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**"The Government of science or the science of government?  
French psychiatry facing a new "health economy" (1960-2017)**

The advent of neurosciences in the European culture has long been questioned by researchers in the humanities. This knowledge from across the Atlantic is redefining how the individual is apprehended by these new knowledges and therapeutic techniques, in the health field or the education field as well. In France, the mental health system was organized with the so-called "sector policy". This policy, introduced after the 1960s, is concomitant with a wide diffusion among psychiatrists, of psychoanalysis as a practice of care in institutions, particularly in child psychiatry. Nevertheless, the rise of biological, cognitive and epidemiological approaches and the change in diagnostic references driven by the American Statistical Manual and Diagnosis of Mental Disorders and the International Classification of Diseases of the World Health Organization are challenging the psycho-dynamic heritage of the French psychiatry. Thus, in 2012, the public authorities took part in this controversy through the recognition of Autism as a national cause and the implementation of the "good practices" recommendations by the High Authority of Health<sup>3</sup>. This is actually redefining the clinical approach since psychoanalysis is described as "non-consensual".

The study of the "psychiatry" section of the National Institute of Health and Medical Research (INSERM<sup>4</sup>), which resulted in the first French classification of mental disorders in 1968, aims to re-explore this process of rationalization operated both by research through the rise of epidemiology and reforms initiated by the Ministry of Health and Social Security. The increasing demand for statistical production from state administrations indicates the desire to "classify for counting" but also to evaluate methodologies for treating mental illness in the light of the development of medical information systems. This double process, which marks the rationalization of administrative practices, will lead to engage the "French psychiatrists" in the diagnosis question. Hence, these mobilized professionals are fighting against the "scientific reductionism" of classifications supported by the public authorities and are also claiming the legacy of the traditional clinic. This mobilization was materialized in the 1990, 2012, and 2015 revision of the French Classification of Mental Disorders, which is no longer used by the public authorities since the early 1980s.

Finally, the main interest of this communication is to grasp the social, political and economic logic that contributed to the progressive challenge of the psychopathological approaches to mental illness in France.

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<sup>3</sup> Established by the law of August 13, 2004, relating to health insurance, it is an independent public authority of a scientific nature endowed with legal personality

<sup>4</sup> National Institute of Health and Medical Research is created in 1964 by Raymond Marcellin