



Coverture: Photos of ATD Fourth World activists © ATD Fourth World / Joseph Wresinski Center

To weave a new rug, you sit on the old one ¹

As we were looking back on the events that marked 2024 for the Joseph Wresinski Centre, historian Axelle Brodiez-Dolino² published *ATD Quart Monde, une histoire transnationale* (a transnational history)³. The book is the fruit of her postdoctoral thesis for which she spent seven years working on the ATD Fourth World archives in close collaboration with the archives, research and documentation teams at the Joseph Wresinski Centre. In an interview⁴, she highlighted “*the exceptional scope of the documentary collection. For researchers, it opens up a huge range of possibilities. [...] The other thing that struck me, though it might put some researchers off, actually turned out to be very productive in my work: it’s a living organisation, which retains a say over its archives and therefore works alongside the researcher. There is genuine cooperation with the Centre’s team*”.

Indeed, the Ethics Committee and the entire team at the Joseph Wresinski Centre watch over ATD Fourth World’s archives as they would with a priceless treasure, with the commitment to nurturing this history for the future. These archives have been listed by UNESCO since 2023 as part of the documentary heritage of humanity⁵.

Throughout 2024, the Joseph Wresinski Centre was called upon by several teams around the world, some marking significant anniversaries, others beginning a process of reflecting on and consolidating the progress

¹ Proverb from the Central African Republic

² Axelle Brodiez-Dolino is a research director at the CNRS, specialising in the history of the fight against poverty and precariousness as well as in solidarity-based activism from the 19th to the 21st century.

³ <https://www.puf.com/atd-quart-monde-une-histoire-transnationale>

⁴ <https://www.atd-quartmonde.fr/actualites/archives-datd-quart-monde-cest-une-source-inestimable-sur-le-vecu-de-la-grande-pauvrete-axelle-brodiez-dolino/>

⁵ https://atd-cjw.centredec.org/index.php?lvl=cmepage&pageid=4&id_article=109

made over several decades.

These are privileged moments to reclaim history and share it with pride. Others are preparing to donate archive collections that are exceptional in terms of their size and the number of years they cover. The Centre has also loaned archives for the beautiful *Mémoire du Monde* exhibition hosted by the city of Angers and also for the National Archives of the World of Work exhibition⁶ scheduled for summer 2025 in Roubaix, France.

During 2024, the Centre's team was able to plan the renovation of two storage facilities, one of which will house artistic creations and several paper archives, and the other part of the audiovisual archives, including numerous photographic exhibitions. Plans for the archive storage facilities have been drawn up, with the aim of optimising space and improving storage conditions. Work began in the autumn, with the first shelving units due to be delivered in early 2025.

Finally, 2024 saw the start of the study phase that will lead the Centre, by 2027, to a new computerized management tool for audiovisual archives. Following the launch of the online documentation centre⁷ and the acquisition of paper archive management software, the Joseph Wresinski Centre is now entering the third phase of professionalisation of our stewardship of this rare and quite possibly unique body of documentary heritage, which the Centre's team is privileged to care for.

Nathalie Bénézet, Honorine Kouamé, Sophie Razanakoto
Joseph Wresinski Centre team

⁶ "To live or survive – Work and poverty in the 19th and 20th centuries", exhibition at the National Archives of Labour in Roubaix, France, from June 2025 to June 2026.

⁷ <https://atd-cjw.centredoc.org>

New Historical Collection

ATD Fourth World has been present in the United States for 60 years. During this time, many documents have been produced: written documents (activity reports, minutes, personal accounts of activities, etc.), photos, newspapers, videos, slide shows, artistic productions, and more. Much of this material was stored on shelves or in an attic, wherever there was space in the Fourth World House in New York and later also in the national centre in the suburbs of Washington. The documents were not all well organised or properly described.

In 2013, these archives were transported to Chicago, where Hyacinth Egner, a member of the international Volunteer Corps, received them in a rented space. There were 350 boxes, approximately 120 linear metres. She began to organise and properly describe them to make them more accessible for future research. The archives were structured into deposits: by team, by type of action, by secretariat, etc.

A working partnership was established with the team at the Joseph Wresinski Centre. Hyacinth Egner travelled there for a training session on archiving and stayed for a several more weeks to gain a more specific understanding of the Centre's archiving work. Then from Chicago, she participated remotely in the monthly meetings of the archives team. The archives gathered in Chicago then began to be considered an integral part of the International ATD Fourth World Movement's archives. In 2018, the first step was to secure the most fragile archival media: VHS tapes, audio cassettes, and slides. These items were prepared and properly described prior to being transferred into the Centre's collections, where they will be digitised and stored in appropriate conditions.

In addition to tackling this immense task of archiving 60 years of history, Hyacinth Egner is overseeing the translation into English of a set of documents, among them the 'Digital Booklet' and, subsequently, the user guide for the "*Offline Archival Transfer Form*" (BVD – Bordereau de Versement Déconnecté), which will provide valuable support to English-speaking teams in their archiving work.

In June 2022, the decision was made to move the archives from the United States to the Joseph Wresinski Centre for better conservation. A steering committee was set up in the US and internships of one to two days per week were offered to student archivists who could help with preparing the archives for their move to France. Also, weekly remote meetings were held with the Centre's team to best prepare for this move.

Organising the archives required much sorting, removing duplicates and rusty staples and paper clips, and repackaging in archive boxes using chemically neutral folders. The application of reference codes facilitated a short and precise description. The offline transfer list, one of the original features of the archival management software, helps structure the classification of records and integrates their description directly into the software. The transfers were divided into three categories: those already classified and described in their entirety, those described briefly, and those left as they are, to be classified later at the Centre. For legal and administrative reasons, part of the archives will remain physically in the United States and will be moved to the ATD Fourth World centre in New York.

In June 2024, a transport company was selected and the departure date for the archives from Chicago set for

mid-October. On 16 October, employees of the transport company loaded the **185 packages** (120 linear metres representing a volume of approximately 7 m³) into a large lorry. The boxes were then placed into crates for transport to the port of loading in New Jersey and loaded into containers for shipment by sea to Antwerp in Belgium, with arrival at the Joseph Wresinski Centre scheduled for January 2025⁸.

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Delivery of the archives of ATD Fourth World USA to the Joseph Wresinski Center

⁸ On 14 January 2025, the archives arrived by road in Baillet-en-France, where they were received by the archives team.

I. World Philosophy Day

In celebrating (its celebration of) *World Philosophy Day* on 20 November 2024 at its Headquarters in Paris, UNESCO sought to show how philosophy can help build a more tolerant and inclusive society. By fostering the practice of critical thinking and the reasoned exchange of opinions, philosophy enables us to understand and respond to contemporary challenges by creating the intellectual conditions for change.

After philosopher **Hartmut Rosa**⁹ had presented the concept of social energy (the energy essential to life comes from social interaction and from closeness to others), a **first panel** discussed the role of philosophy in empowering young people. Six young people from a working-class neighbourhood talked about how philosophy had transformed their lives, encouraging their critical thinking and self-expression. “*Philosophy feeds our imagination and our ability to listen to others.*”

The **second panel**, “*Philosophy and poverty: repairing social cohesion,*” featured three speakers: Amina Zakhnouf, co-founder of “Je m’engage pour l’Afrique” (I commit to Africa)¹⁰, **Julia Casamasso Mattoso**, Brazilian philosopher and municipal councillor in the city of Petropolis, and **François Jomini**, member of the ATD Fourth World Volunteer Corps and facilitator of the social philosophy seminar *Penser ensemble l’être social avec Joseph Wresinski*.¹¹

⁹ Hartmut Rosa, born 15 August 1965 in Lörrach, is a sociologist, philosopher and German academic, professor at the Friedrich-Schiller University of Jena and director of the Max Weber College in Erfurt. His thinking is rooted in the critical theory of the Frankfurt School.

¹⁰ Launched in January 2021, *Je m’engage pour l’Afrique* is the first citizen-led public policy incubator working across Africa, the Mediterranean and Europe.

¹¹ Participatory research in social philosophy initiated by ATD Fourth World and the University of Western Brittany (2019–2022). The results of this research were published in 2023 by Le Bord de l’Eau: <https://www.editionsbdl.com/produit/pour-une-nouvelle-philosophie-sociale/>

The seminar focused on demonstrating the importance of concepts in the fight against poverty. By introducing the concept of social exclusion to UNESCO, Joseph Wresinski changed the way people living in poverty were perceived, from being labelled as maladjusted to being excluded, thereby making society jointly responsible for their situation. François Jomini also echoed collective research in social philosophy by explaining the three concepts that were explored in depth: **resistance, rights and knowledge-based injustices.**



II. Memory of the World Day

On the same day, the French National Commission for UNESCO (CNFU) organised the National Memory of the World Day¹² at the Cité internationale de la langue française in Villers-Cotterêts. Four members of the Joseph Wresinski Centre took part in this day aimed at managers of French properties listed in the Memory of the World Register and candidates for registration. The day focused on 'Promoting documentary heritage' with several round tables. The CNFU thus encourages the sharing of experience and networking among those involved in the conservation of documentary heritage.



¹² <https://unesco.delegfrance.org/Retour-sur-la-Journee-nationale-Memoire-du-Monde-du-20-novembre-2024-La-6040>

A day on Knowledge

On 27 June 2024, the Joseph Wresinski Centre welcomed **Isabelle Stengers, professor emeritus of philosophy of science** at the Free University of Brussels. Her work on science and knowledge has influenced thinking for decades. She had already supported ATD Fourth World members by agreeing to sit on the scientific committee of the social philosophy seminar, a participatory research project carried out from early 2019 to late 2022¹³. Building on this existing collaboration, the Centre invited her to engage in a dialogue with members of the ATD Fourth World Volunteer Corps during a day of in-depth discussions on what they learn from people living in extreme poverty.

The members of the Volunteer Corps who live close to them are constantly seeking to understand their situations so as to better support the struggles of the poorest amongst them and to really take what they say seriously. They strive to hold regular meetings when they share what they understand and learn from the people they work alongside. They want to ensure that in taking action, they act on the basis of their experiences and what they seek to achieve. However, prevailing ideas about what constitutes true knowledge often cause them to doubt the validity of their approach to learning.

This day of reflection brought together some participants. Isabelle Stengers did not give a lecture. Instead, she engaged in a more complex exercise whereby she helped participants to think through real-life situations

¹³ See our Annual Report 2022, The fruits of long-term work

and the lessons they drew from them. She outlined her criticism of forms of knowledge that claim to follow some mysterious rules about being neutral and true, that actually stop ordinary people from thinking for themselves. Passionate about listening and learning, her attitude allowed the members of the Volunteer Corps to speak with greater confidence. They were able to describe situations of serious injustice and suffering that outraged them. Isabelle Stengers stressed that working to understand, on one's own and then as part of a team, and daring to confront one's understanding with those primarily concerned, is a legitimate path to gaining knowledge because it empowers and opens up new spaces for action. For Volunteer Corps members confronted on a daily basis by the violence the poorest suffer and by a society which tends not to believe them or to doubt their approach, such an encounter proved invaluable.

As a conclusion to the day, Isabelle Stengers said:

“By focusing on the issue of extreme poverty, ATD Fourth World has really chosen a perspective from which something important can be reimagined, and that can even influence other forms of knowledge. One of the big challenges today is finding ways to democratise what counts as 'legitimate' knowledge. It's about experts being able to listen to things that don't come from their own fields. These are real efforts to level things out, not in some abstract way, but in a way that makes them truly open to what matters to others. And that's something we need everywhere, because everywhere, people have been dispossessed of their own knowledge.”

Focus on the archives

Memory of the World

The Joseph Wresinski Centre was asked to participate in the beautiful [exhibition “Memory of the World”](#) which ran from July 2024 to January 2025 at the Repaire Urbain, a cultural venue in Angers. Several works and archival documents from people in extreme poverty were exhibited alongside other archival collections listed in the Memory of the World Register¹⁴. These included the Humanist Library named after the Renaissance scholar Beatus Rhénanus, the Bordeaux annotated copy of Montaigne’ Essays, and the Apocalypse Tapestry in Angers, a vast medieval depiction of the Book of Revelation.



Watercolor painting by Liliane Macaud, Fourth World activist, in memory of Joseph Wresinski and the homeless camp in Noisy-le-Grand - Summer University 1991 © Joseph Wresinski Center / AR0100256023

¹⁴ In 2023, the archives of ATD Fourth World were added to the UNESCO Memory of the World Register.

New additions to the archives

In addition to the very large archive collection from ATD Fourth World USA, other important archive deposits have arrived at the Joseph Wresinski Centre. Two members of the Volunteer Corps, Yves and Elodie Petit, brought the ATD Fourth World Philippines's archives and worked for several months on five donations covering 37 years of history. The UK team delivered the missing boxes from a deposit covering the period from 1964 to 2013. Sulma Erika Flores Rojas, a member of the Volunteer Corps, spent several weeks at the Centre preparing the digital archives of the Bolivian team covering the period 2017 to 2023. The archives team also received other smaller deposits from France, Germany, Lebanon and the International Leadership Team.

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Elisabeth Pierson



ILT Secretariat



ATD Leipzig group – Germany

Processing archive backlogs and work on history

The written archive team catalogued and properly described 29 deposits of physical archive backlogs in 2024, which once re-packed represented a total of 480 boxes, or 48 linear metres. Other ATD Fourth World members came regularly throughout the year to carry out various tasks on the archives:

- Huguette Redegeld, a member of the Volunteer Corps since the very beginning, undertook the processing and description of the archives known as the “Black Forest”, the name given to a group of Volunteer Corps members who at Joseph Wresinski’s request first met in the Black Forest region in Germany in 1980. He sought to have a reference group to think with him about developing an international movement that would stand alongside the most marginalised populations in the long term.

- Genevieve and Bruno Tardieu, both long-time Volunteer Corps members, supported the ATD teams in Burkina Faso and the Democratic Republic of Congo in their work to capitalise on ATD Fourth World’s long and rich history in these two countries, drawing on existing archives.

- The Knowledge, Action and Commitment team responsible for developing useful tools for all active members of ATD Fourth World consulted the archives from Haiti and Guatemala on several occasions with a view to producing a document inspired by the health projects carried out there.



Huguette Redegeld, Bruno Tardieu and Rosario Macedo Ugarte

The audiovisual archives

The work of the **photo archive** unit continued along two main lines: the removal of duplicates and out-of-context photos, and the description of images with input from people involved in or witness to the reports, either remotely or at the Joseph Wresinski Centre. During the year, the team digitised 16,525 negatives and slides equivalent to 74.2 GB.

Requests for photos received during 2024 highlighted a focus on “looking back and reflecting on our history”. Calls for photos were received to mark the 20th anniversary of the inauguration of the 17 October “Solidarity Table” sculpture in Luxembourg, the 30th anniversary of ATD Fourth World in Spain, the 40th anniversary of our presence in Burkina Faso, the 50th anniversary of the Fourth World House in New York, ATD Fourth World’s history in Bois-Gérard, France, and to illustrate the writings of a Fourth World activist Jean-Claude Dorkel from the Val d’Oise department in France. During the year, a lot of work was undertaken to illustrate key moments in the history of ATD Fourth World on the ATD Fourth World France website.



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Gérard Craffe,
Digitization of negatives from
the photo collection

In 2024, discussions about a future tool for managing audiovisual archives highlighted the need to have a complete and up-to-date database before any data could be transferred. The priority for the **video library** was therefore to carry out a complete inventory which involved recounting all the cassettes, affixing new labels on the media and on the boxes containing them, checking the information in the database and, where necessary, checking consistency with the digital files.

The inventory of VHS tapes was completed, with 1,592 tapes recorded in the collection. The remaining tasks include incorporating uncatalogued tapes, and tapes included in consolidated deposits. Duplicate copies still need to be eliminated. At the same time, the inventory of DVDs began.

The description of these archives was able to continue thanks to the presence of an ally one day a week. Most requests for audio-visual material focused on historical work, including videos from Burkina Faso, the Democratic Republic of Congo, and Haiti, as support for presentations at conferences, seminars or information days.

The **audio archives** gained new momentum with the arrival of Mariannick Caniou and the inventory, which benefited from the expertise of Aurélie Cahagne during her internship. Over the course of the year, 103 audio cassettes were digitised, catalogued and appropriately described.

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Film and video collection storage facility



Mariannick Caniou,
Digitization of audio recordings

“The ATD Fourth World Art Library: a memory of extreme poverty. Children's drawings, sculptures, patchwork and paintings... The ATD Fourth World Art Library preserves works of art and culture that reveal the stories and lives of the most disadvantaged people around the world.”

In May 2024, this is how [L'hebdo du quotidien de l'art](#)¹⁵ introduced **Adèle Cailleateau's beautiful article** on the art archives, featuring reproductions of several works. Many visitors are surprised by the richness and diversity of the collection of artistic creations. This distinctive feature echoes Joseph Wresinski's words at [the Culture and Poverty](#)¹⁶ seminar in December 1985:

“Cultural action is essential. It allows us to raise the issue of human exclusion in a more radical way than by demands for access to the right to housing, work, resources or health.”

2024 marked the start of work on the new conservation area in Baillet to which these art works will during 2025 be transferred for greater security. The art library registered 235 new works during the year.



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¹⁵ <https://www.lequotidiendelart.com/quotidiens/2024-05-10-Quotidien-du-10-mai-2024.html>

¹⁶ Conference in L'Arbresle, Lyon organised by Antoine Lion of the Ministry of Culture and the Thomas More Centre.

The DAM¹⁷ Project Steering Committee

During 2023, the archives team highlighted the challenge of **exploring all avenues to obtain the most suitable software for the proper management of audiovisual archives.**

A steering committee was set up for this purpose, comprising four practitioners from the relevant historical collections: photographic archives, films and videos, audio and artistic creations.

The first phase of reflection was to examine what already existed and take stock of the situation. What tools does the Joseph Wresinski Centre have at its disposal? Which ones are actually used and for what purposes? What are the links between these tools?

The second phase involved finding out about existing tools and ways of working elsewhere in order to learn from different practices. This research was carried out in several areas:

- Archives centres: visit to and discussions with the Departmental Archives of the 93rd arrondissement; participation in meetings of the Working Group on Audiovisual Archives organised by the AAF¹⁸.
- Institutions: exchanges with an archivist from Sciences Po at the Sorbonne.
- Museums: visit to SITEM¹⁹ and welcome by collection managers at the museums of Troyes and Quai Branly.
- Software publishers: participation in days organised by the company légal2 for users of the Arkothèque Gestion software.

These discussions and meetings helped us to better define the principal needs of the Joseph Wresinski Centre. This work will be summarised in a call for tenders for a service provider tasked with helping to help finalise the preliminary study, draft specifications, and possibly assist in the selection, adaptation and implementation of a solution.

¹⁷ Digital asset management

¹⁸ Association of French Archivists

¹⁹ International Museum Exhibition

Articles and publications

Following participatory research in social philosophy in partnership with the University of Brest and on the cross-fertilisation of knowledge in partnership with the CNAM and the CNRS, several articles have been published in journals.

In the [Revue Délibérée No. 22: Le droit, un rendez-vous manqué avec l'émancipation](#) (Law, a missed opportunity for emancipation?) by Jean-Marie Baeriswyl, a Swiss Fourth World activist, and Stanislas Jullien, a French philosopher, co-researchers in the social philosophy seminar *Penser ensemble l'être social avec Joseph Wresinski* (Thinking together about social being with Joseph Wresinski).²⁰

What does the law do to the poorest, and what can the poorest do with the law? These questions were the guiding theme of a social philosophy seminar held between 2019 and 2022, an unprecedented encounter between philosophy with a “politico-social” tone and the ATD Fourth World Movement, bringing together philosophers, people experiencing extreme poverty, and others committed to fighting it.

Our neoliberal societies have turned the law into an instrument which results in “*the law very often turning against us*”.

²⁰ Ibid, page 8

On the one hand, permanent social control operations condition a large number of social benefits (...) which can lead to a social housing benefit application ultimately being detrimental to its beneficiary because it triggers an administrative investigation of the family, which not only suspends the application but, more alarmingly, can in turn justify the placement of the child in care due to the family's poverty.

On the other hand, the institutions responsible for granting social rights push beneficiaries to conceal the true story of their situation and replace it with an impersonal recitation of “motivational” criteria (...) forcing them to internalise self-censorship and use terms that are not their own, which renders them inaudible and increases the institutions deafness and ignorance of their unique condition, so that, as Carine De Boubers, another ATD Fourth World activist, often insists, “*We only tell them what they want to hear*”.

The article describes other instances where the law excludes people because they do not meet certain standards, and this ultimately shows that preserving the emancipatory power of the law remains a central political objective.

In the [Revue Projet](#), December 2024: “**Understanding epistemic injustices means taking action against poverty**” by Cécile Lavergne, lecturer in political and social philosophy at the University of Lille and member of the STL laboratory, and Jean Venard, member of the Volunteer Corps.

²¹ Miranda Fricker, *Epistemic Injustice. Power and the Ethics of Knowing*, Oxford University Press, 2007.

Coined by British philosopher Miranda Fricker²¹, the concept of epistemic injustice describes a set of prejudices experienced daily by people living in poverty: their words, thoughts and knowledge are discredited, silenced and even rendered invisible. Inspired by feminist and postcolonial thinking, developed in works focusing mostly on racism and sexism, this concept was immediately grasped by Fourth World activists and co-researchers with experience of extreme poverty. Every day, they are not believed, and false ideas are imposed on their experiences. The effects are devastating and can lead to self-doubt and self-loathing. A co-researcher with experience of poverty expressed it as follows: *“We are always told: “You have to speak up.” But if we speak and are listened to, our words are distorted. We are interpreted in their way. [...] They put us in boxes and consider us abject, unhealthy. We are so afraid, so ashamed, that we no longer speak. And if you are silent, you are easy prey.”*

It was also crucial for Fourth World activists that philosophers describe their experiences as “injustice”, as painful attacks on their epistemic capacity and their ability to produce and transmit knowledge.

Our participatory research functioned as a mechanism to neutralise the risks of epistemic injustice. Not only because it involved those most affected as co-researchers, but also by mobilising them in the construction of the research problem, in the collection, interpretation and analysis of relevant information, and finally in the presentation of the research results – during the final conference and in subsequent public presentations. However, in such a diverse research group, everyone came with their own fears (...)

A first safeguard was to give epistemic priority to the voices of people with an experience of poverty, those Joseph Wresinski addressed in these words: “*You know what justice really is, you who have lived in injustice. You know what work is, you who have no trade. You know what education is, you who have been deprived of schooling [...]*”.²²

The second was to dare to engage in a friction of knowledge²³, which refers to the encounter of divergent knowledge, held by individuals from different social groups, on the same social reality. This conflictual encounter can be fruitful, because it forces everyone to reconsider their point of view, to take stock of their blind spots, to listen to what the other person is saying, and to make an effort to move forward. But it is not easy, as it produces tensions, clashes, conflicts, discomfort and even suffering. It forces everyone to expose themselves. It is therefore understandable that the importance given to conviviality, as mentioned above, is not a quest for comfortable relationships, but a condition without which this friction would be too risky.

[Action Research Journal](#)²⁴, a quarterly peer-reviewed academic journal, published a special issue on poverty: “**Action Research to Transform the Academic Field of Poverty**”. This special issue was entrusted to a team of seven people, including four members of ATD Fourth World: Victor Friedman, ally; Bruno Tardieu, member of the Volunteer Corps; Maryann Broxton, Fourth World activist; and Donna Haig Friedman, ally.

²² Address by Joseph Wresinski, founder of ATD Fourth World, to people living in poverty, ‘Your History Is A Proud History’, at the first Fourth World Youth Gathering on 19 and 20 “ May 1973.

²³ Know as epistemic friction, theorised by philosopher José Medina in his book *The Epistemology of Resistance: Gender and Racial Oppression, Epistemic Injustice, and Resistant imaginations*, (Oxford University Press, Oxford, 2012).

²⁴ Action Research Journal « Theme issue : Action Research for Transforming the Poverty Field » Volume 22/ Issue 1/ March 2024

They focused the journal on the Wresinski approach to knowledge, including the Merging of Knowledge dynamic, and drew on participatory action research that transforms relationships, situations, knowledge and the very conception of research.

The articles describe two action research projects carried out with ATD Fourth World:

- the international research project Extreme poverty is violence: breaking the silence, seeking peace, the results and approach of which had never been published in an academic journal
- research on The hidden dimensions of poverty, describing the adventure from the perspective of one country, Tanzania, and from an international perspective.

The other articles concerned:

- relations between NGOs and a rural region of Uganda, with the research demanding that both sides reflect on their relationships and on changing them.
- a collective training project in entrepreneurship for poor Hispanic women in New York.
- a project to weave together knowledge in rural Quebec.

The editorial team brought all the authors together to draft an introductory article highlighting the essential “rules of the game” for participatory action research:

- that people living in poverty are able to form a collective and create safe spaces between themselves before engaging with others, and that they are numerous enough not to be dominated by other actors/ researchers;
- that people living in poverty have sufficient time and means to engage in the process and modify it when

they deem it necessary;

- when knowledge is exchanged and shared, that people living in poverty speak first;
- that they are able to use the language in which they feel comfortable;
- that they retain control over how their experience is interpreted;
- that they are not limited to producing knowledge but are in a position to create knowledge that is useful to them and that they can put into practice.

The article goes on to list all the open questions that remain to be addressed so that action research is no longer extractive but rather the result of work in which people experiencing poverty are considered co-researchers.

The journal was launched on 11 April 2024 with an online participatory event featuring researchers, practitioners and people experiencing poverty who have participated in action research. More than 100 participants from 20 countries were able to engage in dialogue with the authors and explore the issues raised by this type of research.



In January 2024, volume 2 of **Refuser la misère - la culture comme levier** (Refusing Extreme Poverty: Culture as a Lever) was published by Éditions du Cerf²⁵. This collection of previously unpublished writings by Joseph Wresinski enables readers to understand that providing material assistance to the poor is not enough. To truly help them, we must give them the means to achieve cultural autonomy, intellectual independence and spiritual freedom. The manuscript for a third volume on the theme of history and transmission is currently being written.



In October 2024, digital publication of the **Proceedings of the Social Philosophy Conference: “Poverty, Social Criticism and the Merging of Knowledge”**, Paris-Cité University – 9-10 December 2022. These Proceedings include the presentations by (of) the co-researchers of the three concepts explored, resistance, law and injustices linked to knowledge, along with contributions from several guests, including philosophers Sophie Djigo, Magali Bessone, Isabelle Stengers and Frank Fisbach; sociologist Philippe Chanial; political scientist Carolina Sanchez Henao; historian Soazick Kerneis; and human rights defender Claire Hédon.

In addition, the Joseph Wresinski Centre supervised the translation into English and Spanish of the book *Pour une nouvelle philosophie sociale : Transformer la société à partir des plus pauvres* (For a New Social Philosophy: Transforming Society with People Experiencing Extreme Poverty), which was the result of the seminar referred to above. These translations are currently being prepared for future publication.

²⁵ <https://www.editionsducerf.fr/librairie/livre/20480/Refuser-la-misere-2-La-culture-comme-levier>

Focus on visits

In February 2024, the Joseph Wresinski Centre welcomed a delegation of 27 Taiwanese volunteers from organisations with which ATD Fourth World has established close ties. This group of young people and the collectives in which they are active are particularly keen to draw on the experience of people living in poverty to bring about meaningful change for all. Their questions focused on both ATD Fourth World's history and the challenges facing the world today, with the urge to understand how ATD has worked to bring about social change at national and international levels. They testified to the unexpected richness of the archives preserved by the Centre, which provide the foundation for a different vision of poverty and one that empowers help us to think about and fight for a world that leaves no one behind.

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Visit by a delegation from Taiwan to the Joseph Wresinski Center

The research and documentation teams welcomed ATD Fourth World members and researchers from Guatemala, Tanzania, the Central African Republic, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Great Britain and France for study related to their research or the work they are doing. Some, such as Carlos Aldana, Deputy Minister of Education and President of ATD Fourth World in Guatemala, and Simon Haworth, a researcher at the University of Birmingham, stayed for a week at the Joseph Wresinski Centre.



Visit by members of the Movement to the Joseph Wresinski Center and presentation of Caroline Petitat's book

The Ethics Committee

Composed of two Fourth World activists, two allies (lawyers) and three members of the Volunteer Corps, the Ethics Committee is appointed by the ATD Fourth World International Leadership Team. Providing a consultative board for the Joseph Wresinski Centre's team of facilitators, the Ethics Committee helps them to determine which documents can be made accessible, and to whom and under what conditions. It also helps them to make decisions on policy, particularly regarding the collection and security of archives, as well as on legal issues.

The Ethics Committee has drawn up a Code of Ethics which sets out ethical principles and provides guidelines relating to the nature of the archives held, that is to say the archives of an international movement campaigning for human rights and the eradication of extreme poverty. This code of ethics and any amendments to it are approved by the International Leadership Team. The Ethics Committee ensures that this charter is respected and enforced/applied, and that it is updated in line with changes in the law.



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Pierre-Yves Verkindt, Dominique Béchet, Georges de Kerchove, Amély Kamoni, Marc Couillard, Agnès Maillard and Micheline Adobati

It meets four times a year at the Joseph Wresinski Centre and works very closely with the coordination team. In 2024, it completed its review of the disclosure deadlines for the various archive documents and included them in the code of ethics. It also initiated a consultation with members of the Movement to help identify which documents and archive collections should be prioritised in an emergency, as the Joseph Wresinski Centre is required to draw up a plan to safeguard the cultural assets for which it is responsible.

Human resources and finances in 2024

Human resources

Departures:

- Aurélie Cahagne was present from 4 November 2023 to mid-January 2024 in connection with her training in audiovisual archives at the National Conservatory of Arts and Crafts (CNAM).

New arrivals:

- Mariannick Caniou, from the community of the Sisters of Providence in La Pommeraye, is extending her stay at the Joseph Wresinski Centre by two years.
- Jean-Luc Gaudin, now free from his professional commitments, has resumed his voluntary work with the Documentation team.
- Bernadette Brefort has joined the Documentation team as a volunteer.

Finances, resources and needs

2024 balance sheet

In total for the year, the Joseph Wresinski Centre's expenditure, excluding staff and depreciation, amounted to approximately €214,000, a slight increase of 2% on 2023, but a decrease of 17% excluding the cost of moving the archives from Chicago.

The highlights of this financial year are as follows:

- A 30% decrease in energy-related expenditure (water, gas and electricity) compared to 2023, due to a combination of lower unit prices for gas and electricity and stabilisation in consumption.
- IT expenditure amounted to €38,000, an increase of approximately 12% on 2023, due to the purchase of computer equipment as part of the renewal of workstations and expansion of server capacity, as well as the subscription for the Worldcat worldwide database of library collections.
- The only exceptional expenses for the year were the relocation of the archives from Chicago, at a cost of approximately €39,500, and the translation into English of the texts of the social philosophy seminar, at a cost of €9,700.

In 2024, the Centre's external income is expected to be around €30,000, mainly from the Ministries of Culture and Solidarity.

Future prospects

For the period 2025-27, the Joseph Wresinski Centre estimates that it will need approximately **€300,000** (three hundred thousand euro) in funding to carry out the following major projects:

- the design, development (or purchase) and implementation of a software solution for managing multimedia archive collections;
- the completion of the digitisation of audiovisual collections;
- the promotion of the documentary heritage;
- the investment and work required to bring the buildings into compliance with the tertiary directive relating to energy and environmental performance to meet the EU 2030 and 2050 climate change targets;

- the upgrading of the storage facility for the artistic creations collection;
- the implementation of a disaster prevention and management plan for the archive storage facilities and the information, communication and data storage systems;
- the replacement of the lifts in the archive and documentation-research buildings and the repair of the bell tower of the latter.

In conjunction with the relevant teams within ATD Fourth World in France and internationally, the Joseph Wresinski Centre is continuing its efforts to find external partners who are able and willing to support it in its major projects, thereby reducing to a strict minimum the share of funding provided by the ATD Fourth World Foundation. Regular progress reports are carried out with the French and international finance teams. The Joseph Wresinski Centre also supports the Presidency of ATD Fourth World France in its efforts to find potential partners and is following up on leads generated by the inclusion of ATD Fourth World International archives in UNESCO's Memory of the World Register.

Summary of activity at the Joseph Wresinski Centre

	In 2024	Origin
Number of visitors	490	Taiwan, Guatemala, DRC, Germany, Great Britain, Belgium, Madagascar, Tanzania, France, Lebanon
Number of requests	290	Publishers, researchers, people living in poverty, members and teams of ATD Quart Monde, the City of Angers and the French National Archives of the World of Work.

Archives

Growth of the collection	In 2024
Number of donations processed	32 donations including 3 hybrid and 2 digital
Collections ²⁶	100 new documents
Artistic creations	235 new works recorded
Total heritage²⁷	2.9 linear km and 129.2 TB
Total number of research tools	544

²⁶ The collections include periodicals, reports, books and grey literature.

²⁷ The figures are approximate as a new inventory of all the stores needs to be carried out after the current refurbishment work.

Details of total audiovisual heritage

Artistic creations	9,489 entries²⁸
Films²⁹ Video media³⁰ - including digitised videos	769 entries 5,641 entries for 7,299 documents 3,455 entries for 4,868 documents (96,6 TB)
Audio recordings	15,294 entries for 69,603 documents (11,1 TB)
Photographs	2,804,496 photos digitised (8,2 TB)

Documentation centre portal

Activities	2024	2023
Descriptive notes of public documents	16,343	15,954
Digitised records available online	2,674	2,283
Number of visits	16,664	14,549
Number of downloads	1,105	466
Documents and books referenced on SUDOC	1,589	1,580

²⁸ A file may contain several archive documents. For example, the reference AR0500102001 covers a series of 46 drawings.

²⁹ A set of films

³⁰ Cassettes of various formats

To carry out its mission,
the Joseph Wresinski Centre needs your support

To volunteer
centre.wresinski@atd-quartmonde.org

To make a donation³¹
<https://faireundon.atd-quartmonde.org/donform/10795125/>

³¹You can allocate your donation to the Joseph Wresinski Centre or to the project of your choice.

Joseph Wresinski
Archives and
Research Centre

2 rue de la Gare,
95560 Baillet-en-France



 International
Movement
ATD Fourth World

tel : 00 33 (0)1 34 08 31 40

centre.wresinski@atd-quartmonde.org
