

Creating history



Joseph Wresinski Archives and Research Centre
Activity Report 2021



Cover photo: Notre-Dame-des-Sans-Logis-et-de-Tout-le-Monde chapel in Noisy-le-Grand

Noisy-le-Grand, 1963 - © ATD Quart Monde – Centre Joseph Wresinski / 0085-007-009_007

Noisy-le-Grand, 2021 - © Carmen Martos / ATD Quart Monde – Centre Joseph Wresinski / 1181-032_050

1. Creating history

“Here, I learned something about the history of all of us,
and in it I recognised some of my own history”

People who live in poverty elicit feelings of discomfort and fear. They are often stigmatised, despised and abused. As a result, they become wary, are silent or speak from a position of subjugation. This silence is interpreted as defiance or a lack of thought. This “vacuum” is filled by stories that society tells which do not reflect the individuals concerned. This is the vicious cycle of social exclusion. To bring an end to this exclusion, the archives collected, classified, preserved and communicated by the Joseph Wresinski Centre (JWC) at the ATD Fourth World International Movement come from a different type of relationship with this group, a relationship which strives to achieve mutual understanding, shared culture and peace.

In the homeless camp in Noisy-le-Grand, families guided by Joseph Wresinski were able to recognise in one another their own life experiences and courage in the face of injustice. They no longer felt ashamed. This “reversal” made it possible for them to meet people from other backgrounds. They dared to confide their story. They could unite and speak out. They adopted the name Fourth World like a positive identity.

More and more people living in great poverty asked to tell their story, to bear testament to what they had experienced, suffering but also unseen acts of kindness. They maintained, and still do, that if a people's history is not recognised, it is impossible for them to build a future. Keeping a record and creating history: these two ambitions are the essence of the ATD Fourth World Movement. They are central to the JWC today, hence all the Movement's archives have been gathered in one place, in Baillet-en-France, in order to best manage them. In 2021, several individuals and families came to consult the JWC archives in search of a photo, a trace of a missing parent or writings by themselves or a loved one. In this way, they were able to begin to build a common legacy, using one shared history.

The historical importance of the ATD Fourth World International Movement archives can also be measured by their impact on academic thinking and its community, international bodies, public opinion and the very poor themselves.

Historians have described how the poorest leave no records of their lives from their own point of view, that records remain only in the archives of police or charitable organisations. This omission has a devastating effect on the understanding of

humanity, the fight against poverty and the capacity for action of the poorest themselves. Joseph Wresinski communicated this in many ways, and in many places, including at the Académie des Sciences Morales et Politiques of the Institut de France on 13 June 1983: *“Every valid word is entitled to be written down, entitled to be a message for other men, especially when it comes from the most disadvantaged. To write is to enter history... I have always striven to write the history of the poorest from day to day.”*

The JWC continues this work of collection and legacy, and keeps a record of the moments that mark the Movement’s history. This includes keeping records of major events. In 2021 these included a week organised by ATD Fourth World France in Jambville during which 500 volunteers, activists and friends gathered; the inauguration of the Notre Dame des Sans Logis et de Tout le Monde chapel in Noisy-le-Grand; a visit by UNESCO ambassadors; the centenary of the birth of Alwine de Vos von Steenwijk¹; an invitation to Axelle Brodiez-Dolino’s² HDR thesis defence³; and much more besides.

In this activity report, we have chosen to shine a light on the role played by the JWC in **“creating history”** by illustrating its specific contribution to each of the moments which marked the year 2021. We will also present the progress made on major JWC projects, projects which enable the JWC to advance in all departments, in its capacity to create and tell the history of the Movement and its fight with and alongside the very poorest to create a world that leaves no one behind.

Bruno Tardieu – Honorine Kouamé – Sophie Razanakoto
JWC Facilitation Team

¹ Alwine de Vos van Steenwijk was born in the Netherlands. In 1960 she left behind a diplomatic career to join Joseph Wresinski. Together they obtained international recognition for the Movement and created the Institut de recherche et de formation aux relations humaines. President of the International Movement from 1974 to 2002, in 1989 Alwine de Vos founded, with volunteers, the Maison Joseph-Wresinski in Baillet-en-France, where initially all the archives of the founder were deposited, followed in 2005 by those of the Movement, in what is now the Joseph Wresinski Centre.

² Habilitation à diriger des recherches [Habilitation to direct research]

³ Axelle Brodiez-Dolino is a historian, holder of the agrégation, the highest teaching diploma in France, and a Doctor in contemporary history. She works on themes of contemporary poverty and precarity at the Centre Norbert Elias in Marseille, of which she has been co-director since 2020. She is also deputy director of the review *Le Mouvement social* and a member of the Observatoire national de la Pauvreté et de l’Exclusion sociale (ONPES) (National Observatory on Poverty and Social Exclusion).

Joseph Wresinski Archives and Research Centre

Activity Report 2021

I. Creating history: major events in 2021

I.1. 'Notre Dame des Sans-Logis et de Tout le Monde' chapel

The JWC archives were essential to the project to renovate the chapel in Noisy-le-Grand. Over many months, the JWC teams sought out documents, films, audio and photos telling the history of the chapel, from the beginnings of the initial project until its move upon the destruction of the camp. Through these archive documents the JWC contributed to bringing to life a part of old and new history. A section of the film about the project was even filmed in Baillet-en-France. Link to the short film: <https://vimeo.com/594205102/46a92a33dc>

For Richard Wrzesinski, Joseph Wresinski's nephew, the inauguration of the 'Notre Dame des Sans-Logis et de Tout le Monde' chapel, on 18 September 2021, during the European Heritage Days, was the most memorable moment of 2021.

"[In 1957] I was 8 years old. We went as a family to the 'Château de France' homeless camp in Noisy-le-Grand to visit our uncle Joseph. My family lived in Neuilly-sur-Marne, opposite Noisy-le-Grand but on the other side of the Marne. We children were above all astonished at seeing all these igloos, the mud, the chapel which dominated the camp and the great poverty of the families."

"But I will never forget the long walk on 14 July 2006 from the Parvis des Droits de l'Homme at Trocadéro, in the centre of Paris, to the 'Notre-Dame-de-Tout-le-Monde' chapel in Noisy-le-Grand. Many of us wanted to be there to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the arrival of Father Joseph Wresinski at the camp in Noisy-le-Grand. We walked together, all at the same pace, Fourth World families, friends, allies, volunteers, under blazing sun. By now, the camp was no longer there, but the chapel still stood firm against the ravages of time. When we entered the chapel, we were welcomed by a volunteer, Chantal Laureau, who told us about the chapel's history. We were surrounded by stained-glass windows by Jean Bazaine, a friend of Father Joseph, and the same statue of the Virgin Mary that is still there today. Father Joseph loved it for its simplicity. It had been a gift after 9 years of service as a vicar in a working-class parish in the town of Tergnier."

On 18 September 2021, the day of the inauguration, he continues: *"The people couldn't believe that a 100m² chapel which had been moved and rebuilt with salvaged materials could be classified as a 'Monument historique' [historic monument]*

and named 'Patrimoine du XXe siècle' [20th century heritage]. People said that the project for the chapel's restoration had come back onto the table when Geneviève de Gaulle entered the Pantheon. That is unbelievable and a coincidence. To see the chapel recognised now is wonderful."

Here is what Isabelle Pypaert-Perrin, General Director of the International Movement, said at the official inauguration of the restored chapel: *"Families in poverty are no more loved today than they were in 1957, and the world still lacks faith in what they build. On the contrary, we repeatedly destroy it because it disrupts our plans, our order, because it is built in a so-called haphazard way, because we see in it no beauty, ingenuity, plan,"* she added, referencing the dismantling of a slum in Montpellier a few days before. *"But this time, thanks to all those who have supported this project, what the poor built to state loudly and clearly that they are human beings has been preserved, recognised and restored."*

1.2. History of the Movement and the fight against poverty – Axelle Brodriez-Dolino

For more than six years, historian Axelle Brodriez-Dolino had been coming to consult and work with the JWC archives to write her HDR thesis about the history of the Movement from its beginnings until the present day⁴. This is a real history, the history of the Movement as seen by a historian from the CNRS and specialist in contemporary poverty. The JWC archives gave her what she needed to write her 1,500-page thesis, but she said she had also been deeply moved and affected by what she found there. In the acknowledgements at the beginning of her thesis, Axelle Brodriez-Dolino wrote: *"I have never before worked so closely with an association. Along the way, ATD Fourth World and I established a means of dialogue that was both close and free: it consisted of innumerable emails, discussions, meetings, academic working sessions, visits by day and night to Baillet. [...] I would also like to thank ATD Fourth World, as a historical community, for the trust it placed in me and for the extraordinary wealth of the archives to which it allowed access, which both expanded and transformed my understanding of great poverty."* (See page 21)

⁴ Thesis title: "Une "mixed economy of welfare": la lutte contre la pauvreté-précarité en France de la IIIe République à nos jours [A "mixed economy of welfare": the fight against extreme poverty and precarity in France from the 3rd Republic to the modern day]"

I.3. Centenary of the birth of Alwine de Vos van Steenwijk

2021 marked the centenary of the birth of Alwine de Vos van Steenwijk (born on 22 June 1921)⁵. The JWC prepared and organised the centenary celebrations. The event's organisation, with the Centre of the International Movement, relied on documents, photos, videos and audios from the JWC. It was a major event, the opportunity for the JWC teams to cement the legacy of a great figure from the Movement on the centenary of her birth. (See page. 18)

An ally, on a corporate patronage programme at the JWC, said she had discovered at the event: *“a kindly woman who listened to others. She had,”* she said, *“an encouraging, warm and positive attitude. She expressed herself precisely, without complacency. She tried to understand what people were feeling. I found her to be sympathetic. It required, indeed, courage and fighting spirit to leave a diplomatic post to work for a man who was fighting for a noble cause, and also for a handful of families, rejected by others. And the term ‘poverty’ was looked down upon in the 1960s. But this wonderful story marked the beginning of a fight fought with intelligence and pugnacity to bring the experience and thoughts of extremely poor families before the highest international bodies.”*

She added: *“The term ‘kindness’, in the collective unconscious, including among highly intelligent people, has a negative connotation associated with ‘good intentions’, with connotations of the care bears, for example. This was not the case for Alwine de Vos.”*

Finally, she said: *“Alwine de Vos was endowed with a brilliant and enlightened mind, as she respected people and valued them for what they were and what they did, something which required tact, courage and heart.”*

⁵ See the book: *Ambassadrice auprès des plus pauvres. Alwine de Vos van Steenwijk, Présidente du Mouvement international ATD Quart Monde, Entretiens avec Pierre Dogneton, [Ambassador to the Poor. Alwine de Vos van Steenwijk, President of the ATD Fourth World International Movement, Interviews with Pierre Dogneton]*, éditions L'Harmattan. 2001.

I. 4. International Archives Week

The ICA's International Archives Week, from 7 to 11 June 2021⁶, was prepared using archive documents preserved by the JWC relating to the seminar “*Extrême pauvreté et exclusion en Afrique*” [*Extreme poverty and exclusion in Africa*]. This seminar took place in May 1981 at UNESCO, under the patronage of Amadou Hampâté Bâ⁷ and Joseph Wresinski, and was presided over by Zala N’Kanza⁸. Some sixty African intellectuals and actors attended. This seminar, whose archives (paper, audio and photographic) are all preserved at the JWC, is the reason there are now ATD Fourth World volunteers in Africa. The seminar also led to the establishment of the Forum on Overcoming Extreme Poverty, a worldwide network for dialogue made up of individuals and associations committed to the needs of the very poor. Several of these documents were published on the International Movement website during International Archives Week to demonstrate the nature of the dialogue established between ATD Fourth World and African intellectuals and actors, which enabled the development of ATD Fourth World in Africa

I.5. Welcoming individuals seeking their history⁹

The Movement’s archives, preserved at the JWC, are often the only archives where people living in poverty can find records of places from their childhood, their parents and their grandparents. Understanding the life and battles of their parents enables them to better understand themselves and to no longer bear their family history as a burden of shame. Reports, images and films from a now demolished district, of mobilisation for a right, collective action, a public gathering or an international meeting, are regularly requested and enable these highly uncredited people to prove their value.

In addition to the albums presented at events organised by ATD Fourth World, the JWC preserves documents given to it by

⁶ ICA = International Council on Archives. The ICA is a non-governmental organisation dedicated to the effective management of records and the preservation, care and use of the world’s archival heritage.

⁷ Amadou Hampâté Bâ, born in 1900 or 1901 in Bandiagara (Mali) and who died 15 May 1991 in Abidjan (Côte d’Ivoire), was a Malian writer and ethnologist, a defender of the oral tradition, in particular the Peul tradition. He was a member of UNESCO’s Executive Board from 1962 to 1970. He is known as the “Wise Man of Africa”.

⁸ Sophie Kanza, also called Zala Lusibu N’Kanza, was a Congolese sociologist and politician, born on 8 February 1954 in Leopoldville (now the Democratic Republic of Congo), and who died on 2 April 1999 in Kinshasa. She was working at UNESCO when the Movement met her and was stationed in Paris during the 1981 seminar.

⁹ Note: for reasons of confidentiality, the names of the individuals concerned have been changed. The names used are fictitious.

families whose trust it has earned: for example, photos from a marriage or christening from albums sometimes lost due to bad weather, rain leaking into a home, landslides or periods living on the streets

In 2021 the JWC welcomed two sisters. They came searching for the story of their parents, in particular their father, who they hadn't known. It was moving to see two women in their fifties discover their father's face for the first time.

Another example is the case of Mrs Leduc. Mrs Leduc came on behalf of her father, who had lived in the camp in Noisy-le-Grand from 1954 to 1970. Her father is now suffering from serious illness linked to asbestos. Mrs Leduc wanted to know if her father might have come into contact with asbestos during his stay at the camp, and added that her father also very much wanted to see videos of the camp from this period. The JWC responded to their request. In thanks, Mrs Leduc said: *"I can't thank you enough for the wonderful memories that I have been able to show my father. Indeed, we can recognise some members of my family and some photos of my father. My father was particularly moved to see his parents, brothers and sisters again, and in particular the place where he spent his youth. Thank you for your admirable and meticulous work."*

The team responsible for the photographic archives received 14 requests, of diverse origins, concerning people who had recently died, including volunteers, allies, activists or simply families, from countries as diverse as Haiti, Bolivia, the USA, Senegal, Lebanon, Belgium and France. Using photos from the JWC archives it was possible to retrace lives, create albums and sometimes simply provide a suitable tribute photo for a coffin.

That we were able to find these photos was thanks to the memories of loved ones who gave precise information and above all thanks to the description work carried out at the JWC over the years, and which continues today, sometimes with the help of people who have contacted us. This was the case of Aïna, from the "Grands Chênes" estate in Versailles, who contacted the Movement to seek out threads of her history, and has come back to the archives twice to help identify people in photographs. Aïna's research left a deep impression on her and she has begun to write about her parents' lives, with the assistance of Marie-Andrée Rio, an ally at Versailles who helps in the archives.

I.6. Welcoming visitors to the JWC

Members of the Movement in France who had gathered together in Jambville during the summer came to spend an afternoon at the JWC. Here, Corinne Murer, an ally, spoke about her commitment to the JWC and shared with them work she had been doing using periodicals from Versailles. The story that she had discovered in these periodicals dated from a significant and intense period. It was the account of support given to residents at the Grands Chênes estate in Versailles in 1975 by a Movement volunteer, Antoine Jauffret, when the housing estate was being demolished. Corinne described meeting this group of visitors and the discussion which her presentation, with its reminder of the events that had taken place in 1975, provoked: *“I’m still moved by it now,” she says, “and each time I speak about it. It’s very intense. [...] because in fact the people I met that day were themselves also in great difficulty. Like a mother who had two children and who was going to be evicted in August. Members of the group revealed that Antoine, now no longer part of the Movement, still contacts the Movement’s volunteers today to say that a person is in danger and needs help, that they need to do something on their behalf.”* Years later, history repeats itself and people are still going through the same experiences.

I.7. Welcoming students and interns to the JWC

The link between archives and history is made when archives are used to carry out new research. Each year, students come to do internships at the JWC, like Basile and Anaclara, from 8 March to 2 July 2021. Anaclara is from Uruguay and was studying International Relations at the Grenoble University. She agreed to delve into reflections on the three themes of the social philosophy seminar¹⁰: epistemic injustice, law and resistance. Honorine, a volunteer who works at the JWC, gave Anaclara access to boxes of archives containing texts by Joseph Wresinski, including transcriptions from when he spoke to Fourth World families, at the Cave at the People’s University in Paris, to volunteers and allies on training, and during public lectures. Anaclara set to work researching these three themes, seeking out extracts from texts, transcriptions and seminar materials. It was interesting work as it saw archive materials from between the 1960s and 1987 exploited for new research being carried out today. (See pages 16 et 21)

¹⁰ See point II.3.

During the last quarter of 2021, two students from the first year of a Master's in History at Sciences Po worked on the definition of people living in poverty in the 1960s¹¹. They used copies of *Igloos* magazines and reports from the first two UNESCO seminars on the subject, in 1961 and 1964, and wrote a mini dissertation. In their work, they shine a light on a history of poverty that demystifies the story of the '*trente glorieuses*' [30 post-war years of strong economic growth in France].



¹¹ Here 'definition' refers to the vocabulary used to talk about the poorest.

II. JWC projects in 2021

To facilitate its historical work, the JWC continued its project to update the archival and documentary information systems. It also embarked on the adventure of applying for inscription in UNESCO's Memory of the World Register.

II. 1. Project for the acquisition, integration, deployment and maintenance of an Archival Information System for archive management (the AIS project) and JWC data transfer

In summer 2022, thanks to the system currently being developed and installed, we will be able to digitise the management of archivists' projects involving the collection, classification, preservation and communication of archives. This work is already underway, helped by significant investments for which financial support was obtained, in particular from the AFD in the scope of the PAP¹² project. More funding is still required in addition to current external funding. The acquisition, adaptation and subsequent implementation of an adapted software solution or a specific AIS development are envisaged for multimedia documents in the archives, a project for which external funding will also be required.

The AIS is a piece of software for internal use by the JWC. It will save vast amounts of time when searching for ATD Fourth World's historical archive documents and will make them more accessible, for consultation on site as well as for digitised documents to be sent by email.

This project began in 2016 and represents real team work, with volunteers, employees and allies working together. The AIS is the product of an enormous amount of effort from the CJW project team.

The aim of the AIS is to help JWC archivists to work together better by unifying and professionalising their operating practices. Researchers will not have direct access to the system, but it will facilitate the gathering of archive documents and access to them.

Loïc Besnard, a professional archivist who works at the JWC, reminds us that archives are an essential source for history work. The archivists are mediators who share ATD Fourth World's historical heritage with the world of researchers and academics, among others. It is therefore important to continue to collect these sources. Archives are a work of collaborative writing. And history never stops.

¹² PAP = *Penser, Agir, Plaider* [Think, Act, Defend] 3-year ATD Fourth World International Movement project co-financed by the Agence française de développement (AFD)

Collecting archives is a difficult and demanding task. It is a collective effort, with a team writing history together, everyone invested. The priority is also to support individuals and teams depositing archives, so that sources keep reaching us.

Day-to-day work continued during the acquisition, integration and deployment of the new AIS. The new software will enable the JWC to make progress in terms of both methodology and in its work writing history. It is also worth noting that the software makers have benefited from the JWC's work due to the addition of a new functionality for taking into account hybrid archives¹³. This is progress for the software's editor, the company 1=2, progress made thanks to the JWC.

II.2. SIDOC project

Work on the creation of a digital portal, in three languages¹⁴ and accessible to all, continued. This portal will open to the public at the beginning of April 2022. <https://atd-cjw.centredoc.org/>

An application has been made for a selection of works (books and reports) published by ATD Fourth World to appear in the catalogues of the SUDOC, a resource for the libraries of French universities and higher education establishments. This request was accepted by the Agence bibliographique de l'enseignement supérieur (ABES), which is responsible for maintaining and developing the SUDOC as well as for facilitating bibliographic data production networks. Jean-Pierre Cailleau, an ally who has worked on the creation of the digital portal, has agreed to be the ABES/SUDOC representative. He is taking part in training sessions to enable the JWC to integrate the Movement's bibliographic data into the network.

II. 3. The social philosophy seminar “*Penser l’être social avec Joseph Wresinski*” [Thinking about the social being with Joseph Wresinski] in 2021

The social philosophy seminar project began in August 2019 and brings together Fourth World activists, philosophers and practitioners. 2021 began with the cancellation of the face-to-face session in January due to the Covid-19 pandemic. The group had already assembled a collection of philosophical texts and texts from Joseph Wresinski and other authors. It was preparing to study them in order to reflect on the three areas of research: *epistemic injustice*, *resistance* and *the law*. The

¹³ Hybrid archives - archives that include both digital and physical documents.

¹⁴ English, Spanish and French



On 9 August 2021, Manuela and Charly Wendt, activists from Munich, Germany, deposited at the JWC their “treasure”, Das Buch zum Stein, the record of 17 October, the International Day for the Eradication of Poverty in Germany, from 1992-2001, containing accounts as well as beautiful images. This was a joyful and moving moment.



The Ethics Committee, whose members are Marie Jahrling, Amélie Kamony, Agnès Maillard Romazzotti, Georges de Kerchove, Pierre-Yves Verkindt, Dominique Béchet and Marc Couillard, works on the accessibility of the archives and guarantees of confidentiality. It holds quarterly meetings (see Activity Report 2019) and was partially renewed in 2021.





On 26 May 2021, new French volunteers and interns in training at Méry-sur-Oise visited the JWC and discovered the meaning and importance of its archives. In a workshop they then laid stones decorated by children and young people from the Movement in Ireland (See page 11).





On 14 November, people from France and Poland, together for a discovery weekend to find out about the International Centre, visited the JWC. Someone from Poland found photographs of their district, now destroyed.



Destruction of the 'Sablières de Créteil' estate in 2018, a painting by Guendouz Bensidhoum, an ATD volunteer who lived there from 1960 to 1983 (See page 26).



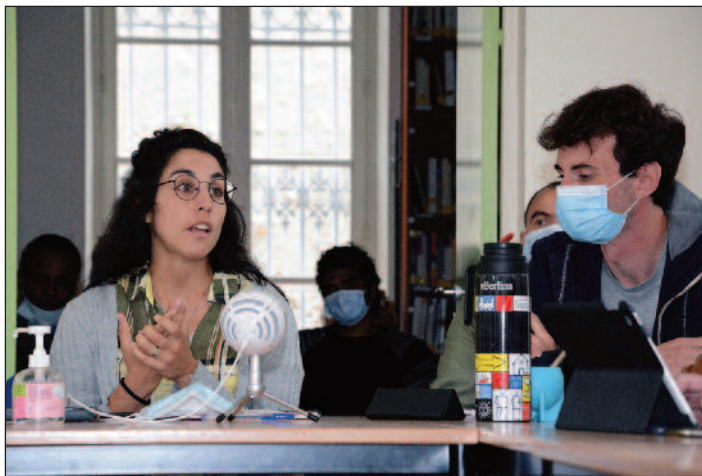
2021 marked 100 years since the birth of Alwine de Vos van Steenwijk, president of the International Movement from 1974 to 2002, with a commemoration of her fight to bring the experience and thinking of very poor families before the highest international bodies (See page 8).



As the Movement applied for its archives to be listed in the UNESCO Memory of the World register, a delegation of UNESCO ambassadors came to the JWC in Baillet-en-France on 31 May 2021 (See pages 25 and 26).



The social philosophy seminar project “*Thinking about the social being with Joseph Wresinski*”, began in August 2019. Thanks to the pedagogical team, some research work could be continued by videoconference, before a face-to-face meeting was possible in August, with everyone being happy to meet up again (See pages 14 and 23).



This year the JWC welcomed two Master's students as interns. On the photo are Anaclara Acuña from Grenoble University and Bazil Gelin from Sorbonne Paris Nord University (See page 11).



After 6 years of work on her thesis on the history of the Movement from its beginnings until the present day, historian Axelle Brodriez-Dolino was awarded habilitation to direct research. She thanked the JWC for *"the extraordinary wealth of the archives to which it allowed access, which both expanded and transformed my understanding of great poverty"*. (See page 7).



These slender sculptures, made at and returned to the crafts centre in Ouagadougou, movingly show the jobs done by street children, such as selling cigarettes, iced water, cakes and oranges (See page 26).

On 27 of November, Guy Malfait, General Director of the Movement in Belgium, deposited at the JWC a sculpture made and offered by Hugo Vereeck, a long time ally of the Movement in Belgium.



session was replaced by local and remote work by groups of peers (activists, philosophers and practitioners). These groups shared their understanding and interpretation of the themes in writing between February and June. This study considerably enriched each theme's problem setting, so that during the session of 26-29 August (the first face-to-face session in 18 months) the group was in a position to begin the phase of jointly writing a text. The first step was on 3, 4 and 6 December, when the researchers pooled their individual writings to produce a text from the point of view of each group of peers on each theme. The creation together of a collaborative text was planned for the session between 27 and 30 January 2022. The point when it will be possible to share the work resulting from the seminar is now in sight, with a session to be held in three languages at ATD Fourth World's International Centre from 24 to 27 August, followed by a symposium at the Paris Diderot University on 9 and 10 December 2022. (See page 20)

II.4. CNAM-CNRS-ATD Fourth World collaborative framework

In 2021 this collaborative framework began to take form as its governance and the participation of the three groups of peers made up of 12 people with direct experience of poverty (seven ATD Fourth World activists and five residents with links to the social centre in the Trois Cités estates in Poitiers), 17 professional practitioners from diverse institutions and 19 researchers from diverse disciplines was stabilised. This stability enabled the group to continue to work despite the pandemic, thanks to frequent meetings in groups of peers and written exchanges between the groups.

After welcoming two research teams (The Hidden Dimensions of Poverty – University of Oxford and ATD Fourth World) and Capdroits¹⁵, the group chose themes to explore in more depth using the Merging of Knowledge® methodology. The first theme chosen was the question of diversity/non-diversity in participative research: is non-diversity necessary for certain stages of research?

Each group of peers worked on the advantages and risks of non-diversity and diversity. They then sent their work in writing to the other groups. Each group responded to the two others providing feedback on: “what is new and interesting for us in what you say, what we don't understand and where we disagree.” The period of written exchange was extended due to the cancellation of the day in spring and was successful in establishing greater understanding between the groups.

¹⁵ Inspired by the research programmes of the Contrast collective and the Confcap conferences in 2015 and 2017, the academic and citizen-led approach of Capdroits proposes reflecting on the conditions for exercising rights and supporting decision-making when someone's capacities to act are reduced, with the aim of better supporting the exercise of fundamental rights of vulnerable individuals.

The pedagogical team produced a corpus of extracts from articles developing the different theories on this subject. The groups of peers studied these articles, reacted and shared their reactions with the other groups.

Finally, the whole group were able to meet at MSH Paris Nord¹⁶ on 29 September 2021. For the first time, the group worked together according to a rigorous methodology that ensured that each participant's thoughts were expressed and that there was mutual understanding. It was also possible to summarise the year's work. As a mixed group, participants wrote an article intended for broad audiences to shed light on the selected theme, following controversy in the media and political arena regarding non-diverse groups in a student union. The participants appreciated taking part in this difficult exercise in three mixed groups, while continuing to have time with peers within the mixed groups. Each group produced a text to be used at the final symposium.

The inter-partner committee also met on 16 June, in the presence of the highest-level representatives of the CNAM, CNRS and ATD Fourth World. The partnership agreement was renewed and an agreement to finance the partnership, including the final symposium of 14, 15 and 16 November 2022, was concluded.

II. 5. Seminar on Joseph Wresinski's thinking and Merging of Knowledge® at Tangaza University, Nairobi, Kenya

On 12 and 13 April, 14 academics from Kenya, Tanzania, Uganda and Rwanda explored questions raised by Joseph Wresinski's thinking and the Merging of Knowledge® approach for English-speaking researchers in East Africa. This event was organised by an international committee made up of Aloys Ojore¹⁷ and Bruno Tardieu who had both participated in the symposium¹⁸ "Rethinking our world from the perspective of poverty with Joseph Wresinski", Professors Grace Bantebya and Wetengere Kitojo, who had participated in the research on the hidden dimensions of poverty using Merging of Knowledge®, and Martin Kalisa, ATD Fourth World's regional director for Africa. They were all very keen to share with their academic colleagues their realisations that our understanding of poverty without the involvement of those directly impacted by it was inexact and led to counter-productive policies. They also wanted to discuss the work begun by ATD

¹⁶ The MSH Paris Nord is the Human science centre in St Denis, north of Paris.

¹⁷ Dr Aloys Otieno Ojore has a doctorate in practical theology. He coordinates the Master's in Human Sciences programmes at the Institute of Social Ministry at Tangaza University in Nairobi, Kenya.

¹⁸ This symposium took place in Cerisy-la-Salle, Normandy, in June 2017.

Fourth World to respond to this academic, democratic and practical challenge, in particular the work of enabling poor people to understand themselves and contribute as partners by taking ownership of their own history and knowledge. This approach also makes it possible for their knowledge to be shared with that of practitioners and researchers to establish greater, more accurate and truer knowledge.

Using ATD Fourth World's history; Caroline Glorion's film *"Joseph Wresinski - 50 ans de combat"* [*Joseph Wresinski - 50 years of combating extreme poverty*], which she had recently dubbed in English; study of the Merging of Knowledge® methodology in research into the hidden dimensions of poverty; and examples of challenges experienced by the participants during research on poverty, the group decided to form a permanent network of researchers from English-speaking Africa, friends of ATD Fourth World. This new network strives to continue to learn more about these problems, make their students aware of this approach, find out how to put these new principles into practice in their research and publish their work. They also decided to organise a second seminar in Dar es Salaam (Tanzania) with the participants in the research into the hidden dimensions of poverty to learn more about the Merging of Knowledge® approach.

The Vice Chancellor of Tangaza University, Professor David Wang'ombe, welcomed a delegation from the group after the seminar and concluded that these principles linked both academic excellence and putting the poor first, which is very rare. He also accepted in principle a partnership agreement between the JWC and Tangaza University to have an outpost of the ATD Fourth World documentation centre and to support the network's future projects.

II.6. Application for the inscription of the ATD Fourth World International Movement archives in UNESCO's Memory of the World Register

2021 was a year for reflection and work on the submission of an application for the Movement's archives, containing the history of families' fights against destitution and exclusion, to be listed in UNESCO's Memory of the World Register¹⁹. There were several steps to making the application, including examining and selecting the scale of the archive documents to be presented (which must be a closed record group); welcoming a delegation of UNESCO ambassadors to Baillet-en-France on 31 May 2021, who strongly encouraged us to embark on this "adventure"; participating in the CNFU's national Memory

¹⁹ The Memory of the World Register lists documentary heritage which has been recommended by the International Advisory Committee and endorsed by UNESCO's Director General as corresponding to the selection criteria regarding world significance and outstanding universal value.

of the World day²⁰ in Sélestat, Alsace, in October; and intensive work putting together and drafting the application, with the help of the CNFU's Memory of the World committee.

Jacques, a volunteer for the Movement who works at the JWC, spoke about the videos which were filmed during the UNESCO ambassadors' visit to Baillet-en-France on 31 May. He noted that he is always struck by the fact that the people who visit Baillet-en-France are moved and enlightened by what they learn from the Movement's archives.

In the UNESCO application, it was necessary to show the historical significance of the archives. We therefore chose to highlight two aspects of our archives:

- The emergence of dispersed and silent people in Europe who have been given a voice to speak out.
- A new North/South dialogue, outside of the neo-colonialist epistemological framework, initiated in 1981 at a seminar which was the setting for real exchange and which made it possible to understand how African countries experience poverty and their battle to escape it.

II.7. Art library

During 2021, the JWC arts archives²¹ acquired some 20 art works from different countries. One of these was a painting by Guendouz Bensidhoum which depicts the destruction of the 'Sablières de Créteil' estate in 2018: former residents are looking on, dazed and sad, as a part of their lives disappears before them. (See page 17)

The other highlight for this collection was the return to Burkina Faso of 10 bronze statuettes made at the crafts centre in Ouagadougou. These slender sculptures show the jobs done by street children, such as selling cigarettes, iced water, cakes and oranges. These moving statuettes show the fragility of street children, but also their dignity as they carry out their work. (See page 22)

²⁰ CNFU = Commission Nationale Française pour l'UNESCO (French National Unesco Commission)

²¹ Known as the art library

III. The JWC calendar

Many more notable events, not detailed in this report, punctuated life at the JWC in 2021.

28 January – Discussions began with Anne Claudine Ollier, a sociologist specialising in educational sciences, who wanted to study the joint project between ATD Fourth World and Montessori in Noisy-le-Grand.

3 and 4 February – A European online seminar hosted by the JWC in partnership with the University of Louvain la Neuve in Belgium on the methodological and ethical benchmarks in participatory action research on poverty. Seven research teams (from the UK, France, Romania, Belgium, Italy, Switzerland and Portugal) took part, presenting accounts of the problematic situations they encountered during their research.

5 February – Visit by a delegation from Lyon invited by Yves and Élodie Petit to the JWC between their mission in Lyon and their departure to the Philippines.

25 February – Hernan Amani, an Argentinian academic working in Brazil who is extremely committed to the fight against poverty, came to learn about the Movement. He presented the results of four months of reading at a monthly meeting of the Research Department. His findings will be the subject of an article “*Un chemin de transformation personnelle*” [A Path for Personal Transformation] in the *Revue Quart Monde* no. 259-2021/3. He concluded by saying that he was particularly struck by the Movement’s intelligence and had decided to make his services available to us. Following our proposal to become a member of the Volunteer Corps, he is now a full-time member of the team.

Also in **February**, an online working meeting with the Ethics Committee took place. Another took place in June, this time in person.

5 March – The *Jeunes chercheurs* [young researchers] group met online, and again on 28 May.

11 March – Presentation by Bruno Tardieu and Paul Maréchal of ATD Fourth World’s research subjects to a group of professors at HEC.²²

²²HEC – École des Hautes Études Commerciales is a French Business School in Paris.

10 May – Visit by Sébastien Meurant, senator of Val d'Oise.

19 May – Seminar on the choice of archival software for the AIS project.

20 May – Three online debates organised by the ATD Fourth World/Sorbonne group “*Qui est digne d’être citoyen ?*”²³ [*Who is worthy of being a citizen?*]: *historical perspective* with historians Pierre Serna, Michèle Grenot, Brigitte Dionnet and Jeanne-Laure Le Quang; *political perspective* with Marie Georges Buffet (Member of Parliament), Sophie Jallais (economist), Xavier Verzat and Bruno Tardieu (members of the ATD Fourth World Volunteer Corps); and *legal perspective* with Claire Hédon (Defender of Rights), Christine Pauti and Diane Roman (academics).

26 May – Discovery workshop for young people doing civic service at ATD Fourth World France to find out more about the JWC (See page 16)

4 June – Biannual day for presentation of current research. The ATD Switzerland research team presented its research Pauvreté-Identité-Société [Poverty-Identity-Society]. The group met for a second time on 10 December.

10 June – Evening of debate based on the book “*Les pauvres sont nos maîtres*”²⁴ at Le Dorothy café in Paris, with Bruno Tardieu and David Jousset.

16 June – Inter-partnership committee at the CNAM to review and sign the renewal agreement for the collaborative framework “Merging of Knowledge® with all”, between the CNRS, CNAM and ATD Fourth World.

2 August – Transfer of all the audiovisual archives from ATD Fourth World Quebec.

9 August – Visit by Manuela and Charly Wendt to transfer a record dedicated to the 17 October in Germany. (See page 15)

8 September – Presentation by Antonin Gay-Dupuy, doctoral student in History, to the Ethics Committee about his research on the camp in Noisy-le-Grand. After writing his dissertation for his Master’s in History on the homeless camp at Noisy-le-Grand, he then worked on documents in Baillet-en-France for his doctorate. The Ethics Committee was fascinated to learn how he had used these documents during his research.

²³ (<https://ihmc.ens.fr/qui-est-digne-etre-citoyen.html>)

²⁴ David Jousset, Bruno Tardieu, Jean Tonglet, *Les pauvres sont nos maîtres ! Apprendre de ceux qui résistent à la misère : le paradoxe de Joseph Wresinski* [The Poor are our Masters! Learning from those who stand up to destitution: the paradox of Joseph Wresinski], Éditions Hermann, 2019

6 October – Discovery and working session with two academics from South America, Patricia Urquieta (Bolivia) and Sandra Sanchez (Colombia).

14 November – Visit by a delegation of Movement members from Béthune (France) and Poland.

30 November – Official submission of the JWC's application to be listed in UNESCO's Memory of the World Register.

15 December – Visit from the people in charge of the Légion d'Honneur²⁵ archives who wanted to learn about the AIS project to update their own archive information system.



²⁵ One of the highest honours awarded by the French Republic.

IV. Human resources

Sarah Ortega came to the end of her mission in the JWC's audio archives, after more than 6 years of work. She left to join the team responsible for printing at the Movement's International Centre and is also supporting the work on art and poetry.

Daniel Fayard joined the International Centre at Méry-sur-Oise, from where he continues to take part in the JWC Research Department work and projects.

After many years in the JWC's Archiving Department, **Francine Mantelet** left to return to her home region, Normandy, where she has resumed contact with ATD Fourth World.

Ugo Couronneaud joined the team in March 2021.

Alexis and **Sophie Testau** joined the JWC in September. Sophie is in the Archiving Department and worked on the UNESCO application. Alexis supports the work of the Documentation and Research Departments.

Azdine Tigrine joined the JWC working full-time as an IT technician, replacing Sébastien Thouvenin who left to continue his academic studies.

Hernan Mamani joined the JWC Research Department.

Baptiste Bouju also joined the JWC Research Department and works part time supporting François Jomini and Hernan Mamani on the social philosophy seminar.

Adeline Clément and **Claudine le Dantec** took on responsibility for the management of the arts archives, or art library.

Christine Gardon joined the JWC Archiving Department.

V. JWC expenses and financial resources in 2021

In total over the year, JWC expenses, excluding staff and depreciation charges, amounted to some 222,000 €, a decrease of 23% vs 2020.

- Utility costs (water, gas and electricity) decreased again, by 8% vs 2020.
- Operating expenses were approximately 86,600 €, stable in relation to 2020, with repair and maintenance costs down 23%, the result of investments in 2020, and of expenses in the area of IT again increasing by 42% to meet the capacity needs of the AIS and SIDOC projects in the Archiving and Documentation departments and due to the development of remote working.
- Spending committed to big JWC projects (AIS, SIDOC, digitisation) decreased by 35%, mainly due to the significant decrease in the volume of digitisation work (photos, videos and written documents) and expenses that were lower than expected for the SIDOC and AIS projects.

In 2021, as in 2020, external revenues were in the order of 110,000 €, mainly from the Ministry of Culture and the Ministry of Solidarity. To this must be added the contribution from the AFD, which amounted to 55% of funding for major projects (AIS, SIDOC, CNAM-CNRS-ATD Fourth World collaborative framework, social philosophy seminar) in the scope of the International Movement's PAP project, and a grant of 10,000 € from the Joseph Wresinski Foundation at the Institute of France for research and publication of texts by Joseph Wresinski and a new updated edition of the proceedings from the 1981 symposium on Africa.

ACTIVITY REPORT APPENDIX 2021 – Table of activity indicators 2021

Activity	2020	2021
Total archive holdings		
Archives	2,3 linear km and 70,56 Tbytes for 640 acquisitions	2,55 linear km and 126 Tbytes for 697 acquisitions ²⁶
Library	14,126 descriptive records	14,650 descriptive records
Acquisitions		
Archive volume	64.7 linear m and 1,5 Tbytes	195.2 linear m and 6.56 Tbytes
Archive accessions	29 deposits of which 8 hybrids and 7 digital	72 deposits of which 15 hybrids and 14 digital
Library	133 publications	111 publications
Photo reports	51	54
Digitised documents		
Writings	4.2 Gbytes representing 176 documents,	-
Audio	419 Gbytes representing 885 digitised recordings	251,3 Gbytes representing 917 documents
Vidéo	-	48.3 Tbytes representing 2,584 digitised recordings
Photos	340 Gbytes representing 92,378 pictures	338 Gbytes representing 94,664 pictures
Archival processing		
Number of research instruments	430	483

²⁶ Following the receipt of a significant batch of digital records (67.1 Tbytes), sorting and deduplicating is planned. This will result in a decrease in the overall volume of videos.

	2020	2021
Total number of requests	256	297
Total number of visits	315	410
Number of interns	9	2
Partnerships with university academics & researchers	91	178

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