

# Deindustrialization, nation, immigration: what political responses?

*DePOT Annual Conference*

June 19-21, 2025

Paris, France

**DéPOT**

DEINDUSTRIALIZATION  
AND THE POLITICS OF OUR TIME



Social Sciences and Humanities  
Research Council of Canada

Conseil de recherches en  
sciences humaines du Canada

Canada



## Deindustrialization, Nation, Immigration : *What political responses?*

**DePOT Annual Conference**  
Paris, France, June 19-21, 2025

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## REGISTRATION

The deadline for registration is Mar 31. If you would like to attend, [please fill out this form](#).

We encourage community walk-ins with or without registrations!

## SCHEDULE OVERVIEW

|                                                        |                                                                                             |
|--------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Thursday, June 19 (morning and early afternoon)</b> | DePOT Project Assembly (for DePOT-affiliated researchers)                                   |
| <b>Thursday, June 19 (afternoon and evening)</b>       | Trade unionist roundtable and reception                                                     |
| <b>Friday, June 20</b>                                 | “Deindustrialization, nation and immigration, what political responses?” conference (day 1) |
| <b>Saturday, June 21</b>                               | “Deindustrialization, nation and immigration, what political responses?” conference (day 2) |



## 2025 DePOT ANNUAL PROJECT ASSEMBLY

*Please note that these meetings are for affiliates of the DePOT project. If you're joining us for the conference, we look forward to seeing you in the afternoon for the trade union roundtable and the following reception.*

### **Thursday, June 19 — Project assembly for DePOT members**

CGT Headquarters, 263 Rue de Paris, Montreuil, *Metro Porte de Montreuil (lines 7, 9)*

8:30-9:00 Tea, Coffee and Pastries

9:00-10:30 Plenary Session

10.30-10.50 Break

10:50-12:00 Workshops

- Teaching Workshop
- Going public with your research
- Capstone Exhibition

12:00-13:00 Thematic Initiative Meetings

- Race, Populism and the Left
- Heritage and/in Deindustrialization
- Environment

13:00-14:00 Lunch

### **Thursday, June 19 — Afternoon and evening activities open to all conference attendees**

CGT Headquarters, 263 Rue de Paris, Montreuil, *Metro Porte de Montreuil (lines 7, 9)*

**14:00-16:00 Trade Union Roundtable**

This roundtable, organized in partnership with our hosts at the Confédération générale du travail (CGT), one of France's largest trade unions, will host trade unionists and DePOT members for a discussion on how the labour movement can face the ongoing challenges of deindustrialization. - More details to be distributed later.

**16:00-18:00 Reception courtesy of the CGT**



# “DEINDUSTRIALIZATION, NATION, IMMIGRATION: WHAT POLITICAL RESPONSES?” CONFERENCE SCHEDULE

Paris, France, June 20-21

## Friday, JUNE 20

Sciences Po, campus Saint-Thomas, 1 Place St-Thomas d'Aquin, Paris 7ème arrondissement. Metro *Rue du Bac* (line 12) or *Saint Germain des Prés* (line 4)

8:30-9:00 REGISTRATION, REFRESHMENTS, AND LIGHT BREAKFAST: 27 rue Saint-Guillaume, 75007 Paris – Amphithéâtre Sorel-Leroy-Beaulieu

9:00-10:00 WELCOME AND KEYNOTE 1: Amphithéâtre Sorel-Leroy-Beaulieu

Alessandro Portelli (La Sapienza University) - “From Red to Black. The right wing turn in an industrial town.”

10:00-10:30 COFFEE BREAK: Campus Saint-Thomas d'Aquin

10:30-12:00 CONCURRENT SESSIONS

### *Session 1A: Scapegoating immigrant workers (Salle K011)*

Chairperson: Stefan Berger (Ruhr University Bochum)

- They are not like our grandfathers. The xenophobic manipulation of memory of Italian mining emigration to Belgium by the Italian far-right – Andrea Negro (Universities of Padua and Venice)
- The Final Countdown? Monitoring the Gastarbeiter population in West Germany in the 1970s – Maria Adamopoulou (New Europe College)
- Race, Deindustrialization and the Puerto Rican Community in Lorain and the Mahoning Valley – Greg Wilson (University of Akron) and James Rhodes (Hiram College)

### *Session 1B: Global and Local (Salle K008)*

Chairperson: Dimitry Anastakis (University of Toronto)

- No Borders, No Nations: Local responses to neoliberal globalizations in the 21<sup>st</sup> century – Graham Latham (Concordia University)
- Global Value Chains and Local Narratives: The bra industry in Głowno, Poland – Marta Chmielewska (European University Institute)

12:00-13:00 LUNCH

13:00-14:30 CONCURRENT SESSIONS

### *Session 2A: Deindustrialization, immigration, and changing workforces (Salle K008)*

Chairperson: Xavier Vigna (Université de Paris – Nanterre)

- (Im)mobilités et fins de carrières ouvrières dans la désindustrialisation : Français et Marocains face à la récession charbonnière, années 1960-1990 - Anton Perdoncin (Nantes Université)
- Des mineurs marocains pour maintenir les houillères de Lorraine (1974-2004) : différences régionales de traitement d'une population immigrée - Sébastien Mellard (Université de Lorraine)
- Une désindustrialisation précoce ? Les trajectoires de Yougoslaves dans le bassin de Belfort-Montbéliard, années 1960-2000 - Juliette Ronsin (Institut d'Histoire Moderne et Contemporaine)



### *Session 2B: Thinking through race and deindustrialization (Salle K011)*

Chairperson: Piyusha Chatterjee (University of Glasgow)

- An industrial case study into how the white working class use narratives of deindustrialisation to support their migrant co-workers - Thomas Wilson (University of Kent)
- A Historiographical Inquiry into Race and Deindustrialization - James Rhodes (Hiram College) and Marion Fontaine (Sciences Po)
- Black Women's Presence in the Rust Belt: The Creative Interventions of Lynn Nottage and LaToya Ruby Frazier – Sherry Lee Linkon (Georgetown University)

14:30-15:00 COFFEE BREAK

15:00-16:30 CONCURRENT SESSIONS

### *Session 3A: Local perspectives on populism(s) (Salle K011)*

Chairperson: Amber Ward (University of St. Andrews)

1. Deindustrialisation and the Populist Turn in Sesto San Giovanni and Marghera - Gilda Zazzara, (Ca' Foscari University of Venice) Roberta Garruccio, (University of Milan) Gabriela Julio Medel (Ca' Foscari University of Venice)
2. What is Burnley for? Scenes from a northern English "red wall" town - James Rhodes (Hiram College) and Mike Makin-Waite (Independent scholar)
3. Uncharted Waters: Brexit, Alienation and Right-Wing Populism in the Declining UK Fishing Industry - Katherine Watson (University of Swansea)
4. In the Labyrinth of Industrial Developmentalism: The South Asian Communist Parties and Its Populist Politics - Indranil Chakraborty (Independent scholar)

### *Session 3B: Managing decline (Salle K008)*

Chairperson: Eliot Perrin (Concordia University)

- Industrial Echoes: Transition Pathways and the Political Legacy of Deindustrialization in the American Rust Belt and Northeast China – Wen Xie (Peking University)
- The Greater London Council's Radical Response to Deindustrialization, 1981-86 – Steven High (Concordia University)
- Mill Colonialism in Canada and the United States: Impacts of Industry and Decline in New England, Nova Scotia, and Manitoba - Myriam Guillemette (Université du Québec à Montréal), Lachlan MacKinnon (Cape Breton University), and Peter Thompson (University of New Brunswick)

### *Session 3C: Solidarity and protest (Salle K018)*

Chairperson: Marion Henry (Sciences Po)

- Strikebreaking, immigrant workers, and deindustrialisation in late twentieth century Europe – Matt Myers (Oxford)
- Deindustrialization and Strikes in Two Political and Economic Systems - Dino Šakanović (University of Sarajevo)
- Médiatisation et résonance politique des mouvements sociaux de lutte contre la désindustrialisation : une approche comparative entre l'usine de viscosse Cellatex à Givet (France) et la mine de potasse de Bischofferode (Allemagne) - Raphaël Pernoud (Université de Strasbourg)

16:30-16:40 TRANSITION TO THE ARTIST IN RESIDENCE PLENARY



**16:40-17:45 ARTIST IN RESIDENCE PLENARY**

Introduced by Petra Dolata (University of Calgary) and Jana Golombek (LWL-Industriemuseum)

We will be joined by DePOT's 2024-2025 artists-in-residence, who will share the work they prepared aligned with the "Race, Populism and the Left" research thematic.

**Raechele Lovell**, a passionate Artist, is rooted on a block of The Haldimand Tract, colonially known as Kitchener, ON Canada. Her journey in the arts began as a child on tour with the polyrhythmic dance and music of her Caribbean heritage, igniting a lifelong quest for creative expression. As a bi-racial artist, with Afro-Caribbean and German Mennonite heritage, Raechele navigates the intricate intersections of identity, culture, and artistry. This rich tapestry of lineage informs her work, intertwining ancestral heritage with contemporary narratives and grounding her in a unique perspective as an Afro-diasporic artist on Turtle Island. As the Founder and Executive Artistic Director of DiverseWorks Dance Co., Raechele envisions a future where Afrocentric artistry thrives. Her latest project, "Uncovering Roots," delves into the historical and contemporary narratives of deindustrialization, exploring personal and collective resilience through movement. Through her unique artistic voice and vision, Raechele aims to inspire and champion change, inviting audiences on a journey of discovery and healing. Her work is a testament to the enduring power of art to connect, transform, and liberate.

**Rémy Chhem** (he/him), co-founder of the Super Boat Collective, is a longtime community organizer, particularly within the Cambodian community. Having been previously involved in the Montreal Life Stories project and the Centre Khémara, he is now focused on creating dynamic projects that foster bridges, collaborations, and dialogue between communities and generations. Within the Super Boat People, Rémy leads various projects related to community and family history in addition to culinary and horticultural knowledge. Outside of the collective, Rémy works as an academic researcher in the social sciences, specialising in political ecology and with a marked interest in history and environmental justice.

For the last 12 years, **Paul Tom** has been drawing on the intimate to tell life stories with sensitivity. His films give a voice to those who are not always heard, creating dialogue and opening our arms to others. Born in a refugee camp in Thailand, his favourite themes to explore are the construction of identity, family relationships, and everything that touches on the fragile side of being human. His films *Seuls* and *Bagages* have been selected for some forty film festivals around the world, winning a dozen awards. He is also the author of the young adult graphic novel *Seuls*, published by la courte échelle.

**18:00-19:00 RECEPTION, BOOK LAUNCH AND CELEBRATION**

If you have published a book, edited volume or special issue you would like to celebrate with us email [liam.devitt@concordia.ca](mailto:liam.devitt@concordia.ca)



## Saturday, JUNE 21

Centre des Colloques du Campus Condorcet, Place du Front Populaire, Aubervilliers, Metro *Front Populaire* (line 12)

8:30-9:00 REFRESHMENTS, AND LIGHT BREAKFAST (foyer)

9:00-10:00 KEYNOTE (Auditorium 150): Nicolas Verschuere (Université Libre de Bruxelles) - Tintin in Detroit. Framing Deindustrialization through Comic Books

10:00-10:30 COFFEE BREAK (foyer)

10:30-12:00 CONCURRENT SESSIONS

### *Session 4A: Workers and the left (Auditorium 150)*

Chairperson: David Beorlegui Zarranz (Universidad a Distancia de Madrid)

- Communities Fight Back in Rust-Belt France and the U.S.: What Worked and What Didn't in the 1980s and 1990s – Herrick Chapman (New York University) and Liz Cohen (Harvard University)
- From Resistance to Acceptance of Deindustrialization: The 1980s as Turning Point in Left Politics - Xavier Vigna (Université Paris-Nanterre) Gilda Zazzara (Ca' Foscari University of Venice) and Steven High (Concordia University)
- Did the Left Fail? Third Way Social Democracy and Deindustrialization, 1980-2008 - Marion Fontaine (Sciences Po) and Steven High (Concordia University)

### *Session 4B: French Workers and Unions Against Deindustrialization (Salle 50)*

Chairperson: Marion Fontaine (Sciences Po)

- Les ouvriers Dompierrois à l'épreuve de la désindustrialisation : les enjeux politiques de l'immobilisme ouvrier (1945 à nos jours) - Loman Pierre Charrier (Université Clermont Auvergne)
- La CGT face à la désindustrialisation : analyse d'une prise de conscience d'un phénomène (années 1970-1980) - David Chaurrand (IHS CGT)
- « Produire et imprimer français ! » Les ouvriers papetiers rouennais mobilisés contre le gouvernement socialiste Mauroy (1983) - Romain Castellesi (Université du Littoral Côte d'Opale)

12:00-13:00 LUNCH ROUNDTABLE (Salle 50)

- Searching for A "Just Transition": Deindustrialization Scholars Offer Advice on Decarbonizing Industry – Chris Walley (MIT)

13:00-14:30 CONCURRENT SESSIONS

### *Session 5A: Building new worker futures (Auditorium 150)*

Chairperson: Pascal Raggi (Université de Lorraine)

- Deindustrialization and the new ethnic working-class, Milan - Carlotta Maria Vaglieri (La Sapienza University)
- Les soutiers de l'industrie. Entreprises extérieures, immigration et désindustrialisation dans la sidérurgie lorraine, 1960 – 1990 - Théo Guidat (École des hautes études en sciences sociales)
- Many families are welfare cases: The Fate and Future of Sudbury's Eastern European and Franco-Ontarian Neighbourhoods – Eliot Perrin (Concordia University)

*Session 5B: Political responses to deindustrialization in textiles (Salle 50)*

Chairperson: Liam Devitt (Concordia University)

- Où est l'avenir des femmes dans le vêtement ! À la maison ? Deindustrialization and the resurgence of industrial homeworking in 1980s Montreal and New York City - Lauren Laframboise, (Concordia University)
- Textile Labor Landscapes: A Comparative Analysis of Trade Union Responses in Biella, Prato, and Schio-Thiene-Valdagno - Manuela Vinai (University of Turin)
- Deindustrialization and Caste in India's Textile Industry - Bharat Sundararajan (University of St. Andrews)

14:30-15:00 COFFEE BREAK (foyer)

15:00-16:30 CONCURRENT SESSIONS

*Session 6A: The urban politics of deindustrialization (Auditorium 150)*

Chairperson: Nora Küttel (University of Halle)

- The abject body of the working class: Deindustrialisation, anti gypsyism and punitive populism in the Bilbao metropolitan area (1983-2014) - David Beorlegui Zarranz (Universidad a Distancia de Madrid)
- Detroit: The Intersection of Deindustrialization and Immigration in Shaping Urban Decay - Sahar Ghasemshahi (Université du Québec à Montréal)

*Session 6B: Deindustrialization and nationalism (Salle 3.01)*

Chairperson: Jackie Clarke (University of Glasgow)

- Why was there no far right in Scotland? Deindustrialization and the rise of 'civic nationalism' - Amber Ward (University of St. Andrews)
- Celtic nationalism and the invisibility of immigrant labor within Cornish Mining History and Heritage - Hilary Orange (Swansea University)
- Pacific "Threats": Deindustrialization Between Two Cold Wars - Fred Burrill (University of New Brunswick) and Matthew Penney (Concordia University)

*Session 6C: Populisms: Union perspectives (Salle 50)*

Chairperson: Petra Dolata (University of Calgary)

- Fighting the Right on the Shopfloor. A Conversation on Trade Unions and Populism in Germany: Interview Transcript with a Front-Line Trade Unionist. - Stefan Moitra (Deutsches-Bergbau-Museum) and Mark Haartfeld (DGB-Bildungswerk)
- Trade Unions and Populist Politics in Italy, Canada and the United States. - Filippo Sbrana (University for Foreigners of Perugia), Lachlan Mackinnon (Cape Breton University) and Steven High (Concordia University)
- Deindustrialization, Migration, and Ethnicity in Finland: Insights from a Trade Unionist's Diary (1960s-1970s) - Matias Kaihoviirta (Abo Akademi)

16:30-17:00 BREAK

17:00-18:30 FILM VIEWING (auditorium 150)

Dominique Masson, independent documentary filmmaker, *La Dernière grève/The Last Strike* (1987): documentary on the 1984-85 British miners' strike filmed in Lancashire.

### CLOTURE DE COLLOQUE - FREE EVENING

Following the closure of the conference, we encourage participants to take advantage of the Fête de la musique. Taking place all over France, this festival was started in 1982 by the Ministry of Culture. There are many free concerts all across Paris, in streets, bars, restaurants and more.

### ACCOMMODATIONS

Paris has a wide variety of options for accommodations. We recommend that you find lodging on the *Rive droite* (North of the Seine), near the 12 or 4 metro lines, which will facilitate travel between the three conference sites, for example, **the north side of Montmartre hill (18<sup>e</sup> arrondissement)** between the Château Rouge, Jules Joffrin and Lamarck-Caulaincourt metro stops. Alternatively, you can look in the 11<sup>e</sup>/20<sup>e</sup> arrondissements near the Nation, Père Lachaise, and Bastille metro stops.

### GETTING TO AND AROUND PARIS

**EU Travel Requirements:** France is a member of the European Union and the Schengen Area. EU citizens have free travel in France. Canadian, American, British, Chilean, and Brazilian citizens have 90 day visa free travel within the Schengen Area. [Please consult the French visa and immigration website for more details.](#) DePOT is not responsible for securing you a visa, it is your responsibility to secure a visa, if needed, in advance of the conference. DePOT staff are happy to provide any supporting documentation, like a letter of participation.

**You can get to Paris by air, road, and rail:** Paris has multiple airports, the large international ones being Charles-de-Gaulle and Orly. Both airports connect to the city centre via rail. Paris has multiple rail stations, with high-speed trains servicing the rest of France and Western Europe.

**Public Transportation:** Paris is a walkable city with a variety of modes of public transportation. For all conference locations, we have included the Metro stop and line to facilitate easy travel from your accommodations to the conference venue. You can use a [smartphone app, a Navigo smartcard, or purchase paper tickets](#) at the metro station to pay for your journey. We **recommend staying on the 12 or 4 metro lines** to facilitate easy travel to all conference locations.

**Food & Drinks:** Refreshments and lunches will be provided during the conference. Some breakfast items will be available at the start of the day to sustain those who don't have breakfast included in their accommodation rate. If you have any dietary restrictions, please ensure that you have included these in your registration form. Here are some recommendations from the organizing committee:

#### Restaurants in Montmartre :

- La cave café, 134 rue Marcadet (bar and restaurant, very good vegan burger) (\$)
- Le Ruisseau, 65 rue du Ruisseau (very good burgers) (\$)
- Colchide, 97 rue des Poissonniers (Georgian) (\$\$)
- Au Bon Coin, 49 rue des Cloys (French bistro) (\$\$)

#### Restaurants in the 10<sup>e</sup> arrondissement near the Gare de l'Est :

- Corner of *Rue du Faubourg Saint-Denis* & *Cour des Petites Écuries* (many bars and restaurants)
- Further north, towards *Gare du Nord* and *Rue Cail*, many Indian restaurants

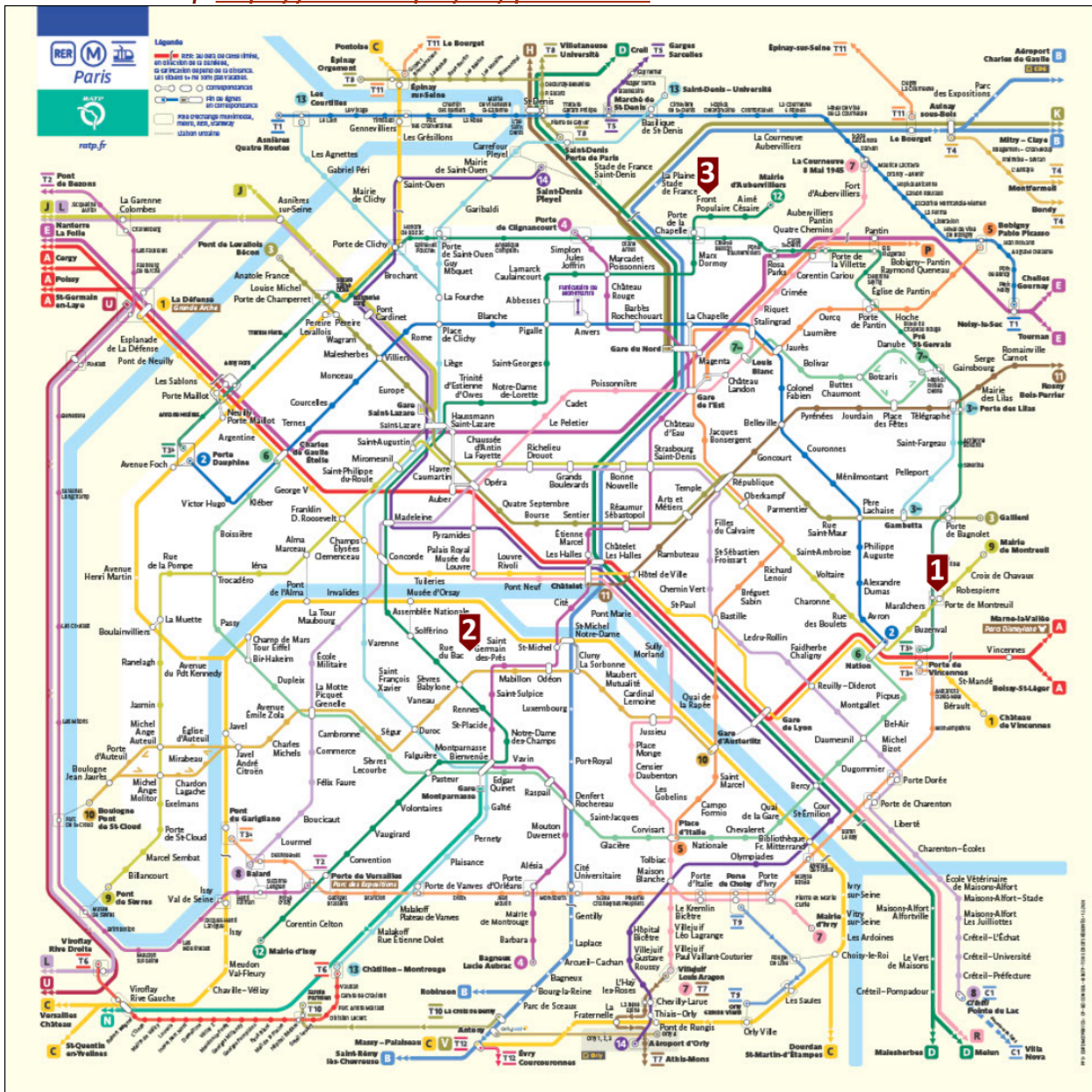
#### Restaurants near the CGT headquarters:

- Ô bar lié, 16 rue de la République (brasserie) (\$)
- Ubi bar La Fontaine, 47 rue Armand Carrel (restaurant bar) (\$)
- Les pianos, 26 rue Robespierre (bistrot) (\$\$)



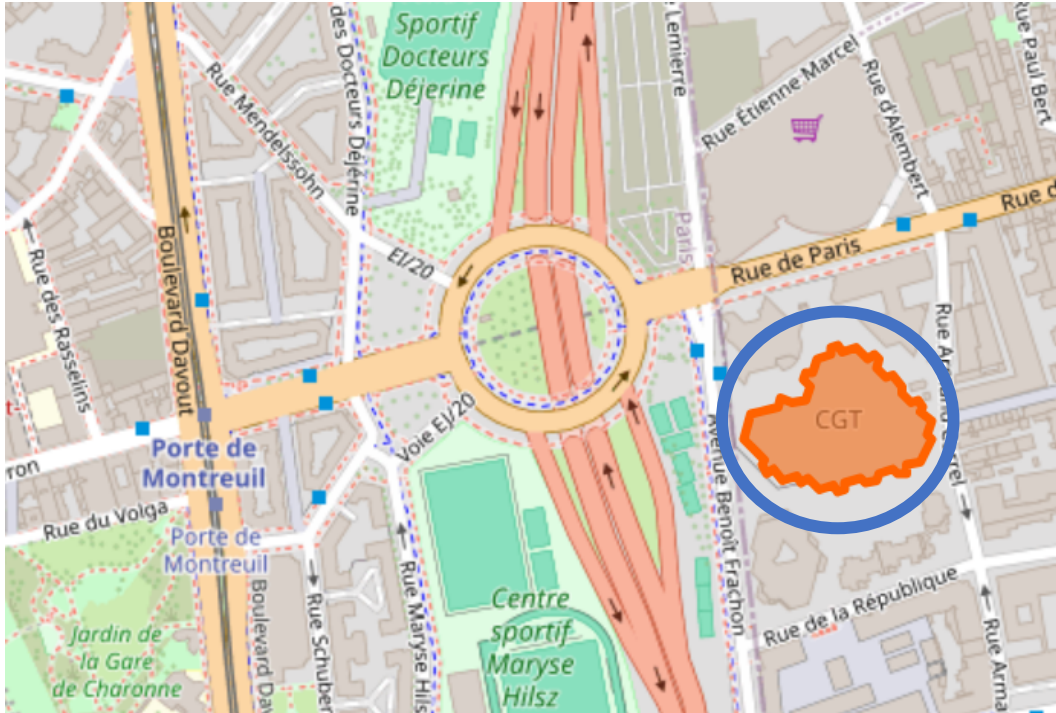
## Maps:

Paris Métro map <https://www.ratp.fr/en/plan-metro>

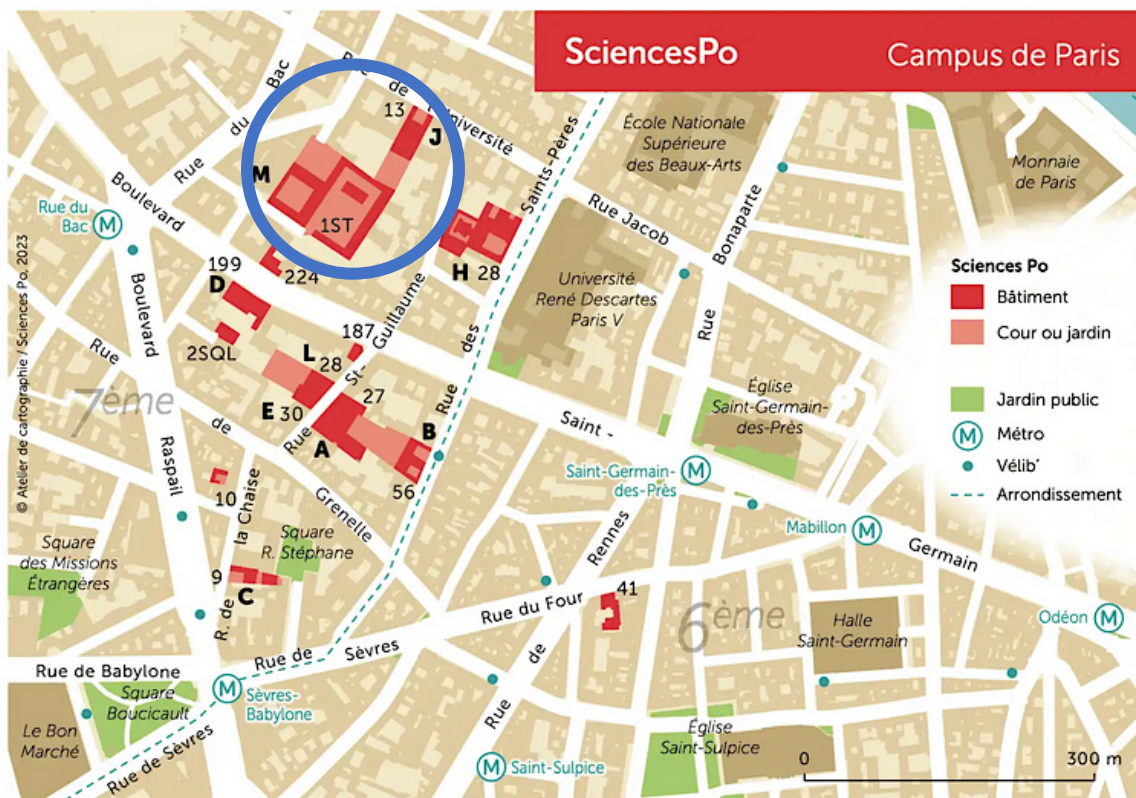


1. CGT Headquarters
2. Sciences Po St-Thomas Campus
3. Université Paris 1 Panthéon-Sorbonne: Campus Condorcet

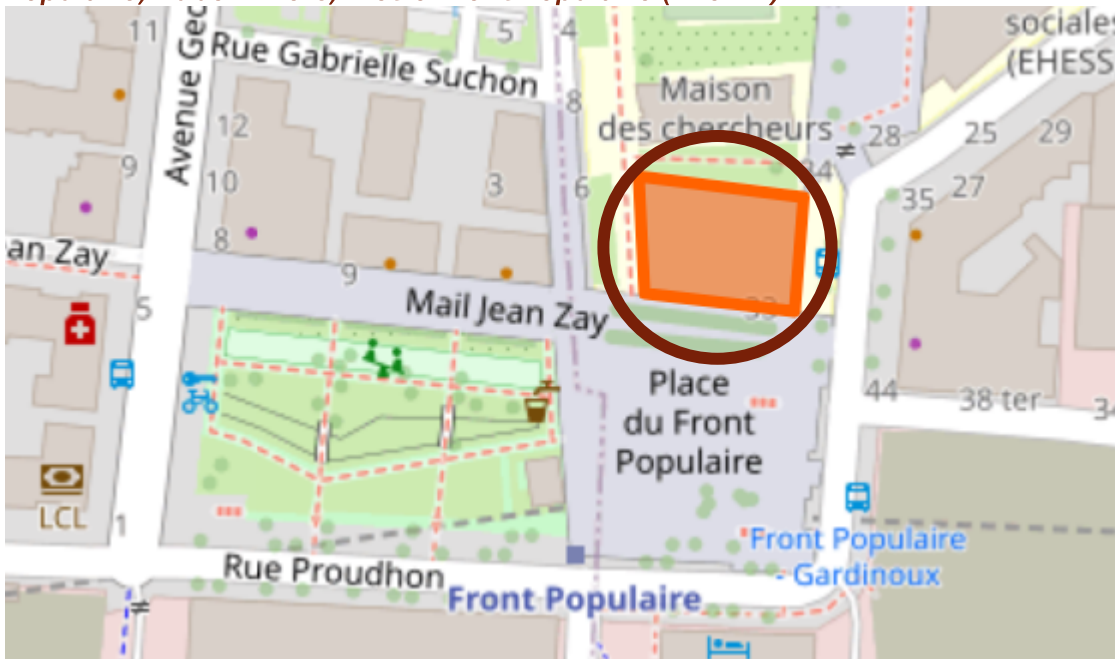
CGT Headquarters, 263 Rue de Paris, Montreuil, Metro Porte de Montreuil (lines 7, 9)



Sciences Po, campus Saint-Thomas, 1 Place St-Thomas d'Aquin, Paris 7ème arrondissement. Metro Rue du Bac (line 12) or Saint Germain des Prés (line 4)



*Université Paris 1 Panthéon-Sorbonne: Centre des Colloques du Campus Condorcet, Place du Front Populaire, Aubervilliers, Metro Front Populaire (line 12)*



## FUNDING POLICY FOR DEPOT MEMBERS

DePOT members can receive travel funding to help cover their expenses. [Register for travel funding at this link in advance of March 31.](#) The amount of funding you are eligible to claim depends on where you are travelling from and which DePOT events you are attending. All receiving DePOT travel funding must keep their receipts in order to be reimbursed. [For meals, they can also claim a per diem as outlined in Concordia's travel policy.](#) For France, it is a daily limit of €110, with €20.50 for breakfast, €32.50 for lunch, and €57.00 for dinner. Students and precariously employed affiliates are eligible to have their travel funding sent in advance. Please indicate this on the Travel Funding form. **To ensure the responsible use of SSHRC funds, DePOT members who receive travel funding and do not attend the 2024 Project Assembly are not eligible to receive further SSHRC funding.**

## ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

*A very special thank you to all our regional partners and organizers for making the 2025 DePOT Annual Meetings possible:*

### **Partner Organizations, Host institutions, & Financial Support:**

Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada, Institut d'Histoire Sociale CGT, Centre d'histoire sociale des mondes contemporains at the Université Paris 1 Panthéon-Sorbonne, Centre d'Histoire de Sciences Po

### **DePOT Conference Organizing Committee:**

Marion Fontaine, Xavier Vigna, Marion Henry, Pascal Raggi

### **Summer Institute Organizing Committee:**

Myriam Guillemette, Theo Georget, Juliette Passilly, Pierre Toussenot, Pascal Raggi

### **DePOT Associate Director:**

Liam Devitt

### **DePOT Principal Investigator:**

Steven High

**Cover Image:** French trade unionist protests factory closure with the CGT. Courtesy Photothèque CGT.



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