

## Historical and sociological perspectives on the construction of organ donation as a public problem in Switzerland.

The purpose of this research project is to study organ donation as a public problem in the Swiss context, using both sociological and historical approaches. Two main empirical fields are planned. The first one aims to reconstitute historically how the concept of organ donation has developed on one side, and how organ donation has been recognized as a social problem and as a category of public action on the other side. In other words, we will examine how transplantation as a medical issue has progressively become a focus of social and political concern. Analysis will be based on a corpus of various historical sources. The second empirical field aims to describe and understand how patients associations contribute to construct organ donation as a public problem. In particular, we will examine their engagement in the public sphere as well as in providing psychosocial support to transplant patients. Focus will be on associations' political and symbolic work, which can be defined as actions and strategies aiming to influence social perception frames of organ donation and to shape patients' personal experience. Semi-directive interviews with members of transplant patients associations and with non-engaged transplant patients will be carried out.

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### Research team

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FNS, Division I

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3 years



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