



## The Social Question and Citizenship International conference in memory of Jean-Marie Fecteau (1949-2012)

This international conference, organized by the *Centre d'histoire des régulations sociales* (CHRS), will focus on historical analyses of the social question from the perspective of citizenship. In *From Manual Workers to Wage Laborers: Transformation of the Social Question*, Robert Castel underlined the importance of thinking about this “fundamental aporia through which a society experiences the enigma of its own cohesion and tries to forestall the dangers of its disintegration.” At the heart of major historiographical debates in the 1980s and 1990s, the social question has since been somewhat neglected. Though still active, this field of research is marked today by the fragmentation of its themes, its perspectives and its scientific networks. In the context of renewed critical reflection and political conflict surrounding austerity policies, this international conference aims to renew research themes and build new scientific networks.

To achieve these objectives, we propose to examine the social question in terms of citizenship, a subject that has been of great historiographical importance over the past decades. More than just a legal status conferred by the state or resulting from a “social contract,” citizenship should be seen as “a set of practices (juridical, political, economic and cultural) which define a person as a competent member of society” (Turner, *Citizenship and Social Theory*, 1993 p. 2). This analysis allows us to return to what is at the heart of the social question: conflicts regarding the extension of citizenship, and of the capacities it imparts, from the legal and political domains to that of the “social.”

In short, this conference aims to build a research network around the social question and its relationship to citizenship, a theme that was at the heart of the work of our late colleague, historian Jean-Marie Fecteau. His life-long intellectual endeavour was to think of various social problems (crime, poverty, mental or physical illness, etc.) in relationship to one another and as manifestations of the social question’s fundamental aporia. His reflections as a historian were also at the centre of his engagement with contemporary political debates.

The organizing committee is seeking contributions from various disciplines (history, sociology, criminology, law, political science, etc.) that present a diachronic perspective, for an **international conference to be held from August 31<sup>st</sup> to September 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2016 in Montreal** (the dates and precise location are to be confirmed). The presentations should be about 20 minutes long, in French or in English. There will be no simultaneous translation. Those wishing to present a paper are requested to submit a 250-word abstract, including a title, together with a short curriculum vitae, to the following address: [petitclerc.martin@uqam.ca](mailto:petitclerc.martin@uqam.ca). The deadline for submission is **September 15<sup>th</sup>, 2015**.

Best regards,

The organizing committee:

Martin Petitclerc  
Louise Bienvenue  
David Niget  
Stéphane Savard  
Martin Robert  
Cory Verbauwheide

The *Centre d'histoire des régulations sociales* (CHRS; <http://www.chrs.uqam.ca/>), founded in 1990, is a multidisciplinary team of ten researchers from history, criminology and sociology. Since the beginning, we have been documenting and exploring the history of social problems (crime, poverty, madness, deviance, etc.) in Quebec as social regulation, emphasizing the study of the conflicting dynamics underlying the construction and the imposition of norms that structure social life.