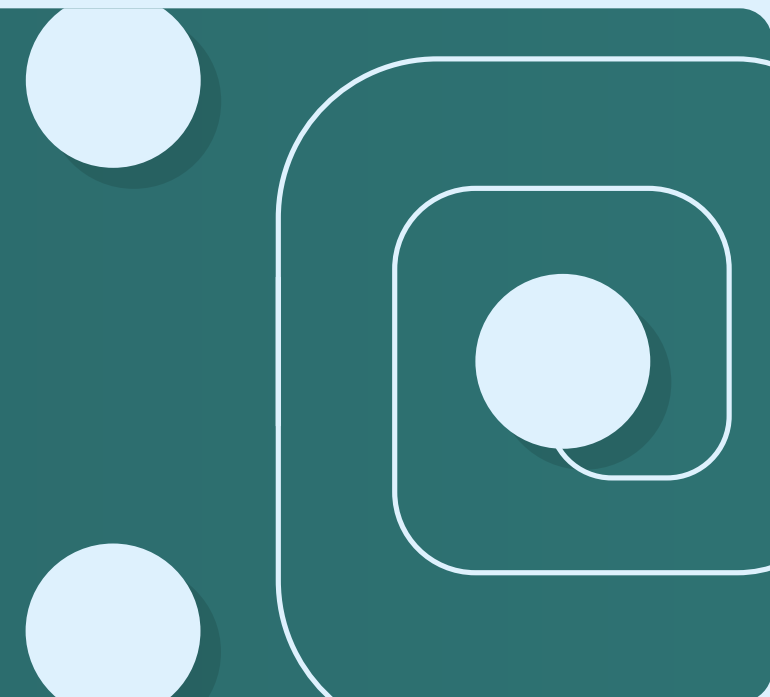


AUVI

A Pragmatic Human Rights Approach to Anchoring Autonomous Living



Human Rights

Legal and Social Memorization

Vulnerability

Pragmatism

Imagination

Research into Participatory
Action



This project is supported by the Priority Research Program (PPR) Autonomy

AUVI in Brief



Exploring the conditions required to establish autonomous living as a human right through participatory surveys.

Project Coordinator: Benoît Eyraud, Sociology Researcher.

14

research and teaching units



10



postdoctoral
researchers

3

PhD
students

3

CIFRE PhD
students

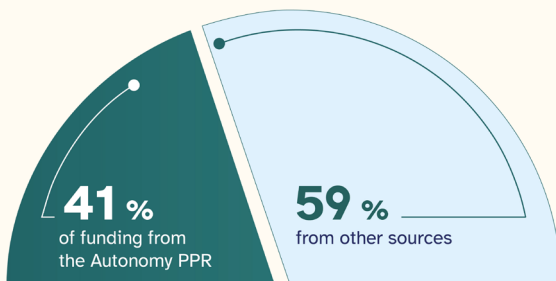
+20

Master's Students



5 years

of funding



Disciplines Involved

Sociology and Anthropology

Economics and Management Sciences

Political Sciences

Law

Psychology

Education and Training Sciences

Philosophy and Ethics

AUVI in Detail

Context

Democratic societies value political and personal autonomy, yet, they often deny it to vulnerable individuals. Many face legal and social inequalities that limit their autonomy. The International Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (ICRPD) urges governments to challenge these inequalities and translate human rights principles into concrete realities for disabled people.

Disability, aging, or illness frequently leads to social and legal infantilization, where individuals depend on systems that restrict their autonomy. Substitute decision-making processes, such as legal guardianship, further limit their rights. Since the ICRPD's adoption by the UN General Assembly in 2006, disability rights advocates have promoted a human-rights approach that emphasizes autonomous living, equal legal capacity, and full participation in society. This perspective reframes “minorization”, the process of placing vulnerable people under legal guardianship, as a form of discrimination.

Project's Objectives

- 1** Implement a human rights approach to autonomy within the French context.
- 2** Develop theoretical and practical tools that make independent living a tangible right for all.

The AUVI project views autonomous living as both a starting point and a goal. The research teams seek to define and strengthen autonomy as an experience, a right, and a concept to promote its social recognition. The project aims to identify the conditions that enable vulnerable individuals to make autonomous decisions, to support institutional and policy that foster autonomy, as well as to prevent risks linked to excessive individual or family responsibilities.



Work Program

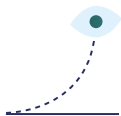
- ✓ Document experiences of minorization and identify strategies that support autonomous living.
- ✓ Examine how different social contexts shape perceptions of autonomy.
- ✓ Identify obstacles and resources involved in the recognition of autonomous living as a human right.
- ✓ Explore the philosophical foundations of a human rights-based approach to autonomy.
- ✓ Compare institutional frameworks that facilitate or hinder autonomy.
- ✓ Translate research findings into practical tools for institutional change.

Methodology

The AUVI project explores both the epistemic and political dimensions of human rights, assessing their transformative potential. While some critics argue that human rights discourse tends toward bureaucratic formalism or excessive idealism, AUVI takes an affirmative approach, actively promoting the recognition of autonomy as a fundamental right.

Building on research from the [Capdroits](#) scientific and civic initiative, AUVI develops innovative ways to turn socio-legal experiences into public issues. Inspired by democratic experimentalism, this approach engages diverse stakeholders in research designs and analysis, including interviews, surveys, observations, and legal documentation. It also encourages collaborative problem-solving to address the challenges identified.

AUVI's methodology follows a spiral model that promotes interdisciplinary collaboration and territorial engagement, facilitating knowledge exchange across various fields and regions. Transdisciplinarity emerges through shared experiences expressed in diverse registers, while territorial engagement is strengthened by an itinerant living lab connecting regional, national, and supra-national levels. This dynamic fosters dialogue between experiences, disciplines, and institutions, with the ultimate goal of grounding human rights in both practice and lived experience. Academic partners conduct in-depth research in their fields while contributing to cross-disciplinary exchanges within this evolving framework.



Affirmative Approach



Democratic
Experimentalism



Spiral Anchoring

Partnerships

Academic Partners in France: Laboratories Involved

GRAND OUEST

ESO (UMR_C 6590)

Espaces et société (Rennes)

LABERS (EA 3149)

Laboratoire d'études et de recherche en sociologie (Brest)

LAB-LEX (UR 7480)

Laboratoire de recherche en droit (Brest)

DCS (UMR_C 6297)

Droit et changement social (Nantes)

NORD EST

2L2S (EA 3478)

Laboratoire lorrain de sciences sociales (Metz et Nancy)

ETHICS (EA 7446)

Experiment, technology, human interactions, Care & Society (Lille)

GRAND SUD

AP-HM (équipe Marss)

Hôpitaux universitaires de Marseille (Marseille)

Aresvi

Association de recherche et d'études sur la santé, la ville et les inégalités (Bordeaux)

LISST (UMR 5193)

Laboratoire interdisciplinaire solidarités, sociétés, territoires (Toulouse)

CENTRE/ALPES

CMW (UMR 5283)

Centre Max Weber (Lyon)

ECP (EA 4571)

Education, cultures, politiques (Lyon)

IFROSS (EA 4588)

Institut de formation et de recherche sur les organisations sanitaires et sociales (Lyon)

P2S (UR 4129)

Parcours santé systémique (Lyon)

ODENORE

Observatoire des non-recours aux droits et services (Grenoble)

PACTE (UMR 5194)

Laboratoire de sciences sociales (Grenoble)

PARIS

CEMS (UMR 8044)

Centre d'étude des mouvements sociaux

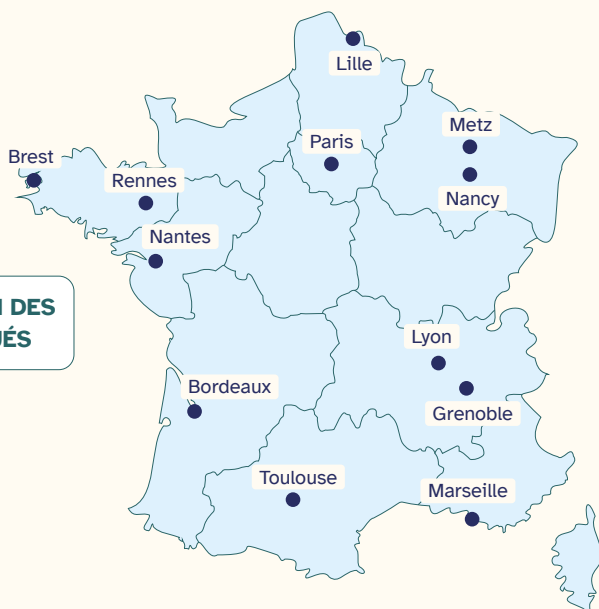
CSO (UMR 7116)

Centre de sociologie des organisations

LISE (UMR 3320)

Laboratoire interdisciplinaire pour la sociologie économique

VILLES D'IMPLANTATION DES LABORATOIRES IMPLIQUÉS



International Academic Partners



Université St Louis / Louvain
Belgium



Burton Blatt Institute
United States of America



Université du Québec à Montréal
Canada



Essex Autonomy Project
United Kingdom



Université de Laval
Canada



HES-SO
Switzerland

Other Partners

Research institutions involved: 17 institutional and civil society partners

The AUVI project builds on the Capdroits' approach and benefits from the coordination of its supporting association. It involves 4 organizations advocating for disability rights; 8 health and social care organizations; 1 social work school and 4 'science and society' associations.

Find Out More

If you are interested in the issues and challenges involved in the AUVI project and would like to find out more, the project's teams have put together a reading list of the latest scientific literature.

- Co-chercheurs Capdroits (2018/2022). [Manifeste confcap-capdroits, « Toutes et tous vulnérables! Toutes et tous capables! »](#). 2p.; Livret contributif, [« L'autonomie de vie comme droit humain : une contribution aux débats sur les conditions personnelles, interpersonnelles et institutionnelles de l'autonomie »](#). 45 p.
- Co-chercheurs Capdroits (Beal, A., Bonnot-Briey, S., Bruno, C., Cobbaut, J-P., Daniel, S., Eyraud, B., Françoise, G., Lemard, V. Letailleur, C., Lequien, J., Meile, B., Perriot-Comte, I., Taran, I., Wooley, S.) (2019), [Du partage d'expérience à la signature d'un manifeste sur l'exercice des droits. Les formes d'engagement dans la recherche citoyenne Capdroits. Vie sociale](#) (3, vol.27), 135-151.
- Caron-Dégliise, A. (2018). [L'évolution de la protection juridique des personnes. Reconnaître, soutenir et protéger les personnes les plus vulnérables](#). 484 p.
- Desjeux, C. (2020). [Quand le handicap trouble l'institution électorale : vers une conception plurielle de l'autonomie 1](#). *Aequitas*, 26(2), pp. 15-26.
- Eyraud, B., & Triaille, L. (2024). [Désinstitutionnaliser le handicap, instituer l'autonomie. Une mise en perspective socio-juridique de l'avènement du droit onusien des personnes handicapées](#). *Alter. European Journal of Disability Research*, (18/2), pp. 69-89.
- Godrie, B. (2021). [Intégration des usagers et usagères et extractivisme des savoirs expérientiels : une critique ancrée dans le modèle écologique des savoirs dans le champ de la santé mentale](#). *Participations*, 30(2), pp. 249-273.

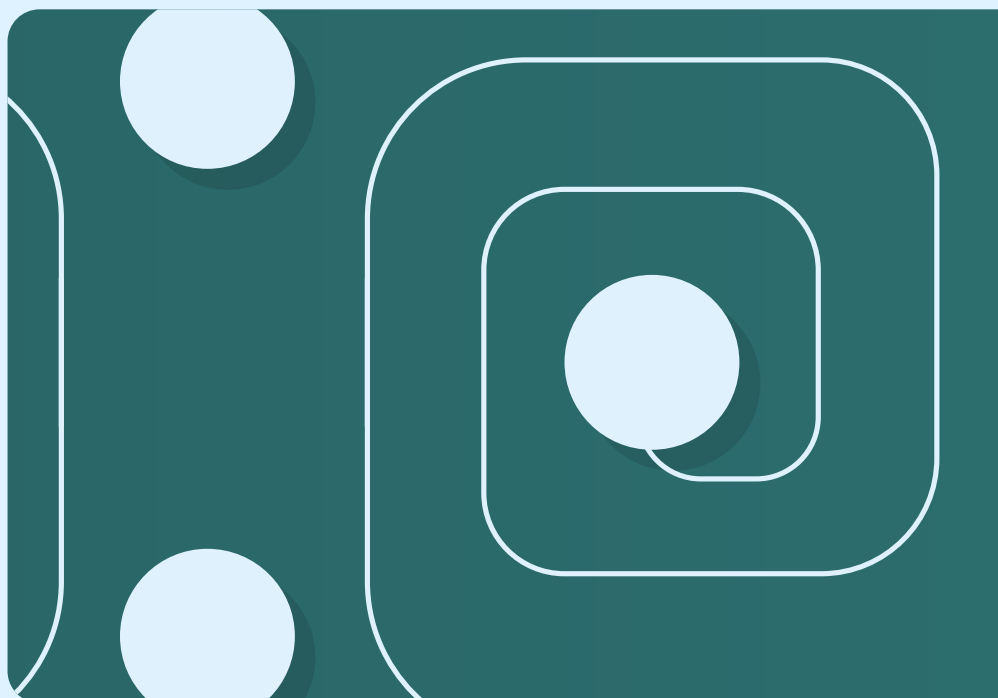
- Gzil, F. (2017). Maladie d'Alzheimer et droits de l'Homme. Gériatologie et société, 39(3), 9-17.
- Nations Unies. Convention internationale des droits des personnes handicapées (CIDPH). Recueil des Traités, vol. 2515, p. 3.
- Piveteau, D., & Wolfrom, J. (2020). Demain, Je pourrai choisir d'habiter avec vous!. Rapport au Premier ministre. 276 p.
- Winance, M. (2016). Repenser le handicap : leçons du passé, questions pour l'avenir. Apports et limites du modèle social, de la sociologie des sciences et des techniques, de l'éthique du care. *Alter*, 10(2), 13 p.

Partners



**Want to learn more about the project ?
Get in touch with us:**

ppr-autonomie@cnrs.fr



PPR Autonomie
Programme Prioritaire de Recherche

