
AUTISM IN FRANCE : NEURODIVERSITY AS A THIRD WAY

COLLECTIF POUR LA LIBERTÉ D'EXPRESSION DES AUTISTES, CLE AUTISTES.

AUTISTIC LED-GROUP FOR THE FREEDOM OF SELF-ADVOCACY OF AUTISTIC PEOPLE

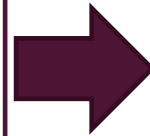
THIBAUT, CO-FOUNDER, COMMUNICATION OFFICER.



Collectif pour la Liberté d'Expression des Autistes

FRANCE HAS A PARTICULAR DISABILITY SYSTEM

- Social model of disability is unknown
- Care Homes, institutions are run by associations of parents of disabled children and are the representatives for disabled people
- French is a Universalist Republic with a welfare state



- There are no large self-advocacy groups for disabled people
- No disability studies
- There is no french independent living movement
- Our self-advocacy groups are seen as « communautarist » and selfish.

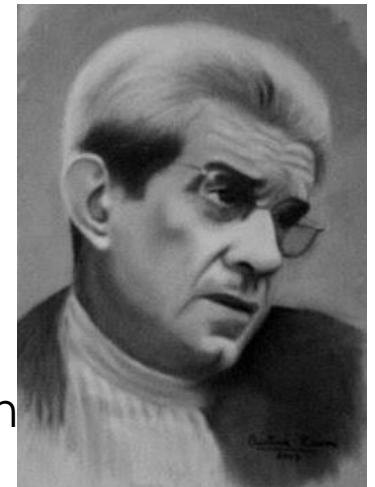
 Disability is segregated in France and 500 000 disabled people are in institutions

1968-1996 AUTISM AS MENTAL DISORDER

- 1950-1968 : French « humanist » psychiatry movement : closing of Asylums and building day-care psychiatric hospitals and mental health centres
- 1963 : Autism is an « early psychosis », the first psychiatric hospital for autism is built in Paris.
- 1968 : rise of psychoanalysis contrary to US and UK, thanks to Lacan and Dolto.



Françoise Dolto



Jacques Lacan

1968-1996 AUTISM AS MENTAL DISORDER

- 1968 – 1996 : Psychoanalysis dominates France in contrast with international science in psychology/neurosciences.
- Autistic children are placed in psychiatric institutions, it means autism can be cured because it is just a temporary state!
- Psychoanalysis is in other fields : education, social services, justice and health services... Parents can be forced to place their children in psychiatric facilities...

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1990'S : AUTISM AS A DISABILITY

- 1975 : Disability Law for accessibility and integration
- 1994 : Autism France protested about the lack of services and education for autistic people.
- 1996 Simone Veil (health minister) acts for Chossy Law.
- Autism became a disability =specialized education and mainstream schools.

ANALYSE

Un cadeau empoisonné pour les autistes

Par [Denys RIBAS](#) — 21 juin 1996 à 06:39

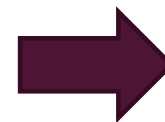
Un cadeau empoisonné pour les autistes

Une loi d'inspiration généreuse, biaisée dans sa formulation, vide de moyens nouveaux, aura des conséquences opposées au but à atteindre.

f PARTAGER



NOUVEAU

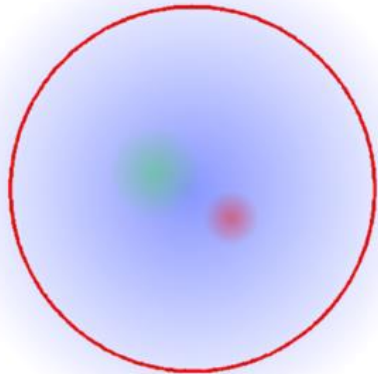


The battle between Autism parents and psychiatrists started...

2000'S THE BATTLE ABOUT DEFINITION

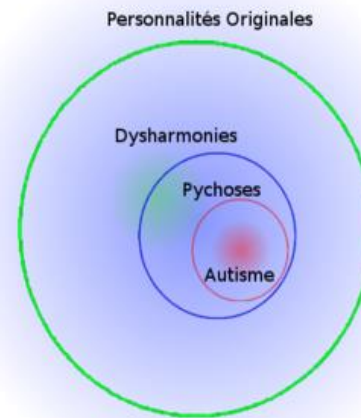
- A french unique classification for psychiatry : no DSM, no ICD!
- 2004 : Research Institute for Health and medicine (INSERM) supports TEACCH and ABA. Health minister covered it up.

DSM 5



● Asperger
● Kanner
● Non Autrement Spécifié

CFTMEA



● Asperger
● Kanner
● Non Autrement Spécifié

2000'S THE BATTLE ABOUT DEFINITION

- In 2005 : ICD is adopted in psychiatry thanks to some researchers in neurosciences..
- In 2004 : SaTEDi first autistic-led group is created : the first diagnosed autistic adults without ID
- 2005 : Disability law and inclusion = education of autistic people, right to mainstream school



2010'S THE END OF PSYCHOANALYSIS

- Politics of autism are settled after 2005. First and second « Autism Plan ». Center of resources for Autism are built. Autism Parents' groups challenge French government in European courts.
- France is condemned several times by UN, Council of Europe for the violation of autistic rights. In 2008, France adopts UN Convention on disability rights
- 2010 : The High Authority for Health (such as NICE in UK) refutes the state of autism science
- 2010 : The wall , film about psychoanalysis

French Psychoanalysts Take Legal Action to Ban Film 'The Wall' About Autism

On Dec. 8, a French judge must decide whether or not to ban a documentary by Sophie Robert, "The Wall: Psychoanalysis Put to the Test for Autism," that highlights the treatment -- psychoanalysis -- that families are offered in France when seeking help for their child with autism.

By Chantal Sicile-Kira, Contributor
Author, speaker

2010'S THE END OF PSYCHOANALYSIS

- 2010- 2012 : Autism parents groups uses media to reply by stigmatizing french psychiatry
- 2012 The High Authority for Health declares that psychoanalysis « is non-consensual »
- Good practices in autism are established and ABA is supported with a Grade B for evidence.



Packing Le film

93 668 vues

👍 82

💬 40

➦ PARTAGER

📌 ENREGISTRER

⋮

👤 vaincrelautisme

🚫 S'ABONNER 600

AFTER 2012 : A SYSTEMIC CHANGE?

- Hollande (2012- 2017) (Socialist Party) : end of Psychoanalysis for ABA and evolution of diagnosis, practices in health system...
- ABA centers are opened to replicate Lovaas experience
- 30% of diagnosed autistic people go to school (specialized education or mainstream).
- 80 000 autistic people are diagnosed (of about 600 000?)
- Macron (2017-2022) (LREM – Liberal-democrat) : wants inclusion and independent living for autistic people. UN convention for disability rights starts to be applied.
- Results of ABA centers : 3% of autistic people can go to mainstream school : BIG FAIL.

State's treatment of autistic people had been denounced by UN and described as being '50 years behind' rest of world



▲ Emmanuel Macron at a nursery in Rouen where autistic children are schooled with children without the condition. Photograph: Christophe Ena-Pool/SIPA/REX/Shutterstock

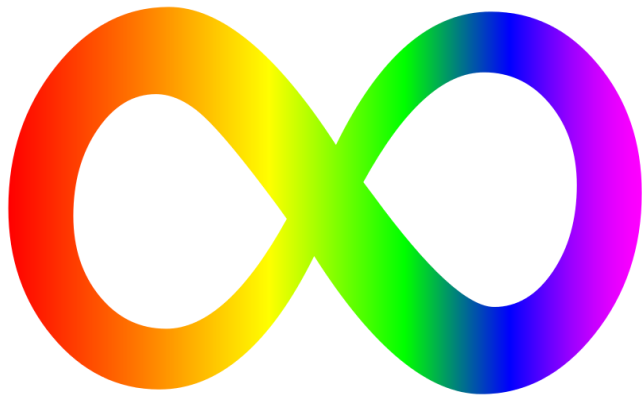
GOVERNEMENT STRATEGY FOR AUTISM

- Research centers for autism and neurodevelopmental disorders
- Funding for disability studies, science of autism and biomarkers
- Early intensive intervention for autism spectrum disorders.
- Education, segregated classes for autistic children.
- Citizenship, job and capabilities for autistic adults like Independent living.



NEURODIVERSITY AS A THIRD WAY

- French Autism politics are at the brink of massive and systemic change, we are in transition.
- France there is a violent controversy about Autism.
- But the autism parents' battle is for integration/normalization of their autistic children. Or to get a better science to cure autism with biomedical approach.



'France is 50 years behind': the 'state scandal' of French autism treatment

A reliance on psychoanalysis sees autistic children going undiagnosed, being placed in psychiatric units and even being removed from their parents



NEURODIVERSITY AS A THIRD WAY

- The current debate is about the best way to cure us : fruitless debate
- Parents need to know if their children will be safe after they die.
- ABA is growing but : there is no support from our « Sécurité sociale » (National Health insurance), psychiatrists in hospitals agree to improve diagnosis but refuse behavioral treatments.
- Many people (educators, teachers) don't know anything about autism.
- Initiatives for autistic people with auto-support groups

➔ There is an enormous gap for new knowledge about autism



OUR MANIFESTO

- Neurodiversity with a focus on a human rights, citizenship and equality approach for disability
- Self-advocacy and participation of autistic people in society : medias, disability policy, research...
- Politics of desinstitutionalization and accessibility : personal assistance, independent living for psychiatric institutions and specialized education.
- Science and psychology at the university
- Against Ableism and hate speech, social model of disability and opposed to the idea of a cure of autism

**On ne veut pas être sensibilisés,
on veut être acceptés !**



THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION



- Thanks to Peter for english grammar...