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Negotiating “decline” in two medium-sized cities

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THE EVERYDAY POLITICS OF URBAN SHRINKAGE

Negotiating “Decline” in Two Medium-Sized Cities

SOLÈNE LE BORGNE

Café Les Météores

B

THE EVERYDAY POLITICS OF URBAN SHRINKAGE
Negotiating “Decline” in Two Medium-Sized Cities

ACADEMISCH PROEFSCHRIFT

ter verkrijging van de graad van doctor
aan de Universiteit van Amsterdam
op gezag van de Rector Magnificus
prof. dr. ir. P.P.C.C. Verbeek

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in het openbaar te verdedigen in de Aula der Universiteit
op maandag 24 juni 2024, te 14.00 uur

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THE EVERYDAY POLITICS OF URBAN SHRINKAGE

NEGOTIATING “DECLINE”
IN TWO MEDIUM-SIZED FRENCH CITIES

Solène Le Borgne

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FOREWORD

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**REFERENCES OF PUBLISHED ARTICLES
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The material used in chapters 4 and 5 was previously published in a different version as two separate articles. The references of the articles are indicated below:

Le Borgne, S. (2023) “Re-scaling Territorial Stigmatization: The Construction and Negotiation of ‘Declining Medium-Sized Cities’ as a Stigmatizing Imaginary in France”, *International Journal of Urban and Regional Research*, (47), pp. 975–994. Available at: <https://doi.org/10.1111/1468-2427.13206>.

Le Borgne, S. (2023) “Coping with urban shrinkage: the role of informal social capital in French medium-sized shrinking cities”, *European Planning Studies*, (online), pp. 1–17. Available at: <https://doi.org/10.1080/09654313.2023.2221293>.

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schedules and practices, we see a graffiti on the wall of the buildings' entrance that says "From 12h maximum door closed for everyone's good, 12h sharp!!! Sanction: no more knees." The graffiti includes seven grammar and syntax mistakes. We can also notice the broken light switch. Photos by the author (July 2020).

FIGURE 43 This façade shows former city-centre shops that have been converted into residential apartments with seemingly little attention to quality and detail. Several elements suggest poor building maintenance. This kind of transformation is frequent in impoverished city-centres, and increasingly associated with the bad-faith practices of landlords renting cheap and degraded apartments. Photo by the author (April 2018).

TABLE 1 Statistical indicators of urban shrinkage in Dieppe and Nevers compared with the national level.