Denounciating and making elder abuse stop: obstacles in denunciation and political answers

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Introduction

- Elder abuse: often repetitive and long-lasting
- Denunciation:
 - Struggle against ill-treatments
 - O Production of elder abuse
- Conditions for denunciating elder abuse
- And answers to denunciation -in particular by health and social authorities

Data

- Two corpus:
 - 39 interviews with people aged 64 and over, living in France at home or in institutions, having encountered or not situations of illtreatments;
 - 34 cases of elder abuse dealt with by the French health and social authorities (DGAS)

Typology of reactions

- Easy solution to unpleasant/painful situations (dialogue, not abused)
- Denunciation to manager, police, health and political authorities (high SES, life story)
- Complaint to sociologist but treatments considered as legitimate and commonplace (stereotypes)
- Remaining silent after trying to complain
- Denial and somatisation

Political answers

- Three rights undermined:
 - OPhysical and psychical integrity
 - ODignity
 - OPersonal freedom
- Denunciation:
 - ○Personal freedom → illegitimate
 - ○Physical/psychical integrity, dignity → legitimate if proof that consequences on health

Conclusion

 Low resources as obstacles in denunciation: dominated position

- Political answers: primacy of health care over personal freedom
- See political actions towards elderly people