



Cultures du témoignage | Testimonial Cultures

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



### Annual General Meeting

Testimonial Cultures next General Meeting is on June 9th, from 9:30 am to 12 :30 pm, room W4210 room at UQAM. The agenda will focus on reviewing the activities carried out this year and members will decide what to do about about the 2017-2018 programming.

RSVP with Laurence Gagnon at before June 6th. Can't wait to see you all again!



### Art Exhibition "Témoigner pour agir"

« Témoigner pour agir » is an art exhibition and series of conferences, which will run for six weeks, from November 29th 2017 to January 21st 2018, at the Maison de la Culture Frontenac and UQAM. Using an iterative co-production method called co-curating, the Comité des sages and the Steering Committee conceptualised a scientific, artistic and community activism program : an exhibition catalogue, public lectures, video screenings and cultural mediation workshops for all ages at the Frontenac Library.

Over the coming months, **Jamie W. Goodyear** (Exhibition Co-curator), **Laurence Gagnon** (Exhibition Project Coordinator) and the entire team will focus on the exhibition's implementation.



### New Publications

**Maria Nengeh Mensah, Janik Bastien Charlebois, Olivier Vallerand, Sandra Wesley et Ken Monteith** wrote an article entitled « Militer par le témoignage public : défis et retombées pour les communautés sexuelles et de genres » [Advocacy Through Public Testimonials : Challenges and Impacts for Sexual and Gender Communities], published in the journal Reflets : revue d'intervention communautaire et sociale, number 23.

Read the online journal article (In French only).

The latest issue of the journal Intervention contains an article summarising **Caroline Blais's** the Masters' These on the role of artists in community art projects and in the individual, group and collective empowerment processes.

The article is available online (in French).

## Professor Waugh's Retirement

Our beloved colleague and Professor of Film Studies at Concordia, **Thomas Waugh**, will be retiring in June 2017. The team is very sad to see him leave, but honored to have had the chance to work with him over the last many years. We wish him a long and fabulous retirement life.

Thank you Tom, for having been there since the beginning!



## Call for Proposals

As part of the 8th International conference on francophone feminist research, which will be held in at the University of Paris, a colloquium on entitled « Sexual Utopias » in literature, the arts and the media just opened a call for submissions. Submissions (in French) should aim to address questions related to feminist imaginations of sexuality, new representations of sexual life, sexual subject, bodies, affect and other utopian horizons.

Deadline : June 10.

Send your papers to [Isabelle Boisclair](#) and [Julie Lavigne](#).

[Check out the call for proposals](#)

8<sup>e</sup> Congrès International  
des Recherches Féministes  
dans la Francophonie  
27-31.08.2018 #CIRFF2018

## News from our Partners

### Stella

Stella's Annual General Meeting will take place on the evening of June 21st.

### GRIS-Montréal

GRIS-Montreal has been invited to present, in the coming months, the results of studies they developed based on GRIS volunteers' experiences and the questionnaires completed by the students exposed to testimonials during the sexual orientation demystification workshops.

- May 29th, 2:30 pm : Growing Old Without Shame: ,Homosexuality and Bisexuality in Seniors, presented by Olivier Vallerand and Marie Houzeau at the Sexuality Studies Association conference during Congress 2017 in Toronto.
- May 31st, 4:30 pm : Fighting Homophobia in Elementary Schools : GRIS-Montreal's experience of a week-long program of activities, presented by Olivier Vallerand and Marie Houzeau, also at Congress 2017 in Toronto.
- August 15-17th : Disclosure of Sexual Orientation : A Study on GRIS-Montreal's Volunteers, presented by Kévin Lavoie at the National Pride Conference in Montreal.
- August 15-17th : Tackling Homophobia One Story at a Time : Parallels in the Evolution of Students' Attitudes and GRIS-Montreal Testimonials, presented by Olivier Vallerand as part of the National Pride Conference in Montreal.

GRIS's work was also described in an article published in the journal *Nouvelles pratiques sociales*, volume : "Twenty years of intervention to Demystify Homosexuality and Bisexuality in Schools: Changing Publics, Changing Approaches, written by Olivier Vallerand, Amélie Charbonneau, Kévin Lavoie and Marie Houzeau. It is possible to find this article on [Érudit](#).

### COCQ-SIDA

+ "Capacity-bridging": community-based research beyond competence development  
The term "expert" often refers to emeritus scholars of great universities, yet experts are very numerous beyond academics. Community members are also experts in their field. In research, they also have elements to bring and teach researchers. This is called "capacity-bridging", rather than "capacity-building", which is often used in community-based research. This theme was the subject of a challenging discussion at a related event at the Canadian Association for HIV Research (CAHR) conference on April 5th. This event, entitled "Strengthening or Bringing Together Capacities: Rethinking Community Research", organized by the COCQ-SIDA and its collaborators, provided an opportunity to present this concept and its context of implementation, illustrated by community-based research projects and a participatory evaluation methodology that put this concept into practice. The "capacity-bridging" initiative, proposed by the Aboriginal HIV & AIDS Community-Based Research Collaborative Center (AHA Center), focuses on building the knowledge and skills of all research actors. The Mobilize! And Mon BUZZ have put forward the active and essential participation of community members in building research at every stage of the project. Finally, the reverse evaluation workshops at the PRACTIS Center offer ongoing support and learning to several community organizations to evaluate their project. These workshops are



also good examples of "capacity bridging" where each stakeholder has a position of actor in training. With about forty participants and dynamic discussions, this event was a success.

+ Ken Monteith presented a poster at the CAHR conference on the main priorities for community-based research in Quebec that emerged from the second Quebec-based HIV / AIDS community research meeting in September 2016+ Martine Fortin and René Légaré also presented a poster at the CAHR conference on the "Sex for Men" social and community marketing campaign for men who have sex with men in Quebec.

+ Thomas Haig presented the preliminary results of research on the MOBILISE project! Which aims to maximize access to combined MSM prevention in Montreal during the CAHR conference during the oral presentations in social sciences on the experiences of gay men and bisexual men.

## Featured Testimonial : Elle Stanger

Find out how the notion of choice applies when a person chooses to be a sex worker and to be a mother. In this testimonial, Elle Stanger explains how her experience of work and of motherhood complement and enrich each other. She explains how her role as a nude dancer enabled her to strengthen her abilities in facing the challenges of being a single mom. She talks about how her daughter also benefits from these abilities. Drawing on personal anecdotes, Elle demonstrates how sex worker skills are transferable in many situations that mothers face.



[Discover this new featured testimonial.](#)

## In Brief

### Seminar : "Body Politics and the Politics of Language"

On March 21st, **Véro Leduc**, a postdoctoral researcher at Concordia University and **Janik Bastien-Charlebois**, professor of sociology at UQAM, addressed the politics of language and power for deaf and intersex communities. Did you miss the activity? See the video on our website!

### Seminar : "Supporting People Who Tell Their Story Publicly : What Tools Do We Need?"

On January 26th, two social work educators at the Lanaudière CÉGEP in Terrebonne, **Marie-Ève Gauvin** and **Maude Ménard-Dunn**, hosted a seminar on the kinds of tools and resources that are needed to meet the needs of those who deliver public testimonials. [Read their PowerPoint presentation on our website](#) (in French only).



### Marilou Gagnon Conference

**Marilou Gagnon**, professor of nursing at the University of Ottawa, delivered a very inspiring presentation at Concordia's Concordia Lecture Series on HIV / AIDS on March 30th at UQAM. Testimonial Cultures was a proud collaborator of this conference entitled "There is no place to talk about it: critical reflections on side effects". Marilou shared her research findings on the side effects of antiretroviral therapy, their impact on people living with HIV, and the ways in which side effects are regularly erased from contemporary medical discourse.

## Team News

**Isabelle Robichaud** has completed her master's degree in social work, and is leaving her position as research assistant with Testimonial Cultures. She is now working as a research professional at the Trauma Studies Center of the Montreal Mental Health University Institute. Thank you for your liaison work. We wish you best of luck in your future projects !

**Myriam Pomerleau** also completed her master's degree in clinical sexology. She will begin her private practice on the South Shore of Montreal in October with a special interest in working with the LGBTQ community. She will offer therapy for individuals and for couple. In the meantime, she is staying on as the web communications assistant with Testimonial Cultures for the Summer.

**Laurence Gagnon** is now coordinating the « Témoigner pour agir » exhibition project. She assisted in the submission of several grant proposals. The Summer, she will work on implementing the conference and workshop series to be held in the Fall as part of the exhibition.

**AJ Ausina Dirstein** completed her postdoctoral fellowship with Maria Nengeh Mensah and flew back overseas to pursue new projects. Thank you for your work on the manuscript!

**Jamie W. Goodyear** reinvented his doctoral project to link it with the study of the co-curating processes. His project is now entitled: A study of the practice of co-curating queer stories: an autoethnography on the creation of the exhibition Témoigner pour Agir.

## Testimonial Cultures

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

#### 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 Aide aux Trans du Québec

#### Research team

Principal investigator **Maria Nengeh Mensah (UQAM)**

Julie Lavigne (UQAM)  
Thomas Waugh (Université Concordia)  
Anik Bastien-Charlebois (UQAM)  
Simon Corneau (UQAM)  
Chiara Piazzesi (UQAM)

Co-investigator Marie-Ève Gauvin (Cégep régional de Lanaudière)

Thomas Haig (UQAM)  
Aurélié Hot (COCQ-SIDA)  
Ken Montieth (COCQ-SIDA)  
Marie Houzeau (GRIS-Montréal)  
Sandra Wesley (Stella)

Martine Delvaux (UQAM) Sylvie Jochems (UQAM) Elisabeth Miller (Concordia) Chantal Francoeur (UQAM) Marie-Hélène Bourcier (University of Lille 3) Karine Espineira (University of Nice Sophia)

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