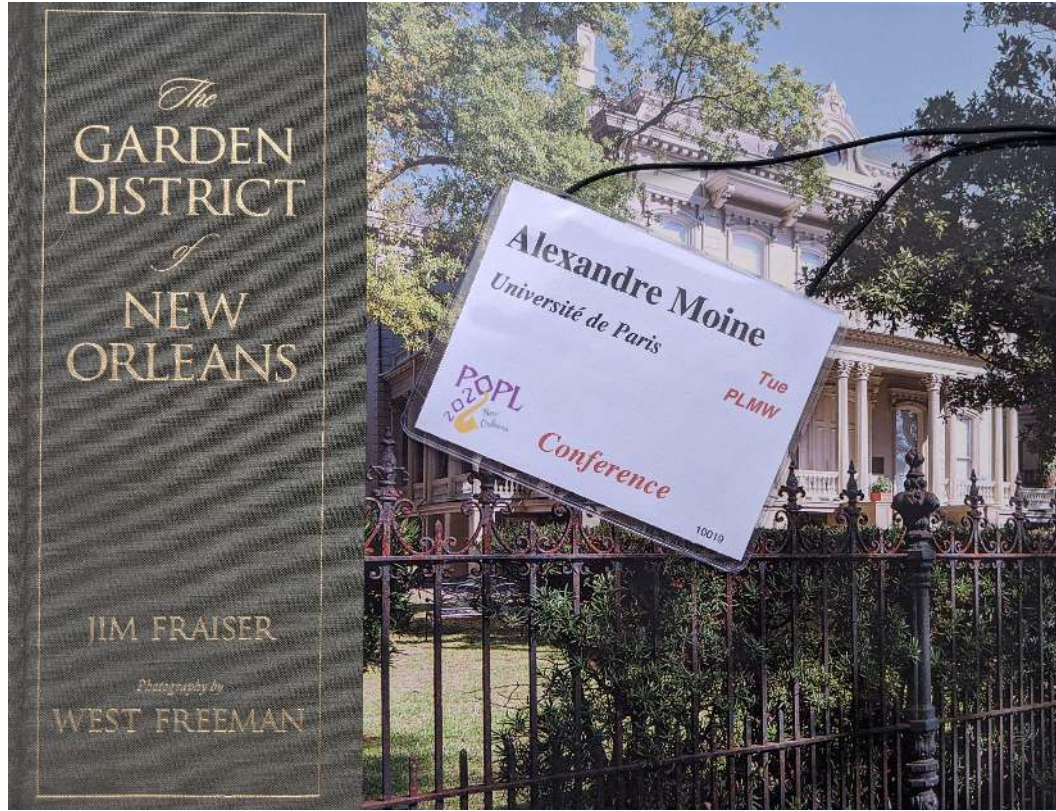


# The Art of Living Abroad (and Finding a Good Baguette in New York)

Alexandre Moine

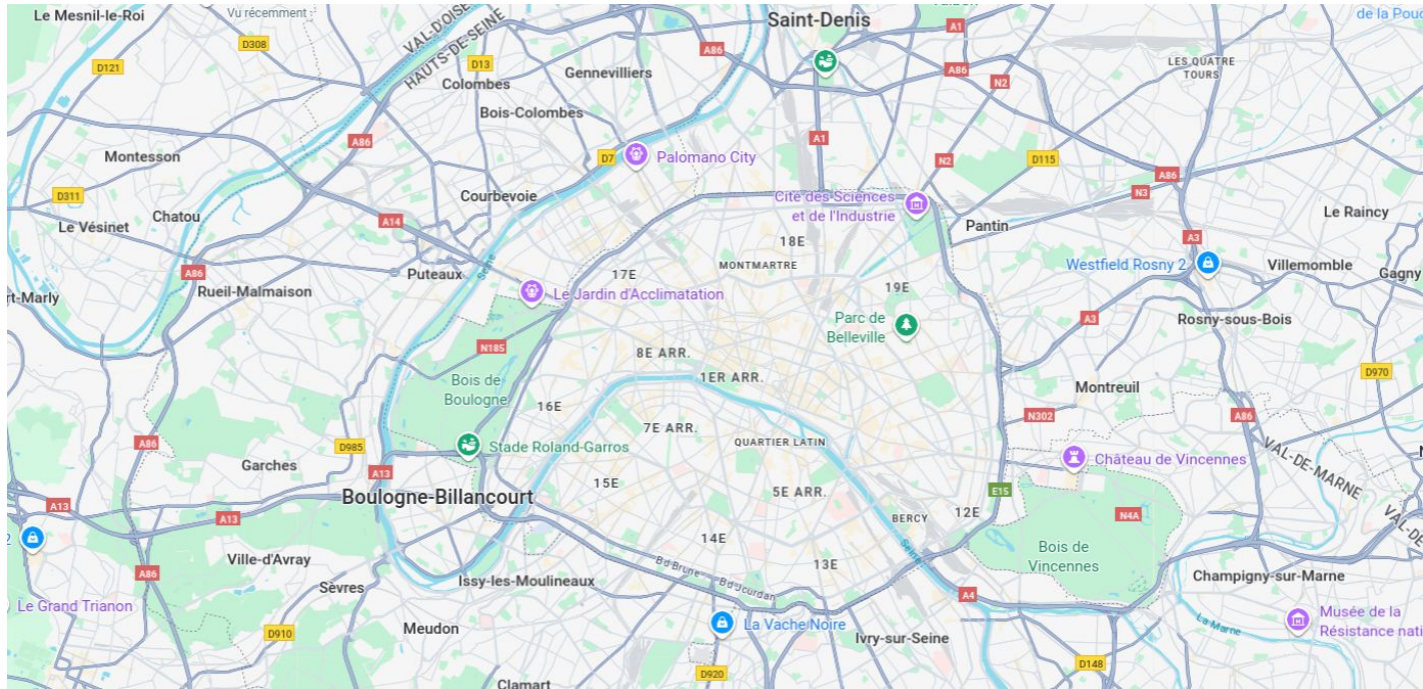


NEW YORK UNIVERSITY



# About Myself

- Raised in the suburb of Paris
- Bachelor and Master at  
Université Paris-Diderot / Université de Paris / Université Paris Cité  
(actually the same University...)
- PhD at Inria Paris, Cambium team ( “the OCaml team” )  
Topic: formal verification of space bounds with separation logic  
(come see my talk on Thursday 10:20 - 10:45)



I lived 25 years of my life in this area!  
(approx 20 km<sup>2</sup>)

# Part of the Research Curriculum: Living Abroad

1. “That is such a cool opportunity”
2. “Wait, how do I find a job abroad? What about housing? Do I need to speak the local language? Is the time difference that problematic? What about my current long term relationship? Will I find good cheese there? What about my visa? Is the pay enough to survive?”
3. “That is such a cool opportunity!!!!”

***The Best Scary Thing You Can Do***

# Before Leaving: The Choice

- Many criteria are at play here!
- **Things are unsurprising**
  - New York City is a busy city
  - Ithaca (Cornell) has access to cool nature
  - ~~Paris is the best city of the world.~~ Paris offers access to a wide culture scene.
- Ask questions to PhD students/postdocs living onsite.
- Enquire about the team/work atmosphere.
- If you can visit, it's even better.
- Budget: income - rent - food - *travels* - *furniture* - ...

For me → New York City

# Administrative Joy

Priority n.1: visa applications!

Other priorities:

- Housing (ask for University housing)
- Banking (the famous “french deadlock”)
- Healthcare
- Taxes, pensions, benefits
- Language

These things take time, don't underestimate them!



# The Big Day

- For me, the scariest part.
  - A lot to deal with in a very short amount of time.
  - It's ok to take time to settle,  
and supervisors are well aware!
- 
- Tip: get in touch with internationals on site,  
they might have furniture they want to get rid of.





# The Reality of Living on Another Continent

## CONS:

- The time difference
- Being away from family and friends
- The culture shock  
e.g. the food



## PROS:

- The time difference
- Being away from family and friends
- The culture shock  
e.g. jazz clubs, Broadway



# Professional Environment: From France to the US

FRANCE	US
nb. students $\approx$ nb. profs	nb. students $>$ nb. profs
Writing a paper: technical content $\rightarrow$ introduction	Writing a paper: introduction $\rightarrow$ technical content
Lunch time is sacred	Lunch time is... different

# Social

## Finding Friends:

- The PhD Student/Postdoc mafia
- Friends of friends
- It can be tempting to “just work”

Don't do that: go out!!

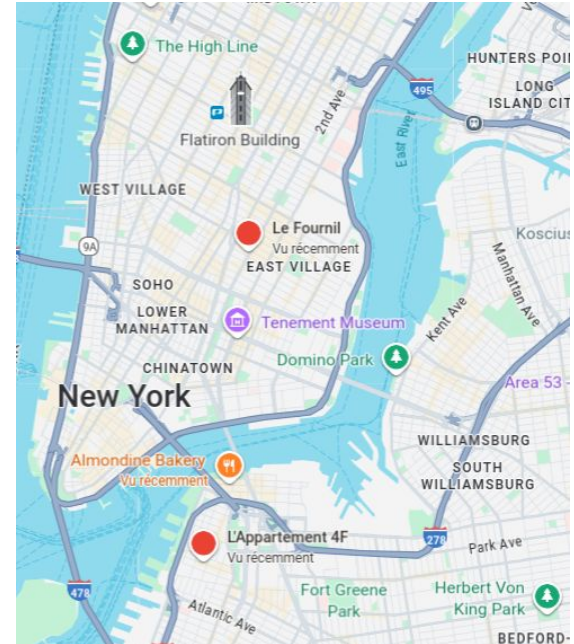
- University events
- Art classes
- Gym/Running groups
- Boardgames
- Really, anything you like to do!

## Love Life:

- A strange but interesting experience
- Long Distance: don't be scared
- Dating locally: culture clashes

# Finding Good Baguette in New York

- Feeling homesick is normal and there are solutions:
  - Embassy/Consulate events
  - Expat community
  - For French people: good bread
- Don't over do it! If you're abroad:  
“When in Rome, do as the Romans do”
- I'm in France since last December,  
and I'm already missing NYC pizza.



# Mental Health

Being abroad includes difficulties:

- Distance from family
- Missing rituals, food, small habits
- The “permanent temporary” feeling



**If you feel the need, don't hesitate to seek professional help!**

- Through the University, or
- remotely, back home (helps to speak your mother tongue)

# Fostering Cats

- For New York: the NYACC.
- Ideal when moving often: you can give the cat you foster to another home.
- Food/Vet consults are usually paid for – you just have to care for a cat.



# Conclusion

- Do what you want, but
- don't be scared!



For me: the most exciting year of my life!

I'm available if you have any question:

Here at POPL, or at [alexandre.moine \[at\] nyu.edu](mailto:alexandre.moine@nyu.edu)