

# Converting industrial heritage for higher education and research

## Call for Papers

Conference organised as part of the Nantes University Scientific Days, 11 June 2024, Cité des Congrès, Nantes.

Save the date:

March 11, 2024: Deadline for submission of paper proposals

April 20, 2024: Announcement of selected papers to participants

June 11, 2024: Conference in Nantes

Proposals should be in the form of an abstract of 250 words, accompanied by a short biography.

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The conference will be held in hybrid mode; some papers may be presented remotely. The 20-minute papers will be in French, but English is also accepted.

Please note: given the budget, it will not be possible to cover all expenses.

Where it exists, the literature on university properties and more generally on higher education and research still pays little attention to the issues involved in rehabilitating and reusing old buildings. However, in October 2023 in Bordeaux, a conference has just been held on the heritage of universities, entitled "Villes et universités: quels patrimoines pour quel avenir partagé?". Higher education and research have undergone major developments since 1945 and the massification of the number of students both nationally and internationally. In France, it is particularly the "second massification" since the 1980s (CHARLE and VERGER, *Histoire des universités. XII<sup>e</sup>-XX<sup>e</sup> siècles*, 2012) that has led to the introduction of major public property investment policies.

The "University 2000" plans in the 1990s and "University of the Third Millennium" in the following decade, as well as the CPER (State-Region Plan Contracts), have been essential in reshaping the building and urban landscapes of universities and "grandes écoles". For the most part, this has involved the construction of new buildings.

However, since the early 1980s, there have been a number of examples of conversion and redevelopment, including some significant examples from industrial history. These include a spinning and weaving mill for a school of architecture in Darnétal near Rouen, part of a cloth factory for an IUT in Elbeuf, the offices of a former mining company for the Jean Perrin faculty in Lens, part of a tobacco factory for a UFR in social sciences in Toulouse, a crane hall for a university library in Le Creusot, and a foundry for a faculty of economics in Mulhouse. More recently, the large halls of a mechanical engineering and shipbuilding factory were used for an arts school in Nantes, and the same site was also used for a new university centre dedicated to digital cultures, which won an "Equerre d'argent" award in 2020.

These are just a few examples, and we need to analyse the rationale behind their siting and financing, the architectural constraints, and also the choices made when it came to converting these buildings, and the heritage and memorial issues involved, as well as the relationships between stakeholders. We also need to analyse how the site is positioned in the new urban restructuring logics, from wasteland to neighbourhood, with its multiple programmes and activities, to strategic positioning within the city.

Should the conversion of industrial heritage for RSE also be questioned in terms of the exemplary nature of the project, at a time of environmental transformation, of emphasis on the need to rebuild the city on itself, or even of the circular economy or the questioning of industrial models?

This shows just how open and interdisciplinary the approaches are, in order to understand situations and inform decisions, calling on historians of architecture and technology as well as geographers, sociologists, architects and engineers, not forgetting the operators and managers of the institutions concerned. In addition to the monographic approach, comparative analyses will be welcomed on four main themes:

- 1- Motivations and issues of the conversion of industrial buildings for higher education and research purposes
- 2- Architectural choices and approach to £+%\$m conversion,
- 3- Impacts on urban and environmental strategies
- 4- Uses and appropriations, between failures and successes

Open to international experiences (e.g. the conversion of an industrial bakery into *Polo Santa Marta* in Verona, Italy, a steelworks in Belval for the University of Luxembourg, a tobacco factory for the University of Seville in Spain), the aim of this conference will be to compare examples and approaches from this interdisciplinary perspective, and to open up conclusions and perspectives on the field of heritage and specifically on industrial heritage (from conservation to conversion), as well as on understanding the strategies of higher education establishments, including, why not, a forward-looking dimension. They are therefore aimed as much at academic research as at professionals in higher education and research departments, as well in the in heritage, urban and planning sectors.

Scientific leader, Jean-Louis Kerouanton, associate professor-researcher, Centre François Viète Epistémologie, histoire des sciences et des techniques, Nantes Université. Vice-President of Sustainable Real Estate at Nantes University.

Scientific committee

- Caudal, Gaëlle, City of Nantes, Directorate of Heritage and Archaeology
- Cremnitzer, Jean-Bernard, architect, Rouen, Ecole nationale supérieure d'architecture de Normandie

- Gasnier, Marina, Professor, UTBM, Université de Technologie de Belfort-Montbéliard, FEMTO-ST/RÉCITS, Recherche et Étude sur le Changement Industriel, Technologique et Sociétal
- Hachez-Leroy, Florence, Associate Professor HDR, Université d'Artois, CREHS Centre de recherches et d'études Histoire et Sociétés, President of CILAC (Comité d'information et de liaison pour l'archéologie, l'étude et la mise en valeur du patrimoine industriel), member of the board of TICCIH and ERIH
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- Laroche, Florent, Associate Professor HDR, Nantes Université, Ecole Centrale de Nantes (LS2N, Laboratoire des sciences du numérique de Nantes))
- Nicolas, Amélie, Associate Professor, Nantes Université, Ecole Nationale Supérieure d'Architecture de Nantes (AAU, Ambiance, architectures, urbanités, CRENAU)
- Preite Massimo, Professor of Urban Planning at the Department of Architecture of the University of Florence, member of the board of TICCIH and ERIH
- Prost, Philippe, architect, Professor at the Ecole nationale supérieure d'architecture de Paris-Belleville, Grand prix national d'architecture 2022
- Ragot, Gilles, University Professor, Université de Bordeaux-Montaigne (CRHA, Centre de recherches en histoire de l'art)
- Réal, Emmanuelle, Heritage and Inventory Department, Région Normandie
- Rousteau-Chambon, Hélène, Professor, Nantes Université (LARA, Laboratoire de recherche Archéologie et Architectures)

#### Organising Committee

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#### Conference organised by

Centre François Viète Centre, Epistemologie, Histoire de sciences et des techniques, Nantes Université

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- CILAC, Comité d'information et de liaison pour l'archéologie, l'étude et la mise en valeur du patrimoine industriel
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- Nantes Université, DPIL, Direction du Patrimoine immobilier et de la logistique

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