



The transcending advocacy network of *Les Documents du Progrès* (1907): a comparison of laboratories of social thought

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In 1907 the Austrian sociologist Rudolf Broda established a 'virtual' laboratory of social thought consisting of simultaneously edited journals "serving the same policies and exchanging social experiences between the nations", as described by himself. The journals were edited in Paris (*Les Documents du Progrès*, Berlin (*Dokumente des Fortschritts*) and London (*The International: A Review of the World's Progress*; in 1909 rebaptized *Progress*). Later an edition followed in Saint Petersburg, Budapest and Madrid. The journals became the organs of the Paris based Institut International pour la Diffusion des Experiences Sociales, founded in 1910. The institute and its reviews embodied Broda's social reformist aspiration of international intellectual cooperation and dissemination of social scientific expertise as the motor for social progress and peace, similar to the aims of endeavours undertaken by Paul Otlet and Henri La Fontaine, with whom Broda developed collegial relations. We will start with a situation of the 'personal network' of the institute and its journals within the network of international associations and self declared international journals. The network will be studied from both a diachronic and a synchronic point of view with special attention to the direct and indirect predecessors of this initiative and the (dis)integration of its network during and after the First World War in other 'advocacy' networks.

Transnational advocacy networks exhibit universal aspirations: universal human rights, women's rights, social and artistic reform in general. Most research into transnational advocacy networks is limited to one issue, for instance human rights or the 19th century anti-slavery movement. We consider the Institute and its reviews as an excellent case for the



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study of what can be described as enlarged transnational advocacy networks. It constituted a transnational proliferation of persons and organisations that carried the concern of a given social or intellectual movement in other social and cultural settings. The journal thus published articles on literature, sociology, feminism, pacifism, religion and many other subjects. The patronizing organisation established a worldwide network of member organisations, interconnecting a wide range of social movements. We will illustrate this with the case of the cross-fertilisation of feminism and pacifism. A combination of a collective biography of the central actors such as Julio Mangada Rosenörn in Madrid and Hermann Beck in Berlin with a social network analysis will reveal relating social attributes that go beyond local and national boundaries. Finally, our entangled approach will allow us to identify the counterparts of for instance the Belgian pivotal circle within the enlarged advocacy network (the Université Nouvelle) in many other major spaces with interconnected laboratories of social thought.