

Seoul National University – SNUCKS K-Future Team  
May 9, 2025

# (Back to the) Future fieldwork – *tapsa* and haptic methods in contemporary Korean Studies

**Valérie GELÉZEAU**

Professor, EHESS (École des hautes études en sciences sociales, Paris)  
The Centre for Studies of China, Korea & Japan, (EHESS-CNRS-UP Cité)  
Visiting scholar at SNUAC

[gelezeau@ehess.fr](mailto:gelezeau@ehess.fr)

<https://cv.hal.science/valerie-gelezeau>



## *tapsa* and “haptic” methods?

답사 踏査 -> walk + observ

\* Yu Hong-Jun intitulée *Na-ŭi munhwa yusan tapsagi*, 1993-sq

\* Robert Oppenheim, *Kyŏngju Things. Assembling Place*. Ann Arbor, The University of Michigan Press. Chapter « Object Orientation », p. 83-112.

« haptic » = related to the senses of touch and to  
« proprioception » (ie. bodily consciousness)

## ***tapsa* and “haptic” methods**

답사 踏査 -> walk + observ

\* Yu Hong-Jun intitulée *Na-ŭi munhwa yusan tapsagi*, 1993-sq

\* Robert Oppenheim, *Kyŏngju Things. Assembling Place*. Ann Arbor, The University of Michigan Press. Chapter « Object Orientation », p. 83-112.

« haptic » = related to the senses of touch and to  
« proprioception » (ie. bodily consciousness)

**-> to study « post-urban » Korea?**

## ***New landscape***

(Away from apartments & apartment culture, inter-Korean border,  
North Korean cities\*)





Aug 2016 © VG

# SONGDO 2016

## Morphological and functional hybridity of a city in the making

**Urban agriculture organized**

**The technopark under development (2016)**



Aug 2016 © VG

**District n°1 under development since 2000s**

Suzanne Peyrard et Valérie Gelézeau, « Smart city Songdo ? A digital turn on urban fabric? », *The Seoul Journal of Korean Studies*, vol. 33, n°2, décembre 2020, p. 493-518.

**See B. Joinau & B. Križnik (Hongik U) on urban agriculture.**

# Samcheok-si, the clash of *apateu* and countryside in the urban periphery



# Post-urban? Non-urban? Meta-urban spaces?

-> problematic issue of the « urban/rural » divide

Sources: French & English geographical dictionaries and representative geographical journals (*Annales de géographie*, *Géographie et cultures* / *Progress in Human Geography*, *Environment and Planning D (Society and Space)*, *Space and culture* (Korean to implement...))

- 1) Problematic definition of « city » (-> urban space)
- 2) Urban / rural relationship in Europe and Asia
- 3) Transformation of the relationship
- 4) Post-COVID and « new normal » issues on the urban/rural divide

# Studying space at the frontier of the urban/rural divide

-> situating fieldwork at the « interface »



**2010, Valérie Gelézeau et al.**

« Interfaces et reconfigurations de la question Nord/Sud en Corée » (Interfaces and reconfiguration of the North/South Korean question in Korea), *Espaces Temps.net*: <http://www.espacestemp.net/articles/interfaces-et-reconfigurations-de-la-question-nordsud-en-coree/>

Anne Bossé, Christiane Carlut, Emmanuelle Chérel, Amélie Nicolas, Elisabeth Pasquier, Véronique Terrier Hermann, *Penser depuis la frontière : expérimentations méthodologiques et épistémologiques entre art et sciences humaines* (Thinking from the frontier/border: methodological and epistemological experimentations between art and social sciences), Paris, Dis voir, 2018.

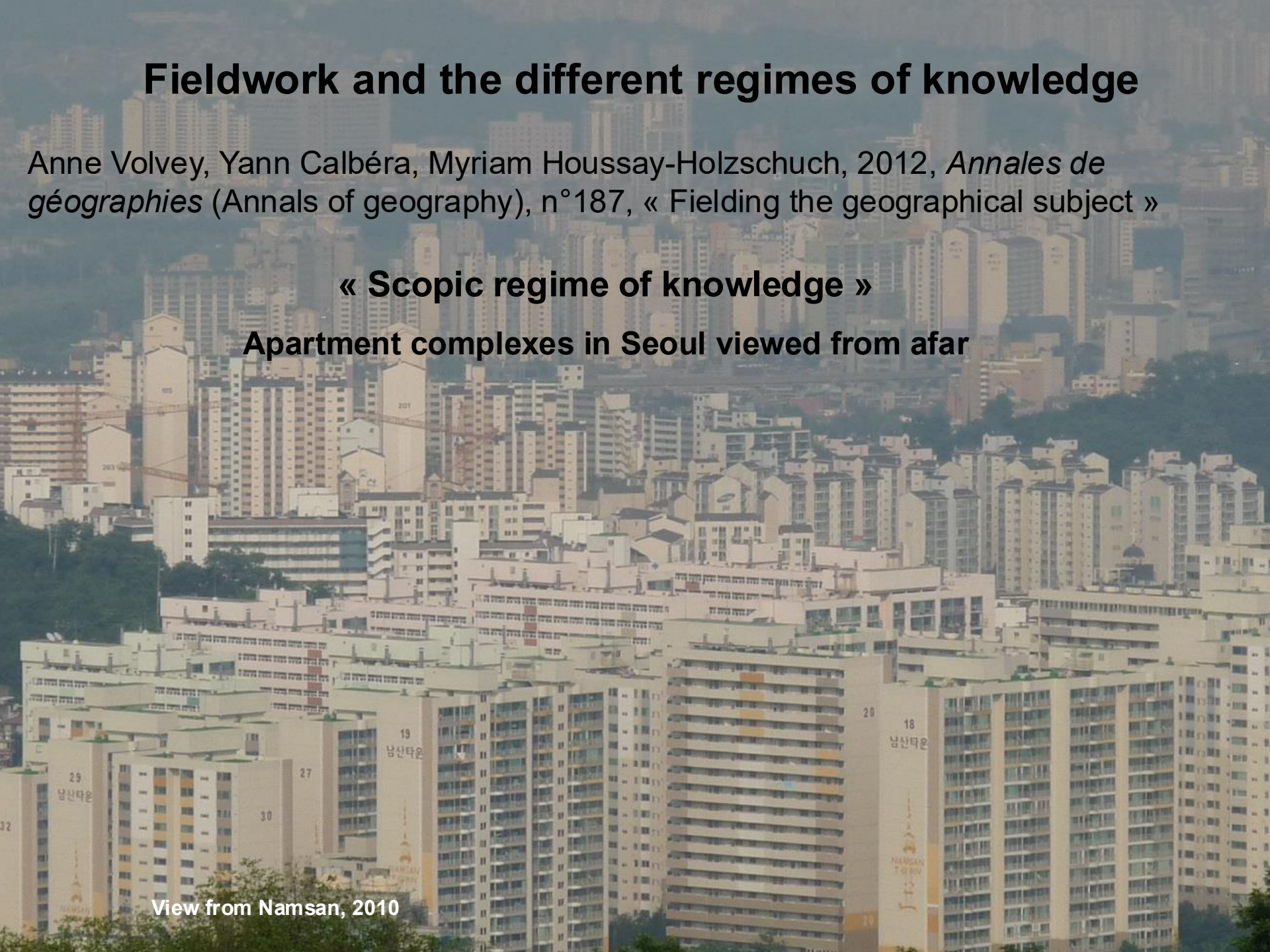


# Fieldwork and the different regimes of knowledge

Anne Volvey, Yann Calbéra, Myriam Houssay-Holzschuch, 2012, *Annales de géographies* (Annals of geography), n°187, « Fielding the geographical subject »

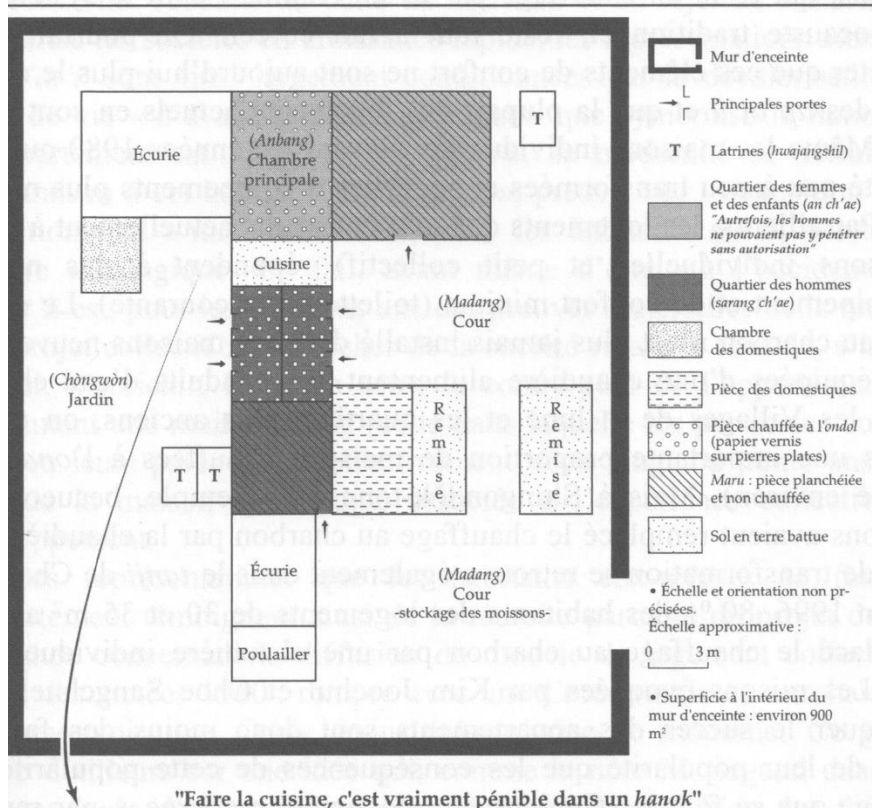
« Scopic regime of knowledge »

Apartment complexes in Seoul viewed from afar

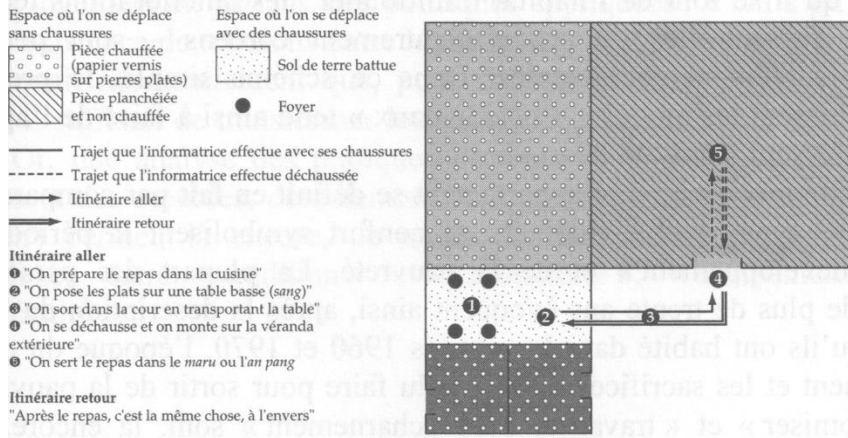


View from Namsan, 2010

**Figure 38. LE HANOK DE MADAME CHANG EN PROVINCE**  
Schéma de l'organisation d'origine (avant les années 1970)



"Faire la cuisine, c'est vraiment pénible dans un hanok"  
L'itinéraire commenté d'une maîtresse de maison



« Linguistic regime of knowledge »  
-> interview, participant observation

Source: Gelézeau, 2003, *Séoul, ville géante, cités radieuses* (Apateu gonhwaguk 2007), p. 38.

**« Haptic regime of knowledge »**

**Being bodily engaged**



**Balsan-dong APT, summer 2010**

# Fieldwork methods in Pyongyang – Urban walks (2013, 2016, 2018)

See project: CITY-NKOR: <https://citynkor.hypotheses.org/>



Above: Thongil kori

Below : Monument of Party Foundation park  
© VG 2018

« *Tosi taejung k'yot'ong t'apsŭng  
hyŏnjang ch'ehŏm* »

Metro line 1 transect at Thongil  
Station  
© VG 2018





Walking along Kwangbok kori  
© VG 2018

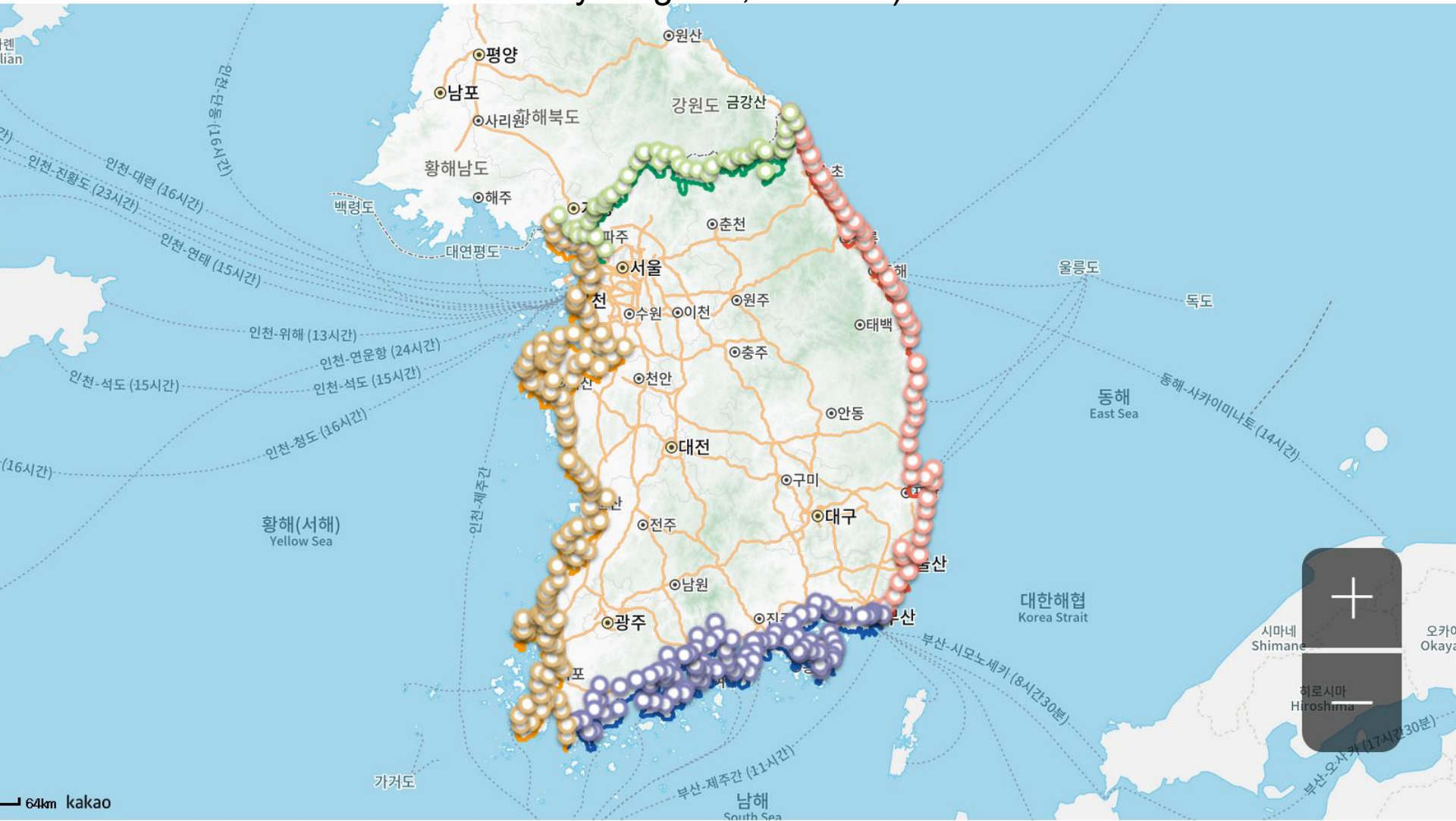


## ***Walking along as a research protocole - Inspirations***

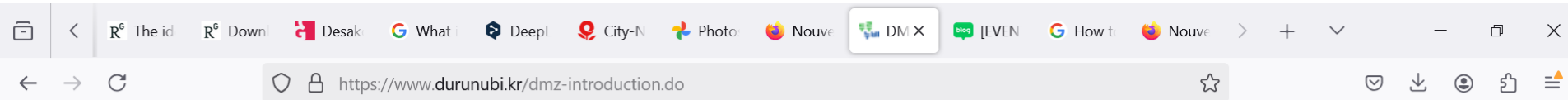
- 1) City planning walking surveys / **walking along** seminars by *Françoise Ged in China (director of the Observatory of Chinese architecture in Cité de l'architecture & du patrimoine, Paris)*
- 2) Experiences in pluridisciplinary research of hybrid and post-crisis spaces  
« What can we learn from a collective walk nearby Fukushima? A draft walk on the wild side » by Sophie Houdart and Yohann Moreau, in PROJECT F93 Call it Anything:  
<https://www.f93.fr/en/project/11/call-it-anything.html>
- 3) Tim Ingold's about walking and « being knowledgeable » (Tim Ingold's work on **walking along** (« Footprints through the weather-world: walking, breathing, knowing », *Journal of the Anthropological Institute*, 2010, p121-139.
- 4) Luba Jurgenson, 2024, *Paysages de violence, témoin, trace, archives* (Landscapes of violence, witness, trace, archive)

# Using Durunubi as a protocole

<https://www.durunubi.kr/> (4 sections Haeparang, Namparang, Sohaerang, DMZ byeonghwa, 4500km)



# Using Durunubi as a protocole in greater Seoul (Gimpo-si, Paju-si)

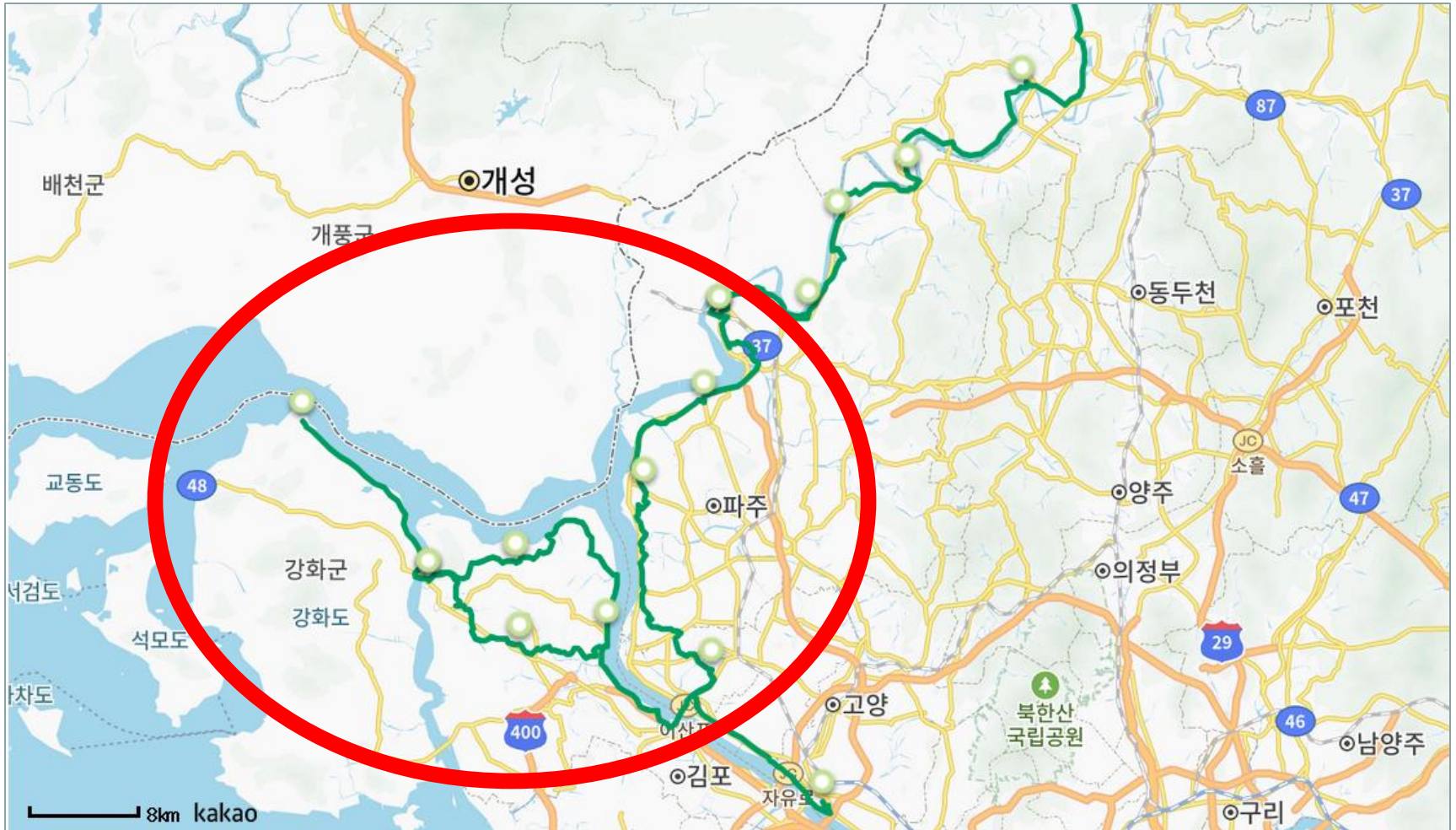


경기 김포시	DMZ 평화의 길 2코스	7.8km	3시간 30분	어려움	통제구역입니다. 시점(문수산성 남문)에서 통진성당으로 이어지는 2-1번 코스를 선택해 이용 바랍니다.
경기 김포시	DMZ 평화의 길 2-1코스 (우회로)	11.3km	4시간	어려움	2코스 우회로인 2-1코스는 김포 문수산성 남문에서 통진성당으로 이어집니다.
경기 김포시	DMZ 평화의 길 3코스	16.7km	5시간 30분	보통	3코스 시점(애기봉 입구)에서 후평1리 마을까지는 민간인 통제구역입니다. 통진성당에서 시작하는 3-1번 코스를 선택해 이용 바랍니다.
경기 김포시	DMZ 평화의 길 3-1코스 (우회로)	8.6km	3시간 30분	보통	3코스 우회로인 3-1코스는 통진성당에서 전류리 포구까지 안내합니다.
경기 김포시	DMZ 평화의 길 4코스	15.2km	5시간	쉬움	4코스는 전류리 포구에서 고양종합운동장까지 이어집니다. 일산대교 진입 전 도로위험구간(1km)이 있으니 이용에 주의해 주시기 바랍니다.
경기 고양시	DMZ 평화의 길 4-1코스	17.2km	6시간	보통	4-1코스는 행주산성에서 고양종합운동장까지 이어집니다. DMZ 평화의 길 중 유일한 지반으로 DMZ 평화의 길





# First walking – Nov. 2024 – May 2025: **Courses 1 to 10**





DMZ Trail Course 1 to 10 – since November 29  
A lot to unfold

© VG 2025

Hybrid spaces & discontinuities 1 /  
Morphology

« L'entre-ville » « Zwischenstadt \* »  
« In between cities »

\*Thomas Sieverts, 1997, *Zwischenstadt*.  
*Zwischen Ort und Welt, Raum und Zeit, Stadt  
und Land.*





DMZ Trail Course 1 to 10 – since November 29  
A lot to unfold



© VG 2025

Hybrid spaces & discontinuities 2 /  
Temporality

Under construction / derelict



# CONCLUSION

전원주택 "분양"  
031-982-3300

# Thank you very much!

전원주택 "분양"  
031-982-3300



kgeo.gelezeau

