



Cultures du témoignage | Testimonial Cultures

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TOPIC OF INTEREST TO SUGGEST? Contact us at : info@culturesdutemoignage.ca



Call for Proposals: Student Scholarships

Testimonial Cultures will award two scholarships to students enrolled full-time in a master's or doctoral level program in the Winter 2016 semester, either at UQAM or Concordia. To be eligible, candidates must carry out a research project that aims to better understand the use of testimonials as social and cultural intervention. For more information, consult the [call for proposals](#). Hurry, have until January 29 to send in your application!



Testimonials Cultures at ACFAS Congress

We are organizing a three-day long symposium on testimonial cultures, sexualities and social change. The event will take place in French at UQAM from May 9th to 11th, and will address digital, pornographic and democratic cultures. Check out the [call for proposal](#) (in French only) for more details. You have until February 5th 2016 to send your abstracts by [email](#).

Seminar "Archiving Testimonials: Challenges and Strategies"

SEMINAR

« ARCHIVING TESTIMONIALS: CHALLENGES AND STRATEGIES »

Monday 25 January 2016

18h00 to 20h00

UQAM – Room DS1950

Join us for a rich seminar discussion around three conferences that will address the challenges and strategies for searching, conservation and classification of public testimonials delivered by sexual communities.

*The Feminist Porn Archive Project, Questions From
A Working Ontologist*

Lisa Sloniowski, York University

*Réflexions sur l'archivage des productions culturelles,
artistiques et intellectuelles de personnes intersexes*

Janik Bastien-Charlebois, UQAM

*Processus d'archivage des témoignages de
personnes vivant avec le VIH/sida*

Thomas Haig et Gabriel Giroux, UQAM

Register for free on our [Facebook event page](#) or by [email](#)

February 14th: PHAs are opening up to you

On Valentine's Day this year, a new tool to assist in the social support of those who deliver public testimonials about living with HIV will be launched online. The tool consists of a list of 28 vibrant French-language testimonials, which were selected through a collective process bringing together testimonial experts from community and university settings ["Partnership for the evaluation of the impact of public testimonials by PHAs" Project, VIHSIBILITÉ IV]. Visit our [website](#) for more news about the launch real soon!



Upcoming Events

Winter 2016



March 2016

Screening of the documentary "**Herma, intersex XXY**" by Mélanie Pelletier Poirier. The screening of the documentary "Herma, intersex XXY" will be followed by a discussion with the film-maker, Mélanie Pelletier Poirier.



April 25th, 2016

Seminar "**Autopornographies**" by Simon Corneau, Julie Lavigne and Tom Waugh.

In this seminar, the researchers will present their respective work on pornography and confessional society. They will explore the political issues of self-produced images and the ways audiences use them.

Spring 2016

9-11 Mai 2016

ACFAS Congress.

A three-day colloquia on Testimonial cultures will take place at the next Association francophone pour le savoir (ACFAS) Congress, in Montreal next May, involving community, academic and student members.



13 May 2016
 Seminar "**Mediated Trans Identities : Moving From Object to Subjects of Knowledges**" with Karine Espineira, Co-founder of the Observatoire des transidentités
 In this seminar, Karine Espineira will present some of her research on trans identities and popular culture in France, while locating the roles of transition testimonials as well as knowledge production in these mediations.

Fall 2016



October 2016
 Seminar "**La parole émergente des polyamoureux**" by Chiarra Piazzesi and representatives of the polyamorous community.
 In this seminar, we will uncover the points of view of a relatively unknown sexual community that is seeking social recognition.



December 2016
 Seminar "**La politique du langage**" by Véro Leduc.
 In this seminar, Véro Leduc will facilitate a discussion on the power struggles embedded in the words we use when talking about sexual communities. She will focus on the specific oppressions faced by deaf individuals and groups.

News From Our Partners

Concordia University Community Lecture Series on HIV/AIDS - Cecile Kazatchkine : 'Le VIH : un virus ou un crime?'

The presentation will be on HIV criminalization in Canada: the intersection between criminal law and public health in a Canadian context, and the consequences of our current approach. The lecture will take place February 18 at 7pm. For more information, check the [poster](#) of the [Facebook page event](#).

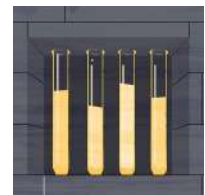
GRIS-Montreal : Robert Pilon, Winner of A Human Rights Tribute – 40 years of the Charter of Human Rights and Freedoms

For the 40th anniversary of the Charter of Human Rights and Freedoms, the Human Rights Commission honoured 40 individuals that have dedicated their work to the advancement of rights and freedoms in Quebec. The GRIS-Montréal is proud to have their former president, Robert Pilon, among the winners. This is a well-deserved tribute to a man who has been advocating the demystification of homosexuality and bisexuality for the last 16 years!

[Read the tribute](#) (in French only)

Stella

Stella has recently launched an online tool, which will help document sex workers' testimonials about the violence they experience from clients, the law, the judicial system and the police. See the section "Stella en action juridique" coming soon on Stella's [website](#).



Featured Testimonial – Open Letter by David Duran

In this open letter published online, David Duran talks to his future sex partners. Durian reveals his HIV-positive status and his feelings and experiences of living with HIV. He informs

on the disclosure process in order to help others in a similar situation, and to open up the discussion on the subject. Duran informs readers about on HIV and prevention strategies. [Discover our featured testimonial!](#)



In Brief

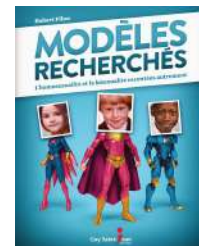
Conférence *Les modèles gais, lesbiens et bisexuels*

Excerpts from the conference delivered by Robert Pilon and his guest are now available on our [website](#). These videos address the conditions of production and reception of the book *Modèles recherchés*.

The videos are only in French

Focus Groups to Develop the Art Exhibition 'Témoigner pour agir'

The first focus group to collectively develop our art exhibition took place on January 6th, 2016. It focused on the criteria we can use to select artists, art works and community art projects. The second focus group will take place in February and will address the target audiences. Team members can access the January Powerpoint presentation through our intranet.



Team News

Since December 7th 2015, UQAM students who work as research or teaching assistants are on strike. We hope that the conflict between **SÉTUE** and UQAM is resolved positively and quickly.

Gabriel Giroux, now graduated, is back to work on the archive of testimonials by people living with HIV/AIDS. He will also help with the launch of a new tool to assist in supporting those who deliver public testimonials.

Elena Santana Parilla and **Victoria Jean-Francois** are our two Concordia University interns this year, with the HIV/AIDS course. They will work with **Thomas Haig** and **Gabriel Giroux** to archive testimonials of persons living with HIV/AIDS.

Isabelle Robichaud, **Myriam Pomerleau** and **Jamie Goodyear** are on strike since the beginning of December. They look forward to coming back to work and to be in contact with you again!

Testimonial Cultures

A cultural study of testimonials as a social intervention strategy for sexual and gender minorities: applications, challenges, issues, and impact of a renewed practice

Research team

Principal investigator: Maria Nengeh Mensah (UQAM)

Martine Delvaux (UQAM)
Julie Lavigne (UQAM)
Thomas Waugh (Université Concordia)
Janik Bastien-Charlebois (UQAM)
Simon Corneau (UQAM)
Chiara Piazzesi (UQAM)

Co-investigator: Marie-Ève Gauvin (Cégep régional de Lanaudière)
Thomas Haig (UQAM)
Coalition des organismes communautaires québécois de lutte contre le sida (COCQ-SIDA)
Aide aux Trans du Québec (ATQ)
Groupe de recherche et d'intervention sociale (GRIS-MONTREAL)
Stella, l'amie de Maimie

Collaborators: Sylvie Jochems (UQAM)
Elisabeth Miller (Concordia)
Chantal Francoeur (UQAM)
Marie-Hélène Bourcier (University of Lille 3)
Karine Espineira (University of Nice Sophia)

Research staff

Isabelle Robichaud, Myriam Pomerleau, Gabriel Giroux, Jamie Goodyear

Newsletter editorial team

Myriam Pomerleau, Maria Nengeh Mensah

archives@culturesdutemoignage.ca

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Seminar "Mediated Trans Identities : Moving From Object to Subjects of Knowledge"