

“CITY, CLIMATE CHANGE, RESILIENCE AND ADAPTABILITY”

2026 - SUSTHERIT WEBINAR SERIES

28 May @5pm (CET) via Zoom <http://bit.ly/4ILbp5p>

Practices, stories and imaginaries of the Cour de la Cabucelle (Marseille) – Muriel Girard, Professor of Sociology, ENSA Marseille/INAMA



In this presentation, I will outline aspects of a research project based on fieldwork carried out in *The Cabucelle* neighbourhood of Marseille. In this research, I have sought to examine heritage practices through the lens of care — looking after others by paying attention to people and things. By raising the question of heritage, the aim was to ask: what do we hold dear? What do we inherit and what do we pass on? Building on this research, I will draw connections to examine a spatial feature – *the courtyard* – as a space for social practices from a historical perspective – through the example of worker priests and housing shared by working-class communities; then the reappropriation of the courtyard 50 years later by new residents who will turn it into heritage in a post-industrial context; and finally, the imagery that architects and urban planners associate with it in contemporary urban regeneration projects.

Muriel Girard is a Professor of Sociology and supervises research in the humanities and social sciences at the École Nationale Supérieure d’Architecture de Marseille (ENSA•M). She is the director of the INAMA laboratory – *Investigations into the History and Current State of Architectural Transformations* – at ENSA•M.

At the intersection of sociology and anthropology, her research focuses on heritage as a social and political construct. It also addresses urban transformations and the experience of living in a place, paying particular attention to vulnerabilities, precarious situations, and, within these contexts, the heritage dimension.

Organized by the [SUSTHERIT](#) consortium team, a three-year research project.

