



## Presentation

# Issue 23 (spring 2023) : Special Issue – In memory of Jean-Pierre Augustin

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*Co-founder of the SCDP Journal and activist within the animation network, Jean-Pierre Augustin died on July 16, 2022.*

With the death of our colleague and friend Jean-Pierre Augustin in July 2022, less than two years after that of his comrade Jean-Claude Gillet, the world of sociocultural community development is losing another beacon that has guided it for a quarter of a century. Professor emeritus at the University of Bordeaux-Montaigne, member of the UMR PASSAGES and former director of research at the Maison des Sciences de l'Homme d'Aquitaine, Jean-Pierre Augustin was a renowned geographer of urban cultures and leisure, of sociocultural community development as well as popular education, youth and sport movements and organizations in France, Canada, and Africa. Co-founder of the SCDP Journal and regular contributor, his legacy is immense and we offer in this issue a series of texts inspired by his works.

The first, signed by Jean-Luc Richelle and entitled “Chemin faisant avec Jean-Pierre Augustin: l'animation dans les espaces urbains”, traces its professional commitment since its first experiments of sociocultural community development in a youth home of a working-class district in Bordeaux, which corresponds to the birth of sociocultural animation in France. While he first confronts in his studies the socio-spatial evolution of cities and the creative social practices of a flexible urbanity, he then promotes, as a professor-researcher in IUT, graduate training to contribute to the professionalization of sociocultural developers. Then, taking part in international synergies, including those stemming from the RIA and scientific cooperation, he confirmed an emancipatory conception of sociocultural community development and collective action.

The following article, “Communs culturels et revitalisation territoriale : le cas du quartier Saint-Michel à Montréal”, focuses on the territorial effects of the participatory shift in cultural policies, due to the evolution of governance models that attempt to include citizens' aspirations to participate in decisions that affect them. Laurent Dambre-Sauvage, Juan-Luis Klein and Diane-Gabrielle Tremblay examine the setting up of a collective communalist action, like the Darwin ecosystem erected on the right bank of Bordeaux and that Jean-Pierre Augustin liked to make discover, which is combined with an entrepreneurial action linked to the establishment of Cirque du Soleil in this district, which has become the scene of a revitalization process that gives birth to a “commun culturel”.

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Extending Jean-Pierre Augustin's interest in the geopolitics of the Olympic Games, Julien Fuchs discusses in his text "Les Jeux d'hiver de l'Arctique : jeunesse, culture et territoire. La valeur publique d'un évènement sportif" the alternative model embodied since 1970 by the Arctic Winter Games, which bring together young people from the circumpolar world. Sporting and cultural events, these games promote sharing and exchange among participants and indigenous practices. Questioning the public value of these meetings, the author discusses the paradigm on which international sporting events are built today.

Also interested in the links between sport and society, Hameth Dieng analyses, in "Les navétanes: lieu d'intégration des jeunes et de construction de la citoyenneté", the place and role of these informal sports activities performed by migrants in Senegalese society. Based on semi-directive interviews conducted with the actors of this movement in the municipality of Thiès, he observes that young people find there a place to affirm their identity and see it as a way to actively participate in social life.

Reframing the focus on cultural issues, to the limits of a certain conception of animation as Jean-Pierre Augustin problematized it, Sarah Turcotte and Jonathan Rouleau highlight, in order to improve its structure, the social impact and territorial anchorage of a program of activities implemented in the city of Amqui (Quebec) in their article "Évaluation participative des pratiques de médiation culturelle: le programme *Parascol'arts - J'ai léz'arts à cœur de Diffusion Mordicus*".

The relationship between art and scientific culture is an unprecedented entry for the study of bilateral communication reframed within a pedagogical methodology of sociocultural community development applied to youth institutions. In "La médiation artistique au profit des clubs scientifiques", Achref Nasri notes the power of the arts to deepen scientific understanding or interpretation and suggests the use of artistic mediation to ensure a better dissemination of scientific culture.

Sociocultural community development has been part of Quebec's collective practices since the 1960s, developing according to the structure of free time from which emerges the recognition of the practice of leisure, but also within the autonomous community movement where civic participation is central. In her text, « Entre le rêve et la capacité d'agir collectivement sur la réalité : comment l'animation fonde-t-elle les processus créatifs des groupes ? », Annie Baillargeon Fortin wonders how it contributes to the implementation of creative processes and the potential for innovation of groups.

This special issue ends with the testimony of a long-time colleague and friend of Jean-Pierre Augustin, Jacques Ion, who evokes the dynamic of work and cooperation established between them, based on boundless curiosity and the willingness to address without detour difficult issues surrounding the origins and real scope of sociocultural community development.

The next issue of the Journal will be published in the autumn of 2023. The deadline to submit an article or report for this issue is October 31st, 2023 (see instructions: <https://edition.uqam.ca/atps>). Please note that we always accept texts to appear in the Open Topic section.

Enjoy the reading!

Jean-Marie Lafortune  
Editor