



Cultures du témoignage | Testimonial Cultures

NEWSLETTER

no.13, December 2014

In this issue

... click any headline to jump to story ...

Holiday get together

General meeting

Intranet

Testimonial archives

Impact of testimonials by people living with HIV/AIDS

Team grant application

Video

Testimonial Cultures on Facebook

Featured testimonial : "Gains and Challenges" : A New HIV/AIDS Awarenesss Campaign

IN BRIEF: Exclusive documentary from archives – Sean Strub – Intersex visibility week – Student seminar

Team news

Lire le Bulletin en français

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



Holiday Get Together

Come celebrate the end of the year with the team between 5@7 on Monday, December 15. We hope to see you at the Lounge l'Un et l'Autre, 1641 Amhesrt street!

The event on Facebook



General Meeting

The next General Meeting will be take place at the beginning of 2015.

We will keep you updated!



Intranet

Good news! We are currently working to develop an Intranet platform on our web site that will allows partners and committee members to access project documents and stop using Dropbox. Stay tuned to receive you access code!

Testimonial Archives

Do you have examples of testimonials to share with us? Send them to: archives@culturesdutemoignage.ca. This address allows the archiving of testimonials. The examples may be of various formats, such as articles, photos, audio or video material, or any other format that can be sent by email.

Impact of testimonials by people living with HIV / AIDS

Testimonial Cultures is participating in CIHR Community-Based Research project over the next year. Co-lead by Ken Monteith (COCQ-SIDA) and Maria Nengeh Mensah (UQAM), the project is entitled "A partnership for evaluating the impact of testimonial by people living with HIV/AIDS (PLHA)." It brings together peer researchers who have experience giving public testimonials and several community groups: [GRIS-Montréal](#), [BLITS](#), [GAP-VIES](#), [MIELS-Québec](#), [MAINS Bas St-Laurent](#), and [AQPSUD](#).

The team will conceptualize tools that can evaluate the impacts of public testimonials by PLHAs. It will focus on several aspects, including the lived experiences communicated, the emotions felt, the structure and vocabulary used, the role of community, and the type and quality of public's reception and perception.

This evaluative framework will, hopefully, increase our understanding of the role of testimonials in health, quality of life, interpersonal communication and social change. Ultimately, more effective testimonial practices may help to reduce stigma and discrimination, improve health outcomes and the quality of life of PLHAs, and strengthen prevention.



Team Grant Application

A team grant application was submitted this Fall to the Fond québécois de recherche, société et culture ([FQRSC](#)). This application aims to provide our research group with infrastructure funding, since our current Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council ([SSHRC](#)) grant expires soon.

With this new grant, we hope to focus on the theme of "community voices" that are involved in testimonial cultures. The idea is for university and community team partners to continue sharing expertise and knowledge, disseminating our work and supporting the struggle for a better social inclusion of sexual communities.

The scientific program has three main research areas. "Axis I Visibility, digital practices and ethical challenges" will focus on the role that digital technologies play (or can play) in the creation of a more inclusive social world for sexual communities. "Axis II Democracy, inclusion and recognition" will examine bridges and barriers to social recognition and inclusion as well as strategies and methods for creating a powerful collective identity. "Axis III Privacy, confessional society and pornographies" will address the sexual content of public testimonials by communities in educational or artistic messaging, through auto-pornography, and intimacies on Internet as well as in society.

Thank you to the team members and to all partners who contributed to this application process!



Video

Go have a look at our video section on the website. You'll find a lecture by Bruno Laprade and a tribute to Andrew Hunter.

To the [video section](#)



Testimonial Cultures on Facebook

Visit and "like" our [Facebook page](#) to discover new testimonials each week! Project activities are also announced regularly. Stay tune for upcoming events!



Featured testimonial

A new HIV/AIDS awareness campaign is launched by [COCQ/SIDA](#)! Entitled "Gains and Challenges" this campaign addresses both the victories achieved and the daily barriers that persist in the fight against HIV/AIDS.

Discover our most recent [Featured testimonial](#).



IN BRIEF

Exclusive documentaries from the Quebec archives on sex work

Two exclusive documentaries were presented on October 8 at the Cinéma-thèque Québécoise. Those movies looked at sex work and gender diversity in Montreal during the 70s and 80s.

[Read more...](#)



Sean Strub talks about HIV/AIDS

Sean Strub visited Concordia University on November 27, 2014 as part of the in the HIV/AIDS Community Lecture Series.

[Read more...](#)



Intersex awareness week

The projection of the documentary Intersexion at Montreal and Québec, the testimonial and discussion with Janik Bastien-Charlebois and Sunny Dagenais and other awareness activities took place in november.

[Read more...](#)



Student seminar

Testimonial Cultures organised an interdisciplinary student seminar at UQAM this Fall. The objectives of the seminar were to bring together students who have an interest in testimonial cultures and to provide a forum for discussion of their work. We expect to hold a follow up seminar in 2015.

[Read more...](#)



Teams news

New people joined our team!

Philip Lichti from the Centre for Oral History and Digital Storytelling at Concordia University and **Joyce Rock** from Stella now have a profile on the web site. Check out the team member section to learn more about them!



Gabriel Giroux is a graduate student in social work finishing his Master's at UQAM. He recently joined the team as a research assistant. He will work on the project called "Impact of testimonials by people living with HIV / AIDS" and assist in acquisitions, processing (classification, description), preservation and dissemination of our testimonial archives.



Kelsey Traikov is our 2014-2015 student intern from the "HIV/AIDS: Scientific, Social and Cultural Aspects of the Pandemic" course at Concordia University. She will be involved in the systematization of the public testimonial archives.

While you are there, have a look at the updated [collaborators' list](#).

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

Partners

Coalition des organismes communautaires québécois de lutte contre le sida (COCQ-SIDA)
Groupe de recherche et d'intervention sociale (GRIS-MONTREAL)
Stella, l'amie de Maimie
Centre d'histoire orale et de récits numérisés de l'Université Concordia
Institut de recherches et d'études féministes de l'UQAM

Research team

Maria Nengeh Mensah (UQAM)
Thomas Waugh (Université Concordia)
Janik Bastien-Charlebois (UQAM)
Thomas Haig (UQAM)

Research staff

Florence Marchand, Myriam Pomerleau, Gabriel Giroux, Alain Ayotte, Véro Leduc

Newsletter editorial team

Myriam Pomerleau, Florence Marchand, Maria Nengeh Mensah

1 514 987-3000, poste 4978 info@culturesdutemoignage.ca testimonialcultures.ca
archives@culturesdutemoignage.ca

This project is made possible through financial support from the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada (SSHRC).