



Presentation

Issue 19 (Special Issue) : Jean-Claude Gillet's legacy

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*An emblematic figure of animation,
Jean-Claude Gillet passed away on
November 20, 2020.*

Jean-Claude Gillet left us abruptly on November 20, 2020. His legacy is immense among researchers and actors of sociocultural community development, which he knew how to gather, stimulate and confront as to the meaning of their practice. His journey in this field was exemplary. We will remember him as a reflective practitioner, a diligent organizer, a network builder, a free thinker and an endearing being.

The tributes we pay him here are intended to create ties as much as they mark a separation. They gather colleagues and comrades around a mark of gratitude, which is both an opportunity to celebrate his legacy and to greet him one last time. Echoing the personal and academic inspiration he procured, the texts in this special issue are divided into two sections.

The first section welcomes first the contribution of Sylvia Garcia Delahaye, Samah Saleh and Alexandre Dormeier Freire entitled « Social action in times of crises in the MENA region: sociocultural community development as a lever of social change ». Their text aims to make accessible in English some of the notions of socio-cultural animation and its function developed by Jean-Claude Gillet in relation to their testing during a recent training offered in the Middle East and North Africa region.

Then comes the article by Jean-Marie Lafortune, drawing on the pioneer works of Jean-Claude Gillet. Entitled « Animation culturelle et mouvements sociaux : perspectives communes de recherche », it puts them in dialogue with the analyses of Melucci and Castells in the same era, whose works draw the synthesis of European and North-American traditions, and offer fruitful prospects for understanding both contemporary forms of collective action and the current challenges for sociocultural community development.

Signed by Laurence Vohlgemuth, Joana Campos and Cristina Cruz, the following text entitled « L'esprit de Jean-Claude Gillet plane toujours sur la formation en animation à Lisbonne » retraces the influence he had on the framing of the academic cursus followed at the École Supérieure d'Éducation of the Polytechnic Institute of Lisbon after a visit in 2011.

Next, the article by Jean-Luc Richelle, « Praticien-chercheur et chercheur-praticien », emphasizes the conception of research for Jean-Claude Gillet, intimately linked to the practice of both the researcher and the practitioner, and that of professional practice, imbued with reflexivity and conceptual research resources.

In « Sens et signification dans l'évaluation émancipatrice de projets d'animation socioculturelle auprès des jeunes : l'expérience d'un centre socioculturel lausannois », Franco De Guglielmo recounts the paradoxical dynamic that characterizes the practices of the Prélaz-Valency's Center with regard to the participation of young people in the development and evaluation of organized activities, in that the surplus of participation generates a turbulent movement rather than coherent emancipatory processes.

Caleb Kim depicts in « Essential Facilitators in Building University Partnership with Ethnic Minority Communities » the vagaries of implementing a youth violence prevention program set up as part of an academic partnership with the disadvantaged ethnic poor communities of Chicago, highlighting the shared responsibility of the university with the partner organization.

Finally, Éric Carton lists in « Un auteur particulier et incontournable parmi les penseurs de l'animation » the works of Jean-Claude Gillet by presenting them in their production context and by trying to measure their impact by the number of citations by academics and professionals.

The second section consists of more personal contributions by Fabián Vilas Serna (Jean-Claude Gillet: Viajero de culturas, Animador de múltiples territorios), Ana Silva (Il y a 20 ans... Jean-Claude Gillet, l'homme lucide de l'intelligence stratégique), Bernard Wandeler, Simone Gretler Heusser, Christa Schönenberger, Alex Willener, Gregor Husi and Jacqueline Wyss (Un doyen de la socioculture est mort du coronavirus) and Aïcha Boukhrissa (À notre cher Jean-Claude).

But before delving into these readings, we invite you to take a look at his journey through the testimony of one of his closest accomplices.

Enjoy the reading !

Jean-Marie Lafortune
Editor