

# MICHAEL MONTESS

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## CURRICULUM VITAE

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[michael.montess@unityhealth.to](mailto:michael.montess@unityhealth.to)

**Areas of Specialization:** Applied Ethics; Bioethics; Social & Political Philosophy; Philosophy of Sexuality & Gender

**Areas of Competence:** Feminist Philosophy; Ancient Philosophy; Theoretical Ethics; Environmental Ethics

## EMPLOYMENT

Clinical Ethics Fellow, Centre for Clinical Ethics (CCE), 2023 - Present  
Unity Health Toronto & University of Toronto

Policy Analyst, Public Health Agency of Canada (PHAC), 2023  
Public Health Ethics Consultative Group

Postdoctoral Associate, Western University, 2022  
Rotman Institute of Philosophy & School of Health Studies  
Supervisor: Maxwell Smith

Postdoctoral Fellow, University of Victoria, 2020 - 2022  
School of Public Health & Social Policy  
Supervisor: Nathan Lachowsky

## EDUCATION

Ph.D., 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

M.A., Philosophy, Western University, 2012 - 2013  
Supervisor: Samantha Brennan

B.A., Hons, Philosophy & Classical Studies, University of Manitoba, 2007 - 2012

## PUBLICATIONS

Montess, Michael. (2023). "Building Solidarity during COVID-19 & HIV/AIDS". *Bioethics*, Early View.

Montess, Michael. (2023) "Creating the Conditions for Trust Around PrEP as HIV Prevention: The Relationships of MSM with Sexual & Romantic Partners & Healthcare Providers". *International Journal of Feminist Approaches to Bioethics (IJFAB)*, 16(1).

- Montess, Michael. (2022). "The Politics of PrEP: Stigma, Trust, & Solidarity". In *The Routledge Companion to Gender, Sexuality & Culture*, edited by Emma Rees.
- Montess, Michael. (2022). "From HIV / AIDS to COVID-19: Feminist Bioethics & Pandemics". *International Journal of Feminist Approaches to Bioethics (IJFAB)*, 15(1).
- Montess, Michael. (2021). "Contextualizing Risk in the Ethics of PrEP as HIV Prevention: The Lived Experiences of MSM". *Kennedy Institute of Ethics Journal*, 31(4).
- Montess, Michael. (2020). "Demedicalizing the Ethics of PrEP for HIV Prevention: The Social Effects on MSM". *Public Health Ethics*, 13(3).
- Montess, Michael. (2019). "Canada's Carbon Tax & the TMX Controversy: A Case Study". *Ethics, Policy & Environment*, 22(2).

### CO-AUTHORED PUBLICATIONS

- Grace, Daniel, Mark Gaspar, Alex Wells, Jad Sinno, Emrich Daroya, **Michael Montess**, Mark Hull, Nathan Lachowsky & Darrell Tan. (2023) "Injectable pre-exposure prophylaxis for HIV prevention: Perspectives on the benefits and barriers from gay, bisexual, and queer men and health system stakeholders in Ontario, Canada". *AIDS Patient Care & STDs*, 37(6).
- Eaton, Andrew, Soo Chan Carusone, Shelley Craig, Erin Telegdi, John McCullagh, David McClure, Walter Wilson, Leonardo Zuniga, Kevin Berney, Galo Ginocchio, Gordon Wells, **Michael Montess**, Adam Busch, Nick Boyce, Carol Strike & Ann Stewart. (2019). "The ART of Conversation: Feasibility & Acceptability of a Pilot Peer Intervention to Help Complex HIV-Positive People Transition from Hospital to Community". *BMJ Open*, 9(3).
- Eaton, Andrew, Francisco Ibáñez-Carrasco, Shelley Craig, Soo Chan Carusone, **Michael Montess**, Gordon Wells & Galo Ginocchio. (2018). "A Blended Learning Curriculum for Training Peer Researchers to Conduct Community-Based Participatory Research". *Action Learning: Research & Practice*, 15(2).

### POPULAR PUBLICATIONS

- Montess, Michael, Darrell Tan & Nathan Lachowsky. (December 2022). "Long-acting injectable PrEP is a big step forward in HIV prevention". *The Conversation Canada, National Post & Winnipeg Free Press*. [\[Link\]](#)
- Montess, Michael, Nathan Lachowsky & Ben Klassen. (May 2021). "HIV survivors' stories show the loss, resilience & activism of the early years of AIDS pandemic". *The Conversation Canada, National Post & Vancouver Sun*. [\[Link\]](#)
- Montess, Michael. (July 2020). "Decades of lessons from HIV can help us deal with COVID-19". *Ricochet*. [\[Link\]](#)
- Montess, Michael & Anna Cooper Reed. (April 2019). "No one wins in pipeline adventure". *Winnipeg Free Press*. [\[Link\]](#)

**WORKS IN PROGRESS**

Montess, Michael. "Learning from Queer Community Responses to Mpox: Solidarity during Public Health Crises"

Montess, Michael, Ben Klassen, Nathan Lachowsky, John Paul Catungal, Robert Ablenas, William Flett, Jackie Haywood, Rick Waines & Michael Yoder. "'HIV In My Day': A Community-Based HIV Oral History Project in British Columbia, Canada"

**GRANTS**

Social Science and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC) Connections Grant (\$49,434), 2022 - 2023, "HIV In My Day", Co-Applicant with Laine Halpern Zisman (University of Victoria)

Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR) Operating Grant (\$300,000), 2021 - 2023, "The Future of PrEP is Now: A mixed-methods, community-based study to inform equitable & strategic implementation of long-acting PrEP in Canada", Co-Applicant with Darrel Tan (University of Toronto)

Michael Smith Foundation for Health Research (MSFHR) Reach Grant (\$15,000), 2021 - 2022, "HIV In My Day: Destigmatizing HIV through Theatre, Living History, & Storytelling", Co-Applicant with Nathan Lachowsky (University of Victoria)

**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 & 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**

"Learning from Queer Community Responses to Mpox: Solidarity during Public Health Crises", Canadian Philosophical Association (CPA), Toronto, ON, May 2023

- “Mobilizing the Stories of Long-Term Survivors and Caregivers: Community-Based and Artistic Knowledge Mobilization for the ‘HIV in My Day’ Oral History Project” with Laine Halpern Zisman, Rick Waines, Ben Klassen, et al., Canadian Association for HIV Research (CAHR), Quebec City, QC, April 2023
- “Public Health, Pandemics, and Philosophy” with Kerry O’Neill & Maxwell Smith, Philosophy, Politics & Economics Society (PPE), New Orleans, LA, November 2022
- “What is the Role of Solidarity in Public Health Ethics?: A Historical Perspective” with Ana Komparic, American Society for Bioethics & Humanities (ASBH), Portland, OR, October 2022
- “Improving Public Health Responses to Pandemics: COVID-19, HIV/AIDS & Different Tiers of Solidarity”, Western Canadian Philosophical Association (WCPA), Winnipeg, MB, September 2022
- “Institutional Trust Between MSM & Healthcare Providers Around PrEP as HIV Prevention”, Canadian Philosophical Association (CPA), May 2022
- “Building Solidarity in Pandemics: COVID-19 & the History of HIV/AIDS”, Canadian Bioethics Society (CBS), May 2021 & American Society for Bioethics & Humanities (ASBH), October 2021
- “Understanding the Effects of PrEP on Political Solidarity among MSM: Differences in Sexual Moralities & Intergenerational Views”, Canadian Philosophical Association (CPA), June 2021 & American Society for Bioethics & Humanities (ASBH), October 2020
- “Demedicalizing PrEP for HIV Prevention: The Social & Political Effects on MSM”, American Philosophical Association (APA) Eastern Division, Philadelphia, PA, January 2020
- “Assessing the Risk of PrEP for HIV Prevention: Values & Value Assumptions”, Canadian Bioethics Society (CBS), Banff, AB, May 2019
- “Challenging the Anthropocentrism in the Ethics of Climate Change”, Canadian Society for Environmental Philosophy (CESP), Calgary, AB, October 2018 & Canadian Philosophical Association (CPA), Montreal, QC, June 2018
- “Comparing PrEP for HIV Prevention Among MSM & the Birth Control Pill: Sex, Power & Social Justice”, Canadian Bioethics Society (CBS), Halifax, NS, May 2018
- “Using PrEP for HIV Prevention for MSM: Risks, Relationships & Responsibility”, Canadian Bioethics Society (CBS), Montreal, QC, May 2017
- “The Ethics of PrEP for HIV Prevention: Serostatus, Stigmatization & Sexual Freedom” Canadian Philosophical Association (CPA), Calgary, AB, May 2016

**POSTER PRESENTATIONS**

- “The Future of PrEP is Now: Findings from Focus Groups with 2SGBQM Individuals on Long-Acting PrEP’s Potential in Addressing Access Barriers” with Ryosuke Takamatsu, Tyrone Curtis, Ben Klassen, Nathan Lachowsky, Darrell Tan et al., Canadian Association for HIV Research (CAHR), Quebec City, QC, April 2023
- “The Future of PrEP is Now: Evaluating Webinars on Long-Acting PrEP for 2SGBQM Individuals” with Ryosuke Takamatsu, Tyrone Curtis, Ben Klassen, Nathan Lachowsky, Darrell Tan et al., Canadian Association for HIV Research (CAHR), Quebec City, QC, April 2023
- “Injectable PrEP for HIV prevention: Perspectives from men who have sex with men & health system stakeholders in Ontario, Canada” with Daniel Grace, Mark Gaspar, Alex Wells, Jad Sinno, Mark Hull, Nathan Lachowsky & Darrell Tan, AIDS 2022 - The 24th International AIDS Conference, Montreal, QC, July 2022
- “How Different Conceptions of Solidarity Affect Responses to Public Health Crises: Learning from HIV / AIDS for COVID-19 & Future Pandemics” (**Best Poster Prize**), Oxford Global Health & Bioethics Conference, Oxford, UK, June 2022
- “Learning from BC’s HIV Oral History: Community-Based Responses to HIV / AIDS & Other Contemporary Health Crises”, Community-Based Research Centre (CBRC) Virtual Summit, October 2021
- “Comparing PrEP & the Birth Control Pill: Sexual Freedom, Empowerment & MSM”, Canadian Association for HIV Research (CAHR), Vancouver, BC, April 2018

**INVITED PRESENTATIONS**

- “Learning from Queer Community Responses to Mpox: Solidarity during Public Health Crises”, Centre for Clinical Ethics & Unity Health Toronto, Ethics Grand Rounds, January 2024
- “Institutional Trust Between MSM & Healthcare Providers Around PrEP as HIV Prevention”, Centre for Clinical Ethics & Unity Health Toronto, Ethics Grand Rounds, February 2023
- “Lessons from Bioethics for Improving Public Health Policy”, University of Toronto Scarborough Health & Society Student Association, Policy Case Competition, March 2022
- “The Social & Political Dimensions of PrEP Research: Risk, Trust & Solidarity in the Ethics of PrEP as HIV Prevention”, Community-Based Research Centre (CBRC), BC Investigaytors Program, February 2022

**OTHER SELECTED PRESENTATIONS**

- “An Open Intergenerational Dialogue on HIV History”, Community-Based Research Centre (CBRC), Virtual Pre-Summit Event, October 2021

“HIV In My Day: Sharing Stories from BC’s Early Years of HIV/AIDS”, Community-Based Research Centre (CBRC), Virtual Town Hall, June 2021

“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 & University of Manitoba Centre for Professional & Applied Ethics, Student Colloquium Series, Winnipeg, MB, March 2012

## MEDIA COMMUNICATIONS

“Creating the Conditions for Trust Around PrEP as HIV Prevention: The Relationships of MSM with Sexual & Romantic Partners & Healthcare Providers”, Podcast Interview with Kathryn MacKay for *FAB Gab* upcoming in May, 2023

“A Promising New Way to Prevent HIV Infections”, Newspaper Interview with Moira Wyton for *The Tyee* (BC) on December 22, 2022. [\[Link\]](#)

“A Promising New Way to Prevent HIV Infections”, Radio interview with Shaye Ganam for *Shaye Ganam* on 630 CHED (Edmonton) and 770 CHQR (Calgary) on December 28, 2022

“Long-acting injectable PrEP is a big step forward in HIV prevention”, Radio interview with Daryl McIntyre for *630 CHED Mornings* on 630 CHED (Edmonton) on December 20, 2022

## TEACHING EXPERIENCE

### Course Instructor

University of Manitoba, Department of Philosophy  
Ethics & Biomedicine, Summer 2022

University of Victoria, School of Public Health & Social Policy  
Health Policy & Health Governance [Online], Fall 2021

York University, Department of Philosophy  
Ancient Philosophy: Love & Friendship, Winter 2019

### Guest Lecturer

University of Victoria, School of Public Health & Social Policy  
Healthy Sexualities, Winter 2023

University of Victoria, School of Child & Youth Care  
Ethics in Child & Youth Care, Summer 2021

York University, Department of Philosophy  
Feminist Philosophy: Ecological Thinking, Fall 2017  
The Meaning of Life, Winter 2017

Teaching Assistant

York University, Department of Philosophy

Professional Ethics in Computer Science [Online], Fall 2020

Modes of Reasoning: Social Issues [Online], Summer 2019 & Summer 2017

Ancient Philosophy: Plato & Aristotle, Fall 2018 & Winter 2018

Theoretical Ethics, Fall 2017 & Summer 2016

Meaning of Life, Winter 2017, Winter 2016 & Fall 2015

Applied Ethics, Fall 2016

Western University, Department of Philosophy

Global Justice & Human Rights, Winter 2013

Media Ethics, Fall 2012

University of Manitoba, Department of Philosophy

Introduction to Philosophy, Winter 2015 & Fall 2011

Business Ethics, Fall 2014

Critical Thinking, Winter 2011

**SERVICE EXPERIENCE**

Reviewer

American Society for Bioethics & Humanities (ASBH), 2022 - 2023

Masters of Public Health Culminating Reports, University of Victoria, 2021 - 2022

Kennedy Institute of Ethics Journal (KIEJ), Georgetown University, 2021

British Medical Journal Open, British Medical Association (BMA), 2021

AIDS Care: Psychological & Socio-medical Aspects of AIDS/HIV, 2021

Ethics Bowl Judge

Manitoba High School Ethics Bowl, 2014 & 2021 - 2023

Ontario High School Ethics Bowl, 2020 & 2022

Canadian High School Ethics Bowl, 2021

Committee Member

HIV In My Day Knowledge Translation Planning Committee, 2021 - 2022

Diversity Committee, Philosophy, York University, 2015 - 2018

Adjudication Committee, Philosophy, York University, Winter 2018

Search Advisory Committee, Philosophy, University of Manitoba, 2010 - 2011

Session Chair

Canadian Philosophical Association (CPA) Conference, 2018, 2021 - 2022

Western Canadian Philosophical Association (WCPA) Conference, 2022

Facilitator

Health Care Ethics Education Series, St. Boniface Hospital, 2022 - 2023

Writing Mentor

Community Health Equity Research Group, University of Victoria, 2021 - 2022

Blog Editor

York University Public Philosophy Outreach Initiative Blog, 2017 - 2019

Representative

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

Minorities & Philosophy Representative, York University, 2016 - 2018

Conference Organizer

York University Graduate Student Philosophy Conference, April 2018

Board Member

Manitoba Association for Rights & Liberties (MARL), 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

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

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

Theoretical Ethics: Autonomy (Susan Dimock), Fall 2015

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)

American Society for Bioethics and Humanities (ASBH)

Canadian Bioethics Society (CBS)

**REFERENCES**

Maxwell Smith (Postdoc Supervisor)

Assistant Professor

Western University

[maxwell.smith@uwo.ca](mailto:maxwell.smith@uwo.ca)

Nathan Lachowsky (Postdoc Supervisor)

Associate Professor

University of Victoria

[nlachowsky@uvic.ca](mailto:nlachowsky@uvic.ca)



Alice MacLachlan (Ph.D. Supervisor)  
Associate Professor  
York University  
[amacla@yorku.ca](mailto:amacla@yorku.ca)

Regina Rini (Ph.D. Committee Member)  
Assistant Professor  
York University  
[rarini@yorku.ca](mailto:rarini@yorku.ca)

Duff Waring (Ph.D. Committee Member)  
Professor  
York University  
[dwarling@yorku.ca](mailto:dwarling@yorku.ca)

Kristin Andrews (Teaching Reference)  
Professor  
York University  
[andrewsk@yorku.ca](mailto: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 reveals 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.