Sociological kneading of a programme aiming at children's wellbeing: the Massage In Schools Programme

**Massage In Schools Programme (MISP)**

**Method**
- qualitative approach
- In French and French speaking Belgium
- 2 steps:
  - exploration: interviews and observations
  - an other way to evaluate (evaluations, crossed points of view on a same subject, interviews based on videos with teachers and qualified instructors, discussions on decision analysis)

**Results**
- MISP: what kind of wellbeing?
- Qualify massage experiment: signs and significances
- Evaluative reversals

**Ambivalences to consider**
- Time
- Obligation
- Pleasure
Massage In Schools Programme (MISP)
> an international organization (Massage In Schools Association) with national branches
> an "approach", a "mission", a "vision" ([http://massageinschools.com](http://massageinschools.com)) :
  - a "nurturing approach to children's health and wellbeing"
  - "a unique, child-centered massage programme that's helping children all over the globe"
  - "Our mission : (...) to provide high quality and professional training to all teachers and caring adults willing to bring nurturing touch into schools"
  - "Our Vision : (...) that every child attending school experience positive and nurturing touch every day... everywhere in the world"
> actors with various and differentiated roles and statuses
> targeted users : 4 > 12 years old children
> formalised interventions : 15 movements (head, neck, shoulders, back, arms, hands), peer massage programme, taught by qualified MISP instructors
> material, tools, medium
SCIENTIFIC RIDDLES

TODAY:
MISP: what kind of wellbeing?
Qualify massage experiment: signs and significances
Evaluative reversals
Method

qualitative approach

In France and French speaking Belgium

2 steps:
- exploration: interviews and observations
- another way to evaluate (ex-valere): crossed points of view on a same reality, interviews based on videos (with teachers and qualified instructor), 6 classes
+ document analysis
Results

MISP: what kind of wellbeing?

Qualify massage experiment: signs and significances

Evaluative reversals
Through the MISA's discourse...

**Obligations**: child to child massage programme, asking for permission/thanking, free to participate or not, no pressure to succeed

**Positive framework**: everyday, with full hand and continuous contact, whispering only

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**MISP's wellbeing conception**

Child = actor of wellbeing, of his/hers, of others'
  > empowerment logic (Verhoeven, 2011); encouraging empathy (Zanna, 2015)

Wellbeing through touch and body
  > "sensitive-as-knowledge" (Filiod, 2014), "perceptive activism" (Ginot, 2013)

**Potential** ways to a better school climate (Debarbieux et al., 1999; Blaya, 2001; Wilson et al., 2001; Carra, 2009; Cohen et al., 2009; Galand, 2009)

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**Observe MISP's effects on** (recommended tool for teachers): respect, asking for permission, physical violence, attention, concentration, empathy, aggression, tolerance, sensitivity

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**Effects** defined for... children, teachers, school, parents, society
Results

MISP: what kind of wellbeing?

Qualify massage experiment: signs and significances

Evaluative reversals
Are they In or Out of the programme?

No - conclusive - consensus

Plurality and relativity of interpretative frameworks
Results

MISP: what kind of wellbeing?

Qualify massage experiment: signs and significances

Evaluative reversals
When a child who "terrorizes the class" turns, during massages, into "very gentle"...
"I'm mindblowned, when I see her" (her teacher)
Ambivalences to consider

Time
Obligation
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**Method**
- Qualitative approach
- In French and French-speaking Belgium
- 2 steps:
  - Exploration: interviews and observations
  - An other way to explore (innovations) crosses points of view on a same reality, interviews based on videos (both teachers and qualified instructors). Discuss + recurrent analysis

**Results**
- MISP: what kind of wellbeing?
- Qualify massage experiment: signs and significances
- Evaluative reversals

**Ambivalences to consider**
- Time
- Obligation
- Pleasure