



## Presentation

# Territorial realities of sociocultural community development

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With the process of globalization, there is a growing concern about the loss of territorial identity markers in favour of a perceived homogenization. In this context, calls for the affirmation of local specificities are of increasing importance. Often, the discourse that supports these calls involves a set of oppositions, from local to global, with which existing cultural institutions and policies try to cope. Beyond oppositions like rurality/urbanity, locality/transnationality or actuality/virtuality, sociocultural community development is seen, on the one hand, as one strategy against inequalities. On the other hand, geographical, economic, political and social territories have specificities that impact not only on the practices of sociocultural community development, but also define its probable field of action. How territorial conditions inform or render sociocultural community development possible? How sociocultural community development fit into the social and political fabric of a territory? What are the functions that are assigned to local agents? Starting from the proposition that the characteristics of a territory induce not only distinct sociocultural community development practices, but also different ways of interrogating them, this issue is an invitation to reflect on the possible articulations of sociocultural community development and territory. The papers presented were first delivered at the 6th International Symposium on sociocultural community development held in autumn 2013 in Paris under the auspices of the Réseau international de l'animation. They all take as their starting point the issue of territory for sociocultural community development, or the ways in which territory offers a renewed point of view on the practices of sociocultural community developers.

## **Analyses**

The two first articles are from Algeria and look at the roles of sociocultural community developers and citizens' participation in local development. The text entitled « La coopération internationale pour la mise en œuvre d'une démarche participative dans les politiques de développement rural en Algérie » by Abdelkarim Bestani and Boumediene Zaoui questions the participatory approach in policies for rural development over there. It describes the ways in which international cooperation projects have encouraged the establishment of an ascending governance to secure local participation. Kahina Moussaoui and Khelloudja Megherbi Arabi's article, « Rôle des associations dans le développement local : le cas de quelques associations de la wilaya de Bejaia (Algérie) », looks at the role and capability of associations to provide or enhance local actors' participation. The authors suggest that if associations mission statement and perception of local development should make them important agents of social change, this potential is not fully realized yet.

« From 'paralysing myths' to curriculum expansion : boundaries, spaces and territories and the place of new technologies » of Jane Melvin evokes and questions contexts in which the working with young people are displayed. For the author, educators remain too often in margin of these tools just because they put too much in value contents, considering inappropriate desert (pornography, violence, stereotypes, etc.), or represent this territory outside their traditional field of practice. In front of this moral panic and paralysis, the article suggests rather that working with young people should take advantage of these virtual territories which are already occupied by the very young people. It also suggests that beyond their use in educators daily work to join young people, these territories are also the layout of disparities between young people should be the object of new forms of intervention.

## **Experiments**

With Patricia Gauvin, Quebec is at the heart of the question of the territory. In her article « Interventions artistiques en milieu de travail », she describes how her social action engaged her as artist as she take a role of an sociocultural community developer by using elements of the visited workplace environment. Her interventions, by making participants more sensitive in their own creative powers and by inviting them to discover the pleasures of artistict experiment, can be seen as cultural mediation.

« Sistematizando las prácticas : un hito en la construcción de demandas en torno a la lucha por la vivienda en el barrio de La Boca » of Claudia Lomagno and Laura Grigaitis presents a an experiment developed by the Grupo de Vivienda y Hábitat de la Boca fate to build and to support a social demand for better housing conditions in a poor area from Buenos Aires (Argentina). Among the tools of local mobilization used, a comic strip allowed a voice to the participants and help reconstituing the process of collective formulation of this demand.

Moving the reflection on European territory, Eric Gallibour, in his article « La formation professionnelle des animateurs en Europe par les CEMEA : petit bilan de l'accès et l'usage citoyen du dispositif de Mobilité Léonardo Da Vinci », stands the question of the resources, the limits and the perspectives to come from the program Leonardo da Vinci which aims at favoring professional working force mobility, in particular for sociocultural community developers. In spite of problems of access to this program, the author redraws the uses which allow the emergence of a « learning

mobility «, « of partnership « and «leading to a qualification», being of use as frame to the circulation of the workers.

The thematic section ends by an article of Jean-Pierre Augustin entitled « Les référentiels urbains et l'animation socioculturelle en France de 1960 à 2013 ». The author puts a look on the link which maintains sociocultural community developers with the shaping of the city. Taking for starting point the ambivalence about the role of sociocultural community developers in the city, he underlines the manners by which the stakes raised by urban transformations opened the way to the emergence of opposite figures of sociocultural community development.

### **Free section**

Three articles propose contrasted regards on sociocultural community development. In her text entitled « Lutte contre les discriminations et lutte contre l'insécurité en milieu rural : les jeux d'équilibristes des animateurs », Chantal Crenn, with the cooperation of Bruno Grenouillet and of Adeline Cochet, presents the case of a rural territory where sociocultural community developers are called to intervene in front of an increase of the proselytism which would be the fact of young people stemming from the immigration. Even though the bases of sociocultural community development are officially laic, the authors suggest that the determination of «ethnocised» populations and their identification based mainly on the denominational membership contribute to the importance of in terms of number of members of a religious order in the public sphere. This dynamics requires deep reflexivity from sociocultural community developers. It is also the case, although in another context, with the article « Du jeu dans la professionnalisation de l'animation » of Baptiste Besse-Patin, who suggests that the analysis of reel work made by sociocultural community developers allows to include the distance between their projects and the granted power and not that much to the users. For the author, the professionalization of sociocultural community development seems contradictory in front of daily working situations. He underlines that this proces will have to take into account what he calls « the sensitive part of the sociocultural community developers », where the formation will teach him «to play» in the margins and the zones of uncertainty of its work. Finally, for Sandrine Rosbapé, this professionalization of sociocultural community development should also benefit from more education in the voluntary sector (VS). In her paper entitled contribution « L'éducation à l'ESS : nouveau champ d'action pour l'animation socioculturelle? », the author suggests that sociocultural community development has the potential to invest completely this field.. Well assuming their role in social transformation for sociocultural community development relies in a raise of a critical reflection on the actual economic system.

The next edition of the Review, to appear in autumn, 2014, will have for theme « Commit in which direction ? ». The deadline for submitting an article or a report for this number is September 29th, 2014 (see instructions: [www.atps.uqam.ca / auteurs\\_en.php](http://www.atps.uqam.ca/auteurs_en.php)). We also accept any time texts to appear in the free section.

Enjoy the reading!