



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)



Conference at ACFAS

Our 3-day conference «Testimonial Cultures (sexualities) and social change: Practices, Uses and Impacts ? » will take place at the next ACFAS Congress at UQAM, May 9th, 10th and 11th, room NM210.

This event will be in French and aims to address works from the fields of social sciences, arts, education, health and community-based settings. It is intended for people whose work, research or studies relates to public testimonials as an intervention strategy in today's society.

Consult the full program on the [ACFAS web site](#) (in French).

Visit our website for [program updates](#)



Seminar on Transidentities and the Media

Karine Espineira, co-founder of L'Observatoire des transidentités (France) will facilitate a French-language seminar on Friday, May 13th from 2h00-5h00PM. This seminar is intended for students, activists and researchers invested in Francophone trans studies. It will address how transidentities are mediated in popular culture as objects of knowledge and how we may move from this to understanding them as subjects of knowledge.

Check out the [poster](#) for more information (in French).

[Register for free](#). Hurry, places are limited!



Scholarships Recipients

Clark Pignedoli and **Jamie Goodyear** are the recipients of the two 500\$ Testimonial Cultures Scholarships.

Clark is a PhD student in Sociology with a concentration in Feminist Studies at UQAM, under the co-supervision of **Janik Bastien-Charlebois** and **Alexandre Baril**. His thesis project is entitled « Gender technologies : Drag King Workshops in France and Italy as The Micropolitical Subjectification of Transmasculine People ».

Jamie is a PhD student in Études et pratiques des arts at UQAM under the co-supervision of **Maria Nengeh Mensah** and **Michael Blum**. His thesis project is entitled: « Exploring my HIV-related intimate stories : an autoethnographic study of identity and artistic creation ».

[Read the recipient's project summary](#).



Call for Proposal

The French-language journal, Genre, sexualité et société, seeks contributions for a special issue on the topic of "digital intimacy" whose aim is to explore the experiences and social discourses around privacy in the digital context.

Deadline for submitting your original papers: **September 30th 2016**.

[Consult the call](#) for contributions for more information (in French).

Genre
sexualité
& société

PLWHIV Share Their Stories

The Testimonial Cultures team and its partners are proud to announce a new web tool called "People Living With HIV/AIDS Share Their Stories with You: Vibrant Testimonials" is now available online. The online tool includes 28 public testimonials in different formats and delivered by people from various backgrounds. This list was created through a collective approach bringing together HIV-positive people with expertise in delivering testimonials and the community-based organizations that work with them, as part of our « Partnership in Assessing the Impact of Public testimonials by People Living With HIV » project. The english sample will be launch in Winnipeg in May. [Consult the french version](#).



Featured Testimonial : Kate Iselin - Sex work, Feminism and Empowerment

In this testimonial, Kate Iselin reveals the motives that led her to practice sex work and the common point she shares with her colleagues: work.

She explains how sex work allowed her to broaden her horizons and her field experience. She shares how sex work has led her to become feminist. Kate would like for sex work to be decriminalized and wishes to reduce stigma by publicly sharing her experience.

[Check out our latest featured testimonial](#).



In Brief

Focus Groups to Develop our art exhibition «Témoigner pour agir »

Three focus groups were held this winter with members of COCQ-SIDA, GRIS-Montreal and Stella to help design and implement an art exhibition on public testimonials, Témoigner pour agir. The discussions helped answer a series of questions related to the content and the kinds of testimonials we want to exhibit; the ways to reach diverse audiences; and some of the emerging ethical and material issues raised by this project.

Participants showed interest in continuing to meet for more discussion throughout the implementation of the art exhibition. The next meeting should take place this Summer. The exhibition will take place at the Maison de la culture Frontenac, November 29th 2017 to January 21st 2018.

Film Screening: Herma, XXY intersexuation

On March 23rd we organized a screening of the documentary film Herma, XXY intersexuation. The documentary delivers a vibrant testimonial on finding ones gender identity. The discussion that followed, with director Melanie P. Pelletier, the main character of the film Sunny Dagenais and Janik Bastien-Charlebois, sparked beautiful reflections on intersex issues and gender identity.

Testimonials Archive

A seminar on the processes of archiving testimonials took place on January 25th 2016. The seminar was rich in sharing and discussion related to three presentations that exposed the challenges and strategies of identification, conservation and classification of public testimonials delivered by sexual communities.

Watch [Lisa Sloniowski's conference](#) (in English) in full on our website

Zotero Workshop

A workshop facilitated by Miguel Tremblé, research assistant at University of Montreal and former librarian at Library and Archives Canada, took place on March 18th, 2016. The objective of this workshop was to share knowledge on the best practices available for creating a digital archive of testimonials using the Zotero software.



Teams News

Gabriel Giroux is continuing his work as a research assistant, archiving public testimonials in the Zotero database. He's begun developing a users' handbook for the digital archive as well as the research report.

Thank you to **Elena Santana Parilla** and **Victoria Jean-François** who have finished their internship with us this year for their course on HIV/AIDS at Concordia University.

The team of students who are employed at UQAM and members of the SÉTUE union is back at work after a 4 months strike. **Isabelle Robichaud**, **Myriam Pomerleau**, **Maude Menard-Dunn** and **Jamie Goodyear** are very happy to be back on the work floor!

Mariève Beauchemin has joined us as a research assistant in order to coordinate the organisation of the three-day conference taking place during the next ACFAS Congress. She is completing her master's program in sexology, research and intervention stream, and also holds a bachelor's degree in sexology. Her thesis focuses on the social representations and attitudes of young people aged 16-30 who use gay pornography. Mariève's research interests include issues affecting gay men and men who have sex with men (MSM), homophobia, its impact on young people and the uses of pornography in general.



Testimonial Cultures

Community Voices, Theories and Methodological Approaches to Public Testimonials in Québec

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