

International Conference
Industrial Heritage Reloaded

The International Committee for the Conservation of Industrial Heritage (TICCIH)

18th Congress, Montreal, August 28th – September 3rd 2022

Urbex, a recreational experience of neglected industrial heritage

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Introduction

QUESTIONING THE RECREATIONAL POTENTIAL OF URBEX

Introduction

What is urbex?

Urbex:

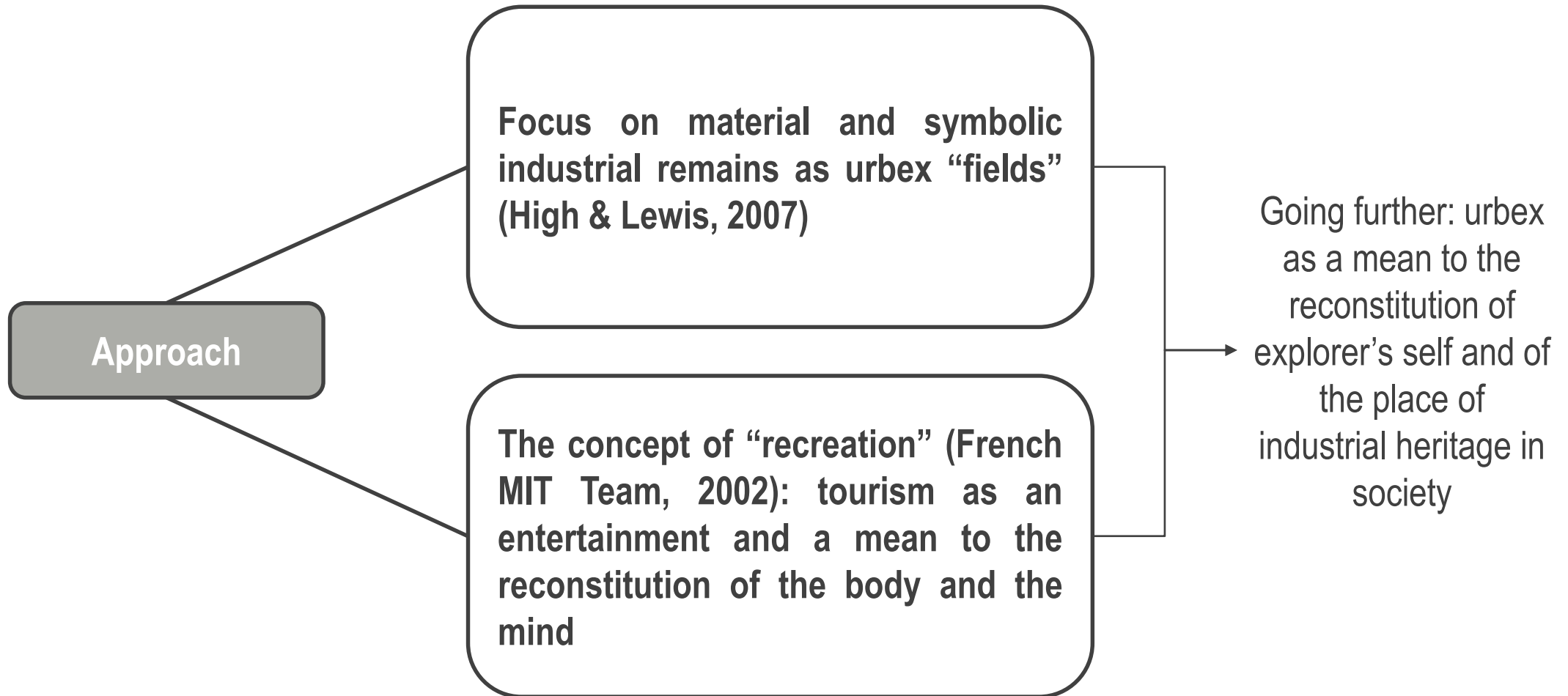
- Adventure, memory and sensory
- Ecological immersion in neglected infrastructures (Andrieu & Sirost, 2014)
- Urban exploration (Garrett, 2010)
- Linked to capitalism development (Edensor, 2005): photography, internet, and infrastructure obsolescence



Photographing a haunted house (France)

Introduction

Urbex and neglected industrial heritage



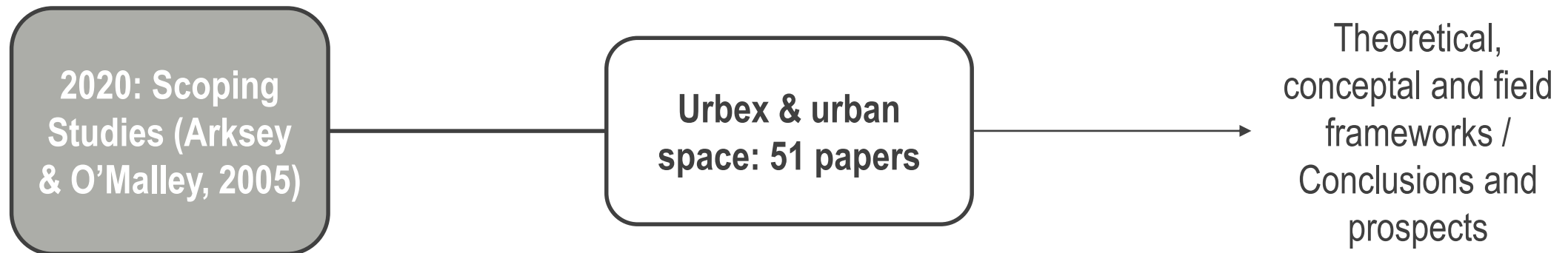


Theoretical framework

A WEALTH OF LITERATURE FOR AN UNEXPLICIT QUESTION

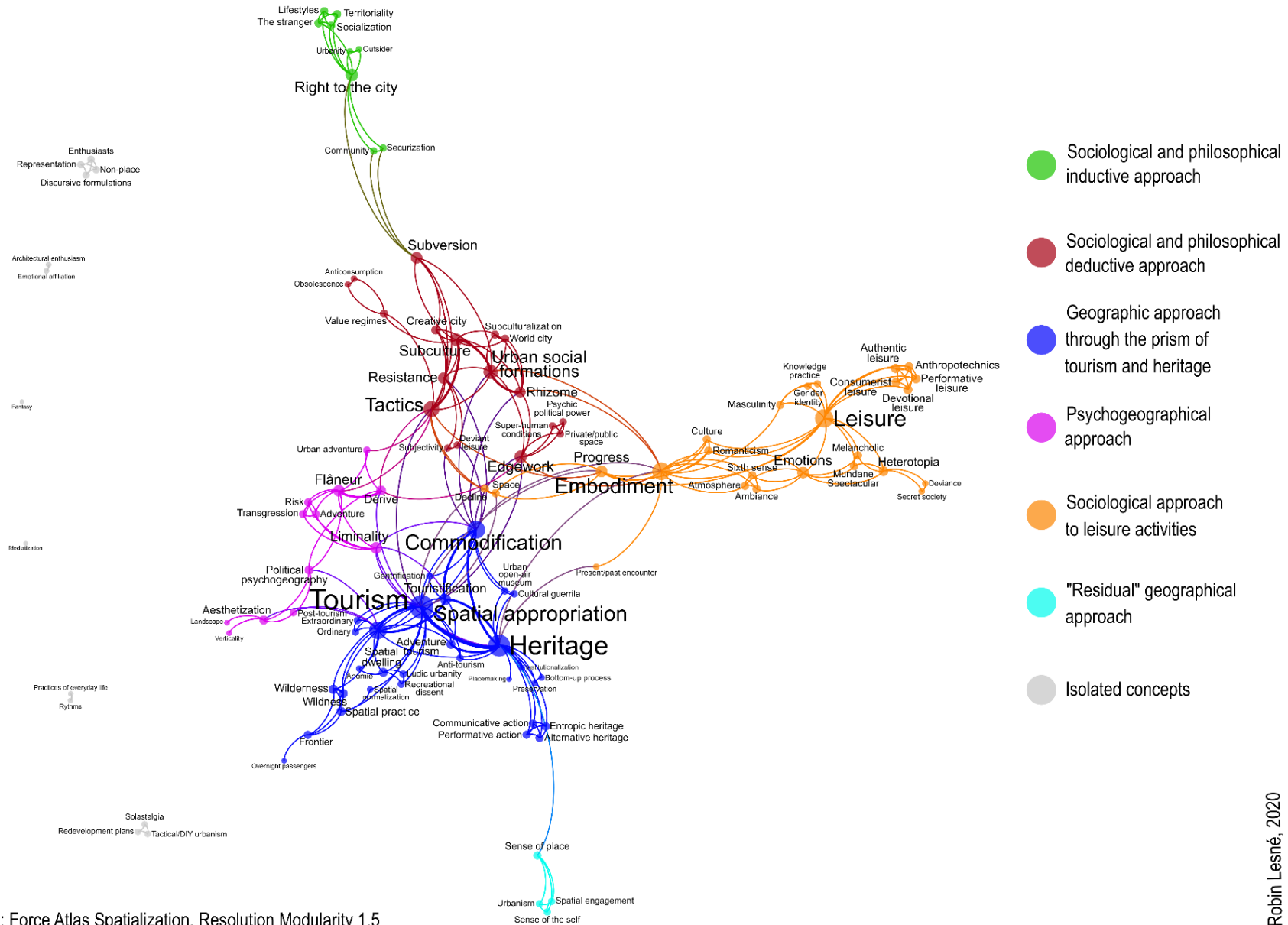
Theoretical framework

The systematization of the state of the art



Mapping of mobilized concepts: epistemology of the scoping review "Urbex and urban space"

Nodes: concepts (n=111), weight according to the number of mobilizations in the corpus (1, 11)
 Links: mobilization of two concepts in the same publication (n=256), weight according to the number of occurrences of the link (1, 3)



Theoretical framework

The body, an object at the heart of the reconstitution of the self and of heritage

How urbex :

participates in
the construction
of bodies
+
renews the
place of
neglected
industrial
heritage in
society

Enhanced experience of oneself

1. Experimentation with new emotional and sensory sensitivities
2. Construction of an embedded memory

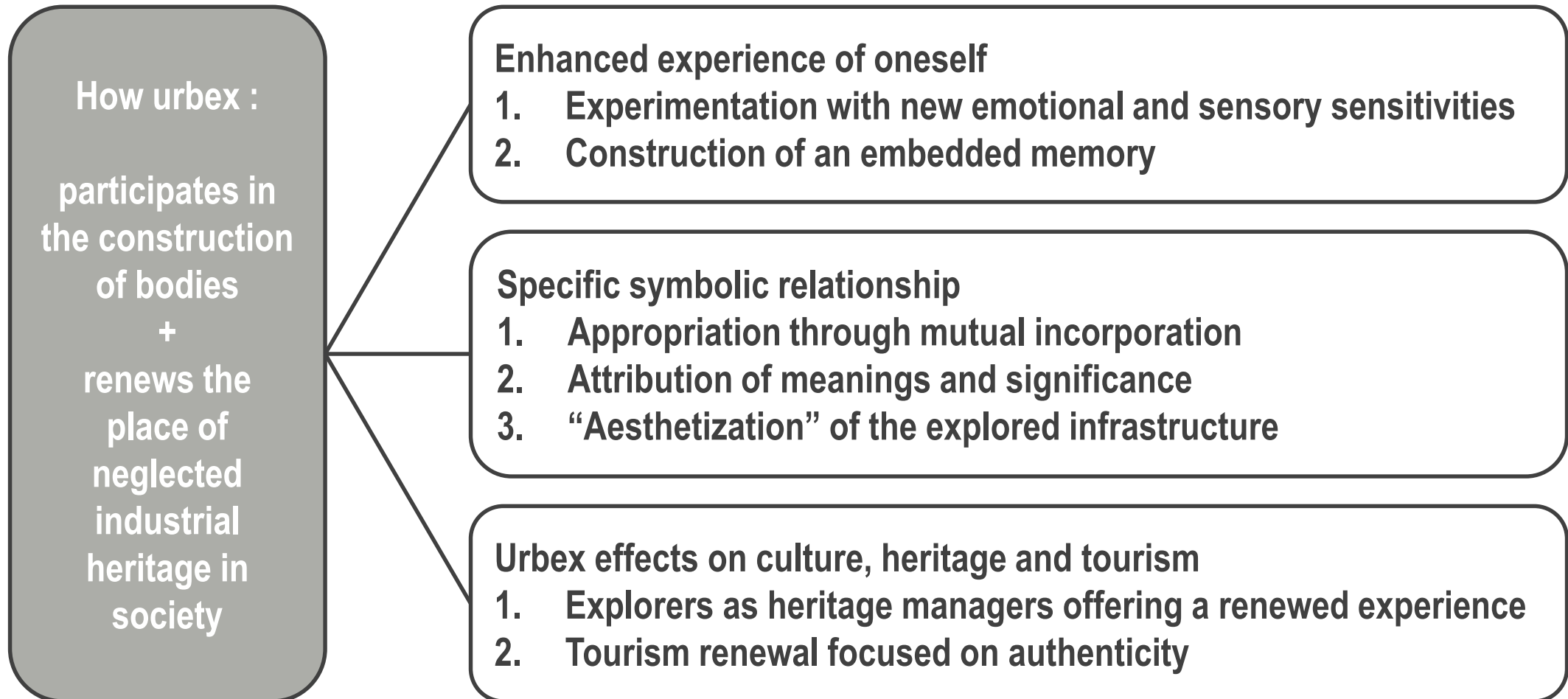
Specific symbolic relationship

1. Appropriation through mutual incorporation
2. Attribution of meanings and significance
3. “Aesthetization” of the explored infrastructure



Theoretical framework

The body, an object at the heart of the reconstitution of the self and of heritage





Material and Methods

A “BODY” INVESTIGATION

Material and Methods

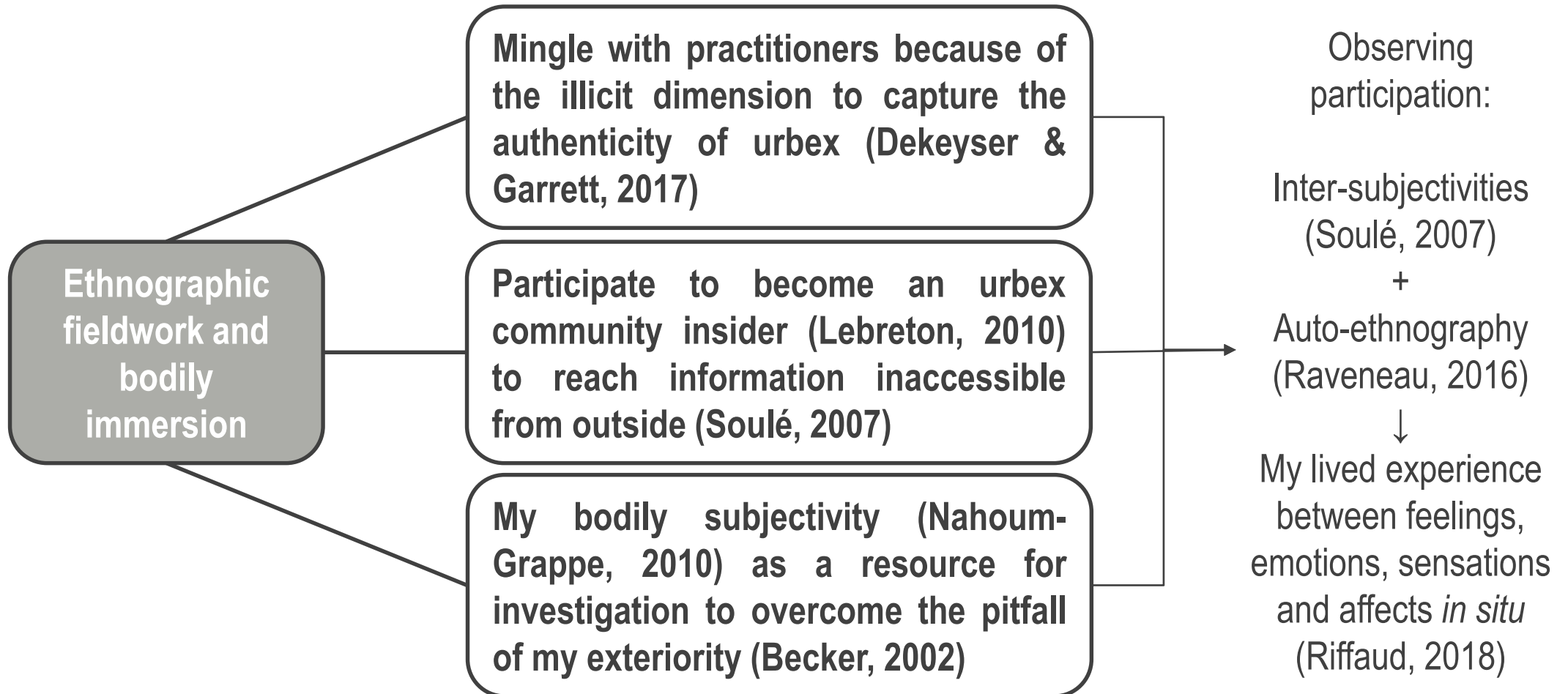
Investigation strategy



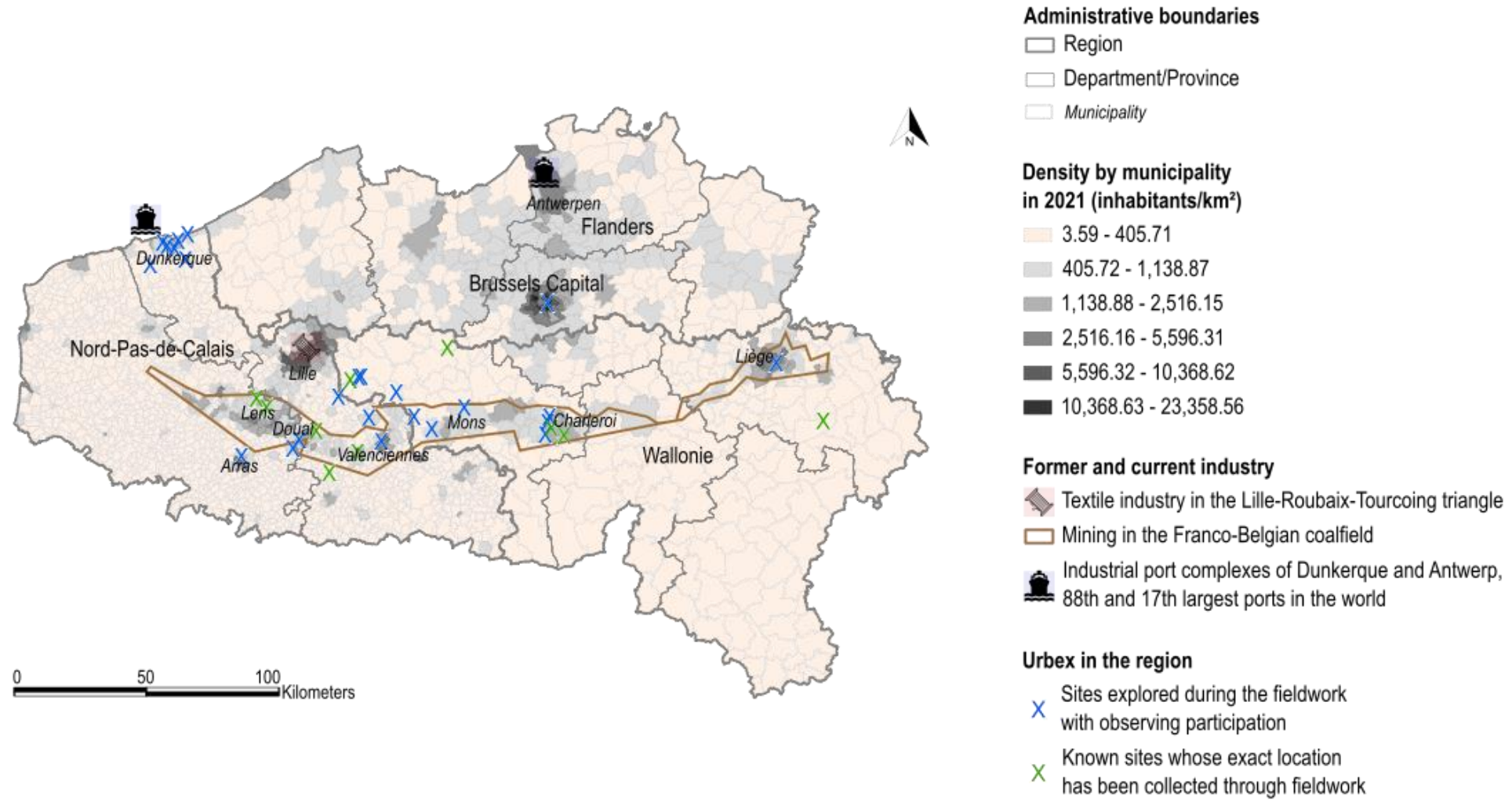


Material and Methods

Investigation strategy



The Franco-Belgian cross-border region, a rich research area for urbex, especially because of its mining past



0 50 100 Kilometers

Sources :

AdminVector_L08 (Belgium), ngi.be (produced by Belgian IGN) ; ADMIN-EXPRESS_2-4 (France, 2021), data.gouv.fr (produced by French IGN) ; population by municipality (Belgium, 2021), statbel.fgov.be (produced by the SPF Economie)

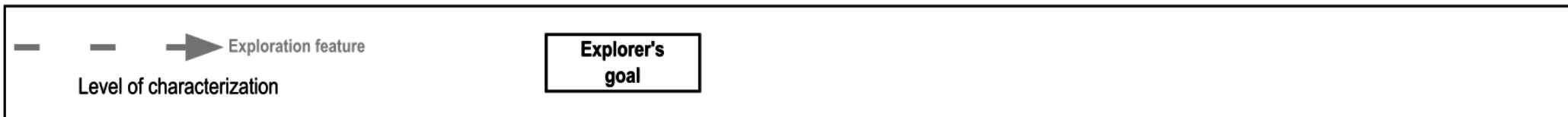
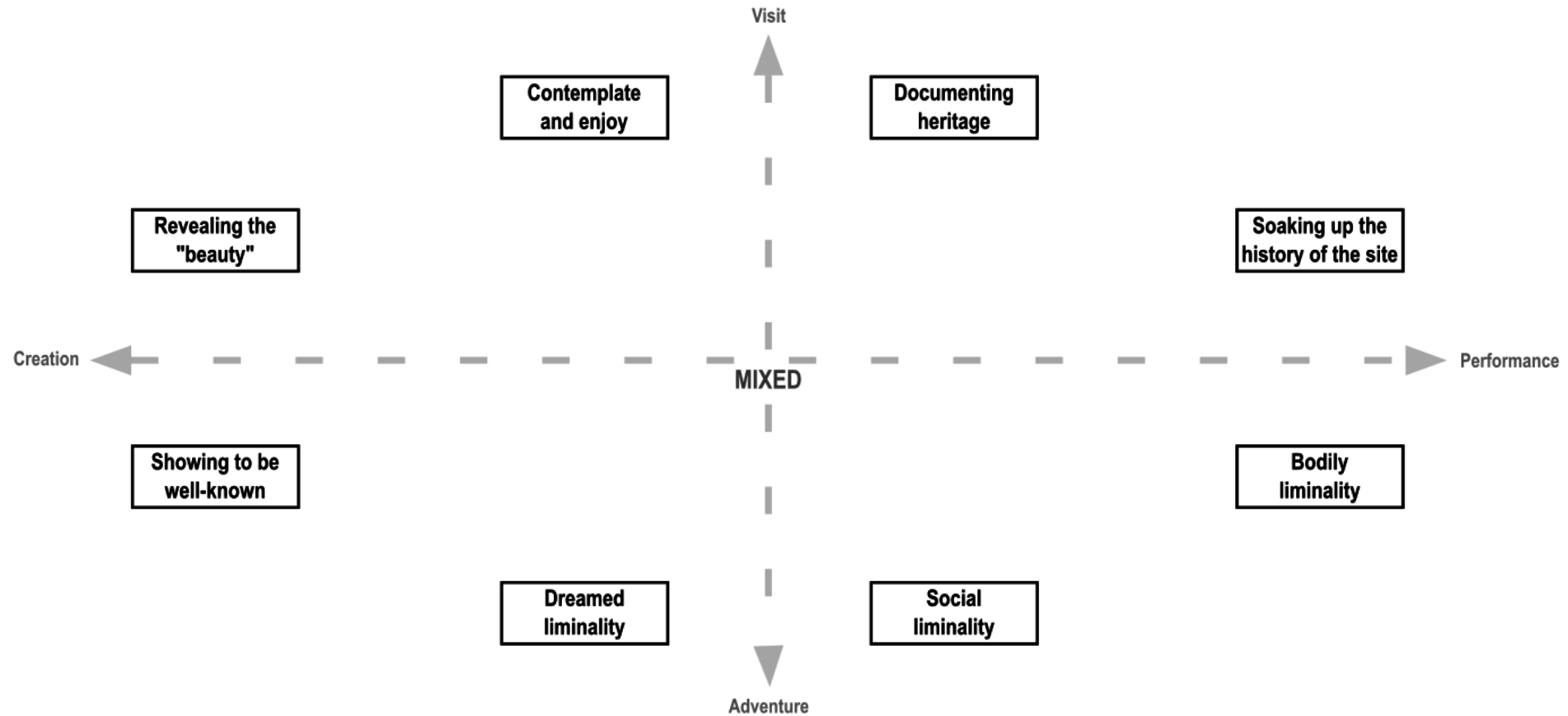


Results & Discussion

THREE SETS OF MOTIVATIONS FOR FOUR PRACTICE EXPERIENCES

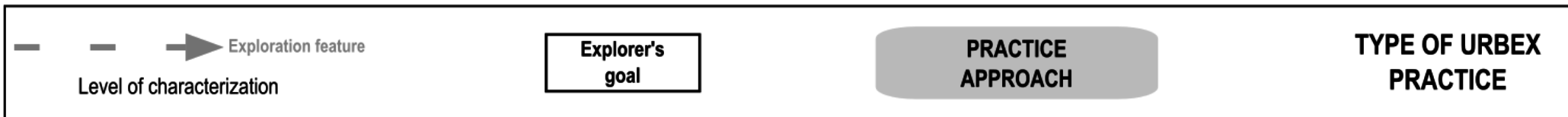
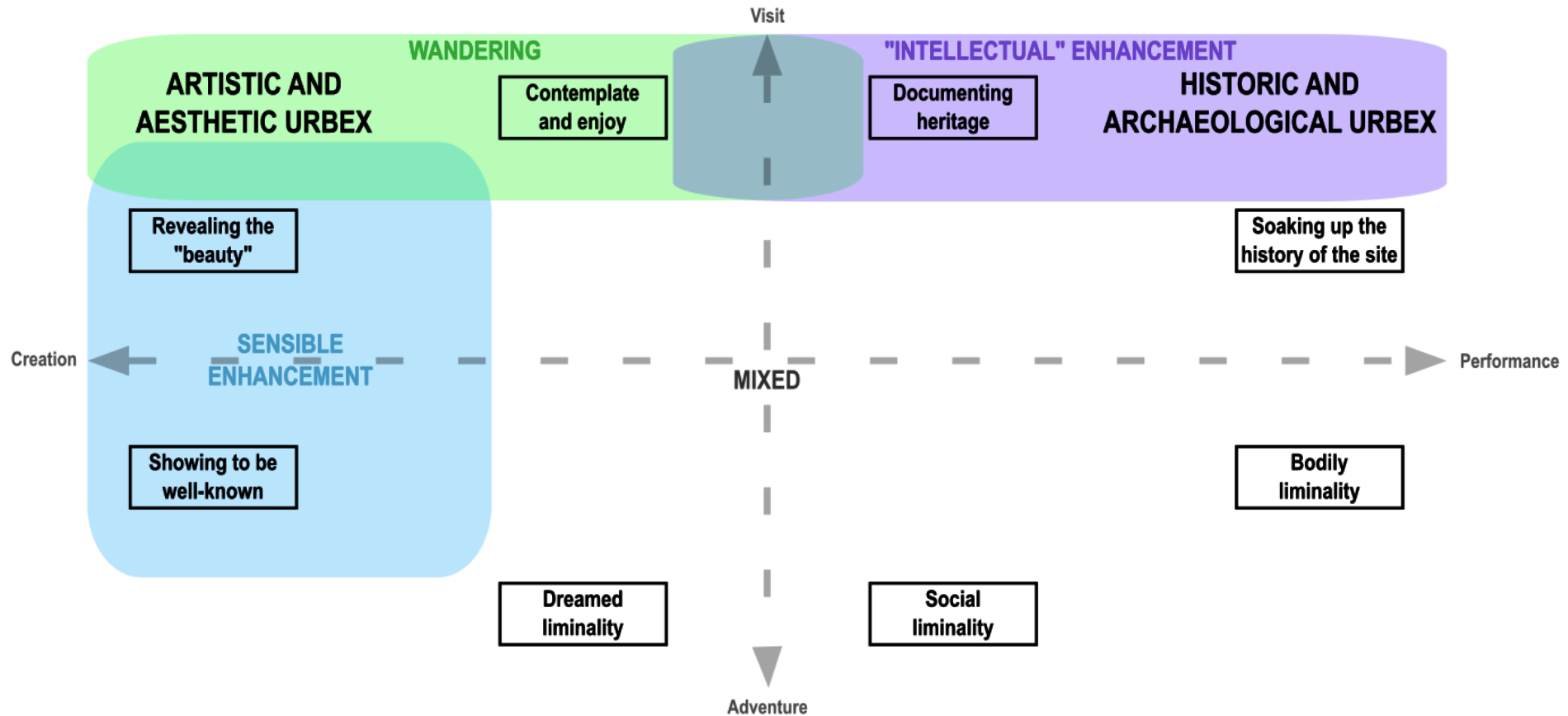
The leisure practice of urban exploration

A multiplicity of forms for a diversity of recreational potential



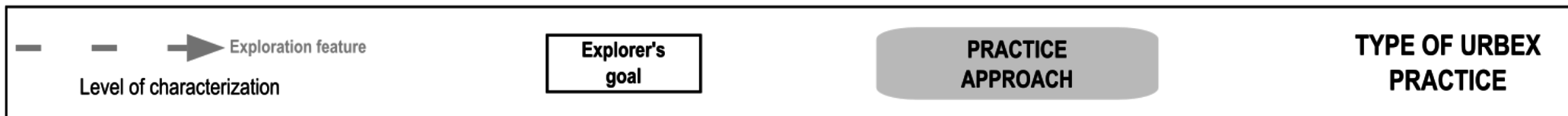
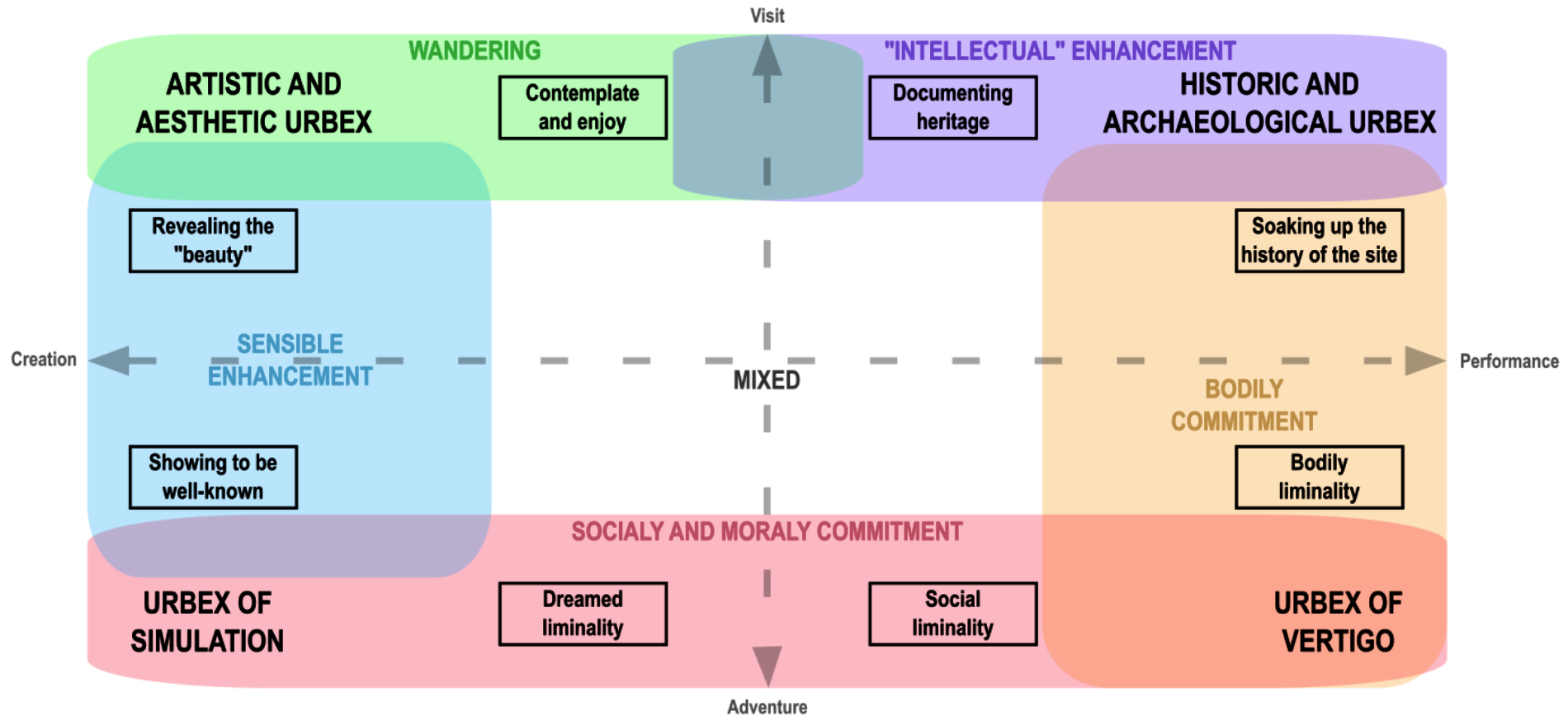
The leisure practice of urban exploration

A multiplicity of forms for a diversity of recreational potential



The leisure practice of urban exploration

A multiplicity of forms for a diversity of recreational potential



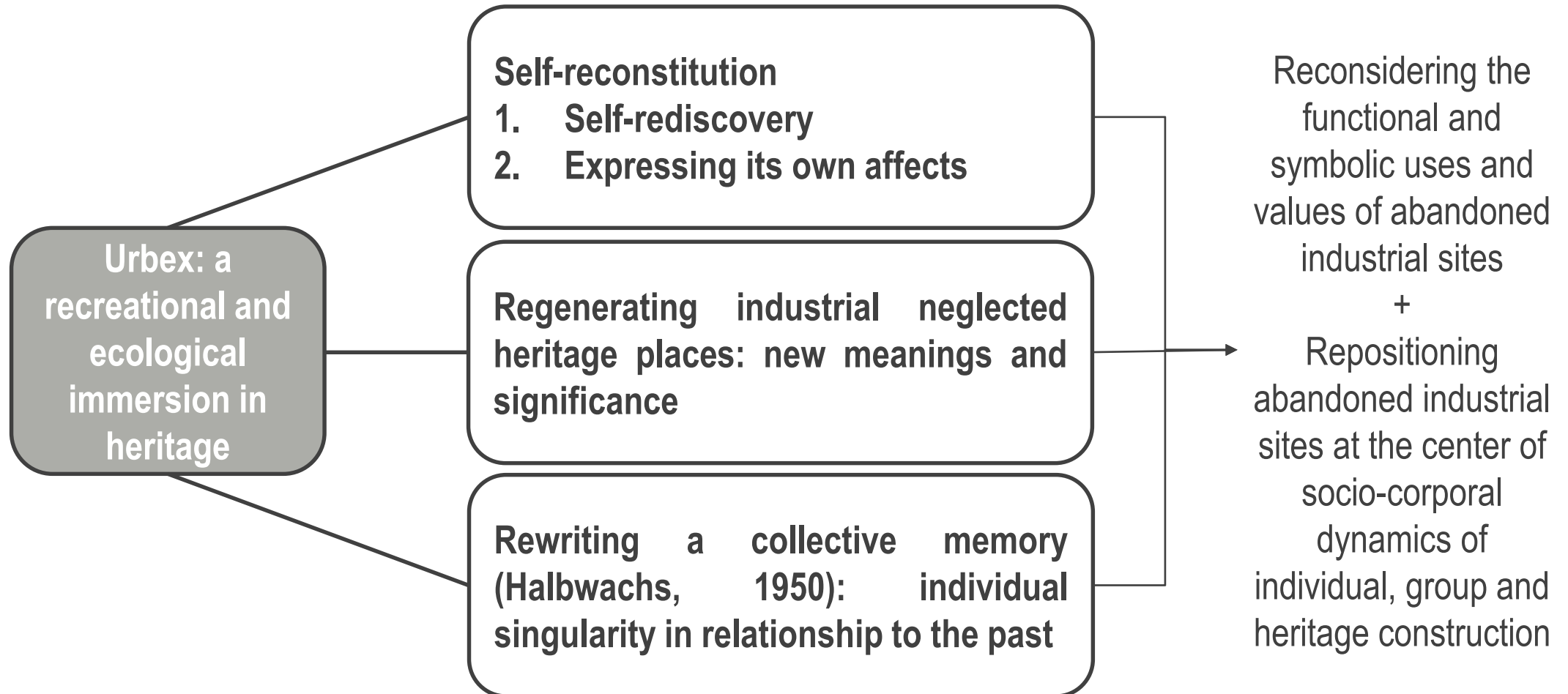


Conclusion

URBEX, A RECREATIONAL PRACTICE, MEDIA OF A TRIPLE
RECONSTITUTION

Conclusion

Going beyond the French MIT Team “recreation” concept



Urbex, a recreational experience of neglected industrial heritage

Thanks for your attention

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**Urbex, parkour and the neglected industrial heritage:
spatial attributes, practices and alternative forms of tourism**

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