

# L'Année PhiLanthropique

# The PhiLanthropic Year

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PhiLab

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**À propos du PhiLab | About PhiLab**

Le Réseau canadien de recherche partenariale sur la philanthropie (PhiLab), autrefois nommé Laboratoire montréalais de recherche sur la philanthropie canadienne, a été créé en 2014 dans le cadre de la conception de la demande de financement du projet de développement de partenariat CRSH intitulé « Innovation sociale, changement sociétal et Fondations subventionnaires canadiennes ». Ce financement a été reconduit en 2018 sous le nom d'« Évaluation du rôle et des actions de fondations subventionnaires canadiennes en réponse à l'enjeu des inégalités sociales et des défis environnementaux ». Depuis ses débuts, le Réseau constitue un lieu de recherche, de partage d'information et de mobilisation des connaissances des fondations canadiennes. Des recherches conduites en partenariat permettent la coproduction de nouvelles connaissances dédiées à une diversité d'acteurs : des représentants gouvernementaux, des chercheurs universitaires, des représentants du secteur philanthropique et leurs organisations affiliées ou des partenaires.

Le Réseau regroupe des chercheurs, des décideurs et des membres de la communauté philanthropique à travers le monde afin de partager des informations, des ressources et des idées.

The Canadian network of partnership-oriented research on philanthropy (PhiLab), previously called the Montreal Research Laboratory on Canadian philanthropy, was thought up in 2014 as part of the conception of a funding request by the NRCC partnership development project called “Social innovation, social change, and Canadian Grantmaking Foundations”. From its beginning, the Network was a place for research, information exchange and mobilization of Canadian foundations’ knowledge. Research conducted in partnership allows for the co-production of new knowledge dedicated to a diversity of actors: government representatives, university researchers, representatives of the philanthropic sector and their affiliate organizations or partners.

The Network brings together researchers, decision-makers and members of the philanthropic community from around the world in order to share information, resources, and ideas.



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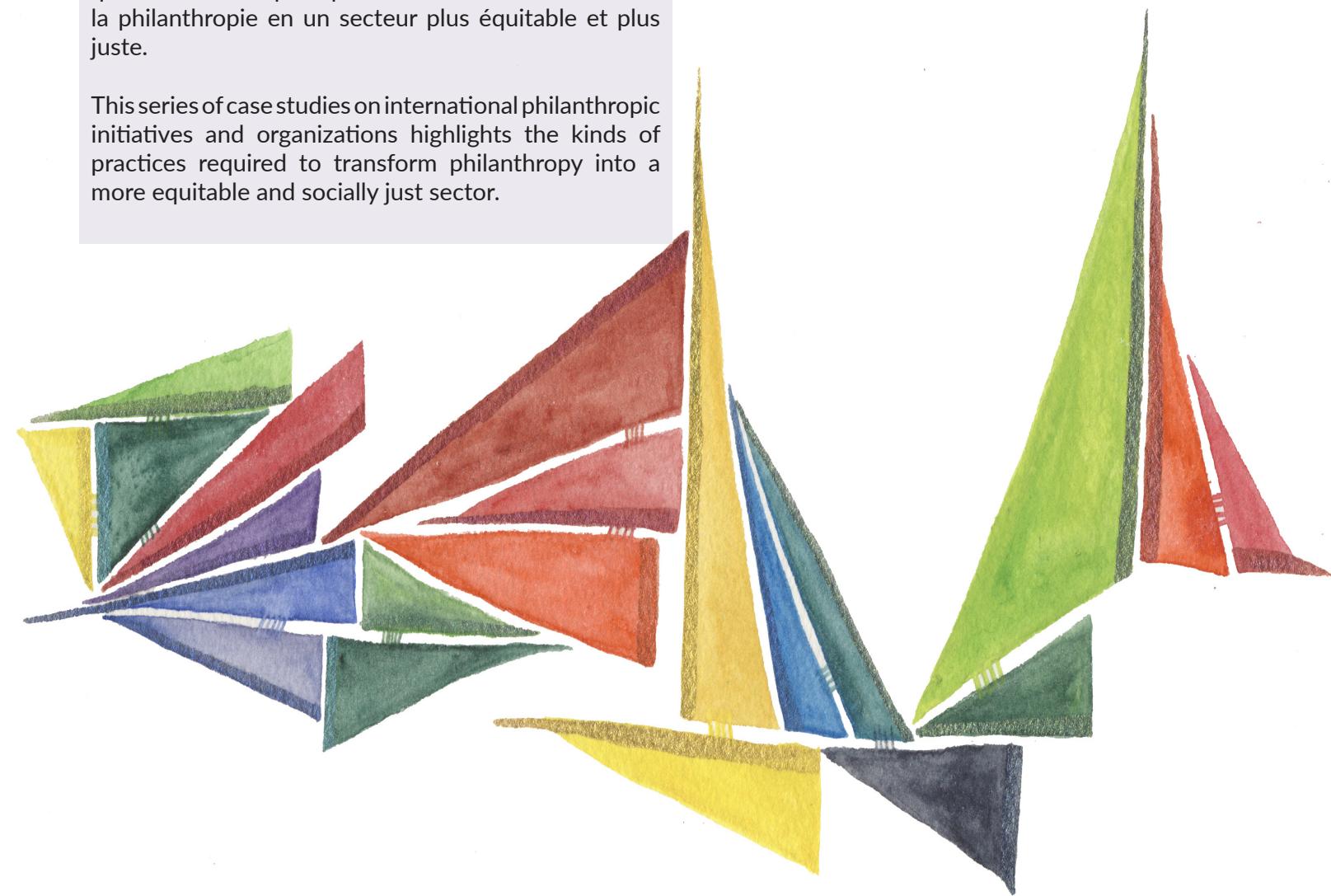
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# DOSSIER SPÉCIAL | SPECIAL FEATURE

Cette série d'études de cas présente des initiatives et des organisations philanthropiques à l'international qui révèlent des pratiques contribuant à transformer la philanthropie en un secteur plus équitable et plus juste.

This series of case studies on international philanthropic initiatives and organizations highlights the kinds of practices required to transform philanthropy into a more equitable and socially just sector.



Artiste | Artist: Kai Yun Ching



# INTRODUCTION

In its quest to better understand the Canadian philanthropic sector, PhiLab has been building relationships beyond the country's borders, sowing the seeds for international research units. Fostering international networks allows us to establish meaningful relationships with fellow philanthropy researchers and research hubs abroad, which are often studying very different contexts for philanthropy.

This Special Feature focuses on the work of PhiLab's colleagues around the globe. We have curated a series of case studies on philanthropic initiatives and organizations outside Canada that highlight the kinds of practices required to transform philanthropy into a more equitable and socially just sector. Covering organizations from North and South America, Europe, Sub-Saharan Africa and Australia, we hope this series offers insight into the diversity of alternative approaches to grantmaking that prioritize equity and community-led action.

Dans sa quête pour mieux comprendre le secteur philanthropique canadien, le PhiLab a tissé des relations par-delà les frontières du pays, semant les germes pour que se constitue une plus grande unité de la recherche à l'international. La création de réseaux internationaux nous permet d'établir des relations constructives avec des collègues chercheurs et des centres de recherche qui étudient la philanthropie dans des contextes très différents du nôtre.

Ce dossier spécial met l'accent sur le travail de collègues du PhiLab qui sont basés aux quatre coins du globe. Nous avons réuni une série d'études de cas portant sur des initiatives et des organisations philanthropiques hors Canada qui révèlent des pratiques contribuant à transformer la philanthropie en un secteur plus équitable et plus juste. Couvrant des organisations en provenance d'Amérique du Nord et du Sud, d'Europe, d'Afrique subsaharienne et d'Australie, nous espérons que cette série offrira un panorama de la diversité d'approches subventionnaires qui priorisent l'équité et l'action communautaire.

# GERMANY

## The Hildegard Lagrenne Foundation: Philanthropy as empowerment by the Sinti and Roma in Germany



By Michael Alberg-Seberich, managing partner at Wider Sense



Michael Alberg-Seberich is an author and researcher on philanthropy and corporate social responsibility. He is a managing partner at Berlin based advisory firm and think tank Wider Sense. In 2017 Michael spent 6 months in Canada as the CKX Fellow in Philanthropy to research Canada's philanthropy support infrastructure.

The Hildegard Lagrenne Foundation (HLS) is an example of the empowerment of a minority community through philanthropic action. It is also an example of how some philanthropic organizations are shifting towards more participation and power sharing. It is a foundation initiated and led by the Sinti and Roma themselves, one of the most marginalized communities in Germany. The Foundation was founded on October 25<sup>th</sup>, 2012, in Berlin, the same day of the inauguration of the memorial to the Sinti and Roma of Europe who were murdered under National Socialism. The journey towards this memorial had been one of intense debates, acts of reconciliation and understanding history, making it very important for the communities the Foundation aims to serve.

The group of founders met that day in the building of the state representation of Baden-Württemberg, one of Germany's 16 states, in Berlin to plan for the future. In its preamble, the Foundation's statutes describe its mission as follows:

*The Hildegard Lagrenne Foundation for Education, Inclusion and Participation of Sinti and Roma in Germany is founded with the awareness that due to the centuries-long history of discrimination and antiziganism, Sinti and Roma have fewer educational opportunities than members of the majority population.*

*The Hildegard Lagrenne Foundation for Education, Inclusion and Participation of Sinti and Roma in Germany wants to contribute to improving the educational opportunities of Sinti and Roma, especially children and young people in Germany, by promoting education and combating discrimination and antiziganism. It also explicitly promotes the transition from school and apprenticeship into a professional practice and further qualification.<sup>1</sup>*

The Foundation is named after Hildegard Lagrenne (1921–2007), who shaped the civil rights movement of the German Sinti and Roma for a long time. She was a human rights activist who advocated for better access to education for her community. She fought throughout her life against antiziganism.<sup>2</sup>



Hildegard Lagrenne (1921–2007) (Source: [Hildegard Lagrenne Stiftung](#))

Today around 80 000 Sinti and Roma with a German passport live in Germany<sup>3</sup> and approximately 50 000 with a foreign passport<sup>4</sup>. A 2011 study on the experiences and qualifications of Sinti and Roma within the German education system showed the presence of alienation within the education system and also a failure of the system to provide the minority with adequate support<sup>5</sup>.



### Hildegard Lagrenne Stiftung für Bildung, Inklusion und Teilhabe von Sinti und Roma in Deutschland

The preamble and the legacy of Hildegard Lagrenne already indicate how the Foundation's activities today advocate for Sinti and Roma rights and access to education. The Foundation pursues the following actions in the field of education:

1. It tries to provide more transparency towards the situation of their community in the German education system through research<sup>6</sup>.
2. It provides mentoring and coaching for Sinti and Roma community organizations on education issues as part of their Romno Center for Qualification<sup>7</sup>.

3. It initiates scholarship programs and concrete educational interventions for individual members of their community<sup>8</sup>.

The Foundation is ambitious in its aims but still depends on external funders. In the past, the Foundation also ran programs in support of Sinti and Roma youth clubs as a safe space, and qualification programs for members of the Sinti and Roma community as education practitioners and social workers<sup>9</sup>.

## FREUDENBERG STIFTUNG



The Foundation is a small institution with three part-time staff members, a volunteer network, and an active board. It draws most of its funds from public and private funders. Some private foundations have developed what we now would call trust-based approaches of giving and supporting the Hildegard Lagrenne Foundation. These funders provide financial support to the foundation to either cover overhead costs or to develop programs that it considers important to their community. The private Freudenberg Foundation, for instance, supports the overhead costs and advocacy work of the Foundation<sup>10</sup>. The Kurt and Maria Dohle Foundation is a long-term funder of the Foundation's Romno Power Club initiative<sup>11</sup>. The later enables young people with a Romno heritage to navigate the school – job transition phase.

## KURT & MARIA DOHLE STIFTUNG

Foundations with such a strong community-led approach, with a Sinti and Roma leadership and strong ties into the community overall, are still seldom in Germany. In general, minorities in Germany have not used organized philanthropy as a typical way of getting organized so far. More recent research suggests that this is changing, for instance in the Islamic community<sup>12</sup>, but overall, foundations like the Hildegard Lagrenne Foundation are still rare and too small for the tasks

they are trying to take on for their communities. Still, they are an example of how philanthropy can deal with power and equity in different ways.

## Notes

1 Translation of the statutes published on the foundation's webpage: <https://lagrenne-stiftung.de/satzung-der-hildegard-lagrenne-stiftung/>

2 See also [https://de.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hildegard\\_Lagrenne](https://de.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hildegard_Lagrenne)

3 <https://www.minderheitensekretariat.de/wen-vertreten-wir/deutsche-sinti-und-roma>

4 Strauss, Daniel (2011) Zur Bildungssituation von deutschen Sinti und Roma. In APUZ 22-23.

5 Strauss, Daniel (Ed.) (2011). Studie zur aktuellen Bildungssituation deutscher Sinti und Roma / Dokumentation und Forschungsbericht Marburg: I-Verb.de.

6 This study from 2011 has been the basis of that research: [https://mediendienst-integration.de/fileadmin/Dateien/2011\\_Strauss\\_Studie\\_Sinti\\_Bildung.pdf](https://mediendienst-integration.de/fileadmin/Dateien/2011_Strauss_Studie_Sinti_Bildung.pdf)

7 <https://lagrenne-stiftung.de/qualifizierung/>

8 <https://lagrenne-stiftung.de/foerderung/>

9 <https://www.die-stiftung.de/stiftungsszene/vorbilder-wie-hildegard-lagrenne-foerdern-63175/>

10 <https://www.freudenbergstiftung.de/de/unsere-themen/soziale-inklusion/>

11 <https://lagrenne-stiftung.de/romno-power-club/>

12 Hummel, S., Priller, E., Schrader, M., & Strachwitz, R. G. (2020). Spenden zwischen Gutes tun und Pflicht: eine Studie zum muslimischen Spenderverhalten in Deutschland. (Opuscula, 139). Berlin: Maecenata Institut für Philanthropie und Zivilgesellschaft. <https://nbn-resolving.org/urn:nbn:de:0168-ssoar-68883-5>



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