



Presentation

Sociocultural community development and social transformation

Jean-Marie Lafortune

Co-editor, Journal Sociocultural community development and practices
Professor, Department of social and public communication, University of Quebec in Montreal, Canada
lafortune.jean-marie@uqam.ca

André Antoniadis

Co-editor, Journal Sociocultural community development and practices
Professor, High School of social work and health • EESP • Lausanne, Swiss
andre.antoniadis@eesp.ch

Having claimed to contribute to the transformation of the social and political orders from the 1960s to 1980s, sociocultural community development longs since then to transform mentalities and to give access to the institutional resources to the marginalized populations as condition of participation in the democratic life. In this context, the social transformation of which it is question extends from the appropriation of the artistic tools to the inclusion of the «excluded» groups, through conflict prevention, processes of reconciliation and reconstruction of collective memory.

Analyses

The participation to cultural projects offers many benefits, but still it is not defined clearly. Recognizing that the arts are not neutral from a social point of view, the research which Myriam Lemonchois and Émeline Ouvrard refer to, in their article entitled « La participation à des projets culturels dans des écoles montréalaises en milieu défavorisé : un vecteur d'émancipation ? », took into account the specificities of the artistic creation to study the effects of the participation on the pupils of primary level, the artists and the teachers. The interpretation of the results questions how the participation in artistic activities can activate a project of emancipation through sharing of the sensible by developing author's posture.

To put an end to the cycles of violence which marked the Colombian conflict for half a century, Luz Faney Vargas and Caesar Bladimir Reyes have implemented an educational and psychosocial strategy for the construction of a political culture of forgiveness, designed by the Foundation for the reconciliation. This approach, presented in their text entitled « De espacios físicos a espacios sociales. Centros de reconciliación : un programa para la promoción de la cultura », promotes in afflicted urban sectors of exercises of community construction resting on the recognition of rights and differences, which lean on a participative intervention mattering on the support of public authorities and private enterprises.

The praxis of sociocultural community development supposes that developer introduces cultural actions as agent of State policies. Yet, in her article entitled « Le défilé des fiertés LGBTQ comme action culturelle autonome », Janik Bastien-Charlebois postulates that it is possible for

certain marginalized populations to be at the origin of these actions and demonstrates it by a case study. Place of tensions, in particular between policies of assimilation and subversive, inclusion and homogeneity, consumerism and united autonomy, the author observes that in spite of the risk of depoliticization and entrance to a consumerist logic, this initiative invites to rethink the range of the possible investments of sociocultural community development.

The problems associated to the mental disorders are approached by Carlos Iván Molina Bulla, in his text entitled « El campo de la salud mental y la política pública como espacio de gestión participativa de la animación sociocultural », in terms of decapitalization (economic, social, symbolic and cultural) and of individual or collective social drift which follows. His approach borrows from the concepts relative to public health care and the stigma associated with its effects. The author confines in a normative perspective the legislation and the jurisprudence connected with care of a public policy in mental health and approaches the challenges which puts this field in sociocultural community development by examining experiments developed in other contexts.

Michel Lac and Véronique Bordes notice the sometimes perverse effects of frameworks engendered by the sociocultural community development, the grounds that while claiming the opening in and for all, it creates «closed» spaces in which the sociocultural community developers and the institutions determine and control the forms of acceptable interactions between publics, actors, politicians, surrounding groups, etc. In their text entitled « Repenser l'altérité dans l'animation, ou comment les espaces d'animation génèrent des formes d'interactions en vase clos ? », they question the individual and collective postures which underlie and the places in which the spaces of sociocultural community development in France take shape, which sometimes generate an exclusion on normative, axiologic, even identical, levels.

Experiments

Also associated with the efforts of the Foundation for the reconciliation to facilitate the peaceful resolution of conflicts, the prevention of violence and the construction of a lasting peace, Lucía Catalina Valdemar Larrañaga presents, in her text entitled « Animación sociocultural en espacios cerrados y de control : las ES.PE.RE. (escuelas de perdón y reconciliación) en las prisiones », the implementation in Mexico of one of the four key programs of the Foundation. This model of intervention rests on processes of mediation, arbitration and conciliation, by attacking directly the hatred, the rancor, the desires of vengeance, the insecurity and the discouragement susceptible to lead to graver conflicts.

According to Luc Greffier, the spatial dimension of the holiday departure is not soluble in the closeness. Paradoxically, it may be a obstacle if we consider the difficulty identifying the exoticism next to home, appreciating the precariousness night in refuge if we are oneself in daily situation of precariousness, to accept the night risk by being isolated in an unknown environment, to enter the dream suggested by the architecture and strengthened by the planner which propose a disorientation. His article entitled « Culture et aménagement péri-urbain : plus près, plus loin pour la communauté vacancière » approaches in a criticize way the experiences of a recent and very busy vacationer device in outskirts of the city of Bordeaux.

The project depicted by Tânia Baraúna, in her text entitled « Actuando en nuevos escenarios: diálogos entre teatro, violencia y adolescencia. El proyecto Vida en el arte », tries to contribute to the resolution of problems of young Brazilians in situations of risks caused by violence. This

project, which is based on the educational, political, social and artistic methodology of the Theater of the oppressed and the Pedagogy of the oppressed, favors the development of the artistic and intellectual potential of the teenagers through the scenic experience, by means of activities which help them to understand the specificity of the oppression and the violence with which they confront and to adopt effective measures to overcome the situations of exclusion.

Micheline Potvin and Lyne Legault report, in their text entitled « Premières nations du Québec : reconnaître une tranche d'histoire de la colonisation (1931-1975) », of an activity of sociocultural community development conjugated to an exploratory research action led in a native community of Canada. The approach allows to share views on the acquired experience during an intervention which coupled two peoples in a striking period of their history. The authors present briefly the second shutter of a research undertaken from 2008 till 2011 by drawing up the global portrait of the working environment and the aimed intention. So the look is mainly put on the posture of the professionals and the processes of sociocultural community development.

The next edition of the Review, planned for spring, 2017, will have for theme « Sociocultural community development and sports cultures ». The deadline to submit an article or a report for this edition is March 10th, 2017 (see instructions : www.atps.uqam.ca/auteurs_en.php). We also accept any time texts to appear in the open section.

Enjoy the reading!