

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

Robin Lesné

PhD. in Spatial and Urban Planning
TVES Laboratory Associate Researcher

Univ. Littoral Côte d'Opale, Univ. Lille, ULR 4477 - TVES – Territoires Villes Environnement & Société, F-59140 Dunkerque, France

Introduction

QUESTIONING THE RECREATIONAL POTENTIAL OF URBEX

Introduction What is urbex?

Urbex:

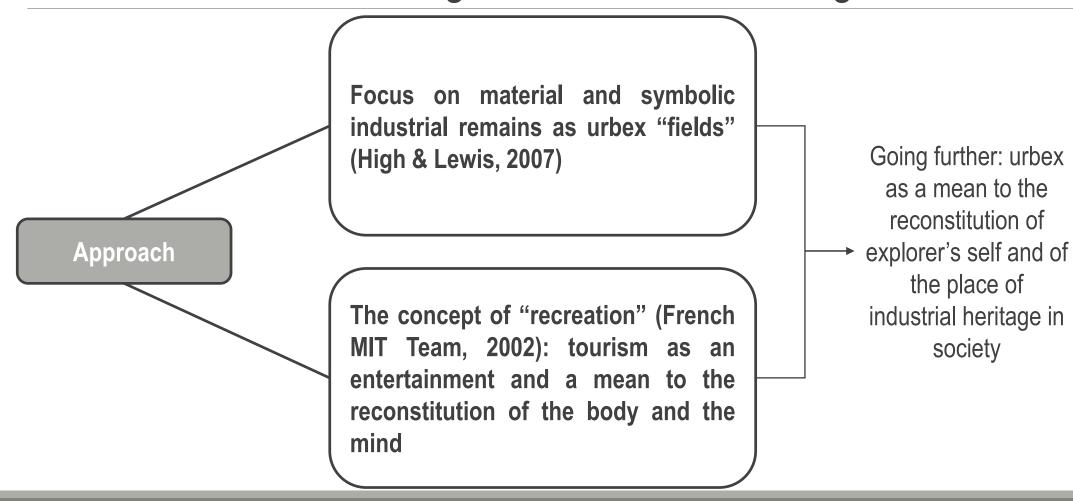
- Adventure, memory and sensory
- Ecological immersion in neglected infrastructures (Andrieu & Sirost, 2014)
- Urban exploration (Garrett, 2010)
- Linked to capitalism development (Edensor, 2005): photography, internet, and infrastructure obsolescence



Photographing a haunted house (France)

Introduction

Urbex and neglected industrial heritage

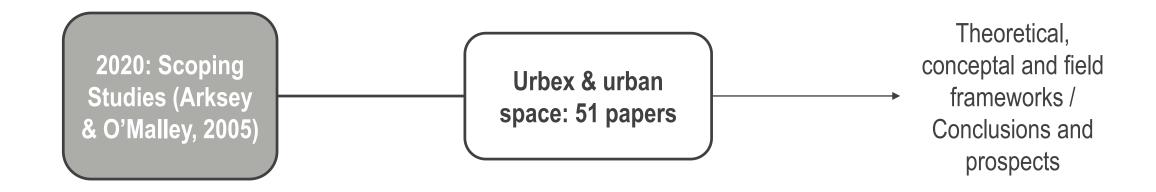


Theoretical framework

A WEALTH OF LITERATURE FOR AN UNEXPLICIT QUESTION

Theoretical framework

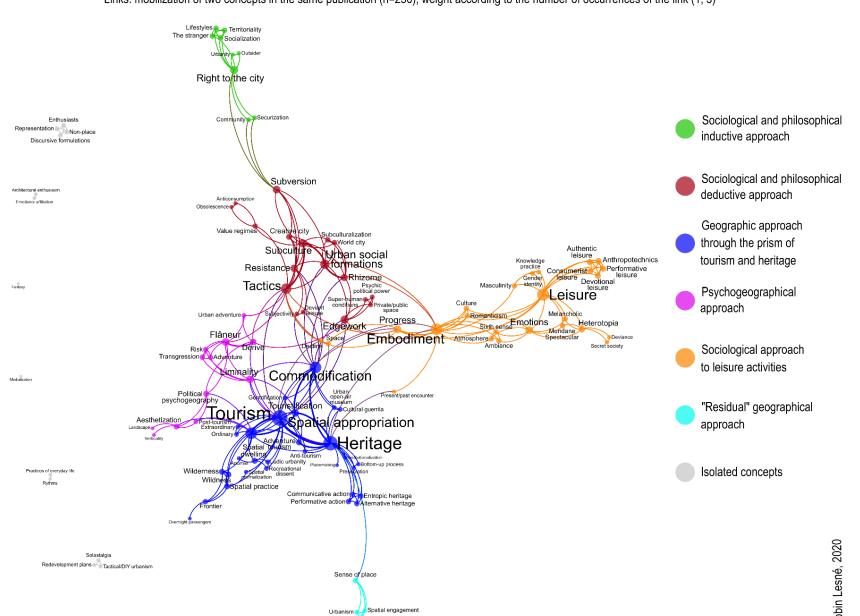
The systematization of the state of the art



31/08/2022

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)



Sense of the self

Gephi: Force Atlas Spatialization, Resolution Modularity 1.5

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

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

Urbex effects on culture, heritage and tourism

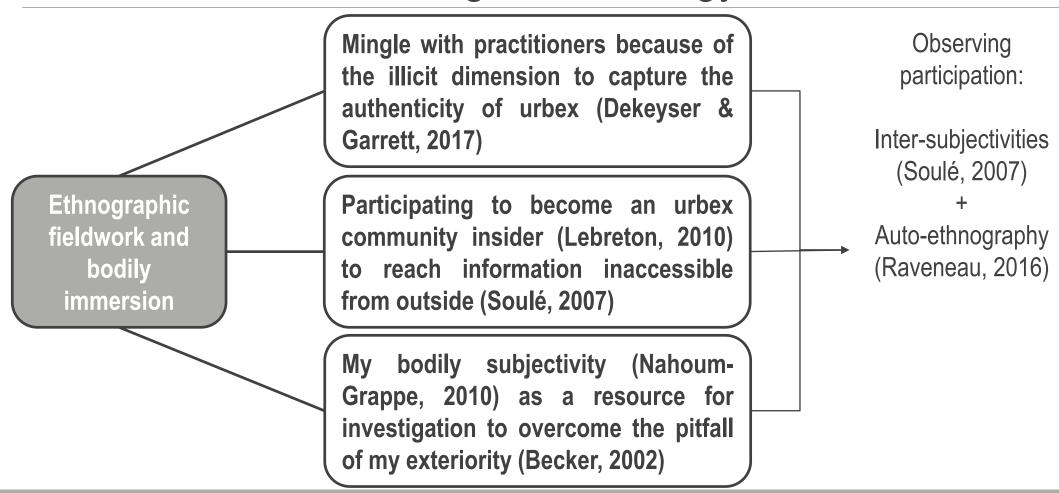
- 1. Explorers as heritage managers offering a renewed experience
- 2. Tourism renewal focused on authenticity

Material and Methods

A "BODY" INVESTIGATION

Material and Methods

Investigation strategy



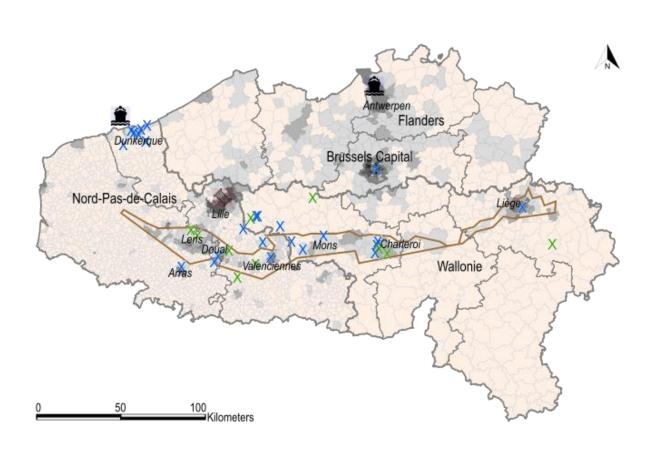


Material and Methods

Investigation strategy

Mingle with practitioners because of Observing the illicit dimension to capture the participation: authenticity of urbex (Dekeyser & **Garrett**, 2017) Inter-subjectivities (Soulé, 2007) Ethnographic Participate to become an urbex fieldwork and Auto-ethnography community insider (Lebreton, 2010) (Raveneau, 2016) bodily to reach information inaccessible from outside (Soulé, 2007) immersion My lived experience between feelings, bodily subjectivity (Nahoum-Grappe, 2010) as a resource for emotions, sensations investigation to overcome the pitfall and affects in situ of my exteriority (Becker, 2002) (Riffaud, 2018)

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



Administrative boundaries

- Region
- Department/Province
- Municipality

Density by municipality in 2021 (inhabitants/km²)

- 3.59 405.71
- 405.72 1,138.87
- 1,138.88 2,516.15
- 2,516.16 5,596.31
- 5,596.32 10,368.62
- 10,368.63 23,358.56

Former and current industry

- Textile industry in the Lille-Roubaix-Tourcoing triangle
- Mining in the Franco-Belgian coalfield
- Industrial port complexes of Dunkerque and Antwerp, 88th and 17th largest ports in the world

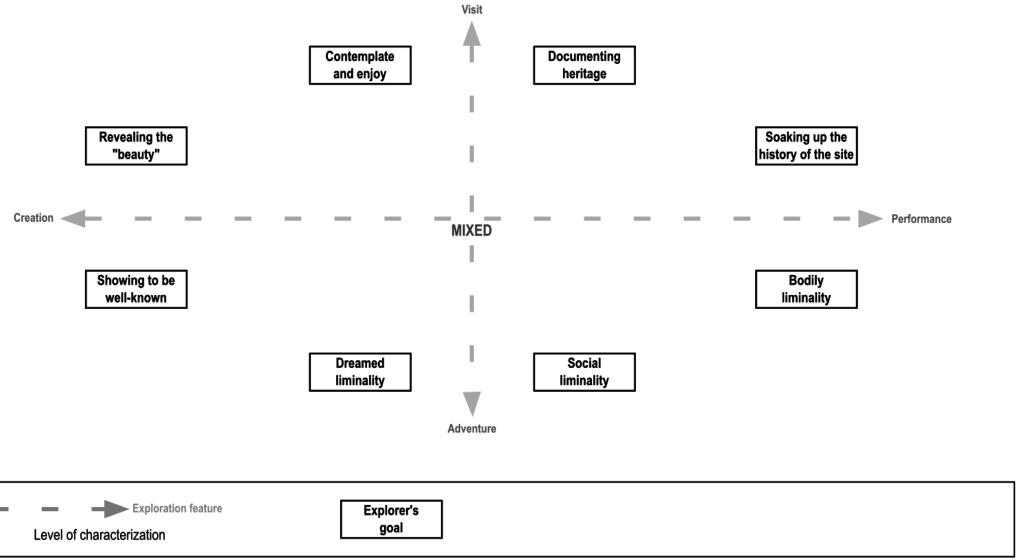
Urbex in the region

- X Sites explored during the fieldwork with observing participation
- X Known sites whose exact location has been collected through fieldwork

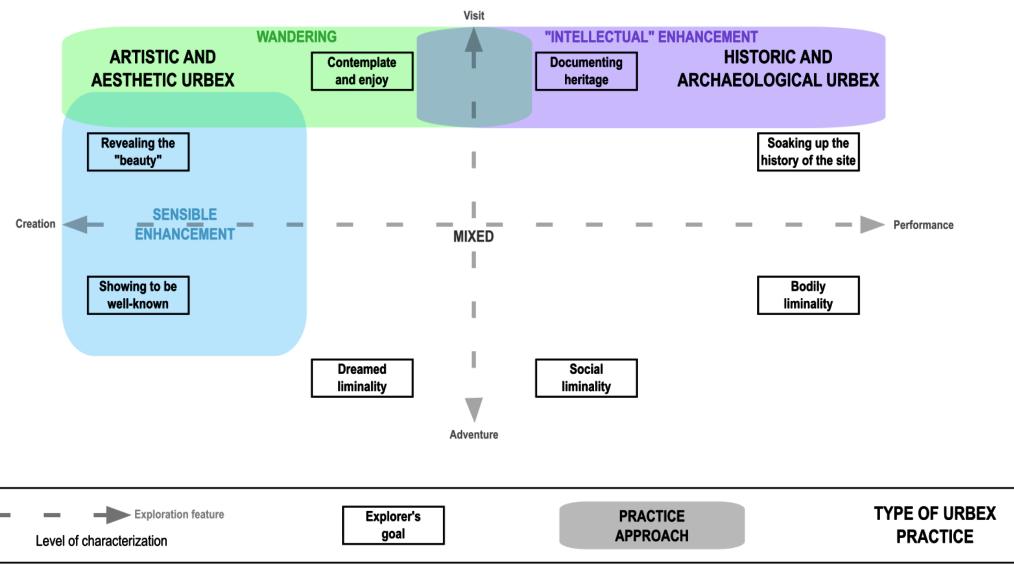
Results & Discussion

THREE SETS OF MOTIVATIONS FOR FOUR PRACTICE EXPERIENCES

The leisure practice of urban exploration A multiplicity of forms for a diversity of recreational potential

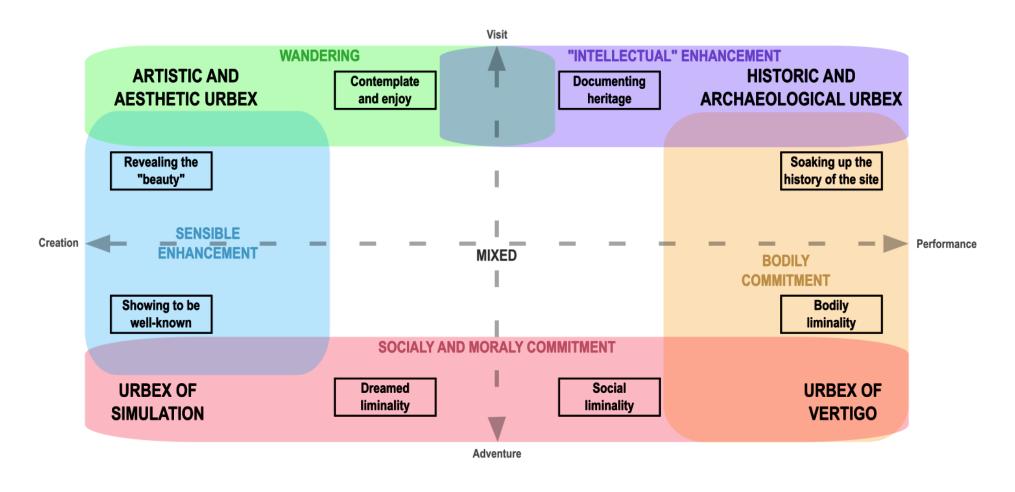


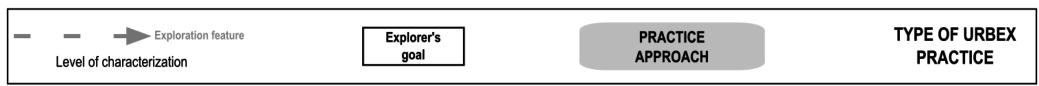
The leisure practice of urban exploration A multiplicity of forms for a diversity of recreational potential



Realization: Robin Lesné, 2022

The leisure practice of urban exploration A multiplicity of forms for a diversity of recreational potential





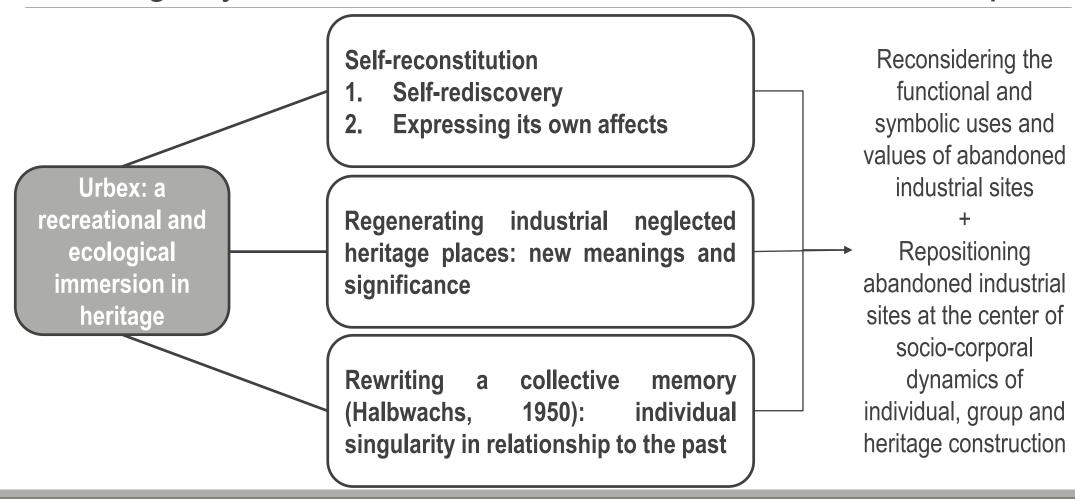
Realization: Robin Lesné, 2022

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

Andrieu, B., & Sirost, O. (2014). Introduction. L'écologie corporelle. Sociétés, 125, 5-10.

Arksey, H., & O'Malley, L. (2005). Scoping studies: towards a methodological framework. International Journal of Social Research Methodology, 8(1), 19-32.

Becker, H. (2002). Les ficelles du métier. Comment conduire sa recherche en sciences sociales (translated by J. Mailhos, & H. Peretz). La Découverte.

Caillois, R. (1958). Les jeux et les hommes. Gallimard.

Dekeyser, T., & Garrett, B. L. (2017). Ethics ≠ law. *Area*, 50(3), 410-417.

Edensor, T. (2005). *Industrial ruins: spaces, aesthetics, and materiality*. Berg Publishers.

French MIT Team. (2002). Tourisme 1. Lieux communs. Belin.

Garrett, B. L. (2010). Urban Explorers: Quests for Myth, Mystery and Meaning. Geography Compass, 4(10), 1448-1461.

Halbwachs, M. (1950). La mémoire collective. Presses Universitaires de France.

High, S., & Lewis, D. W. (2007). Corporate Wasteland: The Landscape and Memory of Deindustrialization. Cornell University Press.

Lebreton, F. (2010). Cultures urbaines et sportives « alternatives ». Socio-anthropologie de l'urbanité ludique. L'Harmattan.

Nahoum-Grappe, V. (2020). Entre l'image et le geste – un gouffre. In Y. Beldame, & E. Perera (Eds.), In situ: Repousser les frontières de l'enquête de terrain (pp. 163-178). L'Harmattan.

Raveneau, G. (2016). Prolégomènes à une anthropologie symétrique et réflexive. In E. Perera, & Y. Beldame (Eds.), In situ: Situations, interactions et récits d'enquête (pp. 29-41). L'Harmattan.

Riffaud, T. (2018). Flânerie sociologique: une méthode adogmatique. SociologieS. http://journals.openedition.org/sociologies/8673

Soulé, B. (2007). Observation participation observante ? Usages et justifications de la notion de participation observante en sciences sociales. Recherches qualitatives, 27(1), 127-140.

Stevens, Q. (2007). The Ludic City: Exploring the Potential of Urban Spaces. Routledge.



International Conference

Industrial Heritage Reloaded



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

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

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

Robin Lesné

PhD. In Spatial and Urban Planning
TVES Laboratory Associate Researcher

Univ. Littoral Côte d'Opale, Univ. Lille, ULR 4477 - TVES – Territoires Villes Environnement & Société, F-59140 Dunkerque, France