

## **BRESTLES - From the city to the islands, from the islands to the city. The case of Brest**

---

Brest has a specific link with the islands in relation to its maritime history. It takes various forms and generates exchanges on several scales: local, regional and international. The objective of the doctoral project is to carry out research-action in collaboration with institutional partners and scientific organizations in Brest in order to :

- 1) understand the nature of these exchanges over time, and measure their historical, socio-economic and scientific importance,
- 2) to identify and question the place and role of islands in the life of the city, and the place of Brest in the islands of Iroise and the world,
- 3) to contribute to the project of setting up an island resource and research center in connection with the ZaBri (Brest Iroise workshop zone of the CNRS) around the concepts of nissonology (island science), insularity, ileity and insularism and to engage in scientific mediation actions.

Brest is a port that opens onto the islands. Beyond those of the roadstead, the islands of the Iroise have woven multiple relationships with Brest for centuries. Even today, every morning a boat sets sail for Molène and Ouessant. The latter enhance the image and attraction of the city and generate special links with Brest.

The distant islands also have a place in the geography of Brest. From Bougainville in 1766 to Kersauzon today, Brest sailors have travelled the world, forging lasting relationships with overseas islands.

Several Brest organizations have specific links with islands near and far. They contribute to create a dynamic towards the islands in touch with today's maritime realities and issues. The French Polar Institute (IPEV), the National Botanical Conservatory, IFREMER, SHOM, CEDRE, France Energie Marine, the French Navy are active organizations in the islands. They carry out actions and research there, bringing the know-how and skills of Brest beyond the national borders. The UBO develops projects, notably in Saint-Pierre and Miquelon, in the Austral Islands and in French Polynesia.

For example, on the theme of islands in the world, 32 theses are in progress or have been defended at the IUEM and 781 scientific publications from UBO laboratories have been identified over the last 10 years (M1 EGEL dissertation, Fingar M. 2020). These multiple exchanges, which will have to be quantified, analyzed and understood, build links with the islands.

Locally, the survey conducted among 400 inhabitants of Brest shows that three quarters of the inhabitants surveyed visited one of the islands of Iroise. 13% of the sample has family or originates from one of these islands (Mémoire M1 EGEL, Delmotte C. 2019).

The island communities present in Brest constitute a diaspora: Ouessantins, Molénais, but also Mahorais, Comorians, Tahitians, Reunionese, Martiniquais, grouped within associations (Breizh Polynesia, Mdingwada, Jasmin) constitute communities little known, but active and exposed to particular problems. Finistère is the second metropolitan department with the largest number of ultra-marine vessels after the Var.

This thesis will be based on the collection of data and surveys from the organizations mentioned and will map the links between Brest and the islands of the world. It will be carried out within the framework of a multidisciplinary and participative, open and prospective approach. It will question

the geographical and socio-economic, cultural and scientific fabric generated by the islands on the city and the relations established between a metropolis and its island hinterlands. It will potentially open up new fields of national and international scientific cooperation and mediation and valorisation projects.