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Newsletter n°9 - October 2023

The [Logistics City Chair](#), created in 2019, is dedicated to research into urban logistics, urban and sub-urban **logistics real estate, consumer trends and new practices** and their impact on cities and their environment, and public policies for sustainable urban logistics. We are pleased to announce that the Chair has been renewed in June 2023 for a five-year period, supported by Sogaris, founding partner and the Ile-de-France Region, soon to be joined by the Metropole du Grand Paris (Greater Paris).

Here's an overview of our recent activities.

Departures and arrivals in the team

In 2023, the research team has undergone some important changes.

First of all, many thanks for a long and fruitful collaboration to **Matthieu Schorung**, postdoc from 2021 to 2023, who left the Chair at the end of September 2023 to take up a contractual academic research position at Cergy Paris Université, while continuing his lecturing activities at Sorbonne University and the Ecole d'Urbanisme de Paris.

And a big thank you to **Camille Horvath**, who will be leaving the Chair at the end of October 2023 to take up a postdoctoral position at the INRAE in Avignon.

Welcome to **Marion Albertelli**, still a PhD student for another few weeks at the University Paris 1 Panthéon-Sorbonne, who arrived on October 1, 2023 for a long-term post-doc position with us.

We are also delighted to learn that **Heleen Buldeo Rai**, postdoc from 2019 to 2022 and with whom we continue to collaborate, has just been awarded a permanent position as associate professor at the Vrije Universiteit in Brussels.

The start of the academic year also marks the start of two PhDs (Doctoral School of Urban, Transport and Territorial Studies):

Reece Fisher, economist (University of Illinois at Chicago and University Paris 1 Panthéon-Sorbonne), will be working on the integration of logistics real estate into urban development projects. Her PhD is jointly supported by the Logistics City Chair (supervised by Laetitia Dablanc), CNAM/LIRSA (with Adeline Heitz as co-supervisor), and Sogaris (CIFRE funding).

Pierre-Henri Besnard, Master in Territorial and Urban Strategies (Sciences Po Paris), will be working on the governance and politicization of urban logistics, with co-supervision by Laetitia Dablanc (LVMT) and Gilles Jeannot (LATTS). His PhD is funded by the Ecole des Ponts-ParisTech.

Chaire's book No. 3 'Urban and Suburban Logistics Real Estate'

The Logistics City Chair has published its third book of the Welcome to Logistics City series, focusing on urban and suburban logistics real estate. It is available for download through this [link](#). If you wish to obtain one or more paper copies of the publication, you can contact us via email.

Research Interns 2023

The Chair welcomed a team of research interns in the first semester of 2023: Louis Deschemps (Univ. of Poitiers) worked with Laetitia Dablanc on gig economy delivery workers and instant deliveries; Aliénor Vézinet (Univ. Paris Cité) collaborated with Matthieu Schorung on intermediary logistics and the repurposing of urban spaces for urban logistics; Elsa Dillon (Univ. Paris Cité) worked with Matthieu Schorung on multi-story warehouses; Paula Yaghi (ENPC) contributed to the statistical and cartographic work of the team, particularly for the Theme 1.1 of its scientific program. The theses and research notes are gradually being distributed on the Chair's website.

The Geography of Logistics Warehouses – Spatial Analysis of Warehouses

The team continued its research on the analysis of its database (78 urban regions worldwide, 17 indicators, 7 research hypotheses) on logistics sprawl, in collaboration with Renata de Oliveira. The work is now complete with the release of a [research report](#) co-authored by R. de Oliveira and M. Schorung, as well as the dissemination of a presentation of the database and the obtained results, available through this [link](#).

We also presented research results on logistics warehouses at the World Conference on Transport Research in July 2023 in Montreal, Canada. Matthieu's presentation is available through this [link](#).

The Chair also continued and finalized its research on Amazon warehouses in the United States. You can access the research report via this [link](#). The Chair's work on Amazon was also presented at the WCTR in July 2023, and the presentation is available through this [link](#).

We continued our research on warehouse price differentials between urban centers and peripheries with two research contributions from Coriolan Gout (Master's graduate and former intern of the Chair in 2022). The [first research note](#) (with a summary in English) focuses on Tokyo with collaborative work supervised by Takanori Sakai (Tokyo University of Marine Science and Technology). The [second research note](#) (in French) was completed in September 2023, delving into the methodology for joint analysis of warehouse spatial distribution and price geography and comparing cities.

Urban Warehouses and Logistics Urban Planning, dark stores

The third book 'Welcome to Logistics City,' dedicated to urban and suburban logistics real estate, is available for download via this [link](#).

The Chair's team participated in the International City Logistics Conference held in Bordeaux, France in June 2023, with a [presentation](#) by L. Dablanc, P. Moreira (Abralog), and D. Diziain (Afilog) and a presentation by M. Schorung on quick commerce and dark stores, available through this [link](#).

Also noteworthy is the publication of a joint article led by H. Buldeo Rai on dark stores in Paris in the *Research in Transportation Economics journal*, available through this [link](#).

On June 26 and 27, 2023, L. Dablanc led a [roundtable](#) discussion at the International Transport Forum of the OECD on urban logistics hubs, featuring Juliette Berthon and Reece Fisher (Sogaris). This roundtable will result in a report in early 2024.

During the World Conference of the WCTRS in Montreal, Laetitia Dablanc chaired the [Young Conference](#) and participated in a roundtable discussion of the special interest group on urban logistics regarding the state of research in this field. She also chaired several sessions on urban logistics. These sessions testify to: 1) the growing importance of research into urban logistics and city logistics

worldwide; 2) the numerous reflections on data-related issues; 3) the still limited amount of research into the "urban logistics" dimension.

On the subject of logistic urban planning and urban logistics real estate, Laetitia Dablanc is involved in organizing a [special journal issue](#) on logistics cities and urban warehouses, led Heleen Buldeo Rai with two Dutch colleagues (Bram Kin and Paul Buijs).

Aliénor Vézinet's research internship focused on intermediary logistics, repurposing urban spaces for urban logistics, and tactical urban planning. Her [thesis](#) is summarized in English in this [brief](#). A joint publication with Suzanne Friedrich (Sogaris) is expected by the end of the year.

Start of Reece Fisher's PhD on logistics in urban development planning (see above).

Also note that the Logistics City Chair is partnering with the Aménager le Grand Paris Chair to supervise a 2023-2024 workshop of the Master 2 Transport et Mobilité at the Ecole d'Urbanisme de Paris, to consider organizational models for integrating urban logistics services, whether permanent or temporary, into the development of the urban fabric of Greater Paris. A presentation of the workshop is available [here](#) in French.

Consumer and distribution trends, e-commerce, delivery platforms

Laetitia Dablanc conducted two academic fieldworks in June and July 2023 in New York and Los Angeles, focusing on instant deliveries, platform delivery workers, and urban warehouses.

L. Deschemps' research internship, supervised by L. Dablanc, addressed methodological challenges in delivery gig worker surveys. His Master's thesis will be available for distribution soon.

Laetitia Dablanc was appointed to the board of stakeholders of [ARPE](#), the Authority for Labor Relations in Mobility Platforms. In the context of platform delivery workers, she was also interviewed by Arte for a discussion on a short film, also available [online](#).

The Chair will be participating in the European project (DUT) led in France by the National Research Agency (ANR), titled FRESH, focusing on the fifteen-minute city and urban logistics led by Eva Heinen, TU Dortmund.

In September 2023, Camille Horvath did a major update of the [E-commerce Mobility Observatory](#), which now includes a [new section](#) dedicated to short food supply chains, as well as the latest available data on e-commerce in Europe.

The Environmental Impact of E-commerce

Laetitia Dablanc is involved in the AFNOR SPEC E-commerce working group focusing on consumer information and has compiled a summary of studies regarding the environmental impact of delivery choices. She made a presentation in this context, which is available through this [link](#) (in French).

L. Dablanc spoke on '*CO2 Impacts of Freight Transportation*' at the colloquium 'Exploring Tracks for Transatlantic Cooperation on Intelligent Mobility,' organized by the Embassy of France and the University of Maryland. Her presentation is available through this [link](#).

Urban Logistics Governance, Public Policies, and New Data Collection Methods

François Adoue and Laetitia Dablanc have published a [research report](#) (with a summary in English) on new data sources for urban logistics based on multiple case studies. Another [research report](#) (with a

summary in English) focuses on delivery area management in Barcelona and the contribution of data for urban logistics that this management provides to the municipality.

Publication of a scientific article on the integration of logistics into urban policies (the case of Paris and Rotterdam) by H. Buldeo Rai, L. Dablanc, and Dutch colleagues (B. Kin, H. Quak), available through this [link](#). A [book chapter](#) addresses freight transport planning policies in the Ile-de-France region in the context of climate transition (L. Dablanc). Another [chapter](#) addresses logistics urban planning policy issues.

Start of Pierre-Henri Besnard 's thesis on "governance and politicization of urban logistic" (see above).

Recent Publications

Buldeo Rai, H., Marquivoi, J., Schorung, M. & Dablanc, L. (2023) Dark stores in the City of Light: Geographical and transportation impacts of 'quick commerce' in Paris. In: *Research in Transportation Economics*. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.retrec.2023.101333>

Dablanc, L. (2023) Land use planning for a more sustainable urban freight. Chapter 3.1 in Marcucci, E., Gatta, V., Le Pira, M. *Handbook on City Logistics and Urban Freight*. Edward Elgar Publisher.

Dablanc, L. (2023) La logistique, un mal pensé de la transition énergétique en Île-de-France. Chapitre 8 in Gallez, C., Coutard, O. (Dir) *Vers une Ile-de-France post-carbone ? Freins et leviers d'une transition énergétique régionale*. Paris, L'œil d'or.

Kin, B., Buldeo Rai, H., Dablanc, L. & Quak, H. (2023). Integrating logistics into urban planning: best practices from Paris and Rotterdam. In: *European Planning Studies*. <https://doi.org/10.1080/09654313.2023.2242400>

Schorung, M., Lecourt, T. (2023) A multiscale and comparative analysis of warehousing development patterns and logistics sprawl in four metropolitan areas: Dallas, Houston (Texas Triangle), New York, Philadelphia (Northeast Region), *World Conference on Transport Research – WCTR 2023 Montreal 17-21 July 2023*.

Schorung, M. et Dablanc, L. (2023) Welcome to Logistics City n°3 (2023) Urban and Suburban logistics real estate. Link: https://www.lvmt.fr/wp-content/uploads/2019/10/Logistics-City_n3-web-pages-ANGLAIS-1.pdf

Communications in conferences

Dablanc, L. (2023) Identifying impacts of the pandemic's lockdowns on urban logistics, the case of Paris and France. World Conference on Transport Research, Montreal, Canada, July.

Dablanc, L., Moreira, P., Diziain, D. (2023) Dealing with crises: the "new normal" for logistics real estate in Brazil and France. International Conference on City Logistics, Bordeaux, France, June.

Schorung, M., Lecourt, T., Dablanc, L. (2023) Assessing the spatial patterns of Amazon warehouse network in the United States. World Conference on Transport Research, Montreal, Canada, July.

For more news and information, please visit the website: <https://www.lvmt.fr/en/chaires/logistics-city/>. And follow us on [X](#) and on [LinkedIn](#).

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