

# ALEXANDRA PRÉSENT

✉ [a.pregent@phil.leidenuniv.nl](mailto:a.pregent@phil.leidenuniv.nl) 🏠 [alexandrapregent.github.io](https://alexandrapregent.github.io) 🎓 Google Scholar

## RESEARCH INTERESTS

---

Philosophy of Technology & AI; Ethics of Affective Computing; Moral & Political Philosophy (Privacy & Social Justice); Philosophy of Mind (Emotion & Cognition); Information Ethics; Practical Philosophy

## EDUCATION

---

### Leiden University, Institute for Philosophy

*PhD in Philosophy*

2021 – present

*Leiden, The Netherlands*

- **Thesis Title:** *The (Il)legitimacy of Emotion Recognition Technology: Philosophical and Political Quandaries*
- **Advisors:** Prof. [Dorota Mokrosinska](#), Prof. [James McAllister](#)

### Laval University

*MA in Philosophy*

2019 – 2021

*Québec, Canada*

- **Advisor:** Prof. [Jocelyn Maclure](#)

### Montreal University

*BA in Philosophy and French Literature*

2016 – 2019

*Montréal, Canada*

## PUBLICATIONS

---

- [1] **Alexandra Présent** (2025) [Is there not an obvious loophole in the AI Act's ban on Emotion Recognition Technology?](#), *AI & Society*.
- [2] **Alexandra Présent** (2025) [Why you should not use CI to evaluate Socially Disruptive Technology](#), *Philosophy & Technology*, 38(6).
- [3] **Alexandra Présent** (2021) *Informatique affective: L'utilisation des systèmes de reconnaissance des émotions est-elle en cohérence avec la justice sociale?*, Master's Thesis, Laval University.
- [4] **Alexandra Présent** & Keven Bisson (2021) [La conception dividuelle de l'identité : une possible solution au casse-tête du deuil de Marušić ?](#), *Phares*, 21(1).
- [5] **Alexandra Présent** (2021) [Comment définir un groupe sans exclure aucune de ses parties ? Le genre et la notion sartrienne de la structure sérielle selon Iris Marion Young](#), *Era Novum*, 21(1).

## SCHOLARSHIPS & AWARDS

---

### PhD Graduate Scholarship

*SSHRC of Canada*

2021 – 2025

*The Netherlands*

- Full-ride scholarship for pursuing the PhD at Leiden University (NL)
- Value of **110 000\$ CAD**

### PhD Graduate Scholarship

*Joseph-Armand Bombardier*

2021 – 2024

*Canada*

- Canada Graduate Scholarships (105 000\$ CAD / 3 years)
- **Declined** to go study abroad (The Netherlands)

### MA Graduate Award

*OBVIA*

2020 – 2021

*Canada*

- Merit-based award for pursuing the MA in Philosophy of AI
- Value of **15 000\$ CAD**

## BA Award

*Desjardins*

2016

*Canada*

- Award for pursuing the BA in Philosophy
- Value of **1 250\$** CAD

## ORGANIZATION OF CONFERENCES & EVENTS

---

### 2024 Montréal Annual AI Ethics Conference

*5th Conference on Surveillance / Co-Organization*

2024

*Montréal, Canada*

### 2023 10th Annual OZSW Conference

*Dutch National Conference in Philosophy / Track Lead Philosophy of Technology*

2023

*Leiden, The Netherlands*

### 2023 Montréal Annual AI Ethics Conference

*4th Conference on Affective Computing / Co-Organization*

2023

*Montréal, Canada*

### 2022 Montréal Annual AI Ethics Conference

*3rd Conference on Ethics & Simulation / Co-Organization*

2022

*Montréal, Canada*

### 2021 Montréal Annual AI Ethics Conference

*2nd Conference on Algorithmic Quandaries / Co-Organization*

2021

*Montréal, Canada*

## TALKS & WORKSHOPS (SELECTION)

---

- [1] **IACAP-AISB 2025.** The International Association for Computing and Philosophy (IACAP) and the Society for the Study of Artificial Intelligence and Simulation of Behaviour (AISB). Title: "No hard feelings?: A philosophical analysis of the social value of overt expressions of emotions", Enschede (NL), Summer 2025.
- [2] **SPT2025.** Conference of the Society for Philosophy and Technology. Title: "Emotional expressions, informational opacity, and technology: The necessity of overt expressions of emotions for social life", Eindhoven (NL), Summer 2025. Supported by Van Haersolte Grant.
- [3] **GWP 2025.** Fifth International Conference of The German Society for Philosophy of Science (Gesellschaft für Wissenschaftsphilosophie), Title: "A Philosophical Investigation of Emotion Recognition Technology", Erlangen (Germany), Spring 2025.
- [4] **EMERGE 2024.** International Conference on Ethics of AI Alignment, Title: "[Emotional quantification and philosophical thinking: Understanding ourselves better with emotion recognition technology](#)", Belgrade (Serbia/Online), Fall 2024.
- [5] **EAAMO 2024.** The 4<sup>th</sup> ACM Conference on Equity and Access in Algorithms, Mechanisms, and Optimization. Title: "[Contextual Integrity and Socially Disruptive Technology](#)", San Luis Potosí (Mexico), Fall 2024.
- [6] **AI & Policy 2023.** International Workshop on Epistemic Rights in AI Policy. With a focus on explainable AI, LLMs and generative AI, and fairness and accountability, this workshop aimed to explore innovative approaches to address contemporary challenges in AI policy. Eindhoven (NL), Fall 2023.
- [7] **SPT 2023.** Conference of the Society for Philosophy and Technology. Title: "[Emotion Recognition Technology: An analysis of the risks at stake](#)", Tokyo (Japan), Summer 2023. Supported by Van Haersolte Grant.
- [8] **OZSW 2023.** 10<sup>th</sup> Annual OZSW Conference, Dutch National Conference. Title: "Revisiting our conception(s) of privacy", Leiden (NL), Summer 2023.
- [9] **ESDIT 2022.** International Conference on Ethics of Socially Disruptive Technologies. Title: "Re-Shaping human relationships: An analysis of the consequences of the disruption of Emotion Recognition Technology", Leiden (NL), Fall 2022. Supported by Van Haersolte Grant.
- [10] **AIES 2022.** The 5<sup>th</sup> AAAI/ACM Conference on Artificial Intelligence, Ethics, and Society. Title: "[Emotion Recognition Technology: Re-Shaping human relationships](#)", Oxford (UK), Summer 2022. Supported by AAAI/ACM Grant.
- [11] **IID 2021.** Guest Speaker at the Institute of Intelligence and Data. Title: "Ethical quandaries in Emotion Recognition Systems", Québec (Canada), Winter 2021.

- [12] **Rendez-Vous en IA 2021.** Guest Speaker at *Rendez-Vous en IA*. Title: “Algorithmic Discrimination”, Montréal (Canada), Fall 2021.
- [13] **Parlons Éthique 2021.** Guest at the French-Canadian Podcast “Parlons Éthique”, Épisode #17: “[Les Systèmes de Reconnaissance des Émotions avec Alexandra Prigent](#)”, Montréal (Canada), Fall 2021.
- [14] **Rationality of Emotions 2020.** Speaker at Symposium on Rationality of Emotions. Title: “Do reasons heal? An essay on grief” with Keven Bisson, Québec (Canada), Fall 2020.
- [15] **VIII Research Day in Analytic Philosophy 2020.** Speaker at the VIII Research Day in Analytic Philosophy. Title: “Ethical Issues Raised by Opacity in Emotion Recognition Systems”, Québec (Canada), Fall 2020.

---

## REVIEW FOR JOURNAL AND CONFERENCE

- [Philosophy & Technology](#) / 2024 –
- [Business Ethics Quaterly](#) / 2025 –
- [EPSSE European Philosophical Society for the Study of Emotions](#) / 2025 –

---

## RELEVANT ACADEMIC EXPERIENCE

<b>Lecturer</b>	Jan. 2023 – Aug. 2023
<i>Leiden University</i>	<i>Leiden, The Netherlands</i>

- Philosophy of Technology, BA3, 5013KC53
- Design of new syllabus, course material, evaluations, grading, etc.

<b>Invited Guest Lecturer</b>	Mar. 2021
<i>Laval University</i>	<i>Québec, Canada</i>

- Philosophical and Ethical Issues of AI, PHI-4142
- One-time Lecture in Prof. Jocelyn Maclure’s course

<b>Teaching Assistant</b>	2019 – 2021
<i>Laval University</i>	<i>Québec, Canada</i>

- Assistance in diverse tasks related to the course *Philosophical and Ethical Issues of AI, (PHI-4142)* of Prof. Jocelyn Maclure (3 times between 2019 and 2021)

<b>Research Assistant</b>	2019 – 2021
<i>Laval University</i>	<i>Québec, Canada</i>

- Worked as an RA in the field of Philosophy of Technology / Ethics of AI
- Design of new courses on Ethics of AI, literature reviews, and reviews of academic work
- Supervision by Prof. Jocelyn Maclure

---

## ACADEMIC MEMBER OF INTERNATIONAL PROJECT, CONSORTIUM, THINK THANK

<b>ESDiT (NWO Project)</b>	2024 – present
<i>Associate Member</i>	<i>The Netherlands</i>

### **Ethics of Socially Disruptive Technology**

- Develop a comprehensive philosophical understanding of the socially disruptive technologies (SDTs) of the 21st century, and in particular their challenge to the very concepts and values that we normally appeal to in our moral thinking. (Act. contr. in [New Methods for Ethics & Conceptual Disruption](#) Lines).

<b>SRPoiSE (Consortium)</b>	2024 – present
<i>Board Member</i>	<i>International</i>

### **Socially Relevant Philosophy of/in Science & Engineering**

- This consortium supports, advances, and conducts philosophical work that is related to science and engineering and that contributes to public welfare and collective wellbeing.

## **OBVIA (Think Thank)**

*Student Member*

2019 – 2021

*Canada*

- Involvement in this hub led to the creation and development of an AI supportive system for the Service of Information and the Referral Service on socio-community services in Québec (211)
- This project was scheduled to be presented at a workshop at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) in Oct. 2020 (cancelled due to pandemic travel restrictions)

## **PAST RELEVANT POLICY-RELATED EXPERIENCE**

---

### **Ethics in Science & Technology Commission (Québec Government)**

*Ethics Advisor – Student Trainee*

2019 – 2021

*Québec, Canada*

- The Commission's mandate is to advise the Government on ethical questions related to Science & Technologies
- Participation in the writing of several documents, including official briefs and reports on topics such as AI & the Workplace, Covid-Tracking apps, and AI & Ethical Deliberation

## **SOCIAL COMMITMENT & VOLUNTEERING**

---

### **Student Refugee Program (SRP)**

*Vice-President of SRP-U.Laval*

2019 – 2021

*Canada*

- Mission: Ensuring financial, educational and social autonomy

### **Leiden.U Graduate Council**

*Council Member*

2024 – present

*The Netherlands*

- Mission: Represent the general interests of all of the institute's PhD candidates

## **REFERENCES**

---

### **Dorota Mokrosinska**

Professor of Philosophy

Leiden University

d.m.mokrosinska@phil.leidenuniv.nl

+31 0614326181

### **James McAllister**

Professor of Philosophy

Leiden University

j.w.mcallister@hum.leidenuniv.nl

+31 715272004

### **Jocelyn Maclure**

Professor of Philosophy

McGill University

jocelyn.maclure@mcgill.ca

+1 (514) 398-3100