



‘Ulysses in the hood’: Mapping the community to limit gang warfare

« Ulysse des faubourgs » : Cartographier son quartier pour limiter la guerre des clans

Sandrine Pitarque

This paper will show how map-making can be an art therapy tool aimed at reclaiming one's space, group membership, and history.

Maps have always been a way of transcribing the world. They are profoundly political objects, as they reveal how we think about the world. Since the 1970s, geographers have sought to develop a free and political cartography, which they call alternative, critical, or even radical. They create different maps to show the inequalities and discriminations that official images hide or, on the contrary, attempt to justify. In this vein, collectives bringing together artists, researchers, and political activists have been created since the 1990s. They make the map a tool at the service of social and spatial justice.

First, we will report on the immense scope that these explorations open up to arts therapies, both in terms of principles and practices. Then, we will present a setting recently implemented with young Parisians as part of the fight prevention. Fights between young people have caused several deaths in recent years in France, and the public authorities have decided to develop preventive actions. A collective of drama therapists and art therapists has worked with groups of teenagers living in rival neighborhoods. They have created ‘sensitive maps’ of their territory, each group and together, so as to help the young participants to reclaim their neighborhood while respecting the other gang.

Living here and now with others, sharing one's space, exploring new territories, anchoring oneself in a neighbourhood the better to be able to detach oneself from it, are the major issues that arts therapies using cartography can address. For, if Ulysses had not been so attached to Ithaca, would he have been able to explore the world as much as he did?



Biography

Sandrine Pitarque, dramatherapist, co-convenor of the Dramatherapy section at the Paris Cité University Master. After a professional life as a theatre director, Sandrine has worked for 15 years as a dramatherapist, particularly in psychiatry, addictology and social care. After a University Diploma in art therapy, she trained in psychoanalytic psychodrama at CEFFRAP.

As a teacher, she is co-convenor for the Dramatherapy option at Paris Cité University Master's degree in Artistic Creation, and a lecturer at the Dramatherapy Master program at USEK (Lebanon). She also provides training in various private institutes (Puzzle, INECAT, ETSUP)

She coordinates the workshops and activities of "Je d'enfant" association which employs up to 30 arts therapists. She leads professional practice analysis groups and supervises art therapists.

Recent Publications

Lecourt, E., Lubart T. 2024 **Chapitre 6 / La dramathérapie**. *Les art-thérapies*. 3rd edition. Dunod. Pages 183-235.

Pelletier, L., Lambert, J. 2023. **Chapitre 5 / Les dimensions institutionnelles dans la pratique de la dramathérapie**. *L'art thérapie auprès des groupes*. PUQ. Pages 165-184.

Recent conferences

Pitarque, S. & Saade Gebran, L. (2025) **The dramatherapist in war**, EFD, Riga (Latvia). May 2025

Genoun, T. & Pitarque, S. (2024). **The creative ambiguity of drama therapy with socially marginalised adolescents** ECARTE, Gent. September 2024

Pitarque, S. (2024). **Dramatherapy and adolescence**, *Sommet francophone d'art thérapie*, on line. March 2024



Pitarque, S. (2023). **Artistic project towards the city in a Center for people suffering from alcohol addiction.** *French Federation of Addiction conference, Orléans.* June 2023

Pitarque, S. (2023). Paper: **Crisis and adolescence: what can dramatherapy do?** Co-organization of the USEK symposium *Art therapy in times of crisis.* Jounieh (Lebanon). May 2023.