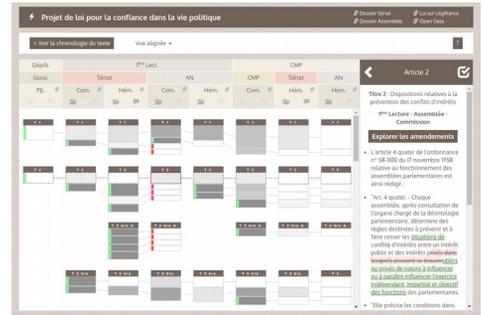
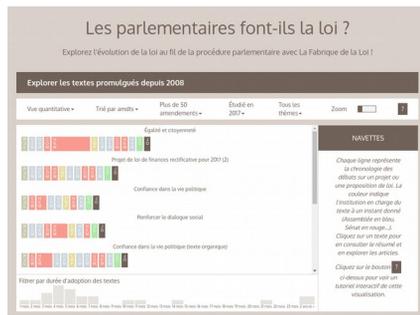


# DIGITAL AT THE SERVICE OF THE ASSESSMENT OF THE IMPACT OF PARLIAMENT ON THE LAW

Initiated in 2012-2014 at the intersection of parliamentary informatics and digital social sciences, The Law Factory is a project conducted as a partnership between two research laboratories at Sciences Po, the médialab and the CEE, and the volunteer-based citizen association Regards Citoyens. The website [www.LaFabriqueDeLaLoi.fr](http://www.LaFabriqueDeLaLoi.fr), which became first available online in 2014 with a limited subset of bills, now allows anyone to follow every step of the legislative procedure for more than 800 bills promulgated since 2008. The tool helps analyse temporally and quantitatively all of these laws, observe the degree of modification of their articles text via a color code, or explore speeches and amendments attributed to a certain article or a specific elected representative. Thus, different forms of overviews of the transformations of legislative texts by the parliament are ignored by the classical statistical approach.

Funded initially through a call for projects "PICRI" (Partenariats institutions-citoyens pour la recherche et l'innovation) in the Île-de-France region, "La Fabrique de la Loi" is now supported by the Laboratory for Interdisciplinary Evaluation of Public Policies (LIEPP - <http://www.sciencespo.fr/liepp>).

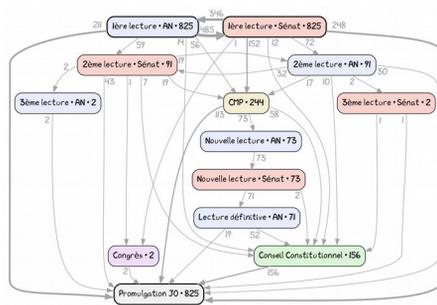
In addition to enrich the development of the existing website, the project proposes to reflect on old issues - Parliament's work on the law - using new instruments - digital - with experience in this area, a reflexive approach on the contribution of digital technology to the social sciences and a willingness to deal automatically and intelligently with the mass of parliamentary amendments.



## The 3 objectives of the project:

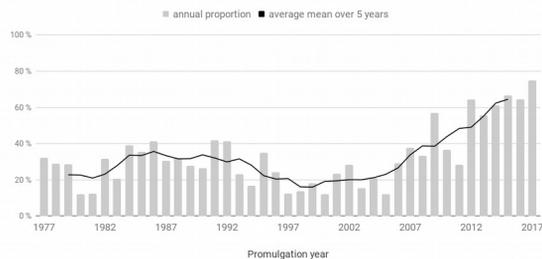
1. Refine the code for the retrieval, extraction, preparation, processing and analysis of information published by the two parliamentary chambers. From the point of view of the social usefulness of this instrument, both to journalists and to parliamentarians or citizens, the availability of the texts adopted since 2014 and the texts in progress is necessary.
2. Combine the analysis of the evolution of legislation with the exploration of the networks of co-signatures of the members of Parliament on the amendments. Legislative studies are concerned with the relationships embodied in these co-signatures for what they reveal to be interpersonal and transpartisan co-operations, which offer a richer view of the public arena than conventional parliamentary statistics, less constrained by the discipline imposed by the political parties than the ballots or the interventions in plenary.
3. Enrich the platform by adding an analysis centered on the typology of amendments. Analyzing the contents of the amendments (reasons and proposals for amendments) is an essential step in describing the role of parliamentary work on legislation. To enter into these contents implies to construct a linguistic typology of the amendments allowing to support a work of evaluation of their impact. The challenge is to distinguish qualitatively different types of amendments. For example, those involving obstruction, syntactic improvement, limited modification on the merits, or radical modification, or those off-topic.

The progress of the bills adopted since 2008 through the multiple steps of the French legislative procedure



The Law Factory enables to this day to analyse the steps followed by 825 bills (out of 887) passed since 2008. This graph gives a lot of insights and especially: the Assembly often scrutinises first bills before the Senate although the gap is not that important (485 vs. 346); 56% of the bills are adopted immediately after a first reading agreement (mainly international agreements); a conciliation committee made of representatives from both assemblies is required in 30% of the cases, and finds an agreement in 70% of those cases; the Constitutional Council evaluates 43% of the bills that are not adopted during the first reading... Beyond all those points, the graph lets see the pluralist features in the ways bills are passed in France despite the constitutional rules that frame it.

The accelerated procedure in France since 1977 (international conventions excluded)



The emergency procedure, renamed accelerated one since 2008, enables the government to call for a conciliation committee between the Assembly and the Senate after one reading only. It can be seen as a sign of the government's willingness to close the bicameral dialogue in order to save time. Two points can be made from our data. First, the frequent use of that procedure is old and does not originate from Sarkozy or Hollande's presidencies: it appears that under Giscard or Mitterrand, the emergency procedure was already applied to about one third of the texts. Although on another hand, two, the average mean reveals a constant growth in the use of the procedure since the mid 2000's and reached a peak in 2017 with 75% of the passed bills concerned. Further study will say if this trend results from a greater willingness to fasten the procedure or from growing filibustering from parliament.

## Evaluation of democracy Research Group

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## Project's team:

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Research engineer at the médialab, graduate of the École Centrale de Lyon. Benjamin specializes in applied computing to research. He participated in the foundation of the association Regards Citoyens, which aims to use information technology to make everyone understand the functioning of political institutions by reusing and redistributing large data corpus, particularly related to the activity of Parliament.

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Olivier Rozenberg is Associate Professor at Sciences Po, Center for European Studies. His research focuses on institutions and particularly the study of parliaments in Europe - national parliaments and the European Parliament.

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Data extraction engineer at the médialab since September 2017, graduate in computer science of the Université de Technologie de Compiègne and member of the association Regards Citoyens, Damien collaborates with research project in social, political and human sciences, helping them benefit from modern programming techniques.

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