



Cultures du  
témoignage | Testimonial  
Cultures

## NEWSLETTER

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TOPIC OF INTEREST TO SUGGEST? [Contact us at : info@culturesdutemoignage.ca](mailto:info@culturesdutemoignage.ca)

#### Testimonial Archives



Do you read the news? Have you read the testimonial of someone identifying as a LGBTQI, a sex worker or someone living with HIV?

If yes, send us your finds at: [archives@culturesdutemoignage.ca](mailto:archives@culturesdutemoignage.ca). Collected testimonials will be added into our archives of public personal stories.

Public testimonials may be in different formats (articles, photos, audio or video material, or any other form of document that can be sent to us by email.

Everybody can contribute to the archives!

#### Participants Needed



We are doing another wave of recruitment to document the experiences sexual communities that give public testimonials.

*Public testimonial of person with a sex work experience*

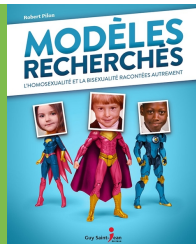
Are you 18 and older, have worked in any sector of the sex industry, and have given a public testimonial dating back at least one year? If so, your participation is needed! Check out the **poster** for more information and contact the Principal Investigator, Maria Nengeh Mensah, to make an appointment!

*Public testimonial of person that identify as a member of a sexual or gender minority*

Are you 18 and older, identify as a member of a sexual or gender minority, and have given a public testimonial dating back at least one year? If so, your participation is needed! Check out the poster for more information and contact the Principal Investigator, Maria Nengeh Mensah to make an appointment!

#### New Book (in French)

Our research partner, GRIS-Montreal, just published a book entitled *Modèles recherchés* (Looking for Models) edited by Robert Pilon and Editions Guy St-Jean. The book brings together a variety of



stories from volunteers who give testimonials in Quebec schools, as well as stories by public figures who speak about sexual orientation.

This book seeks to break down prejudice by revealing the diversity of homosexual and bisexual realities.

It is available in bookstores since April 22, 2015.

## New Grants

Testimonial Cultures received two new grants this Spring!

The first is an internal grant from the Programme d'aide financière à la recherche et à la création (PAFARC-UQAM). The project, entitled "Témoigner pour agir" is in partnership with [Services aux collectivités](#) (UQAM), COCQ-SIDA, Stella and GRIS-Montréal. In the next year, we will achieve the necessary steps for developing our public exhibition of testimonial cultures in 2017. Workplan includes doing a literature review on the exhibition as a participatory research method; drafting a budget of the resources required; and holding three focus group in order to design and script the exhibit. The Steering Committee will meet on June 10 at UQAM.

A second grant, external this time, comes from the FQRSC, Soutien aux équipes. Our research will focus on three areas of theoretical and methodological significance I "Visibility, digital practice and ethical issues," II "Democracy, inclusion and recognition" and III "Intimacy, confessional society and porn". A number of new researchers will join the initial partnership team as co-researchers (Simon Corneau, Marie-Eve Gauvin, Julie Lavigne, Chiara Piazzesi) and collaborators (Marie-Hélène Bourcier, Espineira Karine, Chantal Francoeur, Sylvie Jochems and Elizabeth Miller). The first General Assembly of the team members will be held June 23 at UQAM.



## General Meeting

The minutes from the last General Meeting are available on Intranet!

In addition to these minutes, our Intranet holds minutes from previous General meetings as well as information about partnership activities, interview tools and more!

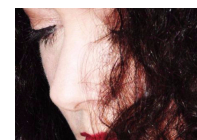
If you have any questions about accessing these documents, if you have forgotten your access codes, etc. please contact us : [info@culturesdutemoignage.ca](mailto:info@culturesdutemoignage.ca).



## Featured Testimonial : Laura Lee, independent escort in Dublin

In this interview, Lee deconstructs some stereotypes about sex work. She talks about intimacy, stigma, workings conditions and the criminalisation of sex work in Ireland.

Discover our most recent featured testimonial!



## In Brief

### Congress

*ACFAS Congress in Rimouski*

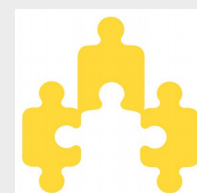
Gabriel Giroux and Maria Nengeh Mensah presented at the [ACFAS Congress](#) in Rimouski, on May 25. The presentation was entitled « [Enjeux de l'évaluation communautaire à partir du cas des témoignages des personnes vivant avec le VIH/sida](#) ».

*Console-ing Passions*

The research group's activities will be presented in Dublin in June, at the 23rd Console-ing Passions: International Conference on Television, Audio, Video, New Media and Feminism. Maria Nengeh Mensah will give a talk entitled "Testimonial by Sex Workers About De/Criminalisation: Rebooting feminism?" on a panel with [Sandra Gabriele](#), [Lisa Sloniowski](#) and [Boby Nobel](#).

*Visible Evidence*

Tom Waugh organizes a panel discussion for the 22nd International Conference on Documentary Film and Media which takes place in Toronto in August. Maria Nengeh Mensah



will give a talk entitled "Archive! Stories by Sex Workers in the Media: Lessons on Voices and Visibility", alongside presentations by [Thierry Schaffauser](#) and [Alex Tigchelaar](#).

*7e Congrès international des recherches féministes dans la francophonie*

Members of the Testimonial Cultures research group will participate at the 7th Congrès international des recherches féministes dans la francophonie in Montreal this August. Among the presentations, you will find :

Workshop : « Porter la voix et la visibilité des travailleuses du sexe » (Maria Nengeh Mensah and Véro Leduc)

Conference : « Travail social, VIH/sida et perspectives féministes : quels héritages pour l'intervention auprès des femmes vivant avec le VIH/sida au Québec? » (Isabelle Robichaud and Maria Nengeh Mensah)

### Testimonial Cultures on Facebook

Follow our [Facebook page](#) to discover each week new testimonial and events to attend!



### Team News

**Isabelle Robichaud** is a new research assistant at Testimonial Cultures. Master's student in Social Work specialised in Feminist Studies at UQAM, Isabelle will be responsible for liaison with research partners and coordinate ongoing activities.

**Florence Marchand** left Testimonial Cultures to dedicate her time as a counsellor in a crisis intervention centre. Thank you Florence for the beautiful years!

**Jamie Goodyear** will be in charge of conceptualising the public exhibition project in the next year. He will undertake a literature review and pull together a budgetary and resources' plan for moving ahead with the exhibition.

**Myriam Pomerleau** continues to animate the website and the Facebook page for Testimonial Cultures. In parallel, she now works in a shelter for women who are victims of domestic violence.

Testimonial Cultures team wish you a [wonderful summer](#)! We'll be back in autumn for a new newsletter. Until then, follow us on our [website](#) and [Facebook](#).



### Testimonial Cultures

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

#### Research team

Principal investigator Maria Nengeh Mensah (UQAM)

#### Co-investigator

Martine Delvaux (UQAM)  
Julie Lavigne (UQAM)  
Thomas Waugh (Université Concordia)  
Janik Bastien-Charlebois (UQAM)  
Simon Corneau (UQAM)  
Chiara Piazzesi (UQAM)  
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)  
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Chantal Francoeur (UQAM)  
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Karine Espineira (University of Nice Sophia)

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