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An Attempt at Exhausting a Place in Lleida

The construction of places has meant, historically, to delimit spaces well and to attribute them values and a symbolic load from a series of common elements that are able to give security to the subjects that inhabit them. These limits are not only those lines that administratively demarcate space, which leads us to the concept of territory, but we must extend them to all whose points have some common property related to human activities and the construction of meanings. Spaces are, therefore, those "extensions" that do not possess the mentioned symbolic delimitations fruit of the activity and the human experience in them.

In 1974, within the broad framework of his *Lieux* project (which coincides with the aesthetics and the methods of conceptual art that were being imposed on the international stage at this time), Georges Perec conducted an experiment titled "An Attempt at Exhausting a Place in Paris". This project, using the ethnographic method, consisted in recording the most minute details of what happened during three days in October in the Saint-Sulpice square in Paris, in order to apprehend daily life through the scrutiny of the infra-ordinary.

In November 2016, and after reading several passages of Perec's text, we reproduced the ethnographic experiment mentioned with the students of the subjects "Geography and History of Catalonia" and "Processes and Socio-educational Contexts II" of the primary education degree of the University of Lleida (Spain) in one of our university's campuses. After this first activity we worked with the information collected by students around the concepts of space and place and experimented with various ways of organizing the information collected on campus. The conclusions reached help us to reconceptualise the concepts of space and place through Deleuze and Guattari's concepts of smooth and striated space and show us how the work that Perec performed is an individualising and subjectivising line of flight that the author uses against the totalitarianism, the dogmatism and the orthodoxy of the collectively enunciated places."