

Innovations for Social Inclusion

Social technologies viewed through initiatives from Quebec, Peru and Brazil

Presentation of a partnership research project on social inclusion methods with Quebecer, Peruvian and Brazilian organizations on social inclusion practices

The project is led by

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- A doctoral student, Fabio Saldanha-Pardo, and four master's students (Maryse Paquette, Ana-Maria Losada Vazquez, Camille Bourdeau-Ginchereau and Claudia-Patricia García Henao) are part of the first stage of the project.

THE OBJECTIVES OF THE PROJECT



The main objective of this research project is to analyze social innovations that aim at the inclusion of people experiencing poverty and exclusion. We propose a study based on different cases in three contexts (Quebec, Peru, and Brazil) using as a lens of analysis the "social technologies" approach.



Our proposal, which combines various contexts and the point of view of different actors in society, aims to identify **methodologies** and their **key practices** of social inclusion that can be **reapplied** in other contexts and incorporated in public policies.

More specifically, we will



- Analyze civil society organizations in their context, and the methodologies of social inclusion (or social technologies) they developed in order to improve the living conditions of people in situations of poverty and exclusion;
- Identify the expected and unexpected consequences of applying these methodologies;
- Create an open virtual space for sharing social inclusion tools and practices.

WHAT IS A SOCIAL TECHNOLOGY?

Social technology is a South American concept that refers to the mechanisms of social transformation. It is based on three main elements:



It questions the hegemony of occidental technologies and ways of organizing as well as the superiority of occidental knowledge, imposed as universal;



When a social technology is conceived or implemented, the 'local' is or should become the protagonist. This implies the valorization of popular knowledge and local resources, without neglecting the careful integration of external or scientific knowledge and resources, if needed;



At the heart of the term social technology, we have the word **technology**, which means that technology is central. The meaning of technology is extended here, as it could be material (an artefact, a device) or immaterial (a methodology or a way of doing), or both.

HOW TO STUDY A SOCIAL INCLUSION METHODOLOGY?

To study a social inclusion methodology using social technology as an analytical framework, we propose to identify in detail:



The activities that are part of the said methodology, the actors that are mobilized (with their beliefs and their ways of seeing the world), and the necessary resources;



The recurring practices that are key to the functioning of the methodology, and finally,



The planned and unexpected results of the application of the methodology.

[To learn more about social technologies, click here](#)

Our partners

D1 - CULTURAL ASSOCIATION (LIMA, PERU)

<https://www.d1-dance.com/>



D1 is a non-profit cultural association, oriented towards social transformation and cultural promotion. It was founded in 2005 with the ambition to train leaders among marginalized youth in Peru. This project has trained around 7,000 young people so far and has become a major reference in the use of the arts as a tool for social transformation in Peru. D1 aims to generate opportunities for people to improve their quality of life through individual and social transformation.

PAROLE D'EXCLUES (MONTREAL, CANADA)

<http://www.parole-dexclues.ca/>



Parole d'excluEs is a non-profit organization, founded in 2006 in Montreal (Canada), which fights against poverty and social exclusion through citizen mobilization.

The organization developed a territorial intervention model that departs from the needs of citizens experiencing exclusion and poverty to develop collective and transformative actions aiming at improving their living conditions. Citizens, practitioners, and researchers participate in this process.

Over the years, a variety of projects emerged, ranging from training, research and outreach activities, to the creation of social economy enterprises. The projects span over a variety of sectors such as intercultural and intergenerational cohabitation, neighborhood planning, health rights, food access, the digital divide, or the fight against discrimination.

ADEL (CEARÁ, BRAZIL)

<https://www.adel.org.br>

Adel (Local Economic Development Agency) is a non-profit organization that promotes the local development of rural communities through the entrepreneurship and leadership of youth and local farmers.

The organization works with local social actors and puts into place programs that seeks to help them develop technical and managerial skills. It also give them access to knowledge, loans, support networks and technologies that foster a positive environment that enables them to start small businesses in their communities

Adel is the outcome of the mobilization of a group of young students from rural semi-arid communities, which had the opportunity to access public university and that, after graduation, returned to their communities to invest their knowledge and skills to promote local sustainable development through capacity building and ongoing support to family farmers and local youth.

Adel was founded in 2007 in one of the poorest regions of Latin America. The organization started to work with small farmers and their families who live in harsh and precarious living conditions. Adel's vision is to help develop rural communities endogenously, emphasizing the sustainability of family farming, fostering the formation of social capital and encouraging the youth to stay in their rural communities.



POLOS DE CIDADANIA (MINAS GERAIS, BRAZIL)

<https://polosdecidadania.com.br/>

Polos de Cidadania (Poles of Citizenship) is a transdisciplinary and interinstitutional extension program, teaching and applied social research, created in 1995, at the Faculty of Law of the Federal University of Minas Gerais (UFMG).

The program focuses on :



Working towards the realization of the basic human and social rights of vulnerable people, families and communities facing social and environmental risks

The construction of knowledge, based on the dialogue between different types of knowledge, academic and non-academic.

The activities of Polos de Cidadania are structured around two multi-platforms of actions and technical-scientific productions that bring together extension projects, teaching and applied social research.

Those platforms are collectively built and shared with:

- Homeless people, women, and families in historical conditions of structural violence in our society and who are at risk, for example, inside maternity hospitals (Open Platform for Attention in Human Rights - PADHu);
- Communities vulnerable to disasters and urban and socio-environmental conflicts (Platform ÁPORO).

The main methodologies used by Polos de Cidadania are action research, popular street theater, social and emotional cartographies, conflict mediation and human rights care and advocacy.



**ALTO PERU
(LIMA, PERU)**

<https://www.altoperu.org/>

Alto Perú is an initiative founded in the neighborhood of the same name that faces the ocean, but in which it is difficult to grow up due to violence, crime, and drug trafficking.

The project started in 2008 by taking the neighborhood children to the beach to learn to how to surf. The idea was to offer them a calm and safe place where they could be themselves and bond through sports.

After more than 10 years of experience, Alto Perú has developed an intervention methodology that seeks to promote physical and mental health using sports as a catalyst for change. Through different activities, the organization also seeks a connection with the public space.

The current vision aims at making the neighborhood “a school”, that is, a learning space for all residents; this vision aims to structure the interventions as an urban alternative to a traditional school.



Empathy

Contact with nature
Creativity
 Teamwork
 Physical activity

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<https://iupe.wordpress.com/>

