

# Editorial Note

This special issue was jointly conceived by the editorial Board of the Canadian Journal on Aging and the research committee of the Quebec Association of Gerontology after the Annual meeting of CAG in Quebec City in 1986 with the purpose of making French language gerontological research more widely known. For the benefit of unilingual readers, the articles have been fully translated; the issue is thus unique, if somewhat longer than usual.

Although Canadian scientific journals are officially bilingual, there are relatively few contributions in French. Francophone researchers are no less productive than their anglophone colleagues, since journals published in Quebec are well supplied with manuscripts. Francophone researchers, especially in the social sciences are confronted with a dilemma stemming from their minority status. On one hand, they wish to participate in the development of a scientific tradition within their linguistic culture and to ensure that their work has an impact on French-Canadian society. On the other hand, they would like to disseminate their work to the international scientific community. They opt, therefore, either to publish in French in Quebecois or European journals or to publish in English in American periodicals.

This issue is divided into two major parts. First, there is a lively debate between François Béland and the invited commentators, Verena Bernardin-Haldemann, Judith Stryckman and Daniel Thomas regarding the status of research in social gerontology in Quebec. We draw your attention in particular to the extensive bibliography compiled by Béland at the end of his article. The second part of this issue consists of a variety of theoretical and empirical papers representing research in sociology, clinical and experimental psychology, and in geriatrics. This sketch of French-language research in gerontology could certainly be completed in future.

Francophone research in gerontology has not yet acquired the solid organisational structure that is found in English Canada. The only gerontological research centres in French-Canada are at the University of Moncton and at Côte des Neiges hospital in Montreal, where research in both gerontology and geriatrics is conducted. Other researchers are gathered in more loosely-structured laboratories. Also, there are more dispersed research efforts. Moreover, researchers who do not have, or who have not had until recently, an immediate interest in gerontology are studying older populations and the phenomenon of aging from their particular focus of interest. Thus, the Institute of Applied Research on Work and the Centre for Research in Public Law at the University of Montreal have both produced research relevant to aging. As well, several departments of community health conduct

research on elderly persons and on the problems of aging within their territory.

We hope that, in addition to making known to the anglophone public the status of research and the tenor of the debate among francophone researchers, this issue will encourage a greater number of French-language researchers to submit manuscripts to the *Canadian Journal on Aging*.

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