

SESSION 3 - 2022, April 23  
research work and  
projects in prison

# Towards the construction of a liberating and socially inclusive autobiographical narrative: an experiment with “information seeds”

Eric Lacombe & Lise Vieira

MICA Laboratory, University Bordeaux Montaigne, France



# About the authors

Eric Lacombe

- engineer from the École Nationale Supérieure des Arts & Métiers with a PhD in Information and Communication Sciences
- consultant in information architecture, accompanies the digital transformation of organizations

Lise Vieira

- professor in Information and Communication Sciences at the University of Bordeaux Montaigne & research director at MICA
- coordinates the international network EUTIC (Enjeux et Usages des TIC) & the working group TICIS (TIC Information et stratégie).

## Insight

« *The overall project of our presentation is to see how experimenting with **a new method of organizing information** resulting from research on the transformation of organizations (Lacombe, 2021) is likely to contribute to this objective of mental and **psychological liberation, and social inclusion.** »*

# From **Autobiography** to Meaning...

- **Autobiography:** beyond a re-memory of the highlights of one's past, a search for the meaning of life (G. Gusdorf, 1990)
- **For the prisoner:** a process of recovery of self-esteem, of capacity for reconstruction otherwise called resilience.

*...an expected transformation*

# Resilience : self-expression & self-exposure

*B. Cyrulnik (1999, 2009)*

- a capacity to adapt following a trauma
- the importance of the writing in this process

*S. Tisseron (2021)*

- a human affected by a trauma always rebuilds himself differently from what he was before

**But** if there is self-expression, there is also **self-exposure**,

- a potential danger for **prisoners**

# Storytelling: advantages

- to move from a linear narrative dimension to the manufacture of more open sets, with a desire for construction and communication to third parties

Many advantages likes

- still a cathartic and emotional dimension with less personal self exposure
- a step towards the other to capture their interest

# *Proposal:* autobiographical scheme (multifaceted storytelling)

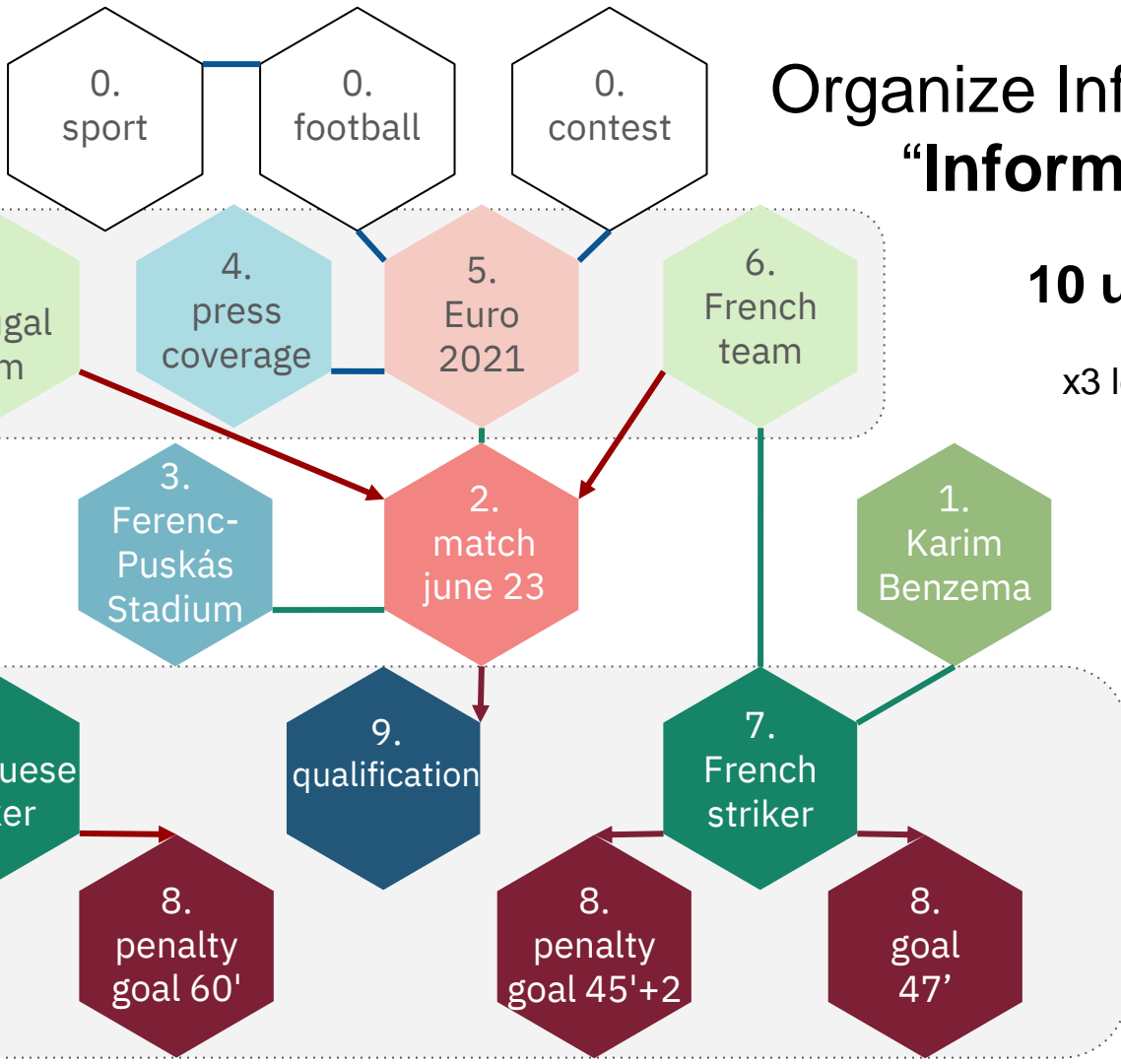
A **graph** constructed by:

- **connecting units of meaning**,
- keeping the important information for the user,
- in the image of the memorization process at work in the brain,
- with multiple entry point and pathways,
- **weaving a meaning canvas**

A **sense-making** process:

- 3 dimensions of french word “**sens**” (Cassar, 2015):
  - **sensibility**, to signals and signs
  - **intelligibility**, by connection and integration
  - **direction**, as a result

*Example*



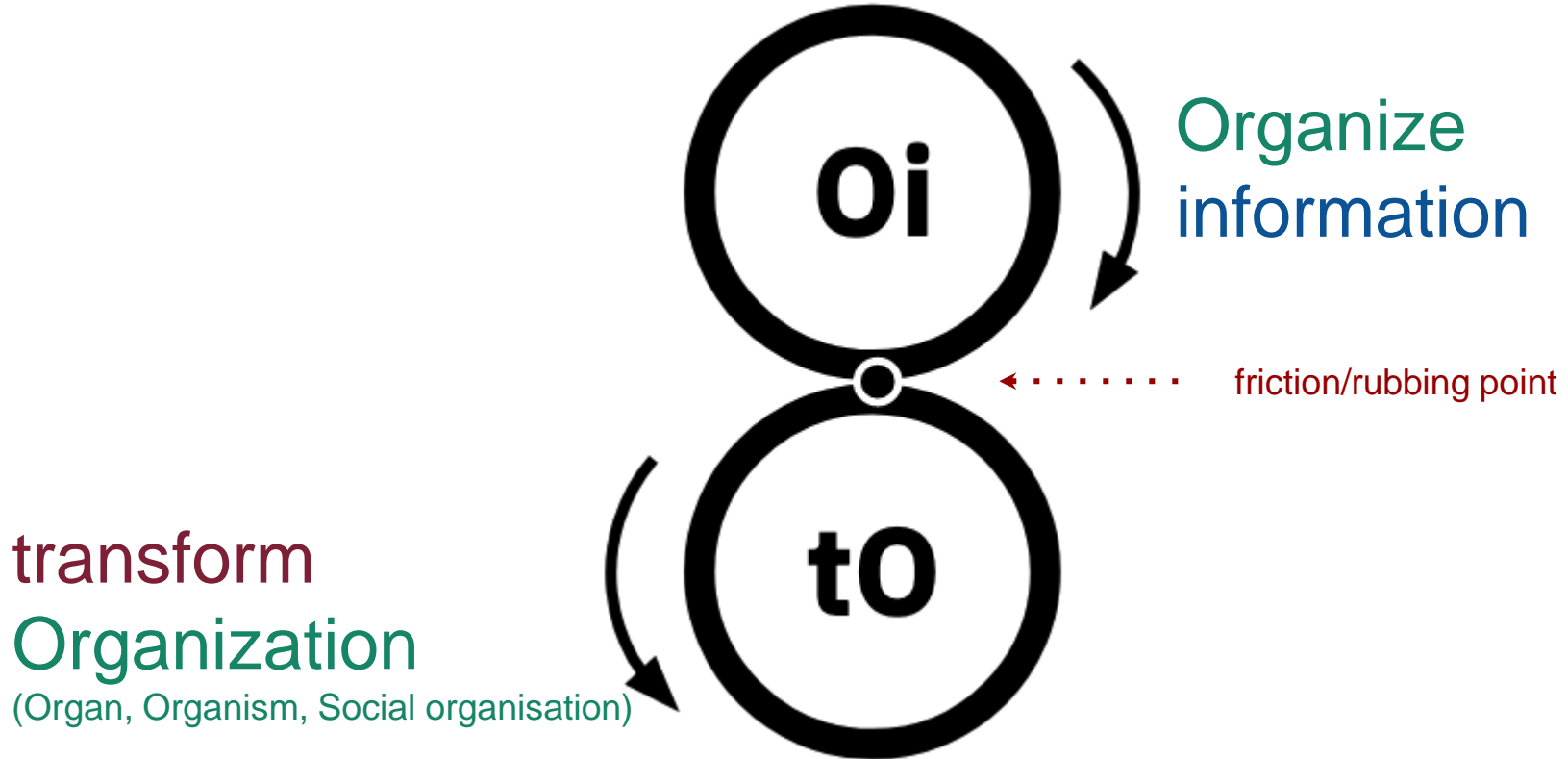
# Organize Information with “Information Seeds”

**10 units of meaning**  
who\_does\_what,  
x3 levels (holonic approach)  
+ concept  
&  
3 relationship types

*a shared  
point of view*



*Principe:* “the **OitO** loop”



# Potential gains from this “new way of thinking”

1. identifying shortcomings (missing seeds) to help rebuild identity,
2. linking the narrative to actionable potentials upon release from prison by linking identified skills (roles) with compatible demands,
3. creating social ties by sharing common happy experiences or expectations,
4. analysing identity construction in relation to Erikson's stage of psycho-social development (1998),
5. formalising the understanding of factors negatively influencing life courses to refine the orientation of preventive actions.

Of course, these points deserve further development with those in charge of prison education.

# A Research Work, which still needs to be tested in prison...



This work is licensed under  
[CC BY-SA 4.0](https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/4.0/)

*Thank you for your attention...*

More information (soon) : [oito.fr](http://oito.fr)