

MICHAEL MONTESS

CURRICULUM VITAE

School of Public Health and Social Policy
University of Victoria
Victoria, BC, Canada
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Areas of Specialization: Applied Ethics; Bioethics; Environmental Philosophy;
Social and Political Philosophy

Areas of Competence: Ancient Philosophy; Theoretical Ethics; Feminist
Philosophy; Philosophy of Gender and Sexuality

EDUCATION

Postdoctoral Fellowship, University of Victoria (2020-2021)
Project: *Building Intergenerational Solidarity Around the History of HIV*
Supervisor: Nathan Lachowsky

PhD, Philosophy, York University (2015 - 2020)
Dissertation: *The Social & Political Dimensions of the Ethics of PrEP for HIV
Prevention Among MSM*
Committee: Alice MacLachlan (Supervisor), Regina Rini & Duff Waring

MA, Philosophy, Western University (2012 - 2013)
Major Research Project: *Synchronizing the Olympics & Paralympics: Equality,
Disability & Sports*
Supervisor: Samantha Brennan

BA, Honours, Philosophy, University of Manitoba (2007 - 2012)
Minor: Classical Studies

PUBLICATIONS

Montess, Michael. (Forthcoming). "The Politics of PrEP: Stigma, Trust, and Solidarity".
The Routledge Companion to Gender, Sexuality and Culture.

Montess, Michael. (2020). "Demedicalizing the Ethics of PrEP for HIV Prevention:
The Social Effects on MSM". *Public Health Ethics*, 13(3): 288–299.

Montess, Michael. (2019). "Canada's Carbon Tax and the TMX Controversy: A Case
Study". *Ethics, Policy and Environment*, 22(2): 138–141.

Eaton, Andrew D., Soo Chan Carusone, Shelley L. Craig, Erin Telegdi, John W. McCullagh, David McClure, Walter Wilson, Leonardo Zuniga, Kevin Berney, Galo F. Ginocchio, Gordon A. Wells, **Michael Montess**, Adam Busch, Nick Boyce, Carol Strike, & Ann Stewart. (2019). "The ART of conversation: Feasibility and acceptability of a pilot peer intervention to help complex HIV-positive people transition from hospital to community". *BMJ Open*, 9(3).

Eaton, Andrew D., Francisco Ibáñez-Carrasco, Shelley L. Craig, Soo Chan Carusone, **Michael Montess**, Gordon A. Wells & Galo F. Ginocchio. (2018). "A Blended Learning Curriculum for Training Peer Researchers to Conduct Community-Based Participatory Research". *Action Learning: Research and Practice*, 15(2): 139-150.

POPULAR PUBLICATIONS

Montess, Michael. (2020). "Decades of lessons from HIV can help us deal with COVID-19". *Ricochet*.

Montess, Michael and Anna Cooper Reed. (2019). "No One Wins in Pipeline Adventure". *Winnipeg Free Press*.

WORKS IN PROGRESS

MacLachlan, Alice & **Michael Montess**. "Beyond "Gay, Straight, or Bi": What Sexual Orientations are There?". *Routledge Handbook on Philosophy of Sex and Sexuality*.

AWARDS

University of Victoria

Mitacs Accelerate Postdoctoral Fellowship (\$30,000), 2020-2021

York University

Provost Dissertation Scholarship (\$24,500), 2019 - 2020

York Graduate Scholarship (\$8000), 2015 - 2020

Kitty and Lou Newman Memorial Graduate Scholarship (\$3000), 2015 & 2016

Western University

Western Graduate Research Scholarship (\$4000), 2012 & 2013

Dean's Entrance Scholarship (\$2000), 2012

University of Manitoba

Gold Medal in Philosophy, 2012

President's Scholar Scholarship (\$2000), 2007 & 2008

Chown Centennial Entrance Scholarship (\$1000), 2007

University of Manitoba Entrance Scholarship (\$2000), 2007

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

- “Understanding the Effects of PrEP on Political Solidarity among MSM: Differences in Sexual Moralities and Intergenerational Views”, Canadian Philosophical Association (CPA), Virtual Conference 2021, American Society for Bioethics and Humanities (ASBH), Virtual Conference 2020, & Canadian Bioethics Society (CBS) Conference, Toronto, ON, 2020 (Cancelled)
- “Demedicalizing PrEP for HIV Prevention: The Social and Political Effects on MSM”, American Philosophical Association (APA) Eastern Division Conference, Philadelphia, PA, January 2020
- “Assessing the Risk of PrEP for HIV Prevention: Values and Value Assumptions”, Canadian Bioethics Society (CBS) Conference, Banff, AB, May 2019
- “Challenging the Anthropocentrism in the Ethics of Climate Change”, Canadian Society for Environmental Philosophy (CSEP) Conference, Calgary, AB, October 2018 & Canadian Philosophical Association (CPA) Conference, Montreal, QC, June 2018
- “Comparing PrEP for HIV Prevention Among MSM and the Birth Control Pill: Sex, Power & Social Justice”, Canadian Bioethics Society (CBS) Conference, Halifax, NS, May 2018
- “Increasing Sexual Freedom for MSM through PrEP”, Community Based Research Centre (CBRC) Conference, Vancouver, BC, November 2017
- “Using PrEP for HIV Prevention for MSM: Risks, Relationships & Responsibility”, Canadian Bioethics Society (CBS) Conference, Montreal, QC, May 2017
- “The Ethics of PrEP for HIV Prevention: Serostatus, Stigmatization & Sexual Freedom” Canadian Philosophical Association (CPA) Conference, Calgary, AB, May 2016

POSTER PRESENTATIONS

- “Comparing PrEP & the Birth Control Pill: Sexual Freedom, Empowerment & MSM”, Canadian Association for HIV Research Conference (CAHR), Vancouver, BC, April 2018
- “A Blended Learning Curriculum for Training Peer Researchers to Conduct Community-Based Participatory Research” with Andrew D. Eaton, Francisco Ibáñez-Carrasco, Shelley L. Craig, Soo Chan Carusone, Gordon A. Wells & Galo F. Ginocchio, Canadian Association for HIV Research (CAHR) Conference, Vancouver, BC, April 2018

OTHER PRESENTATIONS

- “Non-human Rights and Mind-Reading: Empathy, Moral Agency & Personhood” York University Graduate Philosophy Conference, Toronto, ON, April 2016

“Blood, It’s In You To Give?: The Ethics of the MSM Blood Donation Ban”, Western University Philosophy Graduate Student Association Colloquium Series, London, ON, & October 2012 Centre for Professional and Applied Ethics Student Colloquium Series, Winnipeg, MB, March 2012

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Course Instructor, York University

Ancient Philosophy: Love and Friendship, Winter 2019

Guest Lecturer, York University

Feminist Philosophy (Graduate) for Lorraine Code, Fall 2017

The Meaning of Life (Undergraduate) for Kristin Andrews, Winter 2017

Teaching Assistant, York University

Professional Practice in Computing (Online) with Jarek Gryz, Fall 2020

Modes of Reasoning: Social Issues (Online) with Hillary Davis, Summer 2019

Ancient Philosophy: Plato & Aristotle with Stefan Rodde, Fall 2018

Ancient Philosophy: Plato & Aristotle with Gerard Naddaf, Winter 2018

Theoretical Ethics with Julie Allen, Fall 2017 & Summer 2016

Modes of Reasoning: Social Issues (Online) with Jason Robinson, Summer 2017

The Meaning of Life with Kristin Andrews, Winter 2017 & Fall 2015

Applied Ethics with Shyam Ranganathan, Fall 2016

The Meaning of Life with Hilary Davis, Winter 2016

Teaching Assistant, Western University

Global Justice & Human Rights with Andrea White, Winter 2013

Media Ethics with Ryan Robb, Fall 2012

Teaching Assistant, University of Manitoba

Introduction to Philosophy with Patrick Walsh, Winter 2015 & Fall 2011

Business Ethics with Patrick Walsh, Fall 2014

Critical Thinking with Esa Diaz-Leon, Winter 2011

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

SSHRC Insight Grant, Research Assistant, 2019 - 2020

“Civility and Solidarity” with Alice MacLachlan

AIDS Committee of Toronto, Research Assistant, 2017 - 2018

“The ART of Conversation: Developing a Peer Telephone Support Program for People Living with HIV Who Use Substances and are Facing Challenges with Antiretroviral Adherence Following Hospitalization” with Andrew Eaton

SERVICE EXPERIENCE

Editor

“Brainwandering: A Blog Written and Maintained by the York University Public Philosophy Outreach Initiative”, York University, 2017 - 2019

Conference Organizer

“Bioethics & Applied Philosophy: York University Graduate Student Philosophy Conference”, York University, April 2018

Committee Member

Faculty of Graduate Studies Representative, York University, 2018 - 2019

Minorities and Philosophy (MAP), York University, 2016 - 2018

Diversity Committee, York University, 2015 - 2018

Adjudication Committee, York University, Winter 2018

Search Advisory Committee, University of Manitoba, 2010 - 2011

Judge

Canadian High School Ethics Bowl, 2021

Manitoba High School Ethics Bowl, University of Manitoba, 2021 & 2014

Ontario High School Ethics Bowl, University of Toronto Mississauga, 2020

Board Member

Manitoba Association for Rights & Liberties, 2014 - 2015

GRADUATE COURSES

York University

PhD Research Seminar (Alice MacLachlan & Kristin Andrews), Fall 2018

PhD Research Seminar (Kristin Andrews & Regina Rini), Fall 2017 - 2018

Applied Ethics: Philosophy of Love (Alice MacLachlan), Winter 2017

Feminist Philosophy: Ecological Thinking (Lorraine Code), Fall 2016

Ancient Philosophy: Hellenistic Philosophy (Stefan Rodde), Fall 2016

Philosophy of Cognitive Science: Animal Minds (Kristin Andrews), Winter 2016

Theoretical Ethics: Autonomy (Susan Dimock), Fall 2015

Applied Ethics: Family Ethics (Alice MacLachlan), Fall 2015 - 2016

First Year Seminar (Muhammad Ali Khalidi & Michael Giudice), Fall 2015 - 2016

Western University

Ancient Philosophy: Plato's Dialogues (Devin Henry), Winter 2013

Ancient Philosophy: Presocratic Philosophy (John Thorpe), Winter 2013

Political Philosophy: Grotius & Hobbes (Dennis Klimchuk), Winter 2013

Philosophy of Law (Andrew Botterell & Dennis Klimchuk), Fall 2012

Applied Ethics: Egalitarianism (Samantha Brennan), Fall 2012

Epistemology: Trust (Carolyn McLeod), Fall 2012

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

American Philosophical Association (APA), Canadian Philosophical Association (CPA), Canadian Bioethics Society (CBS), American Society for Bioethics and Humanities (ASBH), Canadian Association for HIV Research (CAHR)

REFERENCES

Alice MacLachlan (Supervisor)
Associate Professor
York University
amacla@yorku.ca

Duff Waring (Committee)
Associate Professor
York University
dwarling@yorku.ca

Regina Rini (Committee)
Assistant Professor
York University
rarini@yorku.ca

Kristin Andrews (Teaching)
Associate Professor
York University
andrewsk@yorku.ca

DISSERTATION ABSTRACT

For many men who have sex with men (MSM), the risks, treatment, and prevention of HIV are central and unavoidable aspects of their experiences of sex and romance. This constant vigilance around HIV complicates their lives in medical as well as interpersonal and socio-political ways. Pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) is a relatively new method of HIV prevention that is already revolutionizing the lives of MSM by lessening the need for this ongoing vigilance. However, the wide-ranging effects of PrEP on HIV prevention and MSM are as of yet unclear. Therefore, the ethics of using PrEP as an HIV prevention strategy among MSM is a complicated and timely issue that demands philosophical engagement. As MSM, and gay, bisexual, and queer men more broadly, in North America face decisions of whether or not to use PrEP and the consequences of those decisions, philosophy has an important role to play in helping us think more clearly about the situation today by moving away from a strictly or overly medical conception of the ethics of PrEP.

In my first chapter, I motivate my investigation into the social and political dimensions of the ethics of PrEP by providing a critical history and analysis of HIV, HIV activism, and the experiences of MSM with HIV. In my second chapter, I challenge the prevalent risk analysis approach to the ethics of PrEP, arguing that it has a distorting effect, overblowing some risks while overlooking others; as a result, attributions of risk and responsibility concerning PrEP are being over-individualized and misdirected. The second half of my dissertation demonstrates how a relational approach, focused on the conditions for trust and solidarity, better reveal the ethical terrain facing MSM who have to decide whether or not to use PrEP. In my third chapter, I examine the role of trust in sexual and romantic relationships between MSM as well as the relationships between MSM and healthcare providers, highlighting the complex relationships between trust, stigma, and disclosure. In my final chapter, I argue that PrEP complicates relationships of solidarity within gay communities, focusing in particular on intergenerational differences in perspectives on HIV and HIV prevention. Overall, my dissertation helps move us towards a more socially and politically informed conception of the ethics of PrEP, which helps us understand how MSM can live ethically within communities whose sexual and romantic lives continue to be medicalized, both internally by members of gay communities and externally by a broader culture and public health establishment.