

MICHAEL MONTESS

CURRICULUM VITAE

Rotman Institute of Philosophy
Western University
London, Ontario, Canada
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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

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

Postdoctoral Fellow, University of Victoria, 2020 - 2021
Department: 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: Robert Myers (Chair), Alice MacLachlan (Supervisor), Regina Rini, Duff Waring, Chris Chapman & Quill Kukla (Georgetown University)

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

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

PUBLICATIONS

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*, 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).

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 & 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 & Practice*, 15(2).

POPULAR PUBLICATIONS

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. "Creating the Conditions for Trust Around PrEP as HIV Prevention: The Relationships of MSM with Sexual and Romantic Partners and Healthcare Providers".

Montess, Michael. "Rebuilding Solidarity Within Gay Communities Around PrEP as HIV Prevention".

Montess, Michael. "Building Solidarity during Pandemics: Lessons from HIV/AIDS & COVID-19 for Future Pandemics".

Lachowsky, Nathan, **Michael Montess** & Ben Klassen. "HIV In My Day: Main Themes from an HIV Oral History Project in British Columbia".

Grace, Daniel, Mark Gaspar, Alex Wells, Jad Sinno, **Michael Montess**, Mark Hull, Nathan Lachowsky & Darrell Tan. "Exploratory Study of Canadian gay, bisexual & queer men's interest in injectable PrEP for HIV prevention".

GRANTS

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

"What is the Role of Solidarity in Public Health Ethics?: A Historical Perspective" with Ana Komparic, American Society for Bioethics & Humanities Conference, Portland, OR, October 2022

"Institutional Trust Between MSM & Healthcare Providers Around PrEP as HIV Prevention", Canadian Philosophical Association, Virtual Conference, May 2022

"Building Solidarity in Pandemics: COVID-19 & the History of HIV/AIDS", Canadian Bioethics Society, Virtual Conference, May 2021 & American Society for Bioethics & Humanities, Virtual Conference, October 2021

"Understanding the Effects of PrEP on Political Solidarity among MSM: Differences in Sexual Moralities & Intergenerational Views", Canadian Philosophical Association, Virtual Conference, June 2021 & American Society for Bioethics & Humanities, Virtual Conference, October 2020

“Demedicalizing PrEP for HIV Prevention: The Social & Political Effects on MSM”, American Philosophical Association Eastern Division Conference, Philadelphia, PA, January 2020

“Assessing the Risk of PrEP for HIV Prevention: Values & Value Assumptions”, Canadian Bioethics Society Conference, Banff, AB, May 2019

“Challenging the Anthropocentrism in the Ethics of Climate Change”, Canadian Society for Environmental Philosophy Conference, Calgary, AB, October 2018 & Canadian Philosophical Association Conference, Montreal, QC, June 2018

“Comparing PrEP for HIV Prevention Among MSM & the Birth Control Pill: Sex, Power & Social Justice”, Canadian Bioethics Society Conference, Halifax, NS, May 2018

“Increasing Sexual Freedom for MSM through PrEP”, Community-Based Research Centre Summit, Vancouver, BC, November 2017

“Using PrEP for HIV Prevention for MSM: Risks, Relationships & Responsibility”, Canadian Bioethics Society Conference, Montreal, QC, May 2017

“The Ethics of PrEP for HIV Prevention: Serostatus, Stigmatization & Sexual Freedom” Canadian Philosophical Association Conference, Calgary, AB, May 2016

POSTER PRESENTATIONS

“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” (Poster Competition Winner), 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 Virtual Summit, October 2021

“Comparing PrEP & the Birth Control Pill: Sexual Freedom, Empowerment & MSM”, Canadian Association for HIV Research Conference, Vancouver, BC, April 2018

INVITED PRESENTATIONS

“Learning from LGBT2Q Responses to HIV/AIDS: Queer Bioethics During Health Crises”, University of Guelph, Social Sciences & Humanities Research Council Queer Bioethics Conference, November 2022

“Lessons from Bioethics for Improving Public Health Policy”, University of Toronto Scarborough Health & Society Student Association, Virtual 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, Virtual BC Investigators Program, February 2022

OTHER SELECTED PRESENTATIONS

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

“HIV In My Day: Sharing Stories from BC’s Early Years of HIV/AIDS”, Community-Based Research Centre, 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

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Course Instructor

University of Manitoba, Department of Philosophy
Ethics & Biomedicine (Undergraduate), Summer 2022

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

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

Guest Lecturer

University of Victoria, School of Child & Youth Care
Ethics in Child & Youth Care (Graduate), Marion Selfridge, Summer 2021

York University, Department of Philosophy
Feminist Philosophy (Graduate), Lorraine Code, Fall 2017
The Meaning of Life (Undergraduate), Kristin Andrews, Winter 2017

Teaching Assistant

York University, Department of Philosophy
Professional Ethics in Computer Science [Online], Jarek Gryz, Fall 2020
Modes of Reasoning: Social Issues [Online], Hillary Davis, Summer 2019
Ancient Philosophy: Plato & Aristotle, Stefan Rodde, Fall 2018
Ancient Philosophy: Plato & Aristotle, Gerard Naddaf, Winter 2018
Theoretical Ethics, Julie Allen, Fall 2017 & Summer 2016

Modes of Reasoning: Social Issues [Online], Jason Robinson, Summer 2017
 The Meaning of Life, Kristin Andrews, Winter 2017 & Fall 2015
 Applied Ethics, Shyam Ranganathan, Fall 2016
 The Meaning of Life, Hilary Davis, Winter 2016

Western University, Department of Philosophy
 Global Justice & Human Rights, Andrea White, Winter 2013
 Media Ethics, Ryan Robb, Fall 2012

University of Manitoba, Department of Philosophy
 Introduction to Philosophy, Patrick Walsh, Winter 2015 & Fall 2011
 Business Ethics, Patrick Walsh, Fall 2014
 Critical Thinking, Esa Diaz-Leon, Winter 2011

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR) Planning & Dissemination Grant, "HIV In My Day" with Nathan Lachowsky (University of Victoria), Postdoctoral Fellow, 2020 - 2021

Social Sciences & Humanities Research Council (SSHRC) Insight Grant. "Civility & Solidarity" with Alice MacLachlan (York University), Graduate Research Assistant, 2019 - 2020

AIDS Committee of Toronto (ACT), "The ART of Conversation" with Andrew Eaton (University of Toronto), Research Assistant, 2017 - 2018

SERVICE EXPERIENCE

Reviewer

American Society for Bioethics & Humanities (ASBH) Conference, 2022
 Masters of Public Health Culminating Reports, University of Victoria, 2021 & 2022
 Kennedy Institute of Ethics Journal, 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, 2022, 2021 & 2014
 Ontario High School Ethics Bowl, 2022 & 2020
 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 Conference, 2022, 2021 & 2018

Writing Mentor

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

Representative

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

Minorities & Philosophy Representative, York University, 2016 - 2018

Blog Editor

York University Public Philosophy Outreach Initiative Blog, 2017 - 2019

Conference Organizer

York University Graduate Student Philosophy Conference, April 2018

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

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, American Society for Bioethics & Humanities,
Canadian Philosophical Association, Canadian Bioethics Society

REFERENCES

Nathan Lachowsky (Postdoc Supervisor)

Associate Professor

University of Victoria

nlachowsky@uvic.ca

Regina Rini (Committee Member)

Alice MacLachlan (Ph.D. Supervisor)

Associate Professor

York University

amacla@yorku.ca

Duff Waring (Committee Member)

Assistant Professor
York University
rarini@yorku.ca

Professor
York University
dwaring@yorku.ca

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

Samantha Brennan (M.A. Supervisor)
Professor/Dean
University of Guelph
sjbrennan@uoguelph.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.