

Maritimity and habitability of large Mediterranean coastal cities

Maritimité et habitabilité des grandes villes littorales méditerranéennes



Séminaire inaugural / Opening seminar

Marseille - Station marine d'Endoume - 19 mai 2025 / 19 May 2025



MaritiMedSeaties

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UNIVERSITÀ DEGLI STUDI DI NAPOLI FEDERICO II



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Funds dedicated to **academic mobility** and **meetings**

Partners in France, Italy, Spain and Tunisia

- *Universitat Politècnica de Catalunya*
- *Università degli Studi di Genova*
- *Università degli Studi di Napoli Federico II*
- *Consiglio Nazionale delle Ricerche, ITC*
- *Institut de Recherche sur le Maghreb Contemporain*
(Univ. Manouba, Univ. Tunis, Univ. Paris 1, IRD)
- **CNRS**
(Aix-Marseille Univ., Avignon Univ., Univ. Côte d'Azur)



A project to discuss the city-sea relationships in large mediterranean coastal cities

Cities > 500 000 inhab.



Long social and cultural relationship with the sea

Old and strong **pressure** on the coastal environment

Lots of **social-economic opportunities** from the sea

Capacities to study and plan the use of the sea

Many questions related to **CC effects** on the coast



A project grounded on the concepts of *maritimity* and habitability/liveability

Large **cities-sea interactions** are manifold, ambivalent and crucial to habitability.

The sea

- grounds the city's identity and offers **opportunities**
- can also be a source of **inconvenience, danger and injustice**.

The city

- exerts **pressure on the marine environment** and coastal territory
- develops **public policies** and innovations to protect/restaure marine environment.

The **maritimity of large cities**, i.e. the way in which the marine participates in urban identity, permeates inhabitants' lifestyles, structures the economy, space and settlement **is our focus**.

In the **Mediterranean**, some twenty towns with more than 500,000 inhabitants are located by the sea. They provide a relevant framework for such a study, with

- their **current habitability strongly linked to the sea**
- related questions about their **future**

Maritimity and habitability treated with more details here after

Scientific proposal

4 research directions

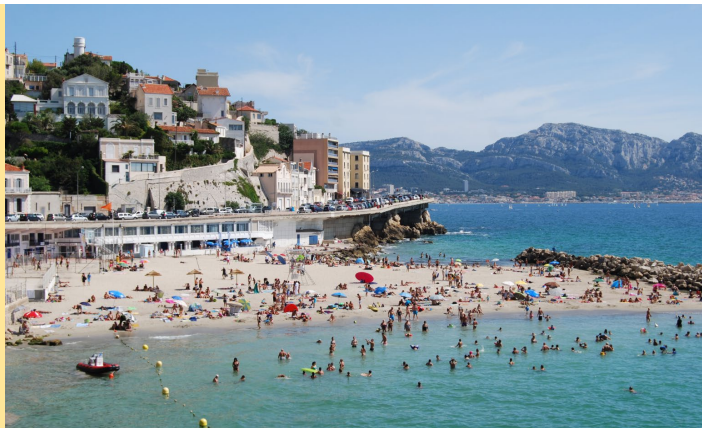
Maritimity,
**adaptation to
coastal risks
and habitability**



Maritimity,
**port
development
and habitability**



Maritimity,
**access to the
sea and
habitability**



Maritimity,
**ecological and
energy
transition and
habitability**

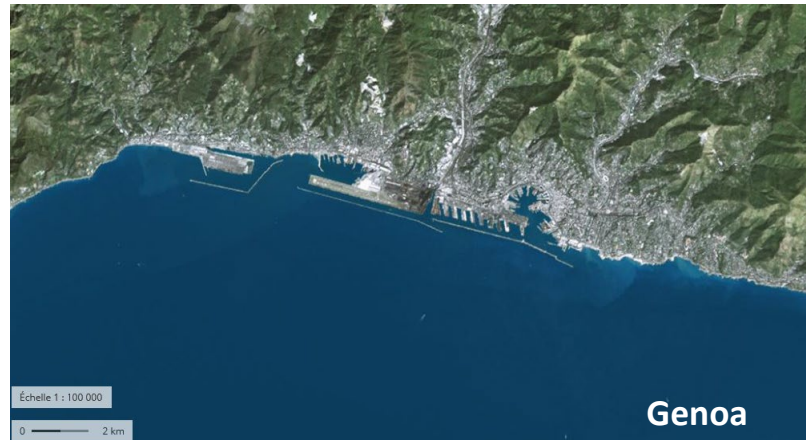


Scientific proposal

5 cities in different geographical contexts



Take advantage of this diversity to explore differences and similarities



Scientific proposal

Open to outside auditors

2025, May
Opening seminar, **Marseille**

also sponsored by



2025, October
Thematic seminar 1, Naples
Maritimity, port development and habitability

2026, April
Thematic seminar 2, Barcelona
Maritimity, adaptation to coastal risks and habitability

2027, April
Thematic seminar 3, Tunis
Maritimity, ecological and energy transition and habitability

Open to outside auditors

2027, October
International conference
« Liveable coastal cities », Marseille

2028, April
Thematic seminar 4, Genoa
Maritimity, access to the sea and habitability

2029, October
Closing seminar, **Marseille**

Open to outside auditors



November 2026, call for papers

+

in 2026, 2027, 2028 and 2029

Call for student mobility (PhD, Master)

to be carried out before december of the year (1 mobility/year)

Scientific proposal

Planned activities

- thematic seminars
- joint work
- student mobility

Building of a **shared knowledge base**

Connexions **with the local stakeholders** in the major cities concerned.

Participants

- The consortium may evolve over the 5-year period: new teams may join the project.



References

- Desse M., Robert S., Herbert V., Chadenas C., 2024. Les littoraux français. Permanences, changements, enjeux, Armand Colin, 560 p.
- Bouffier S., Robert S. (dir.), 2024. Maritimité(s) en région Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur, Presses universitaires de Provence, Coll. L'atelier méditerranéen, 242 p.
- Robert, 2024. What can sea-related associations reveal about a coastal region's maritimty? A case study in southern France. *Maritime studies*. 23, 4. [10.1007/s40152-023-00346-w](https://doi.org/10.1007/s40152-023-00346-w)
- Robert S., Melin H. (dir.), 2016. Habiter le littoral. Enjeux contemporains. Presses universitaires de Provence et Presses Universitaires d'Aix-Marseille, 471 p.

Thanks for your attention

