

# Développement Humain, Handicap et Changement Social Human Development, Disability, and Social Change



## Editorial

Lucie Dumais et Normand Boucher

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Politiques sociales, action sociale et solidarité dans le champ du handicap  
Social Policy, Social Action, and Solidarity in the Field of Disability

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## Editorial

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For half a century, the evolution of social policies in the field of disability has allowed us to observe transformations in social relations between citizens and the state. For example, the social protection offered to veterans after the Second World War was expanded to cover other groups with disabilities. Nowadays, it combines the right to equal opportunity with the goal of obstacle removal in the domains of employment, transportation, leisure, etc. Within a perspective of inclusive development and human rights, the welfare state is required to put in place measures to compensate impairments, disabilities, and situations of disability; this is particularly true in the domains of work, education, public transportation and access to sports facilities. The adoption of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities in 2006 led many countries to reconsider the role of the state in ensuring social participation and the exercise of rights of persons with disabilities.

We observe that the centrality of the role of public policies is reaffirmed in the removal of obstacles to the exercise of rights on an equal basis with other citizens, particularly in general obligations. However, relations between civil society groups and national states, through joint efforts towards integration and the inclusion of people with disabilities, are not free from tensions and even contradictions. From a transformational perspective, the call of the new social movements to change the regulation and compensation mechanisms of disability faces a lack of resources and support to take effect.

This issue focuses on the exploration of disability social policies. It raises the question of their evolution and their effects, their progress and their setbacks, from different perspectives: sectoral and global, national and international, particular and comparative. Whether it is the effectiveness of compensation policies or the achievement of equal opportunities, the challenge forces us to look at work accomplished

beyond our national borders. How have states, in different countries and regions, sought to conciliate the exercise of rights with policies that are either protective or emancipatory? How did the social actors play their role with the state and political representatives? Do we now have better social or economic conditions for people and families experiencing situations of disability? What are the differences between countries from the North and from the South? What are the effects of the differentiation of types of disabilities and specialized treatments?

The ten articles composing this issue touch the topic of social policies, social action, and solidarity. These texts reflect both the internationalization of rights and the segmentation of the field of disability. But in this large and diverse universe, these writings allow us to have a closer look at specific issues.

Three texts deal with rights and their exercise, from collective political demand to the ethnography of the exercise of rights and are in tune with major international charters and national laws. Pierre Vidal-Naquet invites us to reveal the scope of contemporary rights through his careful analysis of *Projets de vie et attribution des droits dans les politiques françaises du handicap*. Christian Généreux brings us to the United States and shows how Americans are coming to "climb Capitol Hill" in the *Évolution de l'interaction entre la communauté des personnes ayant des incapacités et le Congrès des États-Unis (1970-2008)*. For their part, Majid Turmusani and Patrick Fougeyrollas discuss rights from the perspective of rehabilitation and knowledge transfer in a text entitled *Protection des droits des enfants en situation du handicap au Togo : état des lieux sur la participation sociale de la réadaptation à base communautaire*.

Three texts deal more directly with participation apparatuses in regard of work integration researches. In *Coûts supplémentaires assumés par les personnes ayant des incapacités dans l'État d'investissement social – une analyse de la politique Québécoise*, Lucie Dumais and Léonie Archambault explore the case of Cana-

da, more specifically the one of Quebec, and of an approach that is supposed to respond to the limits of welfarism. In the text *Employment, Disability, and Social Justice in the United States, Australia, and the United Kingdom*, Sarah Parker Harris and Randall Owen pose the problem of job placement for people with disabilities in three other so-called liberal welfarist countries, in connection with the principle of justice. Finally, in a review of an older apparatus but still widely used in Quebec and elsewhere in the world, Gabriel Arsenaault wonders if *Le Programme de subvention aux entreprises adaptées du Québec ne fait que des gagnants?*

The following two texts engage with the general support systems for individuals and families. These apparatuses serve as barometers of the living conditions of people with disabilities and the reflection of the scope of solidarity actions. In the first case which comes from France, Amélie Artis and Eric Monin analyze *Le secteur du handicap : entre innovation et standardisation organisationnelle. L'exemple d'une association française*. In a second case, the text of Thierry Boyer describes his thoughts inspired by knowledge transfer in Switzerland: *Au-delà*

*de la seule intervention, comprendre et intégrer l'expérience des familles*.

Finally, the last two texts lead us into much more philosophical and utopian thinking. Gaspart Brun, through his look at France, revisits the question of the *Fondements du concept d'égalité dans le droit des personnes en situation de handicap. Le cas de la France*. Frédéric Reichhart and Éric B. Degros take a surprising turn and revisit the concepts of disability and dysfunction to scrutinize an unthought: *Vers la fin du handicap dans la société de consommation?*

Good reading!

**Lucie Dumais**, guest editor  
School of Social Work, Université du Québec à Montréal, Canada

**Normand Boucher**, guest editor  
Center for Interdisciplinary Research in Rehabilitation and Social Integration (CIRRS), Canada

