

Marseille "Atelier 4-5" FvL's Methodology

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The Atelier Marseille 4-5 initiative

Atelier Marseille 4-5 is a pedagogic and engaged research initiative, led by the University of Aix Marseille, in partnership with local stakeholders in a specific territory – the 4th and 5th arrondissement district in Marseille. The partnership is developed in particular with (but not restricted to) municipal councillors and agents operating on this territory. The objective is to open spaces of dialogue through research around local policy making (in the context of the new left-green-citizen coalition that was elected in the 2020 local elections): with municipal councillors and agents, with residents collective, and in between those different and multiple stakeholders (in particular as the municipality is in itself a fragmented institution).

The way we work is that:

- We consolidate a group of lecturers in various disciplines (geography, planning, sociology, anthropology, political studies, landscape design, ...) interested in engaging in this initiative in their pedagogy and if possibly in their research. The principle is that:
 - each of the lecturer will coordinate students projects on the territory of the 4-5 arrondissements, along some of the themes discussed with partners on sites that have been chosen jointly (both sites of municipal intervention and sites of social and environmental stakes).
 - The work thus produced will be presented and debated, in ad hoc format depending on the stakes, with the relevant stakeholders, and aiming at public debates (in any case eventually results will be shared with the broader public in adequate format)

- We regularly meet with a collective of councillors and municipal agents, or with individual interested councillors and agents spearheading local policy that has progressive objectives – and jointly define research projects or directions that might be relevant for such policies
- We generally organize public or collective feedback on the research conducted with students – in formats that are generally discussed with local stakeholders depending on the stakes at play (interactive photo exhibition, poster exhibition, public presentation, blog or report circulated via email, internet file, etc).
- This process is riddled with tension and intensity – it is not a situation where research is slave to politics, it is aimed at being a critically constructive conversation, rather positioned in sympathy with municipal agents and councillors in their endeavours to conduct a (different?) urban policy. This sympathy creates the condition for coproduction of knowledge and to some extent this process contributes to shape local public action.
- The publicity of knowledge produced is enlarged by developing and posting edited versions of the work on our dedicated website, atelier4-5.mmsb.fr

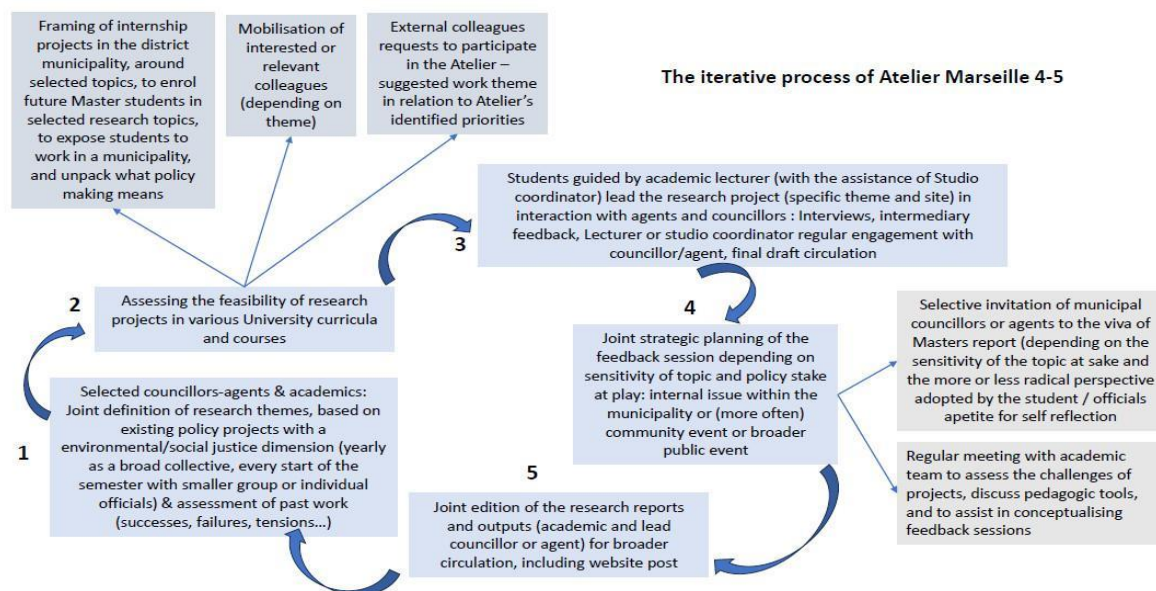


Figure 12: Marseille Atelier 4-5 FvL's Methodology, Source: Marseille Atelier 4-5 FvL