

The University of Poitiers presents

# LABTOONS

A THOUGHT BUBBLE EXPERIMENT

A comic  
adventure  
through our  
37 research  
laboratories!

  
1431  
Université  
de Poitiers

Inside the  
laboratory

GRESCO

## The Sociological Research Group for Contemporary Societies

Founded: 2008

Size: 94 people

Based in: Poitiers city center  
(Hôtel Fumé) and Vanteaux  
campus (Limoges)

research co-supervision:  
University of Poitiers,  
University of Limoges

GRESCO  
sociologie

Identity card n° UR 15075

# HOW DOES SOCIETY TRANSFORM US?

As humans, we're all actors in a social world that structures our choices.

If we can picture without too much difficulty the way our biology is determined by our genetics, the same can't be said for the way we're 'created' by our social relations. GRESCO uses sociology to explain precisely this. The social world binds us into various relations, such as class, gender, age, etc., and these relations organize, define, or otherwise structure what we do, what we know, what we love, and many other things besides! Individuals have different **economic capital** and cultural backgrounds, which contribute to **social inequalities** that run through our societies.

These inequalities are the focus of the work conducted at our lab. Our first area of interest questions education and socialization challenges that accrue **over the course of a person's life**. For instance, we show that the education that young adults receive doesn't adequately provide reading comprehension skills, and that this gap in their skills has consequences for their subsequent path through education.

The second area of interest looks at

people's lifestyles, or more precisely, their **cultural practices**. Our research in this area involves recording the differences in practices between individuals and discerning the cultural and sporting habits of a group. Here, too, we find that inequality exists in the level of access to cultural amenities—the people you see at an opera will be different from those you encounter in a shopping centre...

The third area of interest focuses on **class** and the **world of work**. We study forms of employment, notably delivery riders in the gig economy, whose numbers have exploded with the advent of delivery apps. We demonstrate, among other things, that delivery work is often done by among the most precarious in society. This limits their power to organize and fight for better pay or working conditions.

Our last research area explores questions of health. Once again, sociology reveals inequalities that are determined by your level of education and your living conditions, but also by your relationship with your body or with physical pain.

55,800,000

The number of Google **search results** for the word 'sociology'.

36

The number of **French universities** that offer courses in sociology, including Poitiers.

1958

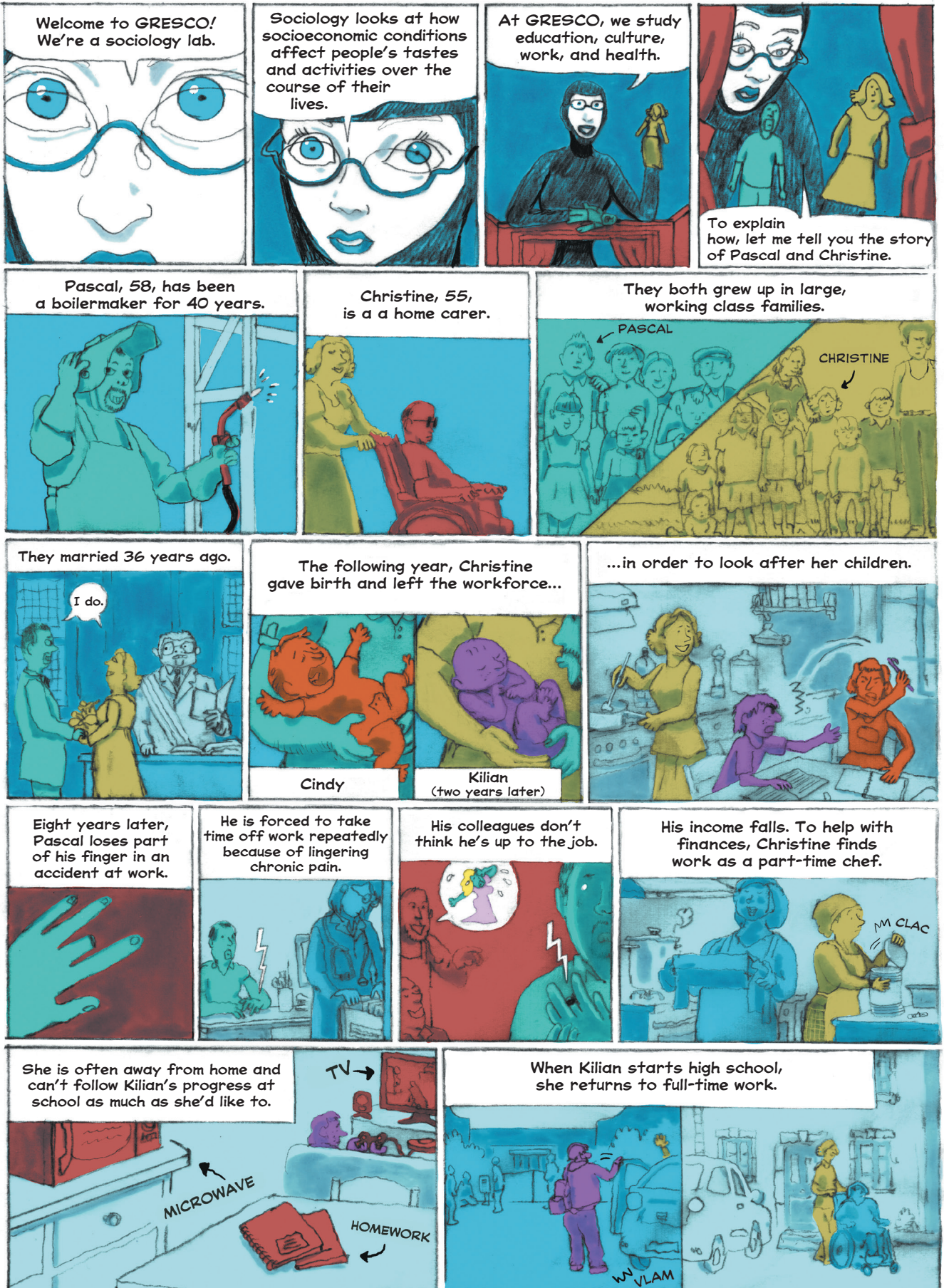
The year that the **first sociology degree** was created in France.



## Did you know?

- In 2021, the child of parents with manual or junior clerical occupations has a 69.4% chance of obtaining his or her **baccalauréat** (an education certificate awarded at the age of 18)... Whereas the child of parents in intermediate professions has an 89.8% chance of doing so.
- A young person under the age of 20 is twice as likely to fall victim to a **workplace accident** than all other workers, as of 2019.
- Do you know the saying, 'birds of a feather flock together'? Sociological studies have long shown that couples don't form randomly, but rather based on a pattern of shared social affinities. This is known as **social homogeneity**.







Cindy, the oldest child, goes to university to study psychology. She struggles a little.



She changes to a nursing degree, because it's more hands-on.



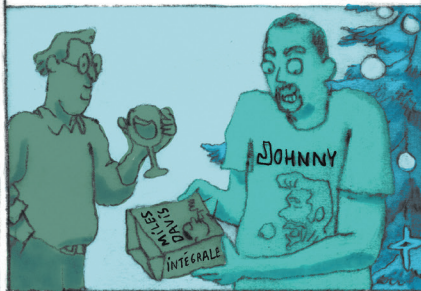
Today, she's 35 and lives in Paris with her husband, Paul, a 36 year-old neurosurgeon.



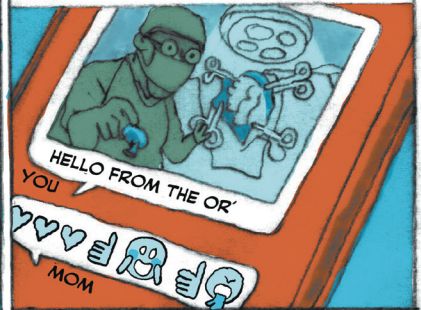
With Paul, she discovers jazz.



A certain gulf grows between her married life and that of her childhood.



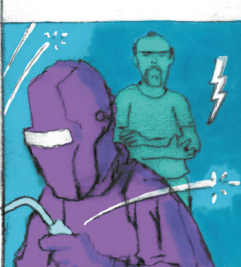
They keep in contact via text.



Kilian, the youngest, follows an apprenticeship scheme to become a boilermaker...



...in spite of his father's reluctance.



He earns his qualification and is awarded a gold medal as the best apprentice in France.



Today, he is 33. He lives and works in the countryside.



He is in a relationship with Charline, 31, who works at the mayor's office in Poitiers.



They met at a party.



All of these people are fictional, but their story is synthesis of a number of very real studies conducted at GRESCO.

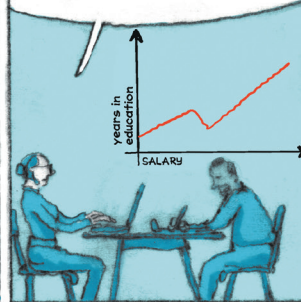


To make it, we conducted numerous interviews.

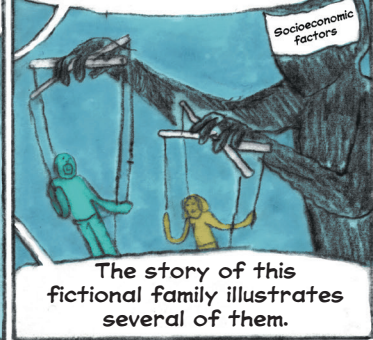
(I'm actually not a puppeteer!)



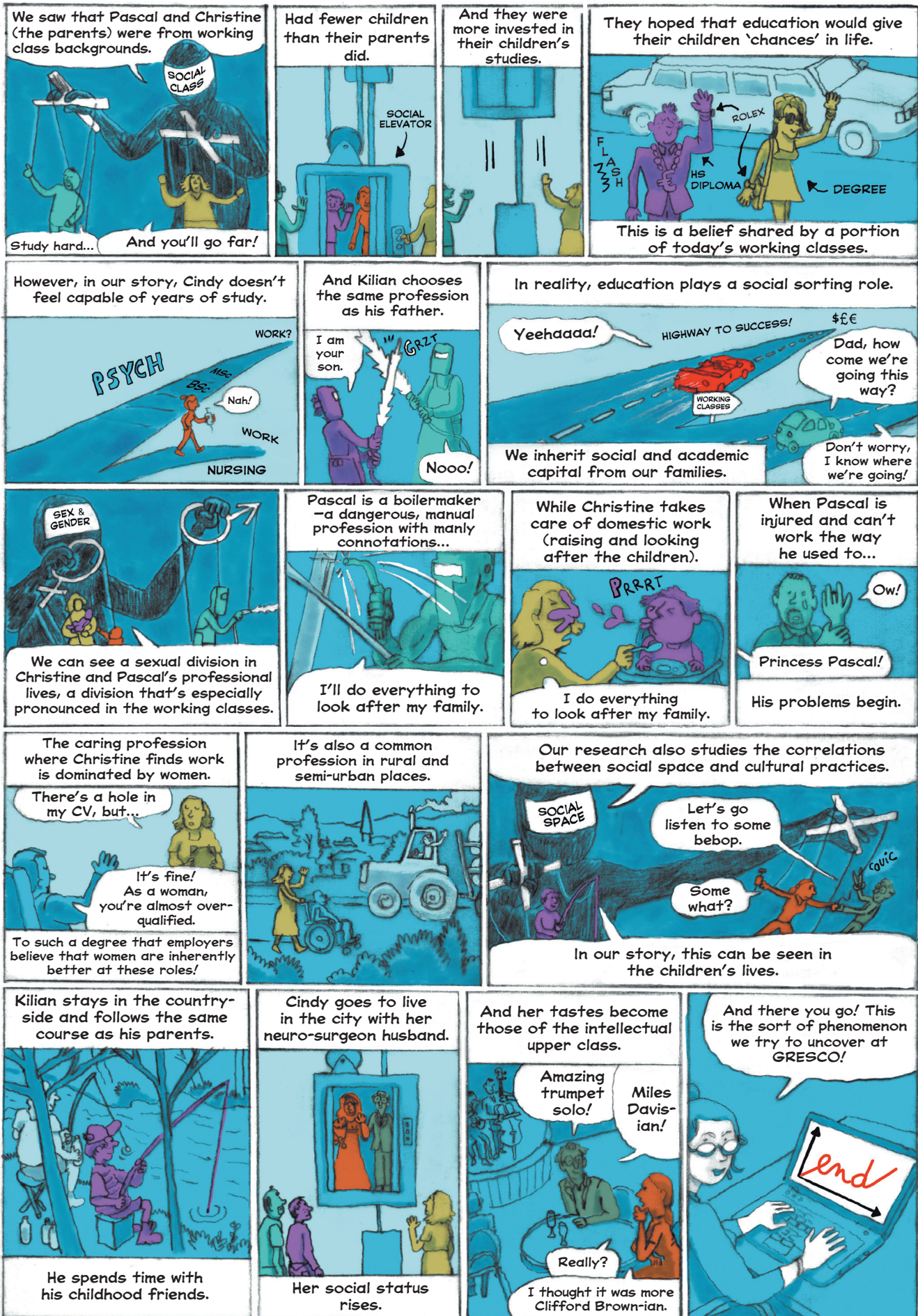
We ask people about their education and their professional life, and then analyse the results...



...to determine how socio-economic factors influence the course of someone's life.











Scan this QR code  
to read more comics about our 37  
laboratories!

UNDER THE  
INITIATIVE OF:



AS PART OF:



IN PARTNERSHIP WITH:



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