Social Morphology

• The ecological analysis of the absolute or relative character of fissures in the urban network, of the role of microclimates, of distinct neighborhoods with no relation to administrative boundaries, and above all of the dominating action of centers of attraction, must be utilized and completed by psychogeographical methods. The objective passional terrain of the dérive must be defined in accordance both with its own logic and with its relations with social morphology.

• In his study *Paris et l’agglomération parisienne* (Bibliothèque de Sociologie Contemporaine, P.U.F., 1952) Chombart de Lauwe notes that “an urban neighborhood is determined not only by geographical and economic factors, but also by the image that its inhabitants and those of other neighborhoods have of it.” In the same work, in order to illustrate “the narrowness of the real Paris in which each individual lives . . . within a geographical area whose radius is extremely small,” he diagrams all the movements made in the space of one year by a student living in the 16th Arrondissement. Her itinerary forms a small triangle with no significant deviations, the three apexes of which are the School of Political Sciences, her residence and that of her piano teacher.
Semiotics

• The study of semiotics was also greatly advanced by the American philosopher Charles Pierce, who analysed the notion of signs to reveal underlying components.

• 'A sign or representamen, is something which stands to somebody for something in some respect or capacity. It addresses somebody, that is, creates in the mind of that person an equivalent sign, or perhaps a more developed sign. That sign which it creates I call the interpretant of the first sign. The sign stands for something, its object. It stands for that object, not in all respects, but in reference to a sort of idea, which I have sometimes called the ground of representamen' (Pierce 1955: 99).
Things to say

- Two other separate theories that link in are semiotics and morphology.

- Semiotics relates to how people go about their derive, they take an alternate route for an alternate motive i.e. learn about the city, explore the city and so on. If you were walking down a street and saw a red light on the pedestrian traffic light you would stop and wait or a fenced of area, the majority of people would turn around and/find and alternate route, so even during an unplanned journey where you think there are no immediate goals, you are still governed by rules that you subconciously accept.

- This is where social morphology comes into the picture. You will make decisions based on previous experience, if you were walking down the street and were told to go left but when you look left all you see is a run down rough part of town and then you look right and saw a beautiful grassy landscape then using social morphology you would choose the right path, because the semiotics based on memory influenced you too.

- So even on an unplanned journey you are still controlling your path through the city, begging the question, is there such a thing of an unplanned journey.
Bibliography

• http://www.aviewfromthecyclepath.com/
• Lauwe C (1952) *Paris et l’agglomération parisienne* (Bibliothèque de Sociologie Contemporaine, P.U.F)
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What to say

So you have been told about derives, but can you truly go on an unplanned journey because there are other influences. If we look at semiotics and social morphology you are influenced along the way.

So semiotics, the use of signs and symbols to identify something or someone. During a derive you will look at different signs that will change your route, if you see a red light on a traffic sign you will wait to cross the road, or if you see a barrier stopping you, you will find an alternative route.

Related to semiotics, social morphology touches upon your personal experiences and memory to influence your journey, in its simplest use if you were walking on a derive and came to a crossroads one side was good and one said was bad you will use social morphology to suggest the better route.

Over time over time the social morphology changes with expansion of cities, new areas of the city are built for specific purposes be it residential or commercial and locals to the city now have a new area to explore. Resulting in a derive. They have a plan to go but no specific end location, they will be influenced by semiotics. A shop sign or a billboard advertising something to offer the end user.