

# Multivariate Analysis of Ecological Data with ade4

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# **Foreword**

« Les programmes sont des objets scientifiques bizarres : les uns y cachent la compréhension mathématique des modèles qui les supportent, les autres en font des objets expérimentaux. Lieu par excellence d'échanges et de conflits, d'appropriation souhaitable ou abusive, produit sans auteur présumé pour les camelots de la démonstration (lesquels programment rarement) ou objet largement surestimé, sa valeur dépend du moment et de l'environnement. Il faut concilier deux logiques, celle de l'utilisateur et celle du statisticien. Notons à ce propos qu'on peut militer pour la libre circulation des programmes ou (exclusif) des données : il faut rassurer tout le monde. Image d'une méthode pour celui qui l'écrit, le programme change de nature pour celui qui l'emploie, image d'une problématique pour celui qui l'acquiert, les données changent de nature quand elles servent d'illustration. La libre circulation des données et des programmes est un facteur décisif du développement : une seule chose est inconcevable, c'est qu'il n'y ait qu'un seul point de vue sur ces objets. »

Daniel Chessel, 1992

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