



Cultures du témoignage | Testimonial Cultures

NEWSLETTER

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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 the Université du Québec à Montréal or Concordia University. To be eligible, candidates must carry out a research project that aims to better understand the use of testimonials as a strategy for social and cultural intervention.

For more information, consult the call for proposals.

You have until December 15th to send in your application.



En route for the expo « Témoigner pour agir : histoires des communautés sexuelles »

The ball has started rolling for the planning of our future exhibition « Témoigner pour agir : histoires des communautés sexuelles » (Telling and Making: Stories by Sexual Communities). Our research assistant, Jamie Goodyear, conducted a review of the literature over the Summer months. This was great help for developing a SSHRC grant proposal for an action-research component that will run parallel to the exhibition. Ethics approval has been granted by the university to undertake a series of focus groups with community partners (COCQ-SIDA, GRIS-Montreal, Stella). These groups will to help answer some key questions about which artists to invite, where to obtain funding and how the exhibition implementation can actually take form. In addition to the lit review Jamie has plotted out a draft budget for the exhibition and made the first steps in securing a location for the exhibition.

Maria Nengeh Mensah and Geneviève Chicoine at Service aux collectivités (UQAM) then followed up to make the impossible possible : we are happy to announce that we have received a letter of interest from the Maison de la culture Frontenac to host the exhibition during the months of October and November 2017.



Evaluating Testimonial Cultures' Educational Tools

In September began the "Evaluating Testimonial Cultures' Educational Tools" Project, co-directed by Marie-Eve Gauvin, a teacher at Cégep régional de Lanaudière in Terrebonne, alongside Maria Nengeh Mensah and Maude Ménard-Dunn, a master's student in Social Work assisting the research.

Over the course of the next two years, this project will measure the scope and uses of four tools developed by members of the Testimonial Cultures' research group : "Le Porte-voix" and the three DVD compilations "VIHsibilité I 1985-2000", "VIHsibilité II 2000-2012" and "Sex Work 1981-2011" . The first year will focus on the development and validation of an online survey questionnaire that will be administered among those who used the tools as part of their professional activities or on a personal basis. During the second year, 32 users will be recruited to participate in focus groups that will allow us to deepen our understanding of audiences' appreciation of the educational tools. This information will also allow us to assess the educational needs that should be met when offering social support to people who deliver testimonials.

In the upcoming weeks, many of you will be solicited to complete the online survey.

Upcoming Events

Fall 2015



November 12th 2015

Conference "**Modèles gais, lesbiens et bisexuels**" by Robert Pilon.

This conference is inspired by Robert Pilon's book « Modèles Recherchés. ». Participants will be able to chat with Robert and his guests on the testimonials shared in his book, published April 22nd, 2015. Room DS1950 UQAM.



December 1st, 2015

Screening of "**Consent**" by the Canadian HIV/AIDS Legal Network.

On World AIDS Day, the Legal Network will screen its newest documentary on issues of women, consent and the criminalization of HIV non-disclosure. Room JC Lauzon UQAM

Winter 2016



January 25th, 2016

Seminar "**Archiving Testimonials**" by Tom Haig, Janik Bastien-Charlebois and Lisa Sloniowski.

This seminar will address the joys and difficulties related to archiving public testimonials. Three speakers will discuss the ethical, methodological, theoretical and epistemological challenges they face in their respective work.



Spring 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



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.



May 2016

Seminar "**Observatoire des transidentités**" by Karine Espineira.

In this seminar, Karine Espineira will present the formation of an online monitoring center called L'Observatoire des transidentités, which seeks to inform and analyze issues of gender, transidentities and intersexes realities.

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.

New tools unveiled during election period

The Canadian Alliance for Sex Work Law Reform recently published new tools about the election process and the needs of sex workers in this election year in Canada. These tools include one advocacy guide and five infosheets.

You can find those tools on the [Action Canada for Sexual Health and Rights website](#) and on Intranet in the folder Comité -> Comité de travail TDS.

Share the information!



News from our Members

GRIS-Montreal : Aging Without Shame

GRIS-Montreal has launched a new project entitled « Aging without shame: Demystifying homosexuality and bisexuality among seniors ». This project addresses many stereotypes and prejudices that affect gay, lesbian and bisexual seniors. It will work toward creating social environments that are conducive to disclosure among homosexual or bisexual seniors and increase their participation in society.



COCQ-SIDA's « In My Bag » Prevention Campaign

COCQ-SIDA has recently launched a new prevention campaign called "In my bag" aimed at women in Quebec, HIV positive or not, so that they enjoy a fulfilling and safe sexuality. The campaign was produced by the [Women's committee](#).

"In my bag" draws on the concepts of pleasure and discovery in relation to sexual health. Through the content of four handbags, the campaign puts the focus on pleasure and the importance of taking care of our sexual health and ourselves. For example, women may take the lead with their partners all the while respecting personal limits and listening to their bodies. There is also the issue of disclosure for women living with HIV/AIDS, a crucial and inescapable element of living life with HIV. The campaign also takes the opportunity to educate women across Quebec on the fact that an undetectable viral load reduces significantly the risk of HIV transmission.

Discover the handbags of Julie, Audrey Rosa and Lyne!



Workshops offered at CHORN

Several workshops will be held this Fall at the Center for Oral History and Digital Storytelling at Concordia University. Among them, there will be a round table on testimonials and the ethics of its production and distribution. The event will take place November 13th at noon (12pm) at 1400 de Maisonneuve Blvd West, Flag LB, room LB-1042.

To see all events, we invite you to see their [website](#).



Concordia University Community Lecture Series on HIV/AIDS

As part of the HIV/AIDS Public Lecture Series at Concordia University, you are invited to the « I'm Still Surviving » conference by Jennifer Brier. The conference will describe this project, which aims to collect and curate the stories of fourteen Chicago women who have been living with HIV for over twenty years – illustrating how oral histories recast the history of the epidemic and the history of Chicago.

The event will take place at 19h November 5th, 2015 at 1400 Blvd West of Maisonneuve, in the De Sève room.



New director general at Stella

Stella has a new Executive Director, Sandra Welsey. We would like to welcome her to the team!!



Featured Testimonial : Libby Davies

Libby Davies was the first openly lesbian member in Canadian Parliament. In an interview with Daily Xtra, she explains why she's leaving Parliament Hill after 31 years of commitment to minorities.

[Discover our featured testimonial](#)



In Brief

New Approaches

This year, our scientific programming will develop along three research axis. Go take a look at our [website](#).



New Team Members

With the start of the FQRSC team, new faces have been added to the research group. You can read the short bios of Julie Lavigne, Simon Corneau, Chiara Piazzesi, Marie-Ève Gauvin and Alexandra de Kiewit on our [website](#)

Team News

Maude Ménard-Dunn is a new research assistant. Maude is enrolled in the Masters, in Social Work Program with a concentration in Feminist Studies. She is working with Marie-Ève Gauvin on the evaluation of our educational tools project.

In parallel to Testimonial Cultures, **Isabelle Robichaud** is in the early stages of the ethics approval process of her own research on the experiences of women living with HIV and structural stigma. **Myriam Pomerleau** is learning the four therapeutic models in clinical sexology.



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, Maude Ménard-Dunn

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