



Cultures du  
témoignage | Testimonial  
Cultures

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



### General Assembly

Our General Assembly Meeting took place on June 21st. We reported on the activities carried out during the 2015-2016 academic year, and started planning the program for 2016-2017. It was agreed that this Summer will be spent focusing on two tasks: preparing several grant applications in order to sustain our work, as well as writing scientific articles. Research team members from both academic and community sectors will be asked to get involved in the development of these documents.



### ACFAS Conference Proceedings

A publication project of the papers delivered at our ACFAS conference last May, "Cultures du témoignage (sexualités) et changement social", is taking shape. The French-language publisher, Presses de l'Université du Québec (PUQ) has shown an interest in this project.

We invite speakers to submit a digital copy of your paper no later than August 1st 2016 to Maria Nengeh Mensah.

It can consist of the text you presented orally at the conference or a revision of said text for publication. The idea is to be able to submit the first draft of the manuscript to the publisher by the end of the summer. A publication timeline may be sent out later on.

If you have any questions regarding this project please contact Maria Nengeh Mensah.

## Upcoming events in the fall



**September 9, 2016**

Seminar on « Autopornography » with **Simon Corneau, Julie Lavigne and Tom Waugh.**

In this seminar, the researchers will present their respective work on the subject of pornography. They will explore the politics of self-produced pornographic images and the reception of porn.

**December 2016**

Seminar on « Body Politics, Language Politics: Deafness and Intersexualities in Dialogue » with **Véro Leduc and Janik Bastien Charlebois.**

Words aren't merely words; they shape our relationship to the world. What are the politics of language in our testimonial cultures? After a presentation of the common issue faced by both deaf and intersexed individuals, medicalization through surgeries at birth or the standardization of bodies, a dialogue on



language as a site of power relations will be introduced. Empowerment will be addressed from a critical perspective on gender and audism.

## News From our Partners

### GRIS-Montreal

**Marie Houzeau** received the Woman of Distinction Award for her social engagement. This award is given by the Montreal Women's Y Foundation and recognizes women who make a difference through their achievements in our society. [View the press release.](#)

### COCQ-SIDA

+ COCQ-SIDA and **Alexandra de Kiewit** (Stella) presented a conference entitled « Are Public Testimonials Effective in Fighting Stigma? Lessons Learned From a Community-Evaluation Project in Quebec » at the Canadian Association for HIV Research (CAHR), Friday May 13th, in front of roughly 150 people in Winnipeg. The presentation went well.

+ The English version of PLWHA's vibrant testimonials' list was launched in Winnipeg May 13th 2016. [Access the list.](#)

+ **René Légaré** also presented a poster at CAHR on the evaluation of the « Je suis séropo » campaign.

+ COCQ-SIDA and its partners are in the consultation process for targeting their community research priorities for 2016. [Take the survey](#) to help guide the HIV/AIDS research in Quebec. The survey is open to all!

### Stella

On June 8th 2016, Stella, l'amie de Maimie launched a new campaign « [Against Exploitation, Against Prohibition: For the Rights of Sex Workers, the Right to Work](#) ». This campaign draws attention to the reality and impacts of the repression and criminal prohibition of sex work. Like all of Stella's work in the past 21 years, the campaign highlights the need to combat abusive working conditions rather than sex work itself. At the heart of this struggle is the need to repeal repressive laws that criminalize sex work and put sex workers at risk.



## Featured testimonial

Our featured testimonial is a poetic text written by an intersex individual that denounces injustice and discrimination. [Read more...](#)

## In Brief

### Cultures du témoignage (sexualités) et changement social : Quelles pratiques, quels usages, quelles retombées? – Conference Summary

On **May 9th, 10th and 11th** was held our 601 colloquium during the 84th ACFAS Congress. This three-day conference was aimed at people whose work, research or studies relate to the practices, uses and benefits of public testimonials as an intervention strategy in today's society. In total, more than 150 people attended the colloquium; a multidisciplinary and interactive public, consisting of students, professors, activists, researchers and community organizations. On average, there were 50 people in attendance every day, a real success! Scientifically, the conference was an opportunity to mobilize knowledge relating to the use of testimonials in contemporary sexual communities: people who identify as lesbians, gays, bisexuals and queer, trans and intersex people, people living with HIV/AIDS, people with sex work experience and autopornography, victims of sexual assault. We also had the chance to hear other "community voices", those of deaf people, the hearers of voices and young women who go to Maison Passages. The round tables, communications and workshops were all equally challenging. We exposed the theoretical and methodological foundations of the testimonial cultures, and the many powers and pleasures that drive them. Thank you to all the speakers!

In terms of networking, the conference brought together the participants during two Cocktail-events, designed to socialize and initiate informal contacts. One of these, held Monday, May 9th at the Bistro de la cinémathèque québécoise, was organized in collaboration with the Coalition Plus and was an opportunity to announce the winner of the Emerging HIV/AIDS Community-Based Researcher Award. Congratulations to **Nora Burke**! For the rest, a big thank you to **Mariève Beauchemin** and the team for two memorable evenings.

[The full conference program](#) (in French only)

### Seminar on transidentities and the media

The seminar facilitated by our international guest **Karine Espineira**, co-founder of the Transidentities Observatory (France) went well. She talked about her extensive media



corpus and analysis of how trans people have been represented between 1930 and 2010. The participants showed great interest in the popular representations of trans people over the decades, which led to rich discussions on the scale and scope of this study. Watch the seminar

### [Presentation in Paris](#)

In May, **Maria Nengeh Mensah** delivered a lecture entitled « The practices of public testimonials by sexual communities: evolution and challenges of a renewed feminist intervention strategy » during a symposium on Gender and Social Intervention in Paris. This communication aimed to promote the value of community-university partnerships like the one we've been experiencing since 2010.



## Team news

We want to say thank you to **Mariève Beachemin** for the logistic coordination of our colloquium, Cultures du témoignage (sexualités) et changement social : Quelles pratiques? Quels usages? Quelles retombées?, at ACFAS. The team wishes you great success in your future projects.

**Laurence Gagnon** recently joined the team of research assistants to support Jamie Goodyear in the organization of the exhibition « Témoigner pour agir » taking place late fall 2017.

Our research assistants will continue their work during the summer. They will also take some time to rest. **Gabriel Giroux** will enjoy summer in Montreal. **Myriam Pomerleau** will be off visiting Hawaii, while **Isabelle Robichaud** will be reuniting with her loved ones on the East coast.

The Testimonial Cultures' team wishes you a great summer!



## Testimonial Cultures

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

### Research team

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