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**Title**

Why do so many French universities wear a number? : some reflections on the recent(hi)story of French universities system

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**Abstract**

The reason why so many large French university towns gather a group of numbered universities is generally not well known. This short paper explains the reasons leading to this dispersion of Universities and stresses the need for a new and more flexible law to incite Universities of the same site to merge. (HRK / Abstract übernommen)