French Small Town Fieldsite

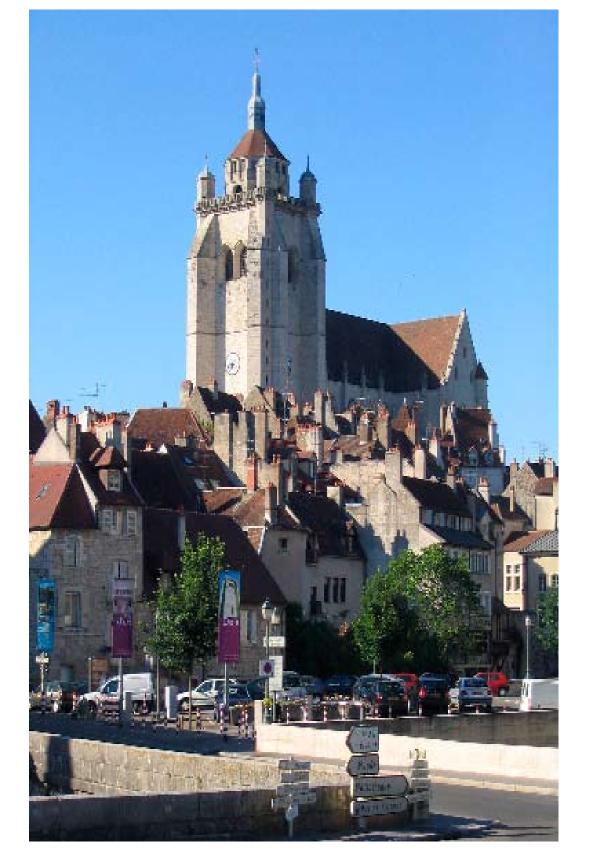
Sophie Chevalier, Laurent Amiotte-Suchet

Location of the fieldsite

Dole is a middle-sized town in Eastern France, in Franche-Comté, with some industries and surrounded by agricultural activities.

Mutual aid

Mutual aid between inter-generational kin is very important: people exchange services, money and emotional support. Childcare is the most common task for grandparents: our informants consider that professional care could never substitute for kin. By contrast with inter-generational kin, mutual aid between kin of the same generation is less frequent and more fragile. We also distinguish elective or 'adoptive' kin: sometimes people adopt their partner's family or choose one side of their own lineage.



The church in Dole



A street in Dole



Cultural life for seniors



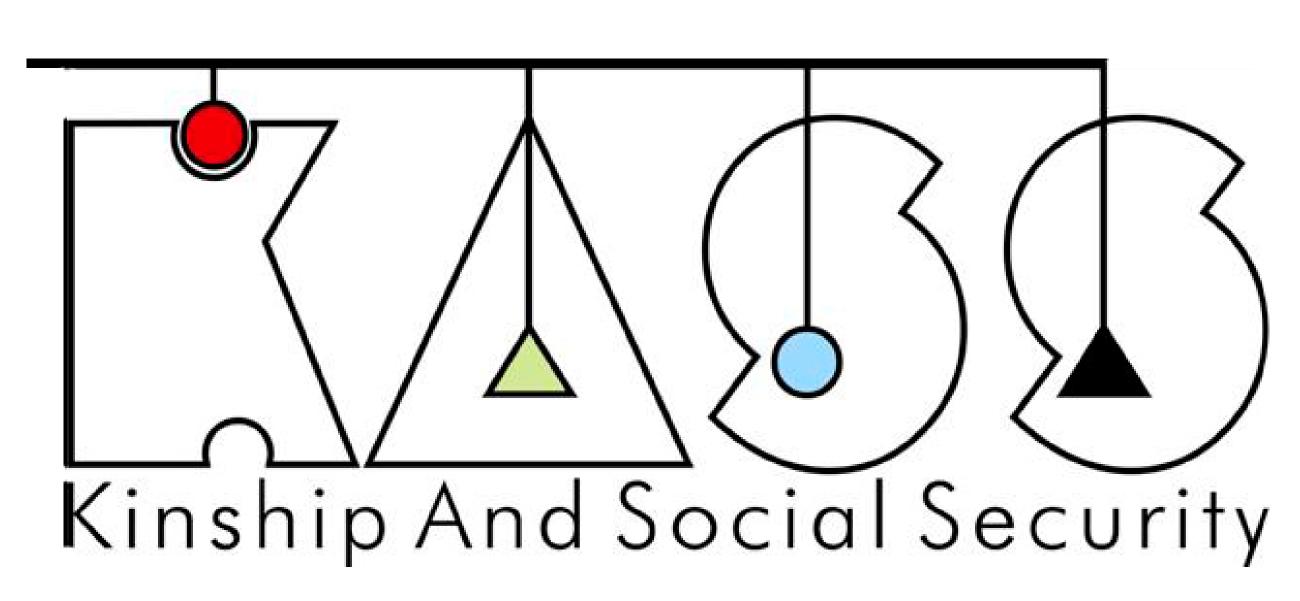
Kinship and place

Nevertheless, the most striking aspect of kinship relations in Dole is how they are concretely embodied in place, especially in the family house. Even if Ego is not the heir, s/he never loses access to this house.

Kinship as a burden

Of course, sometimes kin can be a burden: some informants, who may look like saints to an outsider, have in fact destroyed their personal life through helping their kin; in two cases, female informants were the youngest of their sibling group, and so

appointed to take care of their elderly parents. It is not obvious that the younger generation will adopt the same attitude and avoid using public ressources to the same degree, even if they still depend on kin to care for their children.



An interdisciplinary project with an anthropological agenda funded by the European Union's Sixth Framework Programme.

