PRESENTATION

The Lille Centre for Sociological and Economic Research and Studies (Centre lillois d’études et de recherches sociologiques et économiques, Clersé) is a joint research unit of the University of Lille and the French National Centre for Scientific Research (Centre national de la recherche scientifique). The current heads of Clersé are Richard Sobel, Professor of Economics and Gilles Chantraine, Director of Research in Sociology at CNRS. They are accompanied by two heads of doctoral studies, François-Xavier Devetter, Professor in Economics and Grégory Salle, Director of Research in Sociology at CNRS.

Clersé:

- Is a multidisciplinary laboratory combining sociology, economics and anthropology with strong regional, national and international influences;
- Bases its research on three main lines that create closer links between these disciplines;
- Analyses and questions social, economic and environmental vulnerabilities.

Clersé hosts and is involved with one of the regional associate centres of the Centre d’études et de recherches sur les qualifications (Centre for Study on Research on Qualifications, CEREQ).

LINES OF RESEARCH

Line of research 1 - Anchoring and comparative dynamics of politics (Coord. Aurélia Mardon, Lecturer in Sociology and Grégory Salle, Director of Research in Sociology at CNRS)

This line of research brings together sociologists and anthropologists who are interested in the various expressions of the relationship that key players have with the “political question”. This is understood both as questioning the instituted powers, whether private or public, and as formulating possible alternative policies, independently from these powers and from the State: Against them, outside of them, or in spite of them. It therefore examines both the official or established political institutions and the political, institutional and militant conflicts, struggles and mediations that give form and content to their action, sometimes influencing or redefining them, or even opposing and deviating from them. The issues being researched focus for example on prisons, hospitals, cities or even on migration and collective mobilisations.

Line of research 2 - Work and private life (Coord. Anne Bory, Lecturer in Sociology, François-Xavier Devetter, Professor of Economics)

This line of research analyses social connections and relationships in the workplace, in family life and in private sphere more generally, focusing on the interdependence of these spheres. The issue being researched is based on a deliberately empirical perspective that is based on social relations and on an analysis - in terms of social relations (class, gender and generations in particular) within and between these spheres. Research focuses, for example, on gender equality in the workplace, career paths, education and family, and working-class work.

Line of research 3 - Economies and societies (Coord. Ornella Boutry and Vincent Duwicquet, Lecturers in Economics)

This line brings together research with a general focus on how contemporary economic systems function as they are embedded in a social and natural environment. The research question in this line in terms of economics brings together certain concerns about history and philosophy of science and anthropology. The fields covered particularly include the environment, corporate social responsibility (CSR), the history of economic thought, development aid, service activities and innovation.

In 2022, the Cleré is made up of:
- 99 permanent teacher-researchers, 8 CNRS researchers, 78 doctoral students and 8 ITA-BIATSS research support staff, including 6 from CNRS.

INTERNATIONAL INFLUENCE & PROJECTS

Cleré’s research focuses on contemporary, post-industrial or developing societies with land in Europe or other regions of the world. The work is either disciplinary or multidisciplinary, depending on the aims and projects, and offers comparative research perspectives with located land (e.g., Europe, Maghreb countries, Central Africa, West Africa, South Africa, Argentina, Canada, South-East Asia, Japan), a real counterpoint to our own knowledge which opens up new perspectives. The projects take place in various frameworks such as the French National Research Agency (Agence Nationale de la Recherche (ANR)) or other public institutions on a local, national and international level.

Examples of ongoing projects in 2022:
- 1 junior IUF project entitled “Philanthropic Policies”, 6 ANR projects (CAGE, CITINDUS, COV-HM, Giletsjaunes, ProVirCap, WOMAN), 2 IRES-CGT projects, 2 European projects (PROCURFAIR, Libiran), 2 CPER projects (CLIMENSE, IMITEC), 1 IFAD-IRD project (MASSIRE), 4 I-Site ULNE projects (CONTAGION, COPIL, GATE, TARCO), etc.

Participation in national and international networks: AFEP, AFS, AIFSL, EUSARF, GERN, RESER, RIODD
- Cleré co-organised the AFEP Congress from 3rd to 5th July 2019 which brought together more than 800 economists.
- Cleré organised the congress of the French Association of Sociology (AFS) 6-9 July 2021.

CORPORATE TIES

Cleré is open to associative or professional networks, to the world of business and participatory research. Its members take part in consultancy activities and are called upon by the media. Cleré helps to shed light on and about public policies in order to fulfill a social and territorial need.

PARTNERSHIPS

Cleré maintains strong relationships with institutional partners such as the Department of Nord and Pas-de-Calais, the European Metropolis of Lille (MEL), the ENPJ, the DARES, the DIRECTES, the CNAV and the ARS. It is developing special academic links with MESHS, PUDL, IMT Lille Douai, Sciences Po Lille, INSPE Hauts-de-France.

Hosted Journals:
- DDT Journal (Sustainable Development and Territories)
- RFSE Journal (French Journal of Socio-Economics)
- ERSEM Journal (European Review of Service Economics)

TRAINING THROUGH RESEARCH SKILLS

The members of the Cleré participate in training students by becoming involved in different masters programmes in sociology and economics at the University of Lille. They contribute to training the students of the faculty’s masters programmes and the doctoral students of the SESAM Doctoral School through research skills.

Claude Dubar

With the death of Claude Dubar on 26th September 2015, we lost a great French researcher and professor of sociology. He made numerous contributions to the scientific community, which he helped to develop and structure, including:
- A considerable investment in professional associations, by chairing the French Sociology Society in 1999 (which became the French Sociology Association in 2002), and by creating the Association of Sociologists in Higher Education (ASES) with Catherine Paradeise and her long-time friend Pierre Triplier.
- Consolidating research collectives in Lille, at CEREQ and then in Saint-Quentin-en-Yvelines where he created the Printemps laboratory in 1995.
- A strong commitment to research policy and to training young researchers.
- Many books and articles: During his 15 years at Cleré (until 1990), he conducted several collaborative research projects within the LASTREE (Laboratory of Sociology in the Workplace, Education and Careers, which he directed), which is a component of the CLERSE. One example is the important research on young people’s pathways to integration, published by the Lille University Press «l’autre jeunesse. Jeunes stagiaires sans diplôme” (The Other Side of Youth. Young Interns without Degrees) (1987). Claude Dubar was also at the origin of several research productions and sociological publications concerning adult education.

To pay tribute to him, Cirel and Cleré co-organised a multidisciplinary science day around his ideas and work in September 2017. A collective work «Une sociologie au service de l’intelligibilité du social” (Sociology at the Service of Social Intelligibility), resulting from this day, will be published by the Septentrion University Press of which he is also one of the founders.

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