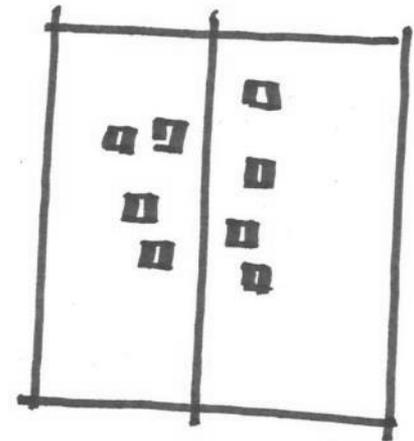


# The 'absent' border and frontier: Paris

A very short introduction



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“The fascination of boundaries lies in their ambivalent role of dividing and connecting at the same time. They mark the transition between different modes of existence”.

[Richter and Peitgen 1985, p 571-572]



**Baarle Nassau | Baarle Hertog**  
Border: Netherlands - Belgium



A “métissage” at the city edge and “a patchwork of jurisdictions, competencies and procedures”

Abdoumalig, 2007, p. 464



Wo war die Mauer? [Where was the wall?]

Ehrman (2007, p39)

# Output 1

## A case for borders and frontiers in urbanism

### Borders, Frontiers and Borderscapes | characteristics derived from a literature review

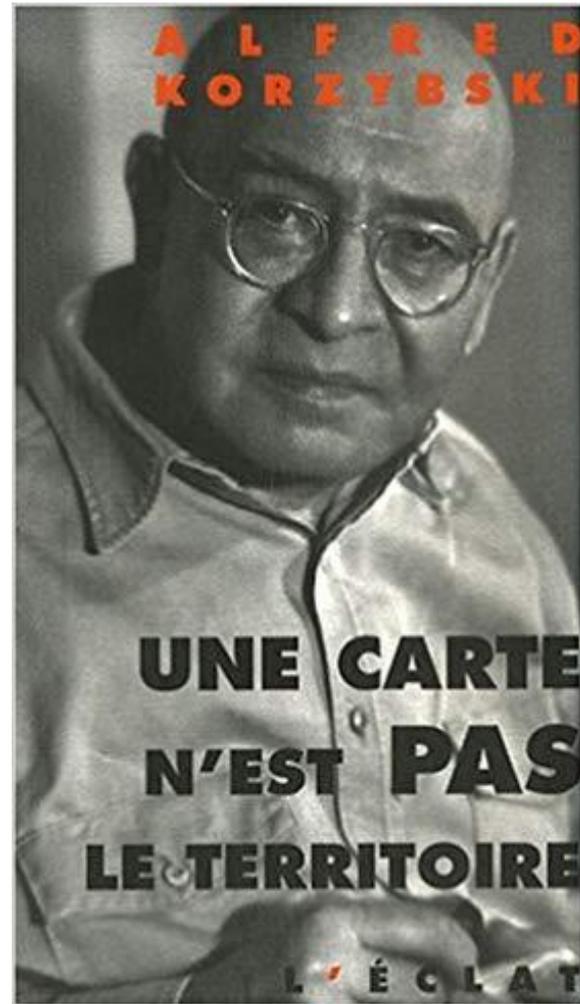
The boundary as a line (border)	The boundary zone (frontier)	The boundary as landscape (Borderscapes)
<p>An areal expression of jurisdiction</p> <p>Relate to cultural landscape at time of their creation</p> <p>Entry / exit / control / defence</p> <p>Dissimilative</p> <p>Binary</p> <p>Vectors of demarcation</p> <p>Points of contact</p> <p>Zona libra</p> <p>Defines membership</p> <p>Symbolic (eg Berlin Wall)</p> <p>Cultural authority</p> <p>Inward orientated</p> <p>Supported by law</p> <p>Physical infrastructure</p>	<p>The Ecumene – the edge of the known</p> <p>The frontier - at the 'front'</p> <p>Outward orientated</p> <p>Imprecise</p> <p>Life of its own, selfishness</p> <p>Transformative</p> <p>Exchange</p> <p>Assimilative, acculturation, syncretism</p> <p>Outside law and legal definitions</p> <p>Rudimentary</p> <p>Ad hoc</p> <p>Disorganised</p> <p>Peripheral</p> <p>Buffer between the familiar and the foreign</p> <p>Cheaper and freer,</p> <p>Tenuous and poorer</p> <p>Marginal and disruptive</p> <p>Tends to be colonised</p>	<p>From geo-political to socio-cultural</p> <p>Political science to inter-disciplinary</p> <p>Need to consider the cultural context when considering the border</p> <p>Border as a landscape</p> <p>Perceived differently by everyone</p> <p>A borderscape is a signifying system</p> <p>Dynamic social processes</p> <p>Practices of spatial differentiation</p> <p>A 'métissage'</p> <p>Need to consider temporality</p>

## Absence

...presence is a physically real form, whether a solid, such as a building, or a void, such as a space between two buildings....

...absence is either the result of a previous presence, it contains memory; or the trace of a possible presence, it contains immanence

Eisenman, 1986, p. 4

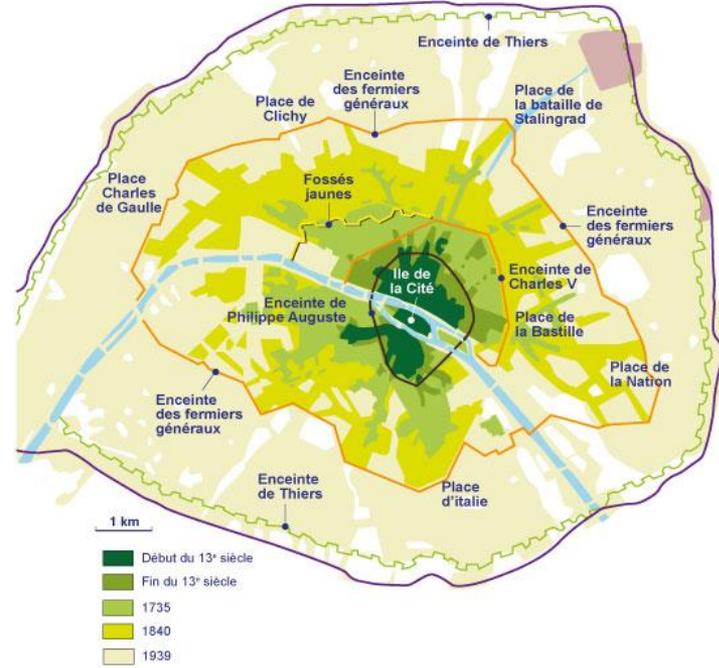


**Une carte n'est pas le territoire**  
Alfred Korzybski, 1931

# Paris - métropole



## Extension progressive de la ville de Paris



## An arts and humanities approach

Cuff and Wolch observe that:

*Those fields that aim to understand history, the arts, meaning, expression, and experience make substantial contributions to our thinking about cities and culture. From classicists to contemporary film scholars, humanists enrich an understanding of situated collective life... [but]... **the absence of a humanist perspective in urban thought is brutally apparent** (2016, p. 14).*

Cecilie Sachs Olsen at zURBS artistic collective in Switzerland, draws attention to the fact that:

*zURBS work is situated within the Urban Humanities and the exploration of the complexity of urban space in order to generate new and varied forms of creative output that demonstrates the rich terrain where **urbanism, geographical knowledge and practice, and the humanities overlap**. Central to this work is creative and practice-based art research (2016).*

# Photography

*Photography has a strong role to play in the 'mapping of space'*  
Sarah Pink (2006)

*The usefulness of photography as being able to express qualitative outputs*  
Collier and Collier (1986)

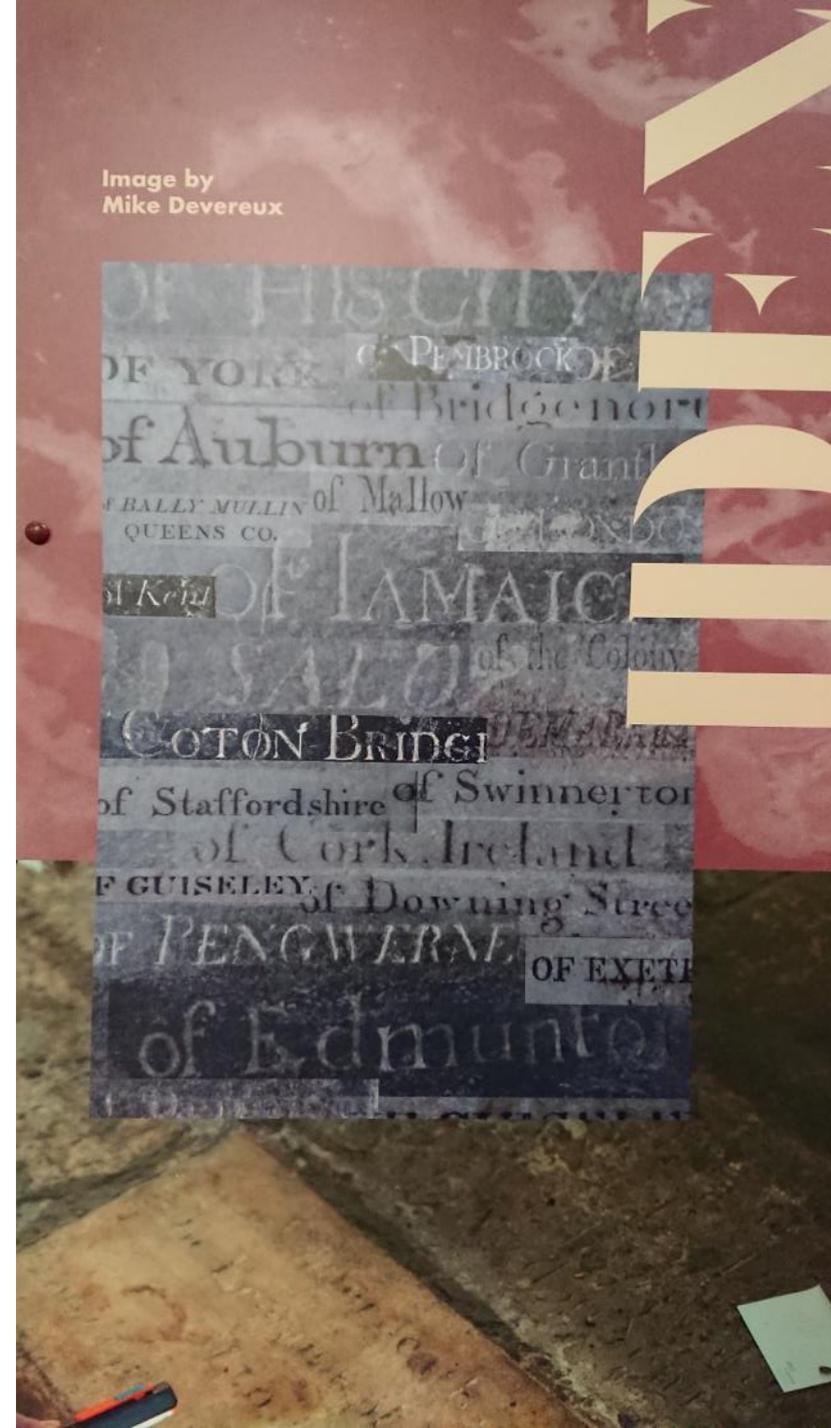
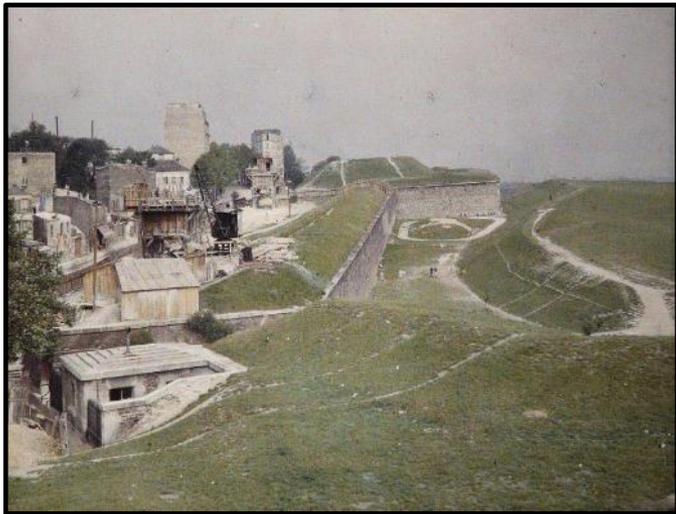


Image by  
Mike Devereux

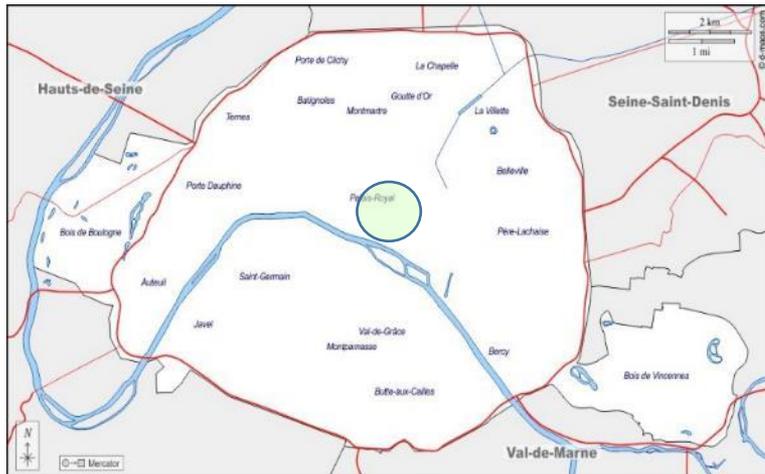
Bd Périphérique

Photography as found drawing



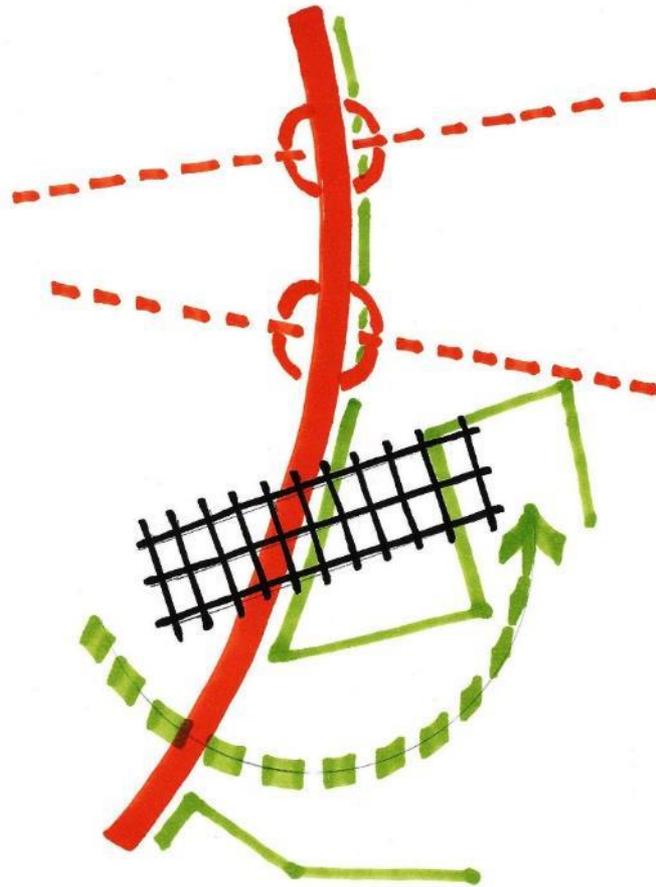
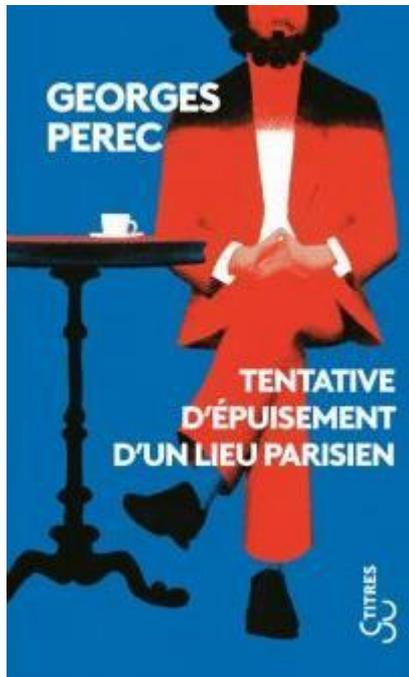
# Arrondissement 1

Photography as documentary



# Suresnes

Photography as forensic record



## Conclusions

Should we be interested in absent boundaries?

Can we map absent boundaries?

How might we map them?

Should we consider them in urban interventions?