How people-place bonds can foster pro-environmental commitments

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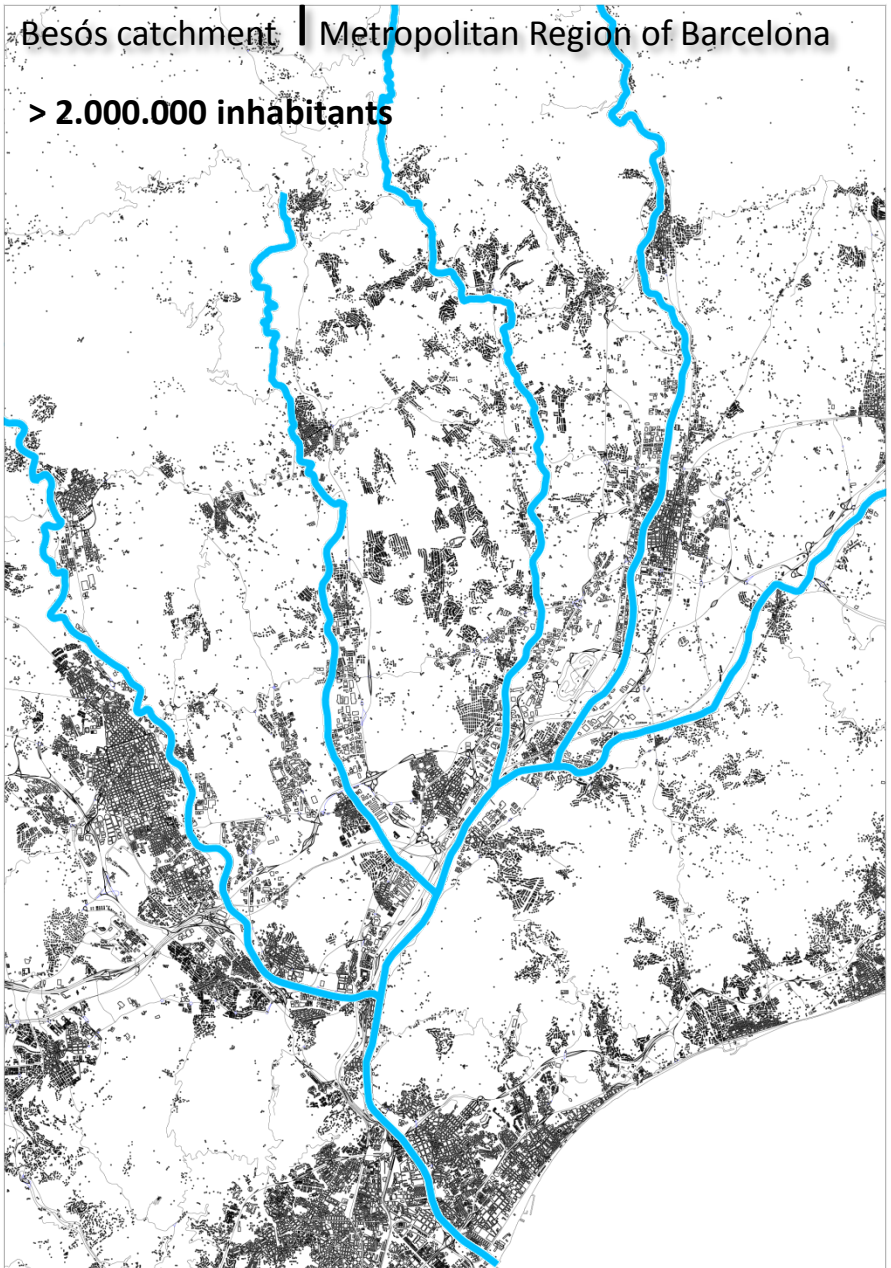
1 **The strategic value of metropolitan river corridors** INTRODUCTION

2 **The importance of experiential knowledge** METHODOLOGY

3 **The incremental appropriation of space in metropolitan river corridors** RESULTS



River corridors

1. Ecological connectivity - recover

2. Urban structure –social use

3. EU Directives – participation

Mc Harg (1969), Forman (1986), Register (2002)
Folch (2003), Vallerani (2008)

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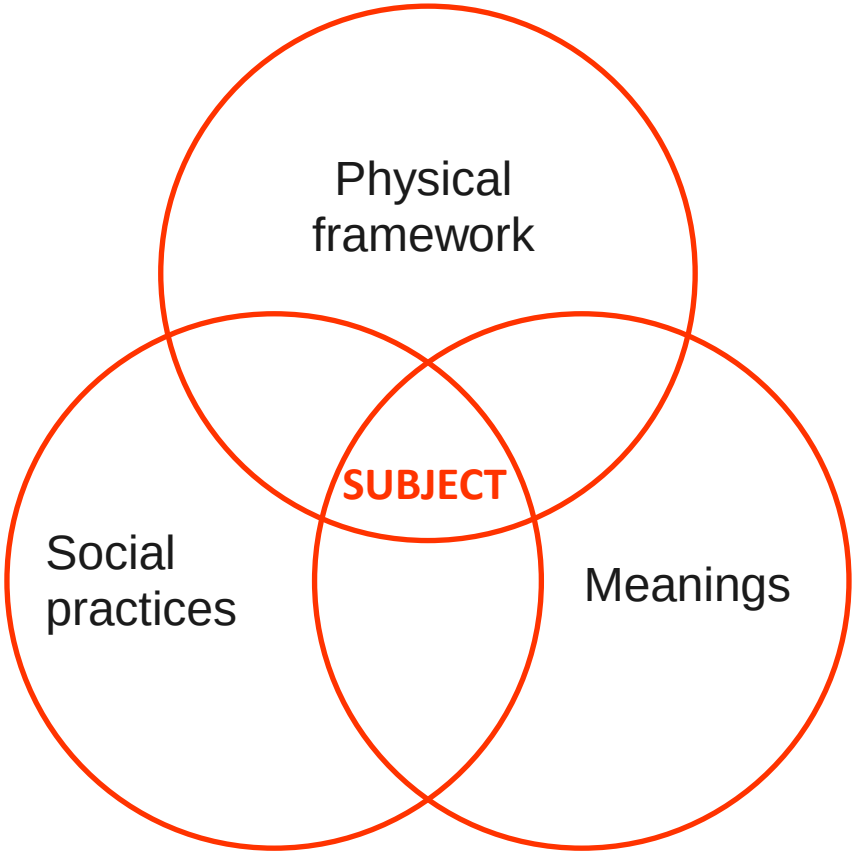


Frémont (1972), Relph (1976), Canter (1977)

Landscape: percieved reality

Qualitative research

(documentation, observation & interviews)

↓

Experiential knowledge

Technical knowledge

Specialized and systemic

Measure, verify

Positivist paradigm

Experiential knowledge

Fragmentary and multiple

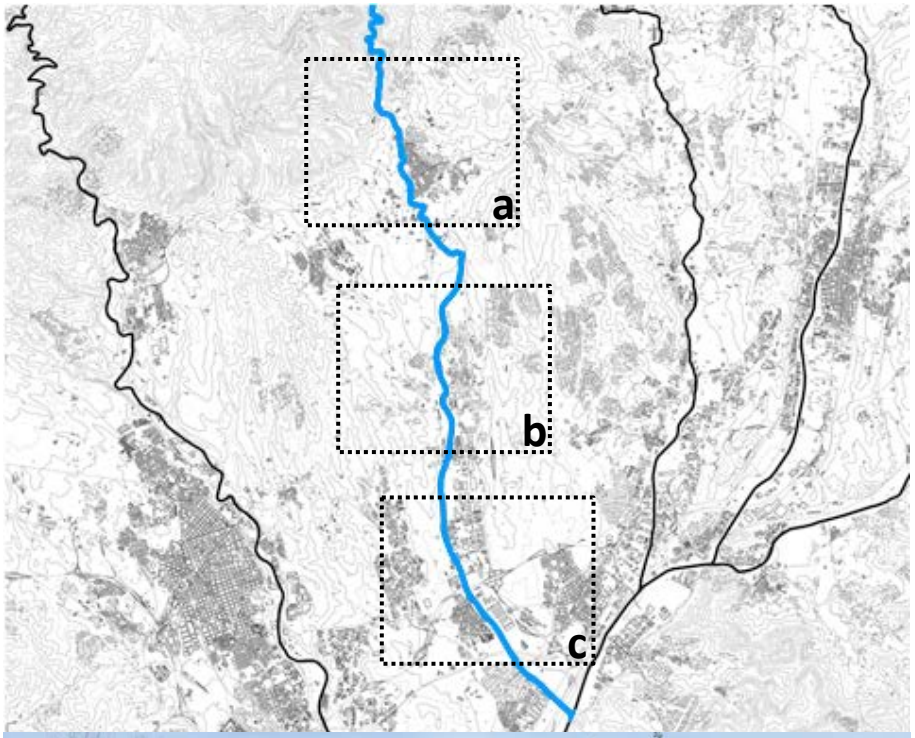
Geo-ethnographic Diagnosis

Mathews et al. (2005), Verd & Porcel (2012)

Centrality of the subject

Bring out, emerge

Naturalist paradigm and phenomenology



Case study: Caldes river

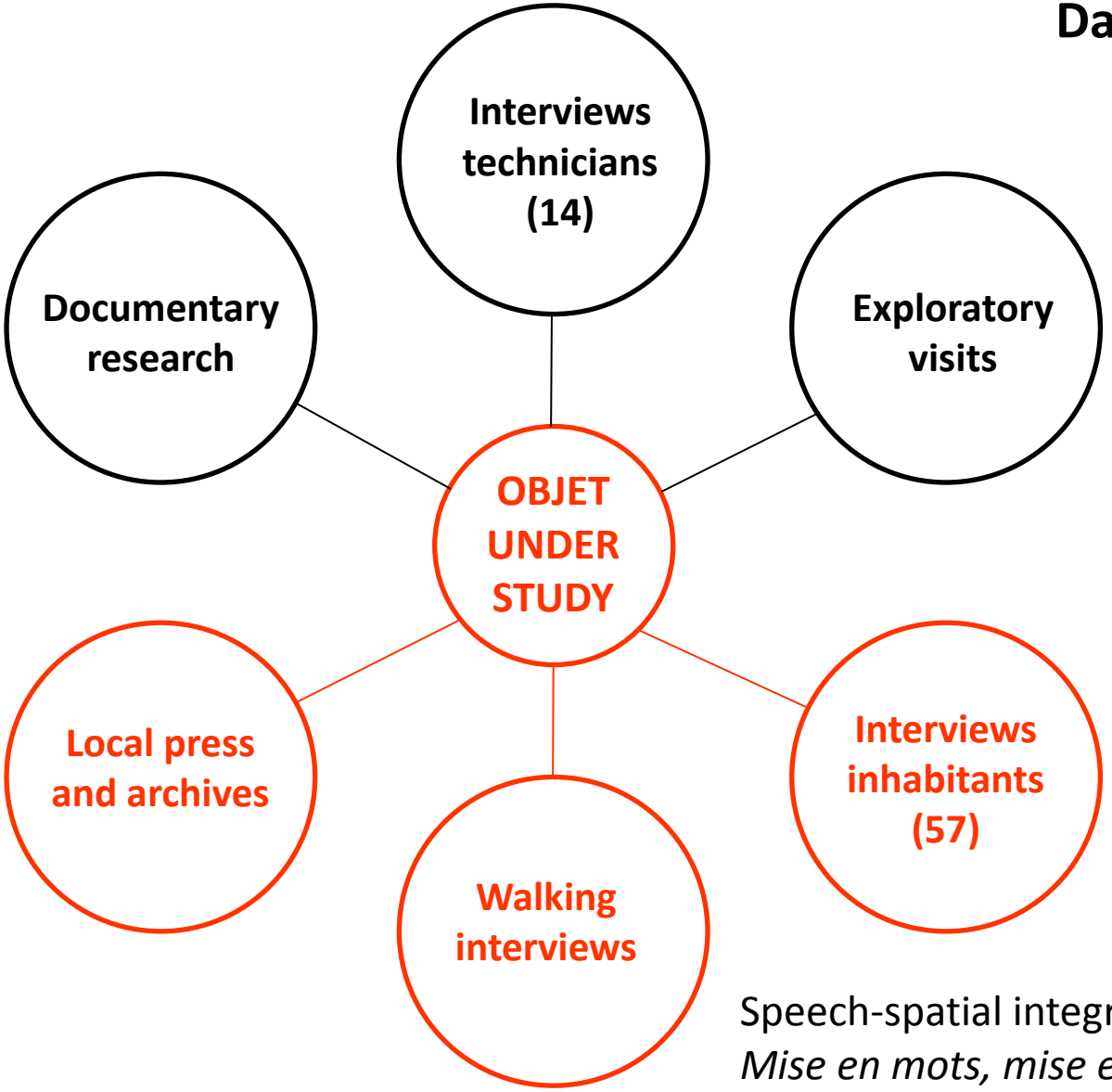
Urban pressure

Social pressure

(a) Caldes de Montbui	17.154hab
(b) Palau-solità i Plegamans	14.454hab
(c) Santa Perpètua de Mogoda	25.409hab
Total	**57.017hab**

Data collection techniques

Multi-method



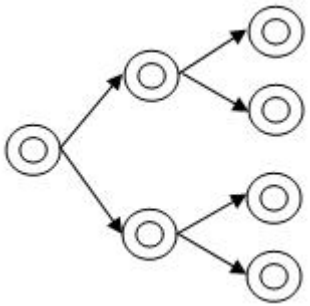
Speech from their personal experience

Speech-spatial integration
Mise en mots, mise en scène

Data collection techniques

Municipality	inhab	Age				Years of residence		
		15-29	30-49	50-69	70+	<10	10-25	25+
1	26	2	9	12	3	1	3	22
2	14	1	3	7	3	-	5	9
3	17	4	4	4	5	-	6	11
	57	7	17	22	11	1	14 5*	42 34*

* Born in the area



Snowball technique sampling

David & Morgan (2008), Atkinson et al. (2004)

Open-ended questions

Data saturation

Grounded theory (Glaser & Strauss, 1967)

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External framework

DEDUCTIVE

Data

Generalizations

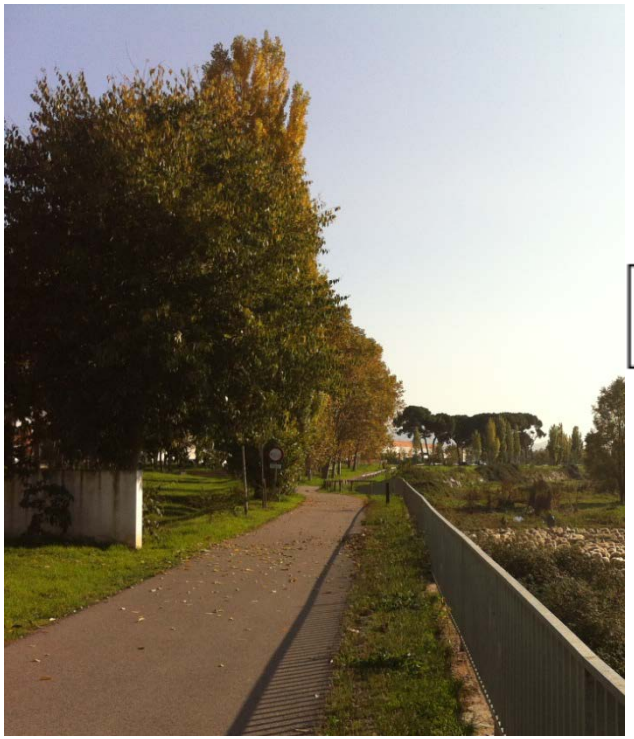
INDUCTIVE

Data

Data analysis

Inductive procedure

Software Atlas.ti



places - people

Dominant spaces of appropriation

1. Water management infraestructure

2. Riverbank spaces

3. Agroforestry spaces

4. Riverside spaces

5. Paths

6. River (as a whole)

Environmental Experience Groups (EEG)

1. Sporadic practice
2. Recurrent individual practice
3. Recurrent collective practice (local groups)

	Inhab	Age				Years of residence			Years of relation with the river				Generation		
		15-29	30-49	50-69	70+	<10	10-25	25+	< 5	5-9	10-24	25+	1st	2nd	3rd
EEG 1	15	5	4	5	1	-	4 3*	11 10*	10	4	1	-	0	10	5
EEG 2	28	2	5	12	9	1 0*	8 2*	19 12*	3	11	5	9	13	13	2
EEG 3	14	-	8	5	1	-	2 0*	12 12*	-	1	10	3	3	8	3
Total	57	7	17	22	11	1	14 5*	42 34*	13	16	16	12	18	28	11

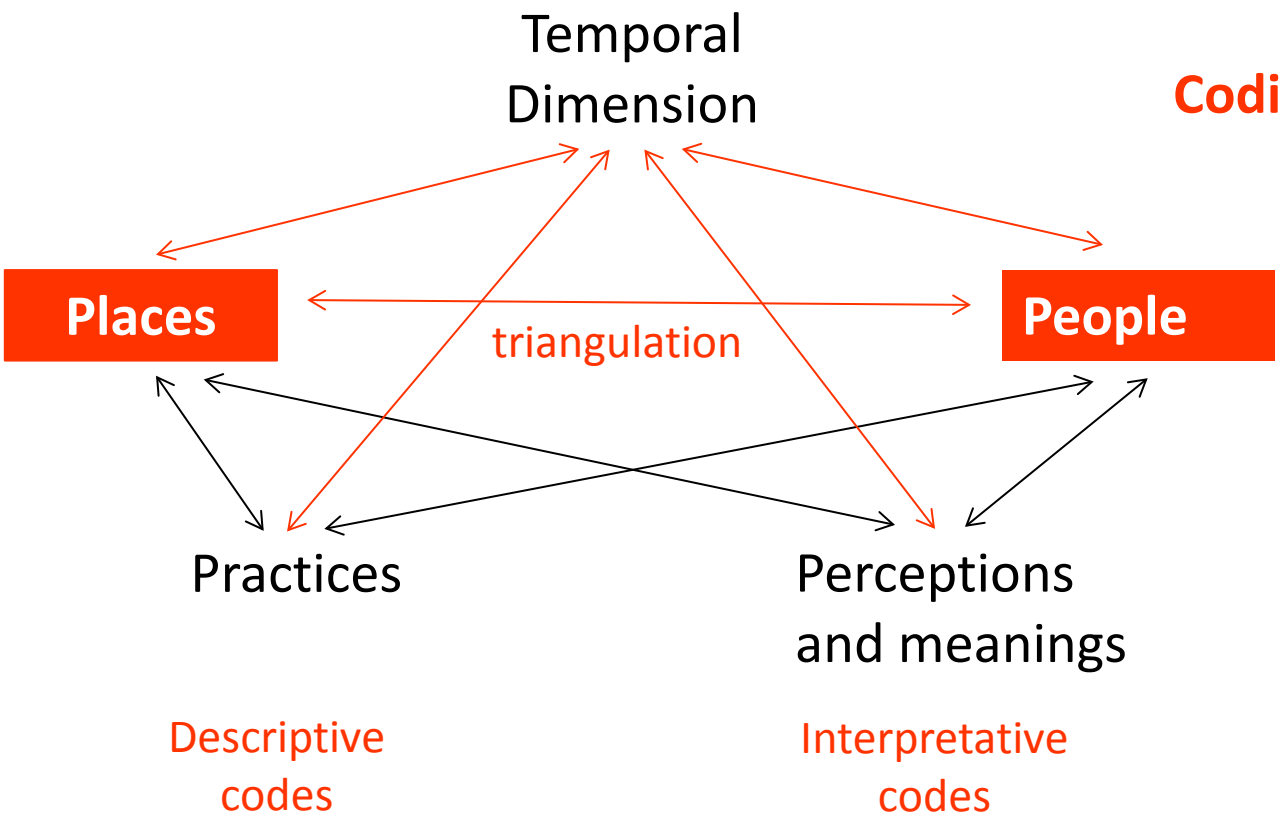
* Born in the area

Data analysis

Iterative analysis

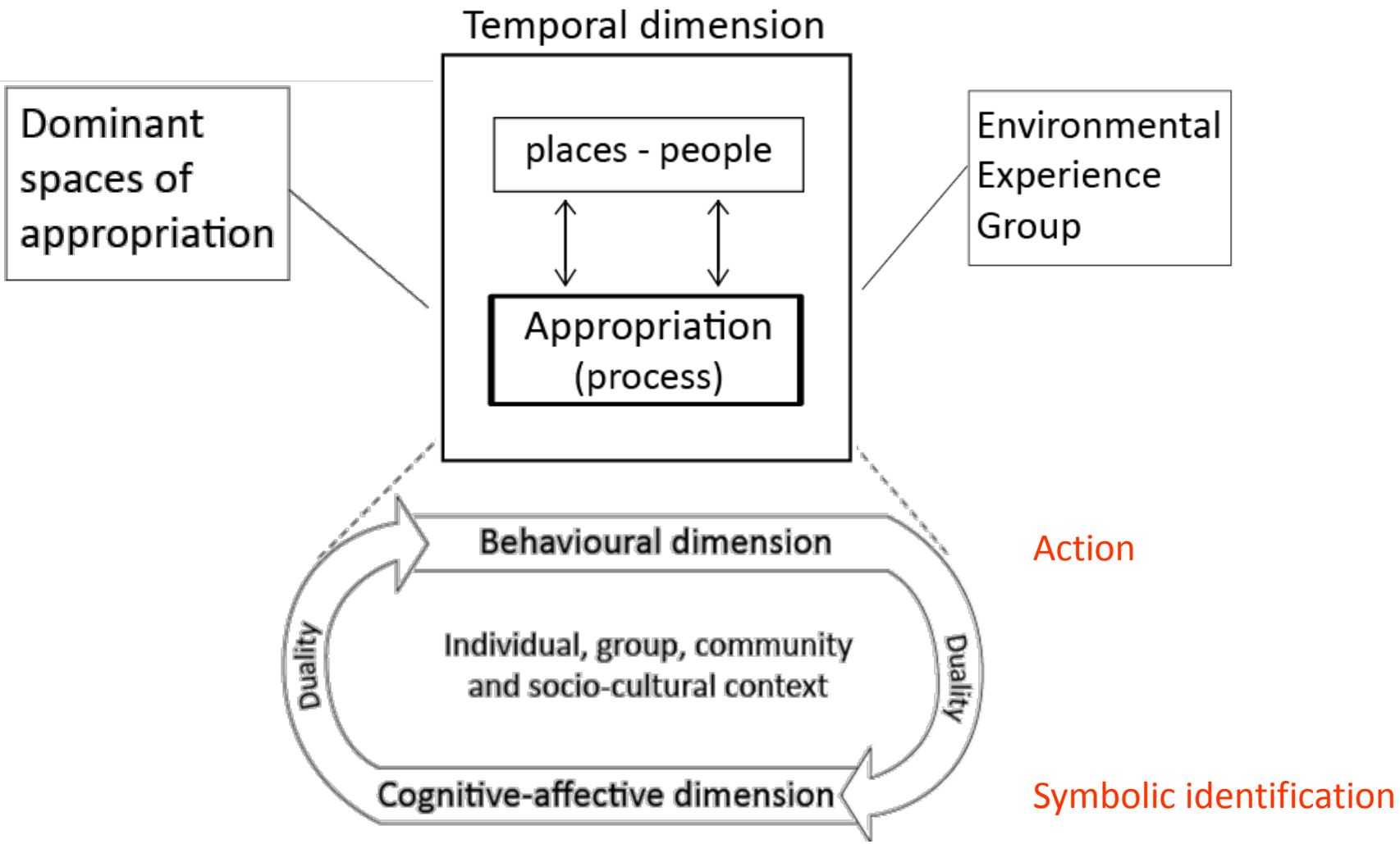
Miles y Huberman (1994)

Coding process



Dual model of space appropriation

(Pol 1996, Vidal 2002)



1st phase of the appropriation process: **aesthetic response**

Dominant spaces of appropriation

(1) Water management inf.
(2) Riverbank spaces
(3) Agro forestry spaces
(4) Riverside spaces
(5) Paths
(6) River (as a whole)

Temporal dimension

places - people

Appropriation (process)

Environmental Experience Group

(1) Sporadic practice
(2) Recurrent individual practice
(3) Recurrent collective practice

Visual properties

Well-being

Security

Behavioural dimension

Action

Symbolic identification

Cognitive-affective dimension

Sporadic practice

Accessible spaces

2nd phase of the appropriation process: **place attachment**

Dominant spaces of appropriation

(1) Water management inf.
(2) Riverbank spaces
(3) Agroforestry spaces
(4) Riverside spaces
(5) Paths
(6) River (as a whole)

Temporal dimension

places - people

Appropriation (process)

Environmental Experience Group

(1) Sporadic practice
(2) Recurrent individual practice
(3) Recurrent collective practice

Cultural representations

Positive memories

Negative memories

Behavioural dimension

Action

Symbolic identification

Cognitive-affective dimension

Recurrent practice

Socio-cultural events

3rd phase of the appropriation process: **involvement**

Dominant spaces of appropriation

(1) Water management inf.
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Temporal dimension

places - people

Appropriation (process)

Environmental Experience Group

(1) Sporadic practice
(2) Recurrent individual practice
(3) Recurrent collective practice

Expectations

Consensus and divergencies

Behavioural dimension

Action - transformation

Symbolic identification

Cognitive-affective dimension

Solidarity actions

Preservation
Awareness raising
Improvement

Incremental process of appropriation

Aesthetic response → Place attachment → Involvement

1st Phase | 2nd Phase | 3rd Phase

Sense of belonging

Bonds recovery after negative impacts

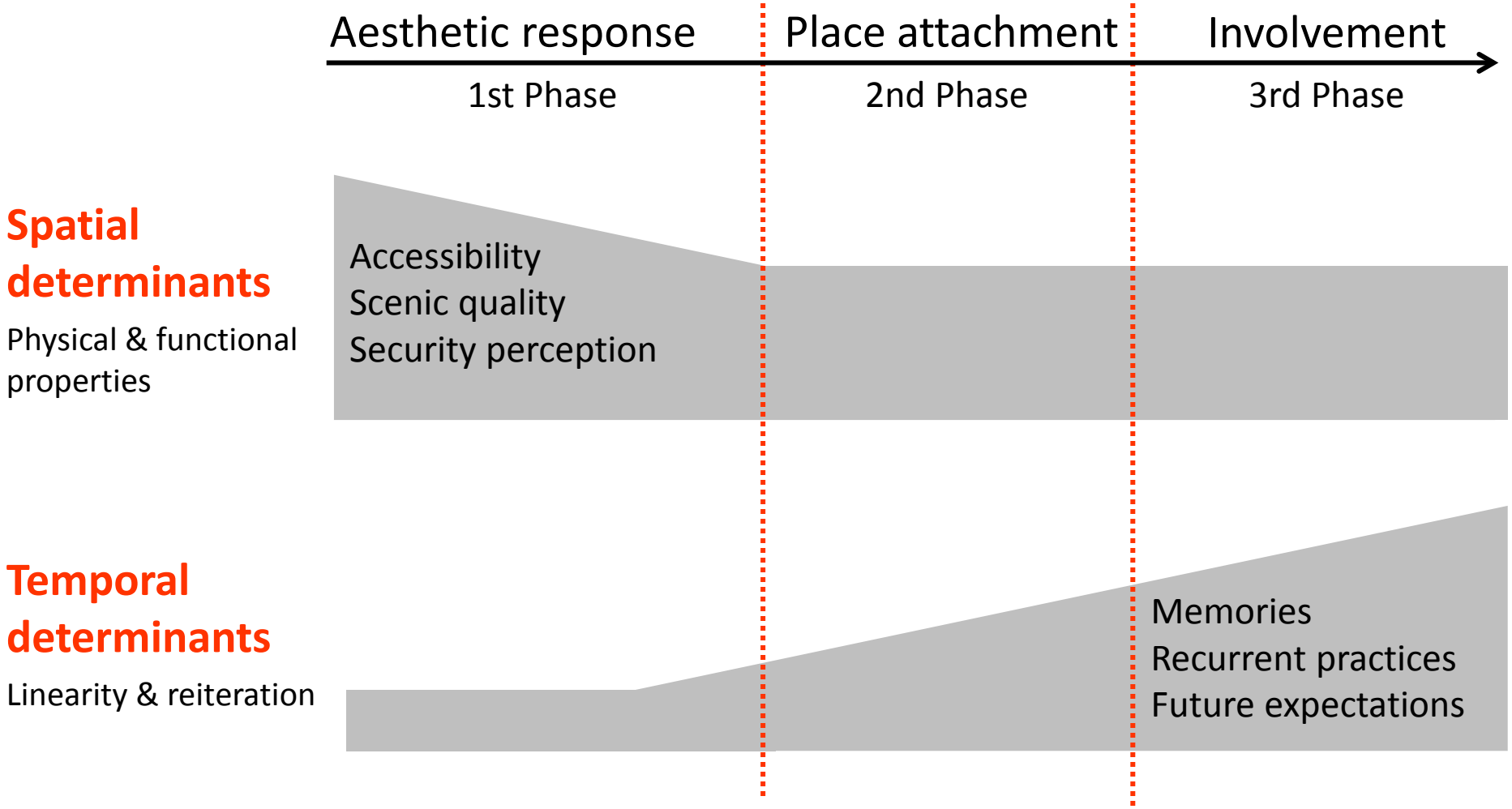
Scale of identification

Riparian landscape perception as a whole

Commitment

Actions of local self-organized groups

Incremental process of appropriation



3 The incremental appropriation of space in metropolitan river corridors

MAIN CONTRIBUTIONS

Experiential knowledge and participative regeneration strategies.

Open process of space appropriation and gorwing bonding and citizen’s commitment.