

STRUCTURAL VIOLENCE : FROM CONCEPT TO REALITY

In 1969, Johan GALTUNG, a geopolitician, imagined the concept of structural violence. It is a dynamic process encompassing daily violence and the symbolic domination impairing human rights by affecting life conditions of marginalized population (Scheper-Hugues & Bourgeois, 2004).

The thesis developed by Ho (2007) is of particular interest as it asserts that structural violence becomes a violation of the rights of human beings when the fundamental needs of people cannot be satisfied, whereas the context is such that it would have been perfectly possible to satisfy them. Many studies make the link between the accessibility to health care and structural violence as a violation of human rights (Maar et al., 2011). Structural violence cannot be reduced to a strictly institutionalized experience as it is closely linked to interpersonal violence (Flynn et al., 2016).

In a recent contribution, Dugast, Morard & Üregen (2018) took the position that the Israeli blockade on Gaza is a form of political structural violence as meant by Bourgeois (2001), e.g. a psychological and physical violence perpetrated by an official public body against a group of individuals, children included.

At a time when access to water or food is more and more difficult for billions of people, when the President of the USA finds it absolutely normal to place children in cages and separate them from their parents – in blatant violation of fundamental principles of the UN Convention on Children's rights-, when the numerical fracture is growing up by the day, when companies take it for granted that after age 50 an employee must be fired, the aforementioned principles must make us think that such behaviors are examples of structural violence against individuals.

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