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**TITLE:** The State and the Pharmaceuticalization of ADHD

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In the past three decades medical sociologists have illuminated a number of medicalization issues, including the process by which the medical profession medicalizes new conditions (Conrad, 1976); 2) the growing role that consumers and pharmaceutical companies play in the medicalization process (Brown, 1995; Conrad, 2005); and 3) definition and diagnostic expansion (Conrad, 2007; Fox, 1989). This paper takes a slightly different route as it examines the process through which medicalized conditions come to be treated with pharmaceutical treatments.

To shed light on the pharmaceuticalization process, this paper compares the French and American treatment of Attention Deficit/Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD). While both countries recognize ADHD as a medical condition and authorize the use of psychostimulants to treat it, they diverge dramatically in their use of the medications: where 4-6% of all American children are medicated with psychostimulants, the same is true for only 0.18% of French children. To some degree, this divergence can be traced back to the activities of the state. In particular, this paper analyzes differences in healthcare funding, and regulations, and demonstrates how state activities can strongly mediate the pharmaceuticalization process.