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An agrarian project at the University of French Polynesia: an "open campus" and collective gardens for the benefit of the inhabitants of the priority district of Outumaoro and the students

Since 2019, on the island of Tahiti, the University of French Polynesia (UPF) and the Punaauia town hall have been discussing the reciprocal opening up of the "Outumaoro" social district and the eponymous university campus. As part of the Urban Renewal Project, the Punaauia town council wishes to develop collective gardens, particularly for the benefit of the inhabitants of this social neighbourhood. The development of such gardens in this neighbourhood is seen by the actors (town hall, neighbourhood associations, inhabitants, university community, etc.) as a means of strengthening social ties, introducing young people to environmental conservation and reviving the tradition of the fa'a'apu (the vegetable garden in Tahitian) in order to combat the obesity pandemic. Indeed, in a desire to open up the campus to the outside world, and then due to a lack of space in the neighbourhood, a collective garden should be set up, making it possible to create a link between these two communities.

The development of collective gardens within the campus could encourage social mixing by associating these populations, which are neighbours and different (age groups, CSP...), who cross paths but rarely cohabit. The feeling of stigmatisation and exclusion experienced by the inhabitants of this area could be overcome by their inclusion in a collective garden project, in collaboration with the university community. In this way, the project would enhance the know-how of the two communities, whether it be by bringing them together, exchanging, sharing techniques and tools, helping each other, or even strengthening their self-confidence and confidence in others. However, students and some of the campus staff seem suspicious of these outsiders. The analysis of the semi-structured interviews reveals that the interlocutors read the interactions between the two populations - academics and people from a peripheral social area - according to social, not ethnic, criteria. This ethnicisation of human relations, from an essentialist perspective, is a commonplace that needs to be deconstructed: in this particular case, Polynesians are concerned about the opening of the campus to other Polynesians, but with a different sociology from their own. Although some of the past incidents were attributed to people from the Outumaoro district, it should be noted that others were provoked by students themselves.

Thus, by the will to open up the universities to make them places of life inserted in their environment, and then to include the populations living nearby in the life of the campus, this collective garden would associate different social communities. Moreover, the open campus project would allow for the exchange of knowledge, both scientific and vernacular: on the one hand, it would allow for the popularisation of knowledge and the dissemination of culture to a public other than the university public; on the other hand, it would make use of the non-academic knowledge of the inhabitants, which constitutes a richness that is beneficial to the university

world. Through a partnership between the Punaauia town hall and the UPF, several actions would be envisaged (reciprocal exchange, mutual enrichment, opening up of both the campus and the district), which would benefit not only these communities, but more broadly all neighbouring inhabitants. The main guidelines would therefore be cultural, sporting, social and artistic exchanges.

Keywords: open Campus, priority neighbourhood, community garden, Tahiti

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