

**"Gift and debt in the everyday process of educational and psychological caregiving for isolated foreign youth in France. A psychoanalytical perspective."  
Arnold Castelain**

The human psyche is conditioned in its development by existential gifts and debts, that are real, imaginary and symbolic.

How do these gifts and debts express themselves in the educational and psychological caregiving situations

that we face everyday working with isolated foreign youths ?

The everyday practice shows it : the stakes of gift and debt are very present in the clinical situations, in the interactions between educators and isolated youths,

in our caring practices.

These stakes can become an important difficulty when not tackled appropriately by the professionals.

The behaviour of the isolated youth can in this respect be quite strange, leaving the care-givers confused and puzzled.

I will discuss the way issues of gift and debt influence in a particular way our "semi-autonomous caring" of isolated foreign youth. The difficulty for isolated youth in that respect is that they have no way of giving back what they get given and owe.

They cannot quickly enough become pro-active vis-à-vis the real, imaginary and symbolic debts that are piling up all around them.

I will evoke a few clinical situations to have the audience feel the different expressions that can take on this issue.

Finally, I shall evoke a few good practices that my team was able to identify to cope with this particular problem.