

Memory of the World



Joseph Wresinski Archives and Research Centre
Annual Report 2023



Front cover: Painting by Alain Souchard, Yenish families in tents
Alsace, 2013 @ ATD Quart Monde/AR-02-018-0101

Building on the experience of people in poverty

In the spring of 2023, the Centre learned that UNESCO was registering the Centre's archives in the Memory of the World register as part of the documentary heritage of humanity¹. In the Autumn, Editions Le Bord de l'eau published *Pour une nouvelle philosophie sociale – transformer la société à partir des plus pauvres* (For a New Social Philosophy – transforming society from the stand-point of the poorest)². Co-written by philosophers, people with an experience of poverty and others who have knowledge of it through their involvement and commitment, this book focuses on resistance, rights and knowledge-based injustice through the eyes of people living in poverty³.

The world's news never ceases to express its disenchantment with the poor: almost everywhere on the planet they are forced to wander, to go underground, to live in the most polluted, least safe places, too often separated from their family, deprived of education, everywhere refused. So it's no mean feat, in today's world, to highlight the resilience of the poorest among us, their ability to ask the questions that are relevant and useful in tackling the challenges of our time. It is no mean feat to stress that they hold a heritage to be handed down, that they inspire commitment, that their knowledge can contribute to making life worthwhile and dignified for all living beings.

¹ See chapter I, page 5

² <https://www.editionsbdl.com/produit/pour-une-nouvelle-philosophie-sociale/>

³ Social philosophy project conducted from 2019 to 2022 (see the Joseph Wresinski Centre 2022 annual report, chapter I).

These two events, the inclusion of our archives in the Memory of the World and this innovative contribution to contemporary thinking, mark a significant milestone for the Fourth World. On the one hand, the recognition of the poorest people as bearers of a history to be passed on signals their entry into the history of humankind. On the other hand, the publication of the outcome of the social philosophy seminar confirms that their legacy is fertile and will continue opening up new horizons.

We rightly celebrated this milestone. A time to gather our courage, join forces with others and sharpen our minds before rolling up our sleeves once again as there's still so much to do. For all the challenges ahead, we urgently need human and financial support. Any and all goodwill is most welcome!

**Nathalie Bénézet, Honorine Kouamé, Sophie Razanakoto,
The Joseph Wresinski Archives and Research Centre team**

I. Inscription in the Memory of the World Register

On 18 May 2023, UNESCO officially and publicly registered the archives of the International Movement ATD Fourth World in the Memory of the World Register as documentary heritage of humanity⁴. The French and Burkina Faso National Commissions for UNESCO jointly submitted the nomination.

UNESCO's approach to protection

In 1972, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) adopted an *international treaty*⁵ for the protection of the world's cultural and natural heritage. This enables it to incite countries to ensure that listed monuments and sites are not destroyed, particularly in the event of armed conflict.

Twenty years later, during the Balkan war, the archives of the great library in Sarajevo were burning and UNESCO had no means of intervening. This was the catalyst for the creation of the Memory of the World international register for the protection of documentary heritage⁶. Its aim is to protect the world's precious and fragile memories to help humanity can gain a better understanding of itself.

⁴ <https://www.unesco.org/fr/memory-world/register2023>

⁵ <https://whc.unesco.org/fr/conventiontexte/>

⁶ There are currently 494 inscriptions whose descriptions are published on <https://www.unesco.org/fr/memory-world>

Our nomination document

Our nomination document states that *'Extreme Poverty is forgotten or even denied throughout the world. Traces of people experiencing it disappear or are erased. ATD Fourth World teams share the lives of people in extreme poverty in order to act together, and note, record and photograph evidence of their suffering, resistance, of their hopes and intelligence. This forms the basis of studies that have influenced institutions'*.

The joint application from France and Burkina Faso was also an opportunity to show that the ATD Fourth World Movement holds archives of a completely new North-South dialogue on the persistence of poverty and social exclusion, a reality on which no one has lessons to give. The first seminar on 'Extreme poverty and social exclusion in Africa' in May 1981 was attended by people working in the field, scientific and literary figures, national and international civil servants and others from 14 African countries, led by Joseph Wresinski and chaired by Maître Amadou Hampâté Bâ⁷. Its archives are of great significance for the future for a new approach to global governance.

UNESCO cited the following elements of the dossier to justify its inclusion: *'The collection begins with the creation of ATD Fourth World in 1957, in the homeless camp at Noisy-le-Grand, near Paris. In addition to testimonies, studies and publications, and traces of the emergence of the voice of the poorest in the public arena, it contains archives of the development of a dialogue on poverty between countries and the invitation from these countries to ATD Fourth World to join them in their actions against poverty. This dialogue*

⁷ https://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Amadou_Hamp%C3%A2t%C3%A9_B%C3%A2

between countries in the North was extended to all continents, starting in 1980 with Africa, Burkina Faso in particular. The collection also contains archives of successive public events up to 17 October 1987, the day a commemorative stone was inaugurated in honour of the victims of poverty on the Plaza of Liberties and Human Rights in Paris. This collection was halted when this day was recognised by the UN on 22 December 1992 as the International Day for the Eradication of Poverty, thus making the poorest people part of universal history (A/RES/47/196). This collection, of universal value, is a source of inspiration for thinking about and building peaceful societies where no one is left behind.

The registered collection (1957-1992) comprises 365 deposits, including 900 linear metres of written material, 53 photographic reports, 13 deposits of creative works or collections, 15 deposits of films and 4 of audio recordings. It is an international collection, rich in some twenty languages.

Prevented from speaking out - a profound and unrecognised wrong, a historical injustice

Joseph Wresinski knew that all the facts had to be recorded, *'otherwise no one will believe us'*. He trained and convinced ATD Fourth World members to strive to become chroniclers of this forgotten part of humanity. This UNESCO inscription is an opportunity to make people understand Joseph Wresinski's unprecedented gesture of creating a legacy of the history of the poorest people and the commitments they engender.

Official collective history does not include the perspective of the poorest but rather the history of those who dominate them. This official history silences them. Joseph Wresinski wrote, *'Unfortunately, the collective memory that sub-proletarian people keep of their experience is a memory isolated from the rest of society.'*

Only when this history can be situated in a wider world will it be recognised. The knowledge and restitution of their history must enable sub proletarian people to express their hopes. Knowledge of their successes will give credibility to their resistance and their collective refusal of what they have been through⁸.

The archives kept in the Joseph Wresinski Centre help to convince the public that the experience of people living in poverty is neither isolated nor insignificant. The poorest people have a history, a shared experience that transcends nations and cultures. Their sensitivity and their intuitions come from a heritage that has spanned the centuries, a heritage of resistance. As Nelly Schenker⁹ explains, to exist is '*to exist in the thinking of others*¹⁰. Recognising oneself in a history, finding traces of your family and community and discovering meaning in them, changes everything.

Creating archives: a long-term effort

Thousands of people have worked together to gather and promote this heritage. Starting in 1958, the Sommer team collected all the daily notes, activity reports and knowledge work. In 1974, this collection moved from Noisy-le-Grand to Pierrelaye, then to Méry-sur-Oise. Over the years, audiovisual and photographic archives as well as an art library have also been created to preserve sounds, images, videos and artistic creations. When ATD Fourth World's founder Joseph Wresinski died in 1988, the traces he himself left behind were brought together. Then came the realisation that all the archives of the lives of the poor, the actions carried

⁸ Joseph Wresinski's address to the Académie des sciences morales et politiques in June 1983 (archive code 0779/28).

⁹ Nelly Schenker is a Fourth World activist in Switzerland, an artist and the author of *Une longue, longue attente – Mes souvenirs*, éditions Quart Monde, 2018, <https://www.atd-quartmonde.fr/produit/une-longue-longue-attente/>

¹⁰ *Une longue, longue attente*, Page 248

out together and those of the founder, needed to be gathered in one place, because these different collections were mutually enriching. Indeed, how is it possible to understand the history of Fourth World families without also understanding what Joseph Wresinski did to enable them to discover their identity and stand up for themselves? And how can we understand Joseph Wresinski in isolation from the poorest people? A huge effort was then made to bring together all these archive collections, which had their own practices and traditions, and to get all the teams throughout the world to take on the task of compiling, transmitting and describing these traces so that they became usable archives.

This effort led to the creation of what is now the Joseph Wresinski Archives and Research Centre¹¹. Another major step was the move of the Institute for Research and Training in Human Relations to Baillet-en-France. Since the early 1960s, this Institute has contributed innovative ideas to the world of thinking and has underpinned ATD Fourth World's action and advocacy. It has published numerous reports, books, and studies that have become important references.

What does this registration by UNESCO entail and what can it achieve?

The Joseph Wresinski Archives and Research Centre is responsible for ensuring that the registered archives are not destroyed or damaged by external factors such as fire, flood or theft. To this end, a back-up plan for physical and digital archives has had to be drawn up. As well as ensuring that their preservation is improved, it is expected that a report on their condition be drawn up every five years. By proposing to strengthen the

¹¹ The Joseph Wresinski Archives and Research Centre, located in the Val d'Oise region of France, was inaugurated in February 2007.

security of these archives, UNESCO is also encouraging the search for new financial partners thanks to the guarantee of quality represented by their inclusion in the Memory of the World register.

But maintaining an archive centre with resources that comply with established archival standards comes at a high cost, which is why the Centre Joseph Wresinski team is appealing widely for on-going financial support.

Centre Joseph Wresinski. 2023 © Carmen Martos



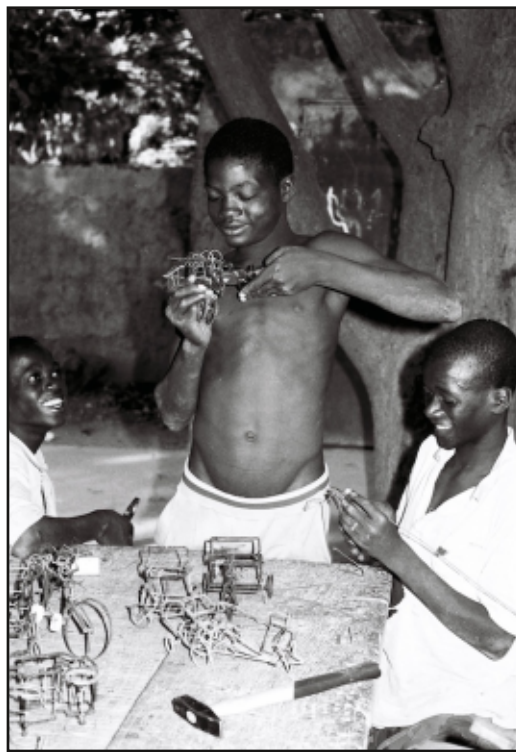
Celebrating the inscription in the Memory of the World Register with Ambassador Véronique Roger-Lacan, and Agnès Magnien, President of the French Memory of the World Committee.



“The Joseph Wresinski Centre is the guardian of our history, of the path taken and Father Joseph’s struggle. It is the place that proves the existence of the People of the Fourth World and our entry into social interaction.”

Marie Jahrling
Militante Quart Monde

Homeless camp in Noisy-le-Grand, 1963, France © Bernard Besson / Joseph Wresinski Center / PH-1673-001-061-074.



¹. Ice water seller, bronze statuette, Burkina Faso @ ATD Quart Monde / AR-01-002-07-005

². The creativity of young people at the Cour aux 100 métiers, 1986, Burkina Faso © PH-0399-001-009_018



After the unveiling of the plaque, with the Mayor of Baillet-en-France and her deputy, with Sabrina and Priscillia Leprince, Fourth World activists from Normandy, and Aïcha Souni Saighi, Fourth World activist from Île-de-France.

Joseph Wresinski Centre, 2023 © Carmen Martos/ATD Quart Monde

Press coverage – extracts

Photos of real-life scenes in the Noisy-le-Grand camp, a distraught letter from parents who have lost custody of a child, a monograph of a family in poverty spanning seven generations, Joseph Wresinski's sound recordings, an account of '*words that hurt*' or one of life in a shanty town in Haiti, a resident's painting of a Créteil housing estate illustrating the destruction of his neighbourhood... this documentary collection, which began in 1957 and covers 32 countries, is exceptionally vast. It offers a very different perspective on poverty from that of official reports, since it starts from the point of view of those who experience it.

Nathalie Birchem, *La Croix*, 9 June 2023

This collection is so unique that in May 2023 it was included in UNESCO's Memory of the World international register. This is not simply archives of an association founded in the Île-de-France region and now present on five continents. The treasure carefully stored on the shelves of the Baillet centre represents the voice of society's most excluded members. '*Throughout the world, people are still trying to solve poverty, for example, by destroying shanty towns,*' explains the Centre's director. '*ATD, on the other hand, focuses on what these people have managed to build with almost nothing, on their vision of the world and their thinking.*' From the outset, ATD has had a calling to document.

Marie Persidat, *Le Parisien* 95, 18 October 2023

'*We were very scared of finding our story in the newspapers, of being dispossessed*'. Hence the creation of an ethics committee, which Marc Couillard joined with another activist, to ensure that access to the archives was consistent. The outcome was an ethical charter laying down conditions: respecting privacy, not dividing

people, not distorting their words, and only responding to a researcher if his or her work contributes to combating poverty. *'This last point may have come as a surprise [...] but we don't handle a soulless stock of data: these photos, texts and sounds are our friends and loved ones. Our common goal is to fight poverty*

and we don't have time for anything else.' [...]

This collection *'... is atypical, totally unique,'* marvels historian Axelle Brodiez-Dolino.

'These are extraordinary documents on the lives of families, on the world of extreme poverty, but also on the work of permanent volunteers.' This researcher has just completed an accreditation thesis on ATD Fourth World.

[...] *'I gradually got into these archives. I appreciated the relationship with the team, who give guidance and advice and listen to feedback',* she reports. ATD Fourth World has always worked with the research and political world to raise awareness of extreme poverty: *'I*

had heard that the ATD had played an important role in public policy in France, although this had not yet been documented. My work in their archives has shown me that this is indeed true.'

Sophie Lebrun, *La Vie* N°4076, 12-18 October 2023



Centre Joseph Wresinski, 2023 © Carmen Martos

The visitors to the Centre include people with an experience of extreme poverty who are looking for traces of their past, and for whom the archivists plan tailor-made visits. The team remembers two sisters in their fifties who, through photographs, discovered the face of their father, whom they had never met. There was also a lady whose view of her origins was transformed by reading a testimony on poverty written by her mother. *'Often, the people who come here have solely a not very pretty version of their family history, via child care orders, for example, where we talk mainly about educational shortcomings [...]. Here, we keep documents that show that the poorest people cannot be reduced to what is said of them in official reports.'*

Adèle Cailleteau, *Sciences Humaines* N°364, December 2023

II. Activities at the Joseph Wresinski Archives and Research Centre

Achievements and perspectives

1. The Archive Unit

Archives comprise physical and digital documents of historical interest. They are produced or collected by the International Movement ATD Fourth World as part of its activities. The Joseph Wresinski Centre carries out the four main functions of archiving: collecting, classifying, conserving and communicating these archives. The Ethics Committee¹² supports the Centre in carrying out its mission in accordance with the Code of Ethics.

In 2007, the Joseph Wresinski Centre inaugurated its new building, specially designed for storing archives, and in 2021 it acquired a management AIS (Archival Information System), in use since 2022. Today, the conditions are in place for compliance with archival standards. The archives department now looks after 2.7 linear kilometres¹³ of written and audiovisual documents, 130.7 TB¹⁴ of digital archives and 9,253 artistic creations. Increasingly, ATD Fourth World teams are contacting the Centre to prepare for the transfer of their archives. The collection continues to grow.

¹² The Ethics Committee is made up of members of ATD Fourth World: lawyers, people working in impoverished communities and people with experience of poverty.

¹³ The linear metre (LM) is the unit of measurement for archives. It is equivalent to one metre in length and corresponds to the quantity of documents stored on archive shelves.

¹⁴ 1 TB (Terabytes) is equivalent to 1 million MB (Megabytes).

The Archives Unit is currently facing several major challenges.

- Continue **training team members** in gaining a satisfactory command of the AIS management system.
- **Dealing with the backlog of archives**: classifying, sorting and describing them.
- **Accompanying those assembling their archives** (on site or remotely) in preparation for their transfer. The Centre is concerned that teams should not delegate this work to the Centre, as they are best placed to describe their archives by providing the necessary contextual elements.
- **Continuing to digitise** the historical audiovisual collections so as not to suffer losses if the event of the original's deterioration.
- Exploring all avenues that will enable the Centre to acquire the software best suited to the proper management of **audiovisual archives**, which include sound, moving images, photographs and artistic creations.
- Establishing a **disaster prevention protocol and back-up plan** for physical and digital archives.
- **Carrying out renovations and refurbishments** of our archive storage systems to ensure that the archives are properly preserved.

The Archives Unit is also committed to:

- continue developing links with archivists and archive centres in France and around the world.
- make progress on issues of the accessibility of archives, in particular by compiling inventories.

- give greater visibility to artistic creations and facilitate their circulation.
- continue monitoring technological and methodological developments in the archive professions.

New technologies exacerbate ethical issues. These challenges are being handled serenely in close cooperation with ATD Fourth World's IT team and the ethics committee.

2. Documentation

The Joseph Wresinski Archives and Research Centre holds a treasure of published material which has been greatly enhanced by the setting up of the on-line documentation centre (<https://atd-cjw.centredoc.org/>), listed in the SUDOC. This includes testimonies, accounts of collective actions, studies and research, political contributions and in-depth reflections, in particular those of Joseph Wresinski.

Objectives for the coming years

- **Continue to enrich the ATD Fourth World documentation base** through analysis and monitoring on an international scale, and in close cooperation with all ATD's teams.
- **Link the documentation centre to national and international networks** and organise sponsorships so that it can be visited online and thus increase its use, in particular by being listed on WorldCat¹⁵ via the SUDOC.
- **Enable several new people to be trained in cataloguing.**
- **Continue the digitisation work** in order to provide online access to publicly available documents

¹⁵ WorldCat is the world's largest online public access bibliographic database. Created in 1971, it contains data on 15,637 libraries in 107 countries.

held by the Joseph Wresinski Centre¹⁶, and to facilitate their consultation for a wide range of purposes, including training and research, anywhere in the world.

3. Research

In recent years, the Research Department has been extensively involved in a number of projects, in particular the social philosophy seminar (2019-2022) and the collaborative space 'The Merging of Knowledge' (2018-2022), which has defined the conditions and criteria for the effective participation of people experiencing poverty in participatory research processes¹⁷.

Follow-up to the social philosophy seminar

- Fourth World activists who took part in this research shared the findings of the seminar with the National People's University of Belgium on 24 June 2023, and to the 17 October 2023 UN International day for the eradication of poverty in Rennes.
- Events to be held and others to be planned around the book *Pour une nouvelle philosophie sociale, transformer la société à partir des plus pauvres*¹⁸. These include the participation of three co-researchers in a round table in Bordeaux on 17 November, the writing by two co-researchers of an article for a legal journal to be published in 2024, and the prospect of a presentation by two co-

¹⁶ Such as published books, annual reports and ATD Fourth World periodicals, in all languages, mainly in English, French and Spanish.

¹⁷ See Annual Report 2022, chapters I.1 and I.2.

¹⁸ <https://www.editionsbdl.com/produit/pour-une-nouvelle-philosophie-sociale/>

researchers in a doctoral seminar in Mauritius scheduled for February 2024.

- This book is currently being translated into English and Spanish.
- Publication of the conference proceedings in digital format, scheduled for summer 2024.
- A day of dialogue and in-depth discussion between Isabelle Stengers¹⁹ and ATD Fourth World members planned at the Joseph Wresinski Centre in June 2024.

Project to translate and publish *Aqui donde vivimos*²⁰ in Portuguese.

Publication in autumn 2023 of *De quién es el conocimiento? - Emancipación, Cruce de Saberes y lucha contra la pobreza* (Whose knowledge is it? - Emancipation, merging of knowledge, and the fight against poverty), published by ATD Fourth World in the *Dossiers et documents collection of the Revue Quart Monde*. The book is based on workshops held following the publication of the Cerisy proceedings in Spanish²¹, and on the basis of the diploma course on the Merging of Knowledge held across Latin America.

Project to produce and publish a booklet in Portuguese following seven meetings of the Reading Circle that took place in Brazil on five of Joseph Wresinski's texts.

¹⁹ Professor emeritus of philosophy of science at the Université libre de Bruxelles, and author of numerous works, including *Cosmopolitiques* (La Découverte, collection Les Empêcheurs de penser en rond), which brings together 7 essays published in the mid-1990s.

²⁰ *Aqui donde vivimos - Wresinski, pobreza y derechos humanos en America Latina y el Caribe*, éditions Quart Monde 2017, collection Dossiers et documents de la Revue Quart Monde n° 26. Translated into French under the title *Là où nous vivons*, éditions Quart Monde 2019.

²¹ *Ante la miseria, repensar lo humano a partir de Joseph Wresinski*, éditions Hermann 2022.

Book project with Michelle Perrot, a French historian, from contributions and texts she produced at different times in the life of ATD Fourth World between 1977 and 2020. She is presently working on this project with Michèle Grenot, fellow historian and ATD ally.

Conference in Washington DC on 15 February 2024 with the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank, as **a follow-up to the research on the hidden dimensions of poverty**. Olivier de Schutter²² and ATD Fourth World will be presenting a tool developed to design and evaluate programmes and policies with the poorest people. Esther Duflo, winner of the Nobel Prize in Economics in 2022, and Director of the Paris School of Economics, will open the conference.

Contributions to four issues of the **Revue Quart Monde** published in 2023:

- Les injustices liées au savoir (Knowledge-based injustices): <https://www.revue-quartmonde.org/10932>
- Peindre et dépeindre (Painting and portraying): <https://www.revue-quartmonde.org/11017>
- Petite enfance (Early childhood): <https://www.revue-quartmonde.org/11107>
- Pauvreté en milieu rural (Poverty in rural areas): <https://www.revue-quartmonde.org/11193>

Publication of unpublished works by Joseph Wresinski

- In January 2024, the collection *Refuser la misère - La culture comme levier* (No to poverty–culture as a

²² United Nations Special Rapporteur on Human Rights and Extreme Poverty.

lever) will be published by Editions du Cerf. This is the fruit of a collaborative work on Joseph Wresinski's unpublished texts on the theme of culture. Volume 1 of this collection is entitled *Refuser la misère - Une pensée politique née de l'action* (Saying No to extreme Poverty - political thinking born of action).

- Since November 2023, a further group of 14 members of ATD Fourth World has been working on a third volume on the theme of history and transmission.

4. Welcome at the Joseph Wresinski Centre

Over time, the number of visitors increases. **The Centre plays a role in the training of ATD Fourth World members.** Some come individually to prepare a public talk, to write, to document research or to read and view documents related to the mission they are preparing. Others come as a group to work on a theme or simply to discover this place that preserves and promotes a history that is also theirs.

Students and researchers are regularly welcomed as part of their training. Similarly, throughout the year, partners are invited to come and discover the work of the Centre in order to strengthen cooperation. **Various players in society request** an encounter with the Centre. For example, in 2023, a town hall, a filmmaker and an association wished to consult the part of our archives linked to their own work or history. This enabled them to meet witnesses from the period in question.

Finally, **more and more people are contacting the Centre to trace their family history**, including for example the places they lived that have been destroyed.

This mission of welcome at the Centre is multifaceted and mobilises the whole team. The ambition is to continue to **tailor the Centre's services to each individual case**, particularly those moments when people living in poverty come to the Centre to revisit their own history or contribute to the work of remembrance.

In the archives section

Centre Joseph Wresinski. 2023 © Carmen Martos



1.



2.



3.

Centre Joseph Wresinski. 2023 © Carmen Martos

- 1.Christian Berry hands over a precious document to the team archiving daily writings.
- 2.Caroline Moreau and Elda Garcia working on the Taporí International archives.
- 3.Olivier Grenot entrusts the Centre with the archives of the Noisy-le-Grand chapel's renovation built in 1957 by the camp's inhabitants using recycled materials, and classified as a Historic Monument in 2016.

Visits

Centre Joseph Wresinski, 2023 © Carmen Marros



Welcoming the young photographers from the Culturel Hub in Noisy-le-Grand



1. Welcoming the research team of CIPES -
Choosing Inclusion to Counter Segregation

2. Parishioners from Soissons discover
online access to the Joseph Wresinski
Centre

3. Members of ATD Fourth World from the
Yvelines and Val d'Oise regions during a
discovery weekend at the ATD Fourth
World International Centre





Family day for members from Yvelines and Val d'Oise

III. The Joseph Wresinski Centre day by day

Here are several events that marked the daily life of the Centre in 2023.

- On 5 January, welcoming Marion Carrel, lecturer in sociology at Lille 3 University, and Cécile Lavergne, lecturer in social and political philosophy at Lille University.
- On 27 January, welcoming three members of the Soissons parish to prepare their pilgrimage 'In the footsteps of Joseph Wresinski'.
- On 23 February, ATD Fourth World France employees carrying out secretarial work in a number of Fourth World Centres visited the Joseph Wresinski Centre and took part in a training session on archiving.
- From 27 February to 3 March, hosting Astrid Schutte, a Dutch writer, in connection with her project to write a biography of Alwine de Vos van Steenwijk, who joined Joseph Wresinski in 1960 and was President of the International Movement ATD Fourth World until 2002.
- From 6 to 16 March, the team welcomed Max Boisseau on an internship as part of his training in the OSEE²³ experimental project.
- On 11 March, the team welcomed a hundred parishioners from the Soissons diocese who had come to spend a day with ATD Fourth World as part of their pilgrimage.
- On 22 March, a visit from Michael Zanger-Tshier and Clem Aeppli, two American doctoral students studying in France for a year.

²³ OSEE : Osons les Savoirs de l'Expérience de l'Exclusion, a training course for people with lived experience of precariousness, who are involved in associations and have left the school system without a diploma, so that they can become professionals in the fields of social intervention and leadership.

- On 3 May, a group of young members of ATD Fourth World from several European countries visited France. A visit to the Centre was included in their programme.
- On 9 May, Hernan Mamani, a member of the Centre's research department, took part in a conference in Bern entitled 'Poverty - a never-ending cycle: what responsibility for our society?' The aim was to publicise the results of the 'Poverty-Identity-Society' participatory research project conducted in Switzerland from 2019 to 2023. See <https://atd.ch/nos-actions/projet-pauvrete-identite-societe/rapport-de-recherche-projet-pauvrete-identite-societe/>.
- On 11 May, Olivier Georges, Collections Curator at the Musée d'archéologie in the Val d'Oise, was invited to offer the Centre advice on how to improve its conservation practices for artistic creations and rethink the layout of the storeroom in question.
- On 15 and 16 May, the Centre welcomed Taporí group leaders from ATD Fourth World's children branch. The leaders came from Bolivia, Guatemala, Burundi, Burkina Faso, the Democratic Republic of Congo, the Central African Republic, Kenya and Madagascar.
- On 31 May, the Ethics Committee brought together a group of people to talk with Christian Berry, a former member of the ATD Volunteer Corps, on the basis of a significant document that he had given to the Centre relating his long-term involvement with people living in poverty in France.
- On 10 June, following Max Boisseau's internship in March, 26 participants in the OSEE experiment visited the Joseph Wresinski Centre.
- On 19 June, the Centre welcomed 15 people from Lille for a visit focused on Geneviève de Gaulle-Anthonioz. The visit concluded with a time of preparation for the inauguration of the rue Geneviève de Gaulle-Anthonioz in Lille on 14 October 2023.
- On 25 June, a family day bringing together Fourth World families from the Val d'Oise and Yvelines

departments.

- On 30 June, Martine Réaume, accompanied by a friend, came to the Centre for the first time to trace her family history in the Noisy-le-Grand camp at the end of the 1950s.
- On 5 July, 10 children and 4 facilitators, including a photographer, from the Cultural hub's photo club in Noisy-le-Grand came to discover the Centre's photo library.
- On 27 July, welcome of Gabrielle Erpicum, a permanent volunteer who had been working with Joseph Wresinski on a day-to-day basis since the early days of the Movement. She came to hand over her latest archive, an occasion for a celebration with the team.
- On 18 August, a group of eleven Dutch allies, accompanied by the regional delegate, came to the Centre for a time of reflection as part of the process of renewing ATD Fourth World in the Netherlands.
- On 30 August, the Centre's art library team was received by two collection directors at the Musée des Beaux-Arts in Troyes for a tour of the works of art storage facilities and for advice on appropriate storage units, conservation practices, management software and the implementation of a security plan in accordance with fire regulations.
- On 8 September, seven ATD Fourth World members from Africa - Burkina Faso, Senegal, Tanzania, the Democratic Republic of Congo and the Central African Republic - came to discover the Centre and consult a variety of documents. They were attending an advocacy training session at the ATD Fourth World International Centre.
- On 28 September, the Centre celebrated its inscription in the Memory of the World register, in the presence of 80 people, including ambassadors, representatives of UNESCO, the DRAC, the Gide Foundation and the Baillet-en-France local authority. Also present were renowned archivists, museum curators, journalists and members of ATD Fourth World. On the occasion, a plaque was unveiled at the entrance to the Centre to mark

the inscription of the archives in the UNESCO documentary heritage of humanity.

- On 20 October, Hernan Mamani of the Centre's research team took part in a day-long methodological workshop in Lille on the merging of knowledge with people with an experience of poverty. The day was jointly organised by ATD Fourth World and ChairESS²⁴.
- On 5 November, 12 ATD Fourth World members from the Netherlands and Caen, France came to discover the Centre.
- From 6 to 10 November, the Centre welcomed Aurélie Cahagne, who is training to become an archivist at the CNAM²⁵. She came to spend a week at the Centre during a holiday to discover the archives department and help with the archives backlog.
- On 14 November, four members of the research team with CIPES (CIPES-Choosing Inclusion to Counter Segregation) and the President of ATD Fourth World France, came to present the participative action-research on the educational orientation in France since 2019. They also took the opportunity to visit the Centre.
- On 22 November, a visit from Evgenia Toneva, a researcher and teacher at Sofia University, close to the ATD team in Bulgaria.
- On 28 December, the Centre welcomed a three-generation family whose grandmother was an ATD Fourth World volunteer in the Campa shanty town in the 1960s. This visit was the daughter-in-law's initiative as her mother-in-law always spoke with great emotion about life in the shanty town, the work carried out with the inhabitants and her exchanges with Joseph Wresinski.
- The Ethics Committee met at the Joseph Wresinski Centre on 1-2 March, 21- 22 June and 13- 14 September.

²⁴ ChairESS: Both inter-university and interdisciplinary, ChairESS encourages and promotes work, practices, research and training in the social and solidarity economy in Hauts-de-France region of northern France.

²⁵ CNAM : National Conservatory of Arts and Crafts, France.

IV. Focus on the activity with three archive collections

Collection of artistic creations

There were more requests for information and/or loans than in the previous year. This shows the interest in the works conserved.

The artistic creations collection in 2023 represented:

- 9,253 works listed, of which 5,654 are held directly at the Centre.
- 615 new works deposited, classified and defined in 2023.
- 11 exhibitions used for five events. Exhibitions are organised according to the major themes of the Centre's work and visits, for example, one to mark the inclusion of the ATD Fourth World archives in the Memory of the World register, and another to coincide with the international gathering of TAPORI group leaders.

2023 also saw loans for:

- Heritage Days in Noisy-le-Grand;
- Open Day at the International ATD Fourth World Centre;
- Inauguration of a Geneviève de Gaulle street in Lille on 17 October;
- International seminar on the family;
- Decoration of the offices and rooms of the Joseph Wresinski Centre.

There were more loan requests than last year. There was also the development of a related exhibition on the history of ATD Fourth World through posters and serigraphs.

Two visits to museums were organised to improve the collection's practices and prepare for its move to a more suitable storage environment. One visit was to the Musée archéologique de Guiry en Vexin, the other to the Musée des Beaux Arts in the city of Troyes. This was an opportunity to make contact with the collections curators, who provided a great deal of professional information on conservation, labelling, filing, etc., as well as on the software they use.

Contacts with Rosalyn Tanton and Guendouz Bensidhoum, permanent volunteers as well as visual artists, are on-going. Their knowledge of the works and artists associated with ATD Fourth World will enable the Centre to complete the descriptions of the collection.

Photographic collection

At the cultural hub, on Wednesdays between 2pm and 5pm, children take photos during free expression workshops. The children are the starting point, and the finishing line. Without any fuss the children are able to shine a light on each other to produce images that nobody has commissioned. The fruit of their eagerness, no doubt, and of their carelessness, perhaps.

Quentin Bernard, cultural hub coordinator.

Amongst the many requests it responds to, the team responsible for the photo collection has been

particularly struck by the meeting with the children from the cultural hub at the family promotional housing project in Noisy-le-Grand. The coordinator of the hub wanted to find traces of a photo club similar to theirs that had been set up in the past

This sparked off the idea of offering them a visit to the photo archive unit. A dozen or so children, eager and curious, discovered the conservation area in the archive storage rooms with the large mobile shelves, the traditional photo negatives and prints, and the small collection of old cameras, so different from today's mobile phones. They were able to work with an archive box specially designed for their visit, and do their own photo research on computer.

Afterwards, it was obvious for the photo archive team to go and visit their magnificent exhibition on display at the Noisy-le-Grand community centre. Some of their photos will one day join those of their predecessors in the Joseph Wresinski archives centre.

Digitising, filing and cleaning-up the photo collection

Throughout the year, work has continued on digitising, classifying and cleaning-up the photo archives. The photo archive team has this past year digitised 16 files, representing 10,153 photos (44 GB) stored in the digital conservation unit. The work was carried out in-house. These files contained both out-of-format and standard negatives. This work marks the end of the digitisation work on the historical photo archive which began in 2016.

Digitisation of deposit no. 828, the ATD Fourth World photographic archives in the USA, began in December 2023 and should be completed in early 2025.

Systematic work has been undertaken to check the codes and eliminate duplicates. Over the course of the year, 11.7 GB have already been eliminated (i.e. 3,000 photos) and 4.9 GB added to the collection. Work is in progress on 355 files. It was possible to work on 71 of these files in 2023, with work completed on 65 of them. The clean-up includes re-digitising photos that are either over-defined or of insufficient quality.

Video and film archives

In the video and film archives, 5,366 video cassettes and 769 films (including rushes) have already been collected, i.e. identified, rated and recorded in the archive database. The detailed listing of videos is continuing, with an estimated number of just over 6,000 cassettes.

At the same time, an operation to digitalise the video collection has been initiated: 3,402 cassettes representing 4,395 documents. This digitalisation, for conservation and distribution purposes, will continue with priority given to the film collection. The total remaining digitalisation cost is estimated at between **€80,000 and €100,000**, and external funding is currently being sought to meet these expenses.

Beyond the figures, this collection brings together a wide variety of incredibly rich documents (reports, footage of events and activities, testimonies, interviews, etc.). As with all the archives, it contributes to the history of the Fourth World, by chronicling its struggles, its courage and its contributions to the progress of our societies.

V. Human resources and finance in 2023

Human resources

Departures

- Jean-Luc Gaudin, a part-time volunteer who joined the documentation department in February 2022, had to leave in June 2023 for professional reasons.
- Marie-Antoinette Colau completed her period of skills sponsorship in April and has now retired.
- Sophie Testau completed her mission at the end of June.
- Josette Vincent completed her mission in July.
- Marie-Andrée Rio, an ally for over forty years with various missions including 10 years with the Joseph Wresinski Centre, moved to Brittany in December.



Marie Andrée Rio

New arrivals

- Nathalie Bénétzet, a permanent volunteer, joined the Centre Joseph Wresinski team in January 2023.
- Mariannick Caniou, from the community of the Sœurs de la Providence de La Pommeraye, a friend of the Movement, joined the team in October for a sabbatical year.

Finances, resources and needs

2023 balance sheet

In total for the year, the Centre's expenditure, excluding personnel and depreciation, amounted to €238k, down 7% on 2022.

The highlights of this financial year are as follows:

- An 84% increase in energy-related expenditure (water, gas and electricity) compared with 2022, due to higher unit prices for gas and electricity. These will rise from €61k in 2022 to €112k in 2023, despite a fall in the volume of consumption.
- Expenditure in the Information Technology and Telecoms (IT) area is up sharply to €83k, due to the purchase of a server plus an uninterruptible power supply system for backing up electronic archives. Also the annual cost of upkeep and maintenance for the SIDOC and the SIA management system, and membership fees for the SUDOC. Also of note is the renewal of the INA²⁶ agreement for 4 years, at a cost of €4,549.
- No new major projects were initiated during 2023, and expenditure on the follow-up to the social philosophy seminar and to the CNAM-CNRS-ATD collaborative space will be covered by grants from the Joseph Wresinski Foundation.

²⁶ Institut National de l'Audiovisuel

In 2023, the Centre's income from outside sources will be around €30k, mainly from the Ministries of Culture and Solidarity. In addition, the Joseph Wresinski Foundation will provide grants of €11k and €3k to cover respectively the costs of further disseminating in Spanish and English of the texts co-authored during the social philosophy seminar, and of completing the work of the CNAM-CNRS-ATD Fourth World collaborative space.

Future perspectives

For the three-year period covered by the new programming process, the Joseph Wresinski Centre estimates that it will need funding of around **€500,000** (five hundred thousand euros) to carry out the following major projects:

- the design, development or purchase, and implementation of a software solution for managing multi-media archive collections.
- completing the digitisation of audiovisual collections.
- the investment and work required to bring buildings into compliance with the EU tertiary legislation directive covering energy and environmental performance required to meet EU 2030 and 2050 targets in the fight against climate change.
- upgrading the storage area for items from the artistic creations collection.
- the implementation of a disaster prevention and management plan for archive storage and information,

communication and data storage systems,

- the transportation by sea of ATD Fourth World USA's historical collection of archives, estimated at 7m³, from Chicago to the Joseph Wresinski Centre²⁷.

- replacement of the lifts in the archives and documentation-research buildings.

To achieve all these projects, the ambition of the Joseph Wresinski Centre, in liaison with relevant ATD Fourth World teams in France and internationally, is to be mobilised to find external partners who will be able to support the Centre in its major projects, thereby reducing to a strict minimum the share of funding drawn from the ATD Fourth World Foundation.

Project sheets will be drawn up as well as regular updates with the France and International finance teams. In addition, the Centre will support the Presidency of ATD France in its dealings with potential partners, and regular monitoring of leads generated by the inclusion of the International Movement's archives in UNESCO's Memory of the World register.

²⁷ The Joseph Wresinski Centre is currently the only place where ATD Fourth World can process and preserve its archives in appropriate conditions, in accordance with international archiving standards. This is why teams throughout the world are turning to this possibility, while retaining control over the work of memory based on the archives they produce.

TABLES OF ACTIVITIES

| | 2021 | 2022 | 2023 |
|----------------|------|------|------|
| TOTAL visits | 415 | 649 | 712 |
| TOTAL requests | 351 | 345 | 409 |

Archives Unit – Activity indicator tables

| | 2021 | 2022 | 2023 |
|---|-------------------------------------|-----------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Increase in numbers of archive collections * | | | |
| Volume of archives | 195,2 ml and 6,56 TB | 17,6 ml and 2,67 TB | 45,60 ml et 183 MB |
| Archive deposits | 29 deposits, 8 hybrid and 7 digital | 17 deposits 6 digital | 28 deposits, 4 hybrid and 5 digital |
| Total assets | 2,55 kml et 126 TB | 2,7 kml et 130,7 TB | 2,745 kml et 130,7 TB |
| Number of research tools | 469 | 487 | 512 |

* The increase in volume of archives corresponds to the volume of deposits during the year.

Details of the various archive collections at the end of 2023

| Artistic creations | 9 216 records |
|---|---|
| Videos - Film archives - Video media - Digitalised media | - 769 codes - 5 366 for 6 762 documents - 3 402 for 4 395 documents |
| Audios | 63 167 recordings |
| Photos | 10 153 digitised photos (44 GB) |
| Written documents | 130 documents processed in 2023 |

For all archive collections, in 2023 as in previous years, the vast majority of requests concerned

- photos and videos
- research and training

In 2023, the teams in the Archives department devoted their time mainly to:

- familiarise themselves with the archival management software (SIA).
- update search aids, particularly those existing before the acquisition of the SIA software.

As a result, fewer deposits were made during 2023, but a large number of new deposits are now being processed.

Research team

| | 2021 | 2022 | 2023 |
|--|------|------|---------|
| Number of internships | 2 | 3 | 0 |
| Links and partnerships with university researchers | 178 | 303 | 303 (*) |

* Consolidation of existing links and partnerships.

Documentation centre

| Activities | 2022 | 2023 |
|--|--------|--------|
| Descriptive records of public documents | 15 000 | 15 954 |
| Documents digitised and available online | 2 300 | 2 283 |
| Documents and books listed in SUDOC | | 1 580 |
| Number of consultations | 6 282 | 14 549 |
| Number of downloads | 250 | 466 |

NB : There were 979 different search expressions for 1,273 searches carried out.

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