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Does Sport Promote Radicalization ?

The Place of Fighting Practices

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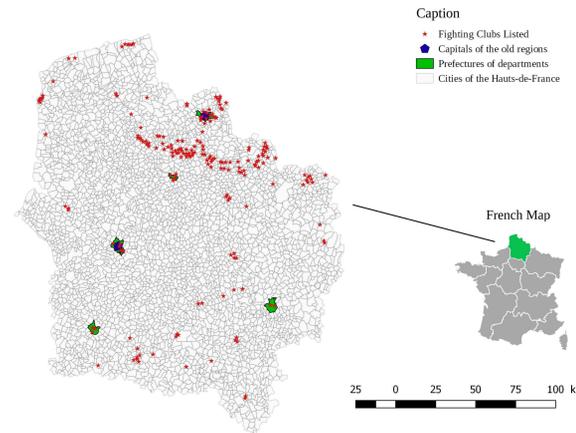
Introductory remarks

This academic poster presents a thesis work started in October 2017, funded by the University of Artois and the Regional Directorate of Youth, Sports and Social Cohesion of the Hauts-de-France region (1). He devotes himself to study the potential link between sport and "radicalization". Given the complexity of this long process, which concerns all forms of social interaction (Khosrokhavar, 2014), we can not claim to study directly the link between radicalization and sport. We will prefer the study of "favorable conditions" for the ideological shift of radicalized individuals (Van Campenhoudt, 2017), namely the feeling of being the victim of injustices and discrimination; the deficit of "links"; the living conditions in so-called "sensitive" neighborhoods; social fragility; nihilism; etc. We will speak here of favorable conditions and not of causes, for it should be pointed out that the vast majority of those concerned do not switch to jihadism. We wish to study these factors, empirically question them at the heart of combat sports in the priority neighborhoods of the city's politics.

The sensitivity of the subject studied compels us to adopt a bottom-up view of the investigation, to exercise caution. This is why we privileged the inductive method, inherited from grounded theory. We did not want to pose a priori, so the construction of the research protocol calls for a large body of literature, and mobilizes an empirical exploratory protocol. This is what we are going to deal with.

(1) In this regard, I would like to personally thank Madjid Bourabaa for her involvement in this project.

List of fighting clubs located in the priority neighborhoods of the city's politics.



Contextualization of some clubs

District	Number of people	Poverty rate	Declared low income rate	Rate of non-graduates	Median income per consumption unit
Lille - Secteur Sud	47687	46%	63.3%	65%	8588€
Dainin - Centre	13195	49.1%	67.3%	79%	8100€
Creil - Les Hauts de Creil	19538	46.8%	65.9%	78.9%	9056€
Amiens - Amiens Nord	15846	52.4%	69.9%	80.1%	7485€
Lens - Cité 2	1497	47.2%	62.8%	75.9%	8820€
Liévin - Calonne, Marichelles, Vent de Bise	7071	44.2%	61.5%	83.5%	9336€
Douai - Résidence Gayant	1857	58.8%	78.9%	78%	5622€

Comparison elements

	Poverty Rate	Median income
15 ^e Arr of Paris	11.6%	30246.7€
16 ^e Arr of Paris	10.7%	38506.8€
Neuilly sur Seine	8.2%	42765€
Hauts-de-France Average	18.3%	18812€
French Average	14.1%	20369€

First results

The first results of these explorations show that the combat club can register in three directions. It is a practice that protects, recognizes and provides resources to maintain the various social bonds (Paugam, 2008), to build up a "specific capital" (Mauger, 2006) at the local level social. However, the club is also a practice that excludes, which relegates, particularly because of its strong codification, rigor and high demands. Finally, the club is also placed in an observatory position of the neighborhood.

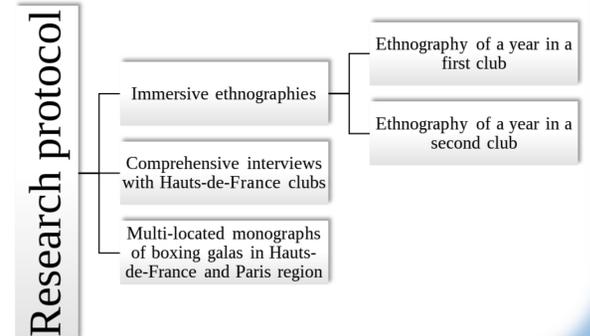
The same club can at the same time constitutes an obstacle to the ideological shift in jihadism for some, and constitutes an accelerator for others, by strengthening or weakening the social link to which it contributes. The club is also a "lookout" within the neighborhood. It is often a hub for some neighborhood youth. Note however that this link is in no way systematic and representative. It obviously concerns those who are already exposed, weakened, and likely to switch into jihadism.



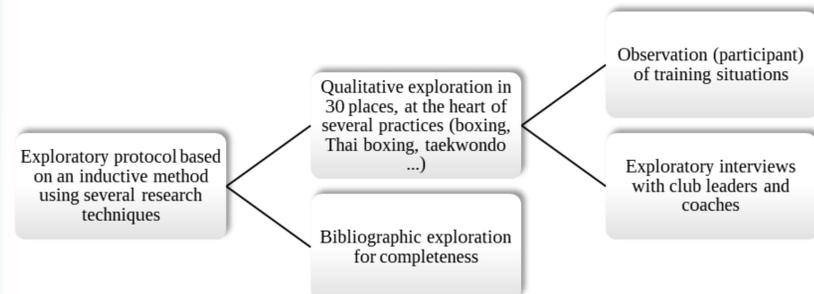
Predictive thesis protocol

From our exploration, stand out several tracks. We want to exploit them by practicing immersion in two boxing clubs for a year. Our work is not a study of practice, like the excellent work of Jérôme Beauchez (2014). It aims more to understand the impact of the club on the conditions favorable to the ideological shift of young people from priority neighborhoods. The heart of the thesis will be a comparison of these ethnographies, where we will privilege learning "by body" (Bourdieu, 1997). Understand the place of the club in the process of radicalization; the club's place in the neighborhood; the place of the club in the manufacture of a "war capital" (Sauvadet, 2006) of a "social capital" (Coleman, 1988). And conversely.

The choice of clubs that we are going to study takes into account a certain number of characteristics which result mainly from the exploratory work already done.



Exploratory protocol



The above research protocol is currently in the stabilization phase, which is why we will discuss here the formation of "quasi" results.

We centripetal organization allows to gradually bypassing our subject to bring us closer. This posture reflects our willingness to approach the subject with caution, vigilance.

