

Campus 2015

“Reaching Out to Those Whose Voices Are Still Not Heard”

August 24 - 28, 2015 at the International Center
of ATD Fourth World in Pierrelaye, near Paris (France)



ATD
FOURTH WORLD

Campus is the annual seminar of the international Movement ATD Fourth World, organized by its Remembrance and Research Centre. It offers researchers and professionals an opportunity to share their work and their questions related to extreme poverty and the commitments necessary to bring poverty to an end. Using an interdisciplinary approach, it offers the opportunity to study in depth how the ideas of Joseph Wresinski (1917-1988), founder of ATD Fourth World, are relevant to today's issues.

Research and various approaches related to extreme poverty and social exclusion raise ethical, methodological and epistemological questions. Discussion sheds light on these questions in a new way for academics, researchers and practitioners at various levels. Their highly diverse backgrounds ensure a dialogue that is both open and rooted in real life. Ever since its first session in 2003, each annual Campus has been an opportunity to learn from one another while remaining open to the questions raised by the expectations of excluded populations.

Why should society “Reach out to those whose voices are still not heard”?

Extreme poverty exists in every country in the world. The violence of extreme poverty locks people and families into a terrible spiral of ignorance, deprivation, contempt and silence, to the extent that they doubt whether they belong to the human community. Without support in trying to understand their own history, they are confronted, more often than not, with a negative and shameful image of their origins and circumstances. Yet every day they battle to survive, to live together and build a sense of community. Their resulting experience and knowledge are unique.

It is precisely the expertise of those experiencing extreme poverty which is still missing today from the major social issues, such as the economy and the environment. In order to include this experience our societies must build or rebuild social ties with people and families who have suffered from the violence of exclusion, a violence most people are unaware of or choose to ignore. And how can we build these ties?

The following questions will be dealt with in depth during discussions between researchers, practitioners and professionals and with contributions by others organized around two themes:

• How can we reestablish the facts in the history of the poorest?

Joseph Wresinski was driven by the need to know that history. A lot of ATD Fourth World's energy goes into uncovering that history because it is a key to the future for those experiencing poverty and for our societies to understand what helped and what harmed people. We cannot afford to repeat errors of the past. How can Wresinski's quest inspire us today?

How is the history of the poor told in school textbooks? What jobs did they do? Why were certain jobs left only to the poor or even forced on them? What was their role and how did they serve the economy? What is the place of the poorest people in economic and social history?

• How can all of our minds count in economic, social and human development?

What can we learn from excluded people about money, sustainable development, labor organization and how to deal with climate change? In what way does ATD Fourth World's experience show us that new input is possible for an economy that respects people and the planet? In what ways are some economic and social players trying to understand and draw on the insights and experience of the poorest people today?

**“Wherever men and women are condemned to live in extreme poverty,
human rights are violated.**

To come together to ensure that these rights be respected is our solemn duty”.

Joseph Wresinski

Campus is also a convivial time with opportunities for informal meetings and discussions. For this reason participants are invited to stay at the International Centre of the ATD Fourth World Movement in the Val d'Oise area of France, outside of Paris for the duration of the seminar. The seminar can accommodate sixty participants. In 2015, the working languages will be English, French and Spanish.

• Registration and session fees with full board and accommodation for the entire seminar:

Contribution according to participants' means: minimum 60euros. The actual cost of the session is 620euros

• Information and registration: Campus, Centre Joseph Wresinski, 2, rue de la gare, 95560 Baillet-en-France - France
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