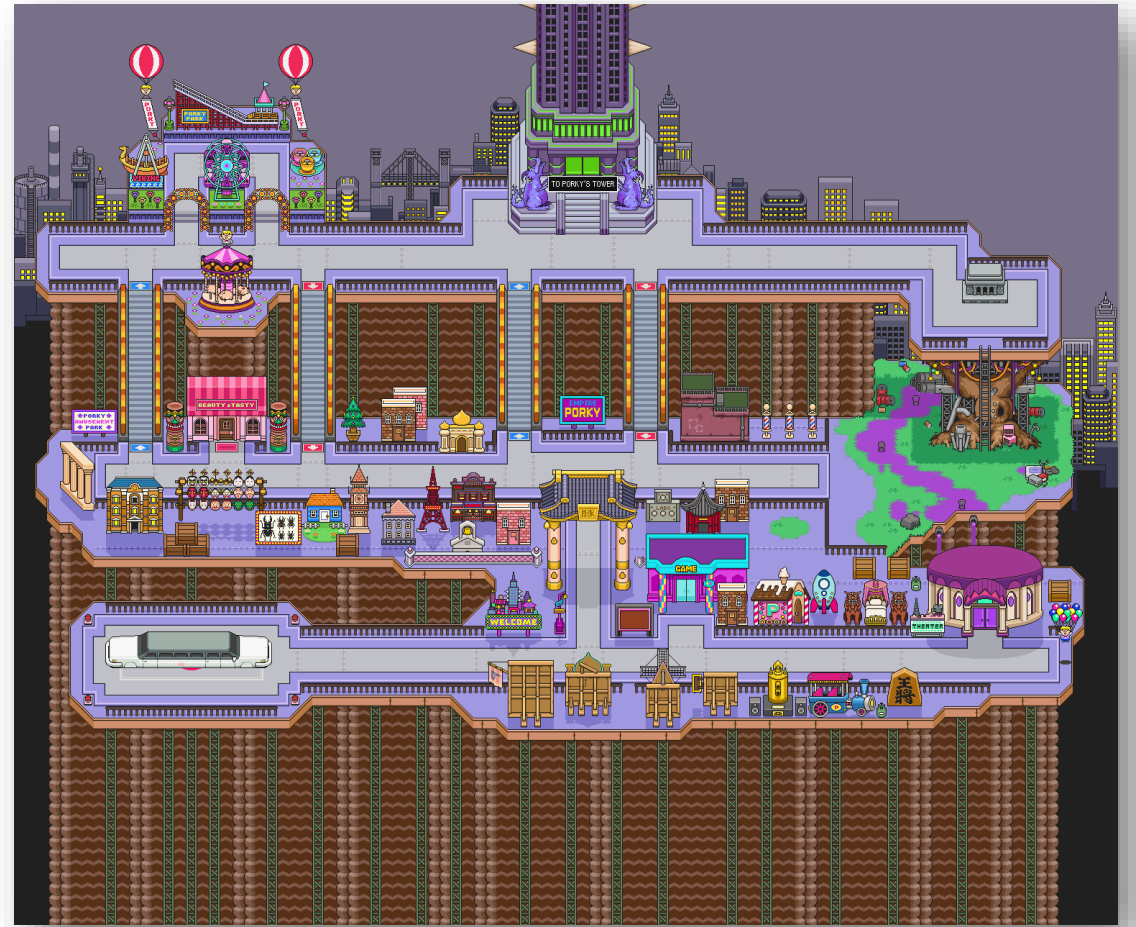
Tazmily



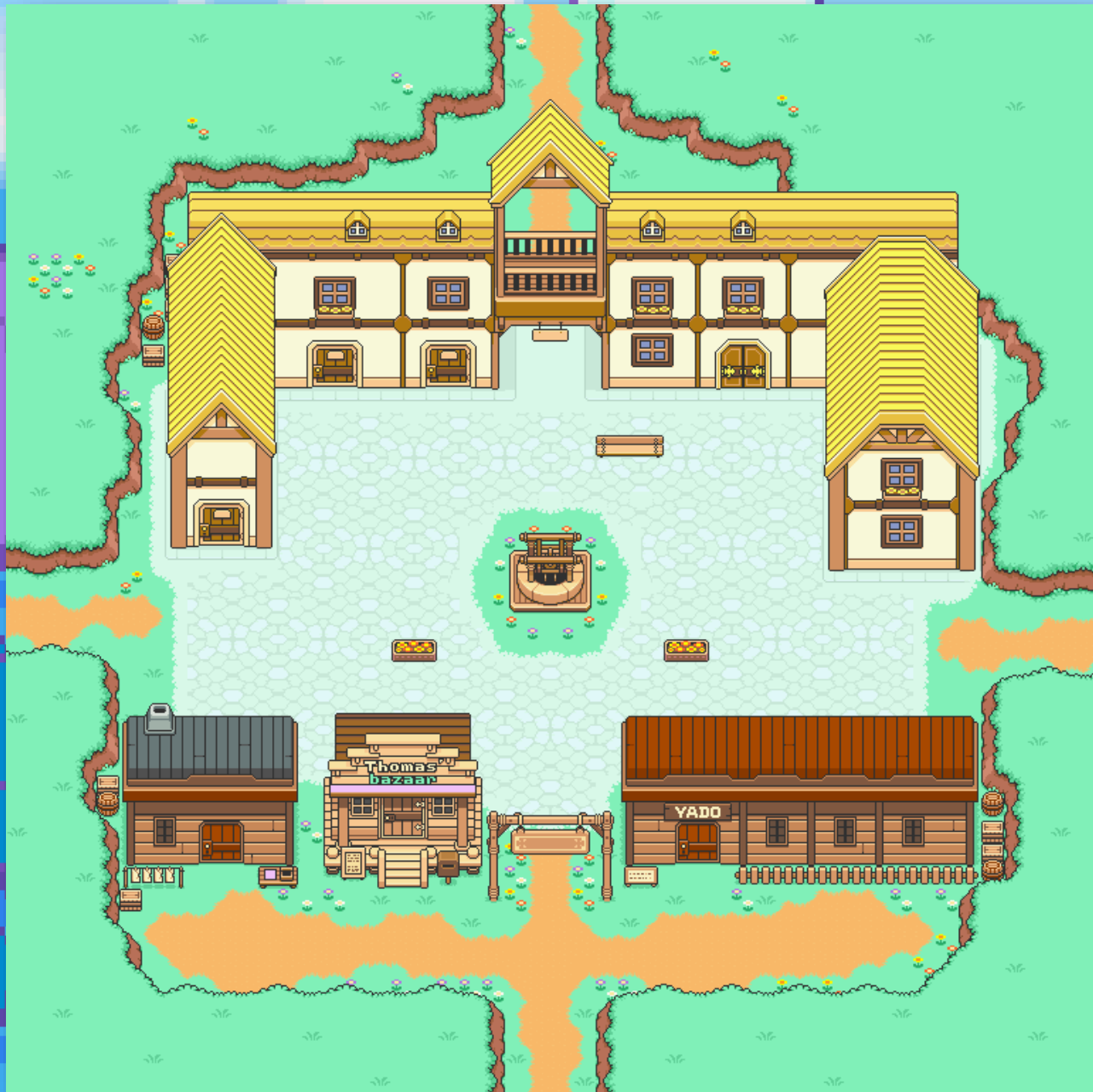
New Pork City



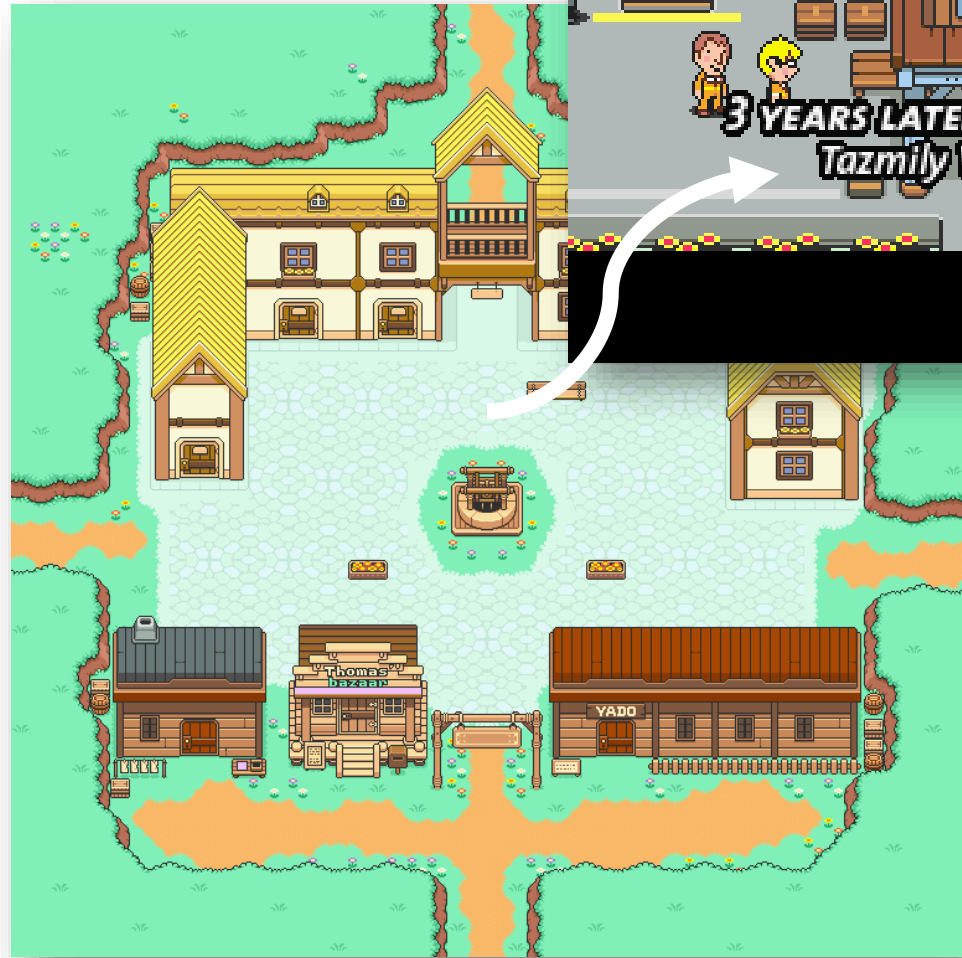
Tazmily



New Pork City









L'un des résidents de la maison de retraite, dans sa chambre.

Une absence de régulation du travail pour les mineurs.







TO PORKY'S TOWER

Sparrow

The people of Tazmily have been moving to New Pork City one after the other.

Sparrow

The results of this are as plain as day: the village is now silent, and its liveliness gone.

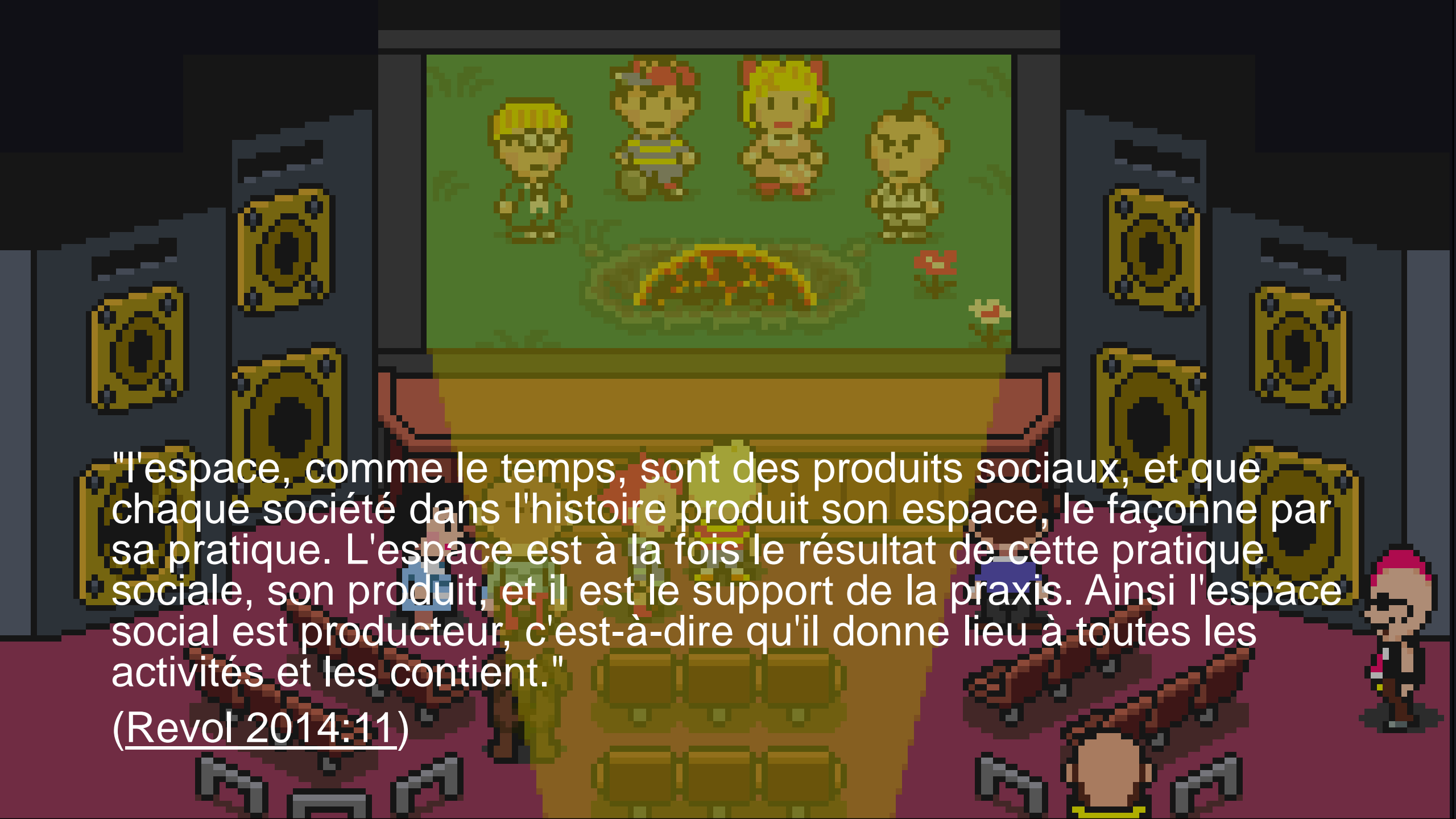
Sparrow

There are even rumors that Mayor Pusher is considering moving away soon.)



**Pour une recherche sur le design  
de systèmes discursifs et les  
designs systémiques**





"l'espace, comme le temps, sont des produits sociaux, et que chaque société dans l'histoire produit son espace, le façonne par sa pratique. L'espace est à la fois le résultat de cette pratique sociale, son produit, et il est le support de la praxis. Ainsi l'espace social est producteur, c'est-à-dire qu'il donne lieu à toutes les activités et les contient."

(Revol 2014:11)

**PERSUASIF**

EXERCISATION  
GUIDANCE

RÉCEPTION  
TRANSMISSION

EXPÉRIMENTATION  
REACTIVITÉ

OBSERVATION  
MODÉLISATION

DÉBAT  
ANIMATION

CRÉATION  
CONFORTATION

MÉTA RÉFLEXION  
CO-RÉFLEXION

EXPLORATION  
DOCUMENTATION

**EXPRESSIF**



Giner, E. (2018). Être seul(e) sur une île, témoin de son apprentissage. Communication lors du colloque « Entre le jeu et le joueur : écarts et médiations » organisé par le Liège Gamelab et l'université de Liège. Liège : les 26, 27 et 28 octobre.





## Machine

- Expérience-cadre
- Stratégie discursives

## Opérateur-ice

- Procédures
- Stratégies interprétatives

Policeman

• I'm sorry, but car puns drive me crazy.



## Systemic design

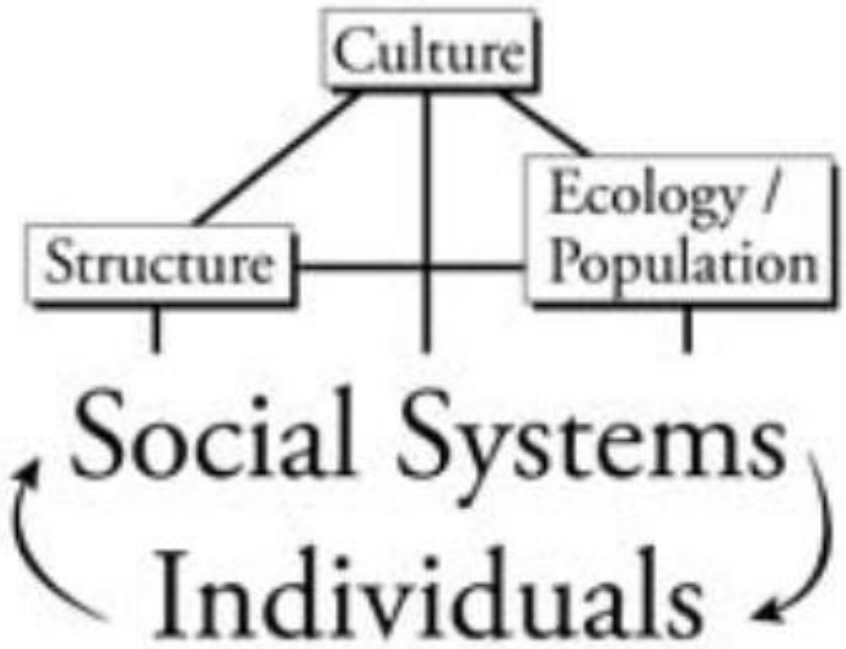
- « Parts: Fundamental and structural components.
- Loops: Functional elements enabled by the structure and built from parts.
- Whole: Aspects of architecture and theme arising from the functional elements, the loops." (Sellers 2017:119)

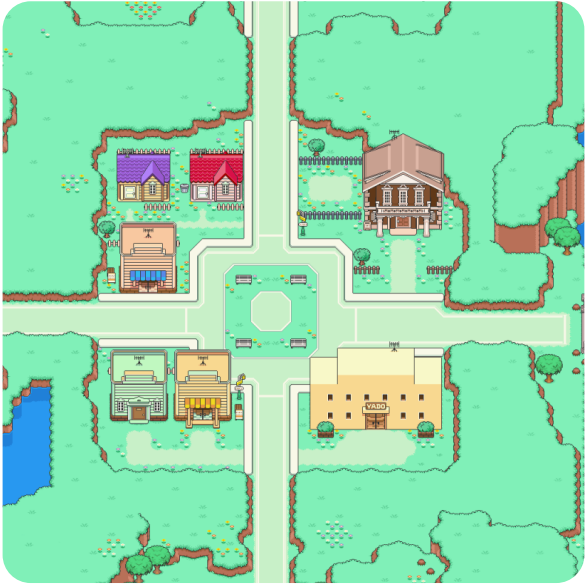


# People, Systems, and the Game of Monopoly

[Facebook](#) [Twitter](#) [Tumblr](#) [Email](#)

An extended clip from a presentation Allan gave on race at the University of Wisconsin, including an example of social systems with the game of Monopoly used to illustrate the relationship between individuals and systems. The video includes a description of the system of white privilege.





## Les *designs* systémiques des discours sociologiques dans Earthbound et Mother3

- Une structure qui formalise les interrelations pragmatiques et fictionnelles entre les éléments du système. C'est finalement le *game design* systémique au sens usuel. Dans *EarthBound*, on se bat avec des policiers via une interface de combat et la police dans le jeu est une construction fictionnelle au même titre que la mairie, etc.
- Une culture qui amène les éléments discursifs avec lesquels une audience peut jouer au travers de la structure. Dans *Mother 3*, les objets, documents et témoignages permettent d'appréhender les formes de la société vivant à Tazmily.
- Une écologie qui intègre l'audience à travers son avatar, les autres joueurs et joueuses ainsi que les personnages non-joueurs. Dans *Earthbound*, la majeure partie du vivant vit dans des villes figées dans leurs problèmes tandis que *Mother3* joue justement sur la modification du contexte de vie pour illustrer son discours.

**"we can create emergent wholes that are not simply the additive compound of the parts but that have entirely new and ultimately engaging properties not found in any of the parts on their own."  
(Sellers 2017:248)**





« le récit vidéoludique comme le résultat d'un enchaînement de controverses entre la machine et l'opérateur » (Giner, 2019).



Giner, E. (2019). Pour une théorie radicale et dynamique des récits vidéoludiques : la narration à n-corps. Communication donnée lors du colloque « Lusor In Fabula ». Université de Rouen : les 7 et 8 novembre



Advertisement (Log in to hide)

### EarthBound



Mother series

1994

SNES, 3DSVC, WiiUVC, SNESClassic

🏆 [Leaderboard](#)

📖 [Guides](#)

Any% Glitchless

Any%

Misc. ▾

EarthBound

Mother 2

Filter ▾

View rules

Submit run

Rank	Player	Time	Manipulation	Platform	Date	
🏆 1st	<a href="#">DoctorSwellman</a>	3h 38m 08s	Yes	SNES	3 months ago	📺
🥈 2nd	<a href="#">ceriam</a>	3h 38m 14s	Yes	SNES	10 months ago	📺
🥉 3rd	<a href="#">DanielRGT</a>	3h 39m 59s	Yes	SNES	1 year ago	📺
🏆 4th	<a href="#">HannibalGraham</a>	3h 41m 28s	Yes	SNES	1 month ago	📺
5th	<a href="#">ClassicJames</a>	3h 42m 04s	Yes	SNES	2 years ago	📺
6th	<a href="#">uko_moonchild</a>	3h 42m 40s	Yes	SNES	1 year ago	📺
7th	<a href="#">artsnicrofts</a>	3h 44m 09s	Yes	SNES	2 months ago	📺



# Je vous remercie pour votre attention.

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Esteban Grine is over here and  
doing just fine!

