

"We often move from one place to another and from one space to another without thinking of measuring or taking account of those space 'lapses'. The problem is not to invent space, even less to re-invent it (...), but to question it, or simply read it."<sup>1</sup>

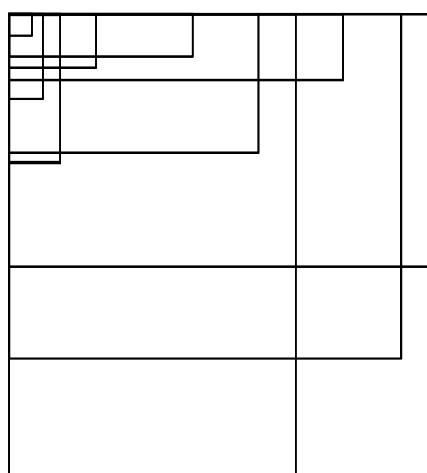
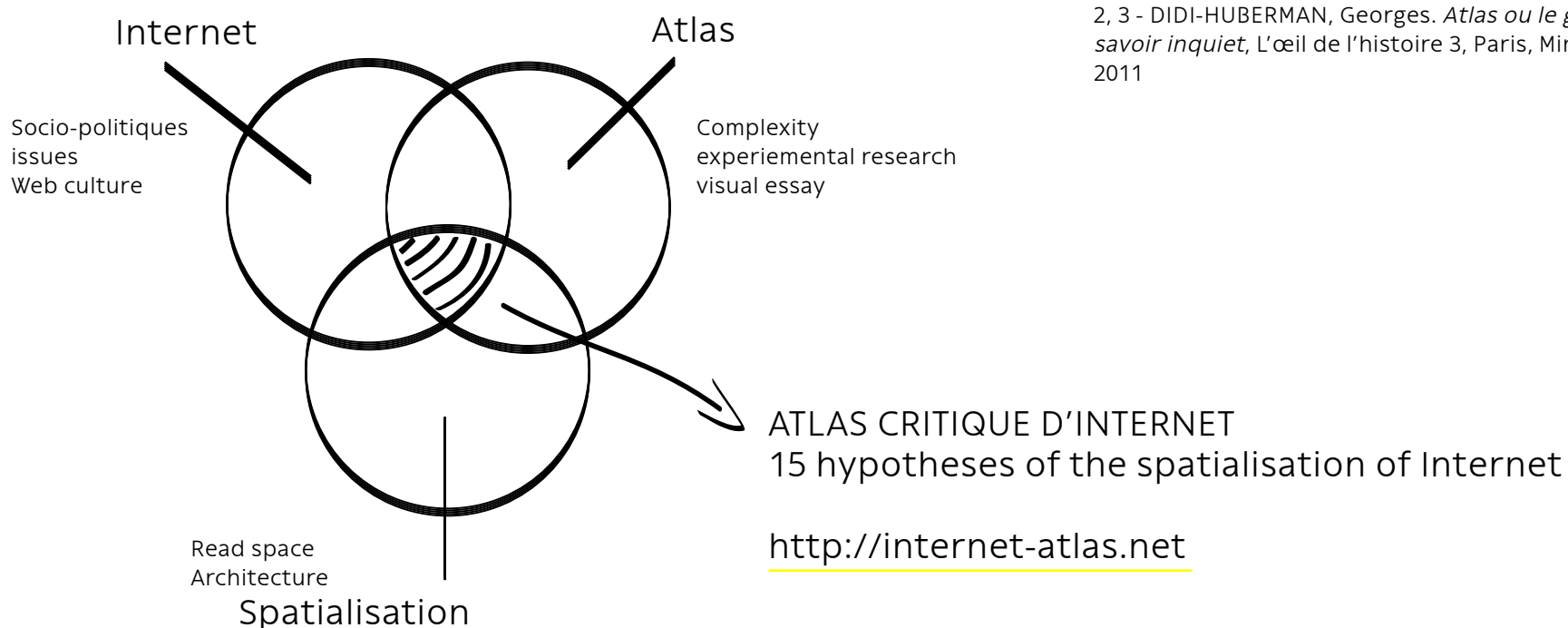
1 - PEREC, Georges. *Espèces d'espaces*, Éditions Galilée, 1974.

Although there are numerous texts about the Internet, there are few publications that use spatial interpretation as a tool for socio-political analysis. In his book, "Internet : changer l'espace, changer la société" (Internet changing space, changing the society), Boris Beaudé explains that the concrete issues and spatial properties of Internet are linked. He shows that the Internet is a real space and, because spaces shape society, it is the Internet as a new space that we have to consider. The aim of the "Critical Atlas of Internet" is to use spatial analysis as a key to understanding social, political and economic issues on Internet. Here, we seek to discern the shape of the Internet in order to understand the concrete issues and stakes involved.

With a view to spatializing Internet, I organized my research through a set of hypotheses, a series of reflections about Internet representation and mapping. Each hypothesis is a conceptual spatialization exercise illustrated by a set of visual elements (drawings, schemas, objects, 3D models, and videos). I justified my hypotheses, in a scientific manner, with tangible arguments and concrete notions of the Internet structure, and I built up my research in the form of an atlas.

I consider the atlas as a tool to build up a space of thought. As Georges Didi-Huberman explains, the atlas, unlike the archive or the encyclopedia, comes within the "domain of the essay"<sup>2</sup>; the Atlas allows for "dynamic composition"<sup>3</sup> through visual essays.

2, 3 - DIDI-HUBERMAN, Georges. *Atlas ou le gai savoir inquiet*, L'œil de l'histoire 3, Paris, Minuit, 2011



Infinite number of display possibilities

∞ Fluid design  
Responsive print

At the visual level, I designed the atlas as I would build up a space. My work on the architecture of this atlas is based on a reflection I had in my Masters thesis, "Fluid Design": the modification, via online graphic creation, of the relation between graphic design and the notion of space. In posters, books and flyers, designers position elements according to the format (small, vertical, horizontal, etc.). Online, it is the opposite; the content is laid out within an ever-changing space or structure since a website can be seen on a computer screen, a tablet or a smartphone. Online, the notion of space is totally different from that of printed media. On Internet, we compose fluid layouts capable of infinite adaptation through endless formats.

From these observations, I built the Critical Atlas of Internet as a publication with an infinite number of formats, both online (website) and on paper (books, posters). I took the premise that websites have, by default, an infinite number of display possibilities, and developed it further by carrying out an experimental design: a book with a multitude of formats. Using CSS-Print, I designed the Atlas layout by creating a set of guidelines. From the browser, the layout is generated automatically according to the format, and continually readapted from book to poster format. The Critical Atlas of Internet is an intangible space, a single computer code with an infinite number of display possibilities ranging from screen to paper to exhibition space.