

# Call for abstracts

**Scientific student day**  
VIES team 2024

## **Social justice and empowerment in the aging population**

**March 25th, 2024**

UQAM - *Salle des humanités* (DS-1950)



The VIES Team (Viellissements, exclusions sociales et solidarité) is organizing a bilingual scientific day by and for students on the themes of social justice and empowerment in the context of aging. All social gerontology students interested in these themes are invited to share their research results with the student community, professors and research partners at this scientific day. The event is intended to provide a forum for discussion and the emergence of innovative ideas, while fostering interdisciplinary collaboration. It's also a great opportunity to get constructive feedback from your peers and network with other passionate researchers. We therefore invite all students from all departments, cycles and universities in Quebec to submit their **paper proposals in French or English**.

**Presentation prizes to be won!**

### **Organizing committee :**

Noémie Lemay - Master of Social Work candidate - UQAM  
Gaël Royer-Tremblay - Doctorate in social work - UdeM

### **Scientific committee :**

Émilie Cormier - Doctorate in social work - UQAM  
Oluwagbemiga Oyinlola - Doctorate in social work - McGill

# The themes of social justice and empowerment are in the spotlight!

## Social justice

Social justice is based on equity of rights for all peoples and the possibility for all human beings to benefit from economic and social progress everywhere in the world (United Nations, 2024). According to Fontaine and Pennec (2020), the concept of equity is inherent in the definition of social justice. In gerontology, this relationship of equity and inequity is observed in the significant socio-economic inequalities between the elderly. Several factors influence these inequitable relationships between seniors. These include the feminization of old age, epistemic injustice, and death and illness, which can hinder continued social and civic participation (A.P.E.S, 2022; Bogaert, 2021; Charpentier and Soulières, 2006; Perrig-Chiello et al., 2004). What's more, many recent media outlets have denounced the deplorable living conditions of some seniors (World Health Organization, 2022; Simard, 2021). It therefore becomes crucial to question and study social justice in relation to the aging population.

## Empowerment

Advancing age causes an increase in age-related vulnerability factors (housing constraints, cessation of leisure activities, diminished social network, etc.), which can lead to a loss of autonomy and a feeling of having less control over their lives. According to Beaumier (2020), the concept of empowerment is increasingly present in gerontology literature due to the multiple problems experienced by seniors. For Charpentier and Soulières (2007), empowerment is a process linked to the mobilization of the power to act, making it possible to develop or promote the autonomy of marginalized individuals and groups. Consequently, the authors argue that empowerment can take place both individually and collectively, and that this reappropriation of one's power manifests itself in personal, interpersonal, social and political mobilization. In particular, empowerment is intimately linked to the defense of seniors' rights (Bédard and Beaulieu, 2015). The scientific literature that has looked at the decisions made and actions taken by older people to uphold their rights suggests that empowerment is as much a philosophy (Grenier and Simard, 2011), a feeling, as a process (Nour et al., 2013).





# Communication proposal

## Why submitting a proposal?

The call for proposals is designed to introduce your research topics to the academic community. The presentation will last 15 minutes, followed by a question period and discussion with other speakers and participants. This opportunity will enable you to get feedback on your project from other researchers, professors and students. In addition, **two prizes of \$300 will be awarded to the best presentations of the day**. Finally, this kind of event can be a significant addition to your CV and help you build a network of peers in the social gerontology community.

## How?

All you have to do is send us a **250-word summary** describing your research project on the themes of social justice and/or empowerment of the elderly.

## The proposal must include :

- Title of paper;
- Principal author's name and contact details (first name, surname, status, institution, e-mail address);
- Names of other authors, if any (first name, last name, status, institution);
- Project summary of 250 words maximum;
- The following layout: Times New Roman, 12 point font, 1.5 line spacing, 2 cm margins;
- In English or French.

Submissions must be sent by e-mail no later than **February 27th, 2024** to the following address : **[jsetudiante.vies2024@gmail.com](mailto:jsetudiante.vies2024@gmail.com)**.

*For student members of the VIES Team who live outside Montreal and wish to present a paper, travel and accommodation expenses may be reimbursed under certain conditions. To apply, please contact [equipe.recherche.vies@gmail.com](mailto:equipe.recherche.vies@gmail.com)*




## Important dates

Deadline for submission of proposals: February 27th, 2024

Notice of acceptance of proposals: March 5th, 2024

Scientific day: March 25th, 2024



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