Denise Pumain is Professor at University Paris I Panthéon-Sorbonne and Director of Cybergeo, European Journal of Geography (www.cybergeo.eu). Former Chair of the Commission on Urban Development and Urban Life of the International Geographical Union (1992-2000), founder (1984) and Director (1992-2000) of the research laboratory P.A.R.I.S. (UMR Géographie-cités, CNRS), since 2006 director of the European Research Group S4 (Spatial Simulation for Social Sciences, www.S4.parisgeo.cnrs.fr), she is specialised in urban modelling and theoretical geography. Her main scientific contribution is about building an evolutionary theory of urban systems and transferring concepts and models from self-organising complex systems towards social sciences. Her last book "Hierarchy in natural and social sciences" is published by Springer in 2006 in the Methods Series. She is director of the series "Villes" published by Anthropos.