



## Presentation

# Virtual and social realities of sociocultural community development

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Virtual and social realities of sociocultural community development are approached in this edition through seven texts of analysis. Interested in the interfaces which allow users to interact between them as well as with contents, André Antoniadis overflows in his article «Le Web 2.0 et la créativité en animation: quels enjeux?» the question of the acquisition of knowledge and professional skills by experiments and appropriation of this new tool to focus on the issues of identity and democracy which Internet presents for professional sociocultural community developers and the beneficiaries of their action.

The creative dimension of sociocultural community development is also the object of Xavier Úcar's reflection in his article «Las profesiones de la sociocultura en España: ¿colonización, adaptación o creatividad?». He wonders about the role of jobs related to this field in regard with the sociocultural changes arisen in Spain during the last decades, concerning more particularly lifestyles and relations. The author asserts that the professional sociocultural community development seems just as much to have provoked these changes than brought a relevant answer to these changes.

Peter Stade and Bernard Wandeler see in the implementation of process of participation involving students not only immediate profits from the point of view of autonomy and development of sense of belonging to a social group and in a given territory, but more deeply the foundations of a wider social participation. They identify in their article «Creative methods in sociocultural community development to further the participation of citizen groups in decision-making process» the conditions so that such an exercise can be a success, namely shared powers and responsibility of the process, time and use of creative methods.

Citizens participation in decision-making processes rests in particular on the development of a reflexive capacity and appropriation of scientific instruments. It is such a perspective that Maria Teresa Sirvent, Claudia Marcela Lomagno and Sandra Mabel Llosa adopt in their article «Intervención comunitaria en contextos de pobreza en la ciudad de Buenos Aires desde una perspectiva de animación sociocultural e investigación acción participativa». Starting from experienced problematic situations, related to a deficient education, they show how the use of sociocultural community development strategies based on a participative research-action associating teachers, parents and children can contribute to the establishment of bridges between school and community and lead to the implementation of transformative actions.

The vein of youth participation in sociocultural life is also exploited by Antonio Alcantara in his article «Dinamización en proyectos socioculturales gestionados por jóvenes». The projects he describes aim at encouraging their implication and development. The author stipulates that to succeed in this way, it is necessary to adopt an approach which gets learning tools based on values such as respect, dialogue, consensus and common good. Involvement of social partners, which guarantees an intense and inclusive community development, contributes to the transformation of their daily reality while having a positive action on democratic life.

Links between commitment, involvement and social climate in the field of education and sociocultural community development are in the heart of Michel Lac's article «L'engagement citoyen: une implication en contexte». The inquiries which he led in diverse countries within a research team demonstrate that forms of commitment and involvement that sociocultural community developer is looking for in the various sectors of his intervention can be partially annulled by certain socioeconomic contexts experienced as unfavourable by the concerned citizens.

Violence against Colombian women, in spite of the adoption in 2008 of a law to protect them, is a reality which try to answer by the means of sociocultural community development based on communication for change Luis Alfonso Altamar Muñoz and Emma Doris Lopez Rodriguez in their article «Lecturas emergentes de acciones comunicativas con enfoque cultural para dialogar en el balbuceo de los sueños: pensar y edificar territorios libres de violencias». From an experiment led to Barranquilla, the authors analyze how this kind of communication can strengthen activism, advocacy and recognition of women's rights.

The next issue of the review, to appear in autumn, 2011, will point out **Arts and sociocultural community development: stimulate sociocultural practices and develop territories**. You have up to **October 1st** to submit an article or a report (see the guidelines: [www.atps.uqam.ca/auteurs\\_en.php](http://www.atps.uqam.ca/auteurs_en.php)). You can also submit any time texts to appear in the open section.

Enjoy the reading !