

# MICHAEL MONTESS

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## CURRICULUM VITAE

Department of Philosophy  
York University  
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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

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), Duff Waring & Regina Rini  
Expected Defence Date: Spring 2020

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)

## PUBLICATIONS

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

Andrew D. Eaton, 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*, 15(2).

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

## CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

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

"Challenging the Anthropocentrism in the Ethics of Climate Change (Revised)", Canadian Society for Environmental Philosophy Conference, Calgary, AB, October 2018

"Challenging the Anthropocentrism in the Ethics of Climate Change", Canadian Philosophical Association Conference, Montreal, QC, June 2018

"Comparing PrEP for HIV Prevention Among MSM and 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 Conference, 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

"Comparing PrEP & the Birth Control Pill: Sexual Freedom, Empowerment & MSM", Canadian Association for HIV Research Conference, 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 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 (Revised)”,  
Western University Philosophy Graduate Student Association Colloquium Series,  
London, ON, October 2012

“Blood, It’s In You To Give?: The Ethics of the Gay Blood Ban”, 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  
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, Winter 2014  
Critical Thinking with Esa Diaz-Leon, Winter 2011

## RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

SSHRC Insight Grant, Research Assistant, Summer 2018

“Civility and Solidarity” with Alice MacLachlan (York University)

AIDS Committee of Toronto (ACT), 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 (University of Toronto)

## SERVICE EXPERIENCE

Editor

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

Conference Organizer

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

Committee Member

Faculty of Liberal Arts and Professional Studies Representative, 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

## AWARDS

York University

Provost Dissertation Scholarship, 2019 - 2020

York Graduate Scholarship, 2015 - 2020

Kitty and Lou Newman Memorial Graduate Scholarship, 2015 & 2016

Western University

Western Graduate Research Scholarship, 2012 & 2013

Dean's Entrance Scholarship, 2012

University of Manitoba

Gold Medal in Philosophy, 2012

Dean's Honour List, 2008 - 2011

President's Scholar Scholarship, 2008

Chown Centennial Entrance Scholarship, 2007

University of Manitoba Entrance Scholarship, 2007

## 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 Association for HIV Research (CAHR)  
Canadian Bioethics Society (CBS)

## LANGUAGES

French (Advanced)  
German (Advanced)  
Ancient Greek (Basic)  
Latin (Basic)

## REFERENCES

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

Duff Waring (Committee)  
Associate Professor  
York University  
[dwaring@yorku.ca](mailto:dwaring@yorku.ca)

Regina Rina (Committee)  
Assistant Professor  
York University  
[rarini@yorku.ca](mailto:rarini@yorku.ca)

Samantha Brennan  
Dean, College of Arts  
University of Guelph  
[sjbrennan@uoguelph.ca](mailto:sjbrennan@uoguelph.ca)

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

Stefan Rodde (Teaching Reference)  
Assistant Lecturer  
York University  
[roddesw@yorku.ca](mailto:roddesw@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, social, and 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 the MSM community are as of yet unclear. PrEP is analogous to the birth control pill insofar as certain social and political dimensions of this new medical technology might be easily overlooked early on. 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 in both Canada and the United States face decisions of whether or not to use PrEP and the consequences of those decisions, philosophy has an important role to play in clarifying what is at stake for MSM and how we can 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 sex and HIV treatment and prevention. In my second chapter, I challenge the prevalent risk analysis approach to the ethics of PrEP by arguing that it is distorting the relevant risks of using PrEP and obscuring the social and political effects of PrEP on MSM. In my third chapter, I highlight one of the social effects on MSM by investigating how PrEP affects the trust in the sexual and romantic relationships between MSM and the relationships between MSM and health care professionals. In my final chapter, I highlight one of the political effects on MSM by detailing how PrEP complicates solidarity within in the gay community, especially given intergenerational differences in perspectives due to the history of the AIDS epidemic. 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 a community whose sexual and romantic lives continue to be medicalized, both internally by members of the gay community and externally by a broader culture and public health establishment.