

# Filming the political space of technical setups

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# Technical setups

- Human societies have the distinctive characteristic of needing to put themselves into representation in order to exist.
- This is the role of technical setups, in other words : formal arrangements which create exchange zones.
- A shop, a counter, a collective project... are technical setups.
- Each is an example of a setup that makes social interactions between individuals possible by providing the institutional framework for their commitments.

A technical setups filmed in the gare du Nord station, in Paris.  
*Change with Gare du Nord station*, Christian Lallier's documentary





# Ordinary situation

- In accordance with this perspective, we can wonder how to film human activity in a shop, at a counter of a train station for example or during the realisation of a project such as the construction of a building or an educational programme.
- In other words, how can one film a mercantile transaction, a request for information, or a co-operation or negotiation discussion ?
- As this ordinary situation of human activity is not self-evident : it engages each "interacting parties" in a face to face relationship...

*The Opera student,*  
Christian Lallier's and Melodie D. Tabita's  
documentary.



# The work of social relationships

- This face to face relationship requires an exchange equilibrium that it is appropriate to maintain, by knowing how to behave according to the status and the role defined by the interaction framework.
- Filming human activity leads to focusing on the *social relation effort*, or the *work of social relationships* : a symbolic work that creates a political space, in the sense that individuals mobilise and build forms of representations through which they produce society.



*The Opera student*, Christian Lallier's and Melodie D. Tabita's documentary.



# Filmed anthropology

- Filmed anthropology precisely aims to report these political spaces created by the technical setups in order to help understand what is at stake in a given human activity.
- This understanding results from the creation of the narrative with regard to the circumstances of commitment through the filmed observation of social interactions.
- A first example :  
*Outside-Inside. The exercise of the class.*

The Module 1 of the  
filmed anthropology,  
*The Opera Student.*

*Outside-Inside. The exercise of the class.* : Module 1 of *The Opera student*,  
Christian Lallier's and Melodie D.  
Tabita's documentary.



# The Opera Student

- For three years, from 2012 to 2015, I directed with the video artist Melodie D. Tabita a filmed anthropology about an educational and artistic experience :
  - A project led by the Lyon National Opera in two schools located in the Minguettes neighbourhood, in Vénissieux, in the suburbs of Lyon, called “Opera in school”.
- In the case at hand, this ethnographic field turned out to be very complex because of the multiplicity of situations.
- Truly, this implied that one needs to implicate themselves into the other’s involvement, to give all their attention to the value of investment of the person involved in the observed action.
- In fact, the direction and the interest of a filmed observation sequence is *profoundly* linked to what is happening in the presented social situation and what is said by the people involved in it.

*Outside-Inside. The exercise of the class : Module 1 of The Opera student,* Christian Lallier's and Melodie D. Tabita's documentary.





# *Outside-Inside. The exercise of the class*





# Political commitment

- A second example to illustrate this approach in filmed anthropology :
  - In 2008, I realized five small documentaries of 12 minutes on the commitment of the women in the malian society.
- This program of documentary movies was produced by the Museum of Brittany of Rennes, a regional museum in France, for an exhibition on the women in Mali.
- One of these five documentaries is the portrait of a malian woman committed in an anti-globalization movement : Madam Barry Aminata Touré.
- Here is an extract of this portrait during one of its meetings in Mali.

*The committed of the civil society,*  
Christian Lallier's documentary.



Que veut  
dire G8 ?

# *The committed of the civil society*





