

VIRGINIE SIMONEAU-GILBERT

DPhil candidate in Philosophy at the University of Oxford

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ACADEMIC PROFILE

Research Interests

- Areas of specialization: animal ethics, animal cognition, animals in the history of philosophy, and history of the animal protection movement in Québec.
- Areas of competence: practical ethics, moral theory, moral psychology, philosophy of emotion, empathy and morality, political philosophy, and legal philosophy.

Affiliations

- Member, Observatoire de recherche sur la condition animale (ORCA), Centre national de la recherche scientifique (CNRS), since 2023
- Associate Fellow, Oxford Centre for Animal Ethics, since 2023
- Student member, American Philosophical Association, Eastern Division, since 2022
- Student member, Groupe de recherche en éthique environnementale et animale (GRÉEA), Centre de recherche en éthique de Montréal (CRÉ), since 2018
- Student member, Société de philosophie du Québec, since 2016

Languages

- French (first language)
 - English (full proficiency)
 - Catalan (B1 – official certification from the Ramon Llull Institute)
 - Spanish: reading and understanding
 - Italian: reading and understanding
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HIGHER EDUCATION

Studies

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| 2021 – 2024 | Doctor of Philosophy (DPhil) - Philosophy
University of Oxford, Pembroke College
Under the supervision of Jeff McMahan and Alison Hills
Provisional thesis title: <i>Can animals be considered moral agents?</i> |
| 2020 – 2021 | One year in Bachelor of Arts (BA) in Philosophy, Politics and Economics
University of Oxford, Pembroke College |
| 2018 – 2020 | Master of Arts (MA) – Philosophy
Université de Montréal
Under the supervision of Professors Christian Nadeau and Valéry Giroux
Thesis title: <i>Le statut de personne peut-il être octroyé aux animaux non humains?</i>
("Can legal personhood be granted to non-human animals?")
Thesis granted 'exceptional' distinction
GPA: 4.3/4.3 |
| 2015 – 2018 | Bachelor of Arts (BA) – Philosophy
Université de Montréal
GPA: 4.083/4.3 |

2013 – 2015 Diploma of College Studies (DCS) – History and Civilization
Cégep Marie-Victorin, Montreal

Research Stays and Summer Schools

- 12 June to 9 July 2023 Oxford Global Priorities Fellowship
Under the supervision of Andreas Mogensen
Organized by the Oxford Global Priorities Institute
Trajan House, University of Oxford, Oxford, United Kingdom
- 8 to 19 July 2019 Catalan language and cultural stay
Organized by the Institut Ramon Llull and the Academia valenciana de la llengua
Col·legi Major Rector Peset, Universitat de València, Valencia, Spain
- 24 to 28 June 2019 *Politiques internationales de l'intelligence artificielle* (politics of AI)
Organized by the Centre d'études et de recherches internationales de l'Université de Montréal
and the École des Hautes Études en Sciences Sociales
Maison Suger, Paris, France

WORK EXPERIENCE

University Teaching

- Tutor, *Practical Ethics*, Harris Manchester College, University of Oxford, Michaelmas Term 2022.
- Tutor for the Oxford Prospects and Global Development Institute, Regent's Park College, University of Oxford, since April 2022.
 - Three tutorials on essay writing in Philosophy, Tsinghua University Programme, November and December 2022.
 - Four tutorials in ethics and political philosophy, Language Booster Programme, May and June 2022.
 - Three tutorials on essay writing, Practical Ethics, Moral Philosophy, and Ethics, Academic Skill Sessions, April and May 2022.
- One revision lecture given for the course *Pratique professionnelle en médecine* (bioethics and medical ethics), Faculty of Medicine, Université de Montréal, February 21st, 2020.
- Two lectures on animal ethics given for the course *Éthique vétérinaire et bien-être animal* (veterinary ethics), Faculty of Veterinary Medicine, Université de Montréal, October 19th and November 26th, 2018.

Cégep Teaching and Tutoring

- Substitute teacher for the course *Éthique et société*, Cégep Marie-Victorin, September 19th, 2021.
- Substitute teacher for the course *Philosophie et rationalité* (Greek philosophy), Cégep Marie-Victorin, from October 28th to December 16th, 2019.
- Tutor in Philosophy, Cégep Marie-Victorin, academic year 2014-2015.

Teaching Assistantships

- *Moral Philosophy: Mill*, St Hugh's College, University of Oxford, Trinity Term 2023.
- *Pratique professionnelle en médecine* (bioethics and medical ethics), Faculty of Medicine, Université de Montréal, winter 2020.
- *Éthique et politique de l'environnement* (environmental ethics), Philosophy Department, Université de Montréal, winter 2020.
- *Aspects juridiques et éthiques vétérinaires* (veterinary ethics and law), Faculty of Veterinary Medicine, Université de Montréal, winter 2019.
- *Éthique vétérinaire et bien-être animal* (veterinary ethics), Faculty of Veterinary Medicine, Université de Montréal, fall 2018.

Other Work Experience in Philosophy

- Editorial assistant, *Philosophiques*, the academic journal of the Société de philosophie du Québec (Quebec's Philosophy Society), from September 2016 to September 2018.
 - Communications and Membership Manager, Société de philosophie du Québec, from May 2016 to May 2019.
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SCHOLARSHIPS, AWARDS, AND PRIZES

Scholarships

- Supplement for studying outside Québec, Fonds de recherche du Québec Société et Culture, supplement awarded to the 10 best doctoral students, \$1,500 per annum, academic years 2021-2022, 2022-2023, and 2023-2024
- Fonds de recherche du Québec Société et culture (FRQSC)'s Doctoral Scholarship, \$21,000 per annum, academic years 2021-2022, 2022-2023, and 2023-2024
- Rhodes Scholarship, Rhodes Trust, academic years 2020-2021, 2021-2022, and 2022-2023
- Graduate Students Scholarship, Groupe de recherche en éthique environnementale et animale (GRÉEA), affiliated with the Centre de recherche en éthique (CRÉ) de Montréal, \$5,000, academic year 2019-2020
- Graduate Students Scholarship, Centre de recherche en éthique (CRÉ) de Montréal, \$5,000, academic year 2019-2020
- Travel grant for the summer school *Politiques internationales de l'intelligence artificielle* (politics of AI), \$1,700, 2019
- Fonds de recherche du Québec Société et culture (FRQSC)'s Master Scholarship, \$17,500, academic year 2019-2020
- Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council's Master Scholarship (Joseph-Armand-Bombardier), \$17,500, academic year 2018-2019

Awards and Prizes

- Marguerite-Bourgeoys Award, Université de Montréal's award for volunteer work, \$1,500, 2018
- Marguerite-Bourgeoys Award, Université de Montréal's award for financial support, \$1,500, 2017
- Philosophy Teachers' Scholarship, Philosophy Department, Université de Montréal, \$1,500, 2017
- Wilrose Desrosiers and Pauline Dunn Award, Université de Montréal's award for financial support, \$1,000, 2016
- Best student in History and Civilization, Cégep Marie-Victorin, \$400, 2014

Honors

- Winner of the Prix de l'Animalisme Francophone 2023 for the book *Que veulent les véganes? La cause animale, de Platon au mouvement antispéciste*, 'Best Book' category.
 - Honor Roll of the Rector, Université de Montréal, academic year 2020-2021
 - Finalist, Jean-Éthier-Blais Prize 2020 for *Au nom des animaux: L'histoire de la SPCA de Montréal (1869 – 2019)*, Lionel-Groulx Foundation
 - Award of excellence, Université de Montréal, academic years 2015-2016 and 2016-2017
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PUBLICATIONS

Books

- Co-written with Alexia Renard, *Que veulent les véganes? L'histoire de la cause animale, de Platon au mouvement antispéciste*, Montreal, Éditions Fides, 2021, 200 pages. Launched in France, Belgium, and Switzerland in April 2022.
- *Au nom des animaux. L'histoire de la SPCA de Montréal (1869-2019)*, Montreal, Éditions Somme toute, 2019, 375 pages.

Peer-Reviewed Articles

- “Les véganes au Québec : tensions à gauche et alliances en construction”, *Bulletin d'histoire politique*, vol. 30, no. 3, Spring 2023, Montréal, VLB Éditeur.

Book Chapters

- Forthcoming: “Savoir qui souffre pour être juste” (provisional title), *Ce que savoir veut dire : 30 témoins racontent l'histoire d'une révolution par la connaissance*, Montréal, Septentrion, 2024.
- Forthcoming: “Animal Morality: Why the Debate Matters for Animal Ethics”, *The Vegan and Plant-Based Handbook*, New York, Springer, 2023.
- “Des droits pour les animaux : une invitation à repenser les droits fondamentaux”, *Les droits en mouvements : l'avenir des libertés*, Montreal, Somme toute, 2023.

Book Reviews

- Forthcoming: Baratay, Eric (dir.). *L'animal désanthropisé : interroger et redéfinir les concepts*, Paris, Éditions de la Sorbonne, *Journal of Animal Ethics*.
- Allais, Lucy and Callanan, John J. (ed.) (2020). *Kant and Animals*, Oxford, Oxford University Press, 272 pages, *Philosophiques*, vol. 48, no. 1, fall 2021.
- Korsgaard, Christine (2018). *Fellow Creatures: Our Obligations to the Other Animals*, Oxford, Oxford University Press, 272 pages, *Philosophiques*, vol. 46, no. 1, fall 2019.
- Adams, Carol J. (2016). *La politique sexuelle de la viande : une théorie féministe critique végétarienne*, Lausanne, Éditions L'Âge d'Homme, 357 pages, *Ithaque*, no. 21, fall 2017.

Other Articles

- Forthcoming: Article on the history of the animal cause in Québec, special issue on antispeciesism and the animal protection movement, *Possibles*, 2024.
- “Entrevue avec Virginie Simoneau-Gilbert, autrice de *Au nom des animaux : l'histoire de la SPCA de Montréal (1869 – 2019)*”, interview co-written by Fanie Demeule and Virginie Simoneau-Gilbert, *Magazine L'Artichaut*, issue of 2019.
- “Entrevue avec Marie-Hélène Parizeau”, interview written by Virginie Simoneau-Gilbert, published in *Pensées canadiennes*, vol. 14, issue of 2016.

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

Conference Presentations

- *The animal protection movement in Québec and its specificities: a historical portrait*. Talk given for the panel “Making Sense of Animals in Québec Today”, Canadian Animal Law Conference, on Zoom, October 3rd, 2021.
- *L'agentivité morale et la personnalité : vers l'extension de la personnalité juridique aux animaux non-humains*. Talk given for the CRÉ's graduate seminar, Centre de recherche en éthique (CRÉ) de Montréal, on Zoom, March 19th, 2020.
- *Des suffragettes aux écoféministes : perspectives féministes sur l'exploitation animale*. Talk given for the conference “Questions de société, perspectives féministes”, organized by the Student Women's Committee, Philosophy Department, Université de Montréal, March 13th, 2019.
- *Une présentation de la philosophe Carol J. Adams*. Talk given for the conference “Femmes philosophes des 20^e et 21^e siècles : réappropriations et nouveaux horizons philosophiques” organized by the Student Women's Committee, Philosophy Department, Université de Montréal, February 19th, 2018.
- *La politique sexuelle de la viande de Carol J. Adams: une perspective féministe sur l'exploitation animale*. Talk given for Université de Montréal's Feminist Summer School (third edition), Université de Montréal, July 31st, 2017.
- *Une introduction à l'œuvre philosophique de Simone de Beauvoir*. Talk given for the conference “Femmes philosophes : une semaine de rencontres – 2017” organized by the Student Women's Committee, Philosophy Department, Université de Montréal, March 7th, 2017.

• *Introduction à la philosophie féministe de Simone de Beauvoir*. Talk for the conference “Femmes philosophes: une semaine de rencontres” organized by the Student Women’s Committee, Philosophy Department, Université de Montréal, March 8th, 2016.

Invited Conference Presentations

• To come : *Title to be determined*. Talk given for the Society for the Study of Ethics and Animals (SSEA), United States, over Zoom, May 18th, 2023.

• Member of the panel « Éthique animale et idéologie » chaired by Laetitia Guinand, journalist at Léman Bleu, panel hosted as part of the forum *Appréhender la lutte contre le spécisme et l’exploitation animale*, organized by the Coalition animaliste, Warwick Hotel, Geneva, November 26th, 2022.

• *Le bien-être animal en question*. Talk given for the second edition of the Semaine de la pensée antispéciste, talk organized by Sentience Rennes affiliated with the Université Rennes 2, Maison des associations, Rennes, France, November 15th, 2022.

• *L’empathie animale : son importance et limites morales*. Talk given for the second edition of GRÉEA’S early career scholars workshop, organized by the Groupe de recherche en éthique environnementale et animale (GRÉEA), Centre de recherche en éthique (CRÉ) de Montréal, on Zoom, Septembre 22nd, 2023.

• *Les capacités morales des animaux : un aperçu du débat*. Talk given for the *Estivales de la question animale*, Maison Familiale et Rurale du Sénonais, Gron, France, August 12th, 2022.

• Reading workshop on *Que veulent les véganes?* with Alexia Renard, organized for the *Estivales de la question animale*, Maison Familiale et Rurale du Sénonais, Gron, France, August 12th, 2022.

• *De la sentience animale à l’agentivité animale : quel cadre théorique pour un monde antispéciste?* Talk given for the international conference “Penser le spécisme aujourd’hui” organized by the research group RAT (Recherches Animalières Transdisciplinaires et Transséculaires), École Normale Supérieure de Lyon, Lyon, France, May 19th, 2022.

• *Présentation de Que veulent les véganes ? La cause animale, de Platon au mouvement antispéciste*. Talk organized by the Groupe de recherche en éthique environnementale et animale (GRÉEA), Centre de recherche en éthique (CRÉ) de Montréal, on Zoom, November 23rd, 2021.

• *Qu’est-ce que le droit des animaux et le véganisme ?* Talk given in collaboration with Alexia Renard and Louis-Étienne Pigeon, round table organized by Alain Houle, cégep régional de Lanaudière à Terrebonne, on Zoom, November 3rd, 2021.

• *Repenser notre rapport aux animaux : une introduction à l’éthique animale*. Talk given for the Night of Philosophy, UNESCO, Paris, via audio recording, September 17th, 2021.

• *La personnalité juridique pour les animaux : développements philosophiques*. Talk given for the student mini conference of the Animal Advocacy Club, McGill University, Montreal, on Zoom, January 22nd, 2021.

• *L’histoire et l’éthique du véganisme*. Talk given for Vanier College, Montreal, on Zoom, November 18th, 2020.

• *Table ronde d’autrices véganes*. Talk given in collaboration with Élise Desaulniers, Valéry Giroux et Ève Marie Gingras, round table organized by the Montreal Vegan Festival, Montreal, on Google Meets, November 8th, 2020.

• *Les femmes et la cause animale : un aperçu historique*. Talk given for the open mic “Micro à cœur ouvert : convergences dans l’antispécisme, l’écologie et les féminismes”, organized by Société pour l’antispécisme, le véganisme et l’écologie (SAVE), Université de Montréal, on Zoom, October 4th, 2020.

• *L’histoire de la SPCA de Montréal*. Talk given to the Montreal SPCA’s employees, Montreal, on Zoom, September 2nd, 2020.

• *La protection des animaux et le véganisme*. Talk given for the Francophonie Week (2020), Vanier College, Montreal, February 27th, 2020.

• Commentator for a talk given by François Jaquet on speciesism, talk given in collaboration with François Jaquet and Valéry Giroux, organized by Philopolis, librairie Le Port de tête, Montreal, November 20th, 2019.

• *Table ronde sur le thème des droits des animaux*. Talk given in collaboration with the authors Élise Desaulniers, Valéry Giroux and Jean-François Labonté, round table organized by librairie Zone libre, librairie Zone libre, Montreal, October 29th, 2019.

• *L’histoire de la SPCA de Montréal*, three talks given for La Magdeleine High School’s cultural days organized by Anne-Emmanuelle Lejeune, La Magdeleine High School, La Prairie, Quebec, June 10th, 2019.

- *Table ronde sur l'histoire de la SPCA de Montréal*. Talk given in collaboration with Élise Desaulniers and Fanie Demeule, round table organized by éditions Somme toute, librairie Le Port de tête, Montreal, June 6th, 2019.
- *Les études de philosophie : un bref aperçu*. Talk given for the SEUR Project, Université de Montréal, July 31st, 2018.
- *Le printemps érable : quelles pratiques du politique ?* Talk given in collaboration with Marie-Hélène Desmeules for the Night of Philosophy, Paris Center of Fine Arts, Paris, May 13th, 2018.
- *L'exploitation animale au 21^e siècle : enjeux et pistes de solutions*. Talk given for the theme week “Les enjeux du 21^e siècle” organized by the student committee Les Éveilleurs, Collège régional de Lanaudière à L'Assomption, L'Assomption, Quebec, April 6th, 2017.
- *La philosophie comme profession*, three talks given for Jean-Baptiste-Meilleur High School's Journée Carrières, Jean-Baptiste-Meilleur High School, Repentigny, Quebec, November 24th, 2016.

PUBLICATIONS AND INTERVIEWS IN POPULAR MEDIA

Digital Media

Revue L'Amorce

- Book review of Carrié, Fabien et Traïni, Christophe (dir.) (2019). *S'engager pour les animaux*, Paris, Presses universitaires de France, collection “La vie des idées”, 108 pages, book review published on February 14th, 2020.
- “Les calèches à Montréal : un débat qui ne date pas d’hier”, July 15th, 2019.

Bible urbaine

- “Dans la peau de... Alexia Renard et Virginie Simoneau-Gilbert, autrices qui démystifient le véganisme”, September 24th, 2021.

Le Délit

- “Tom Regan et les droits des animaux”, January 29th, 2019.

Le HuffPost Québec

- “La saison des abandons : et si on interdisait d’interdire les animaux dans les logements ?”, June 19th, 2019.
- “Tom Regan: ce grand théoricien des droits des animaux”, March 4th, 2017.
- “*Zoopolis* : des animaux comme concitoyens”, November 24th, 2016.
- “L’homme préhistorique « paré du prestige de la bête »”, August 30th, 2015.
- “Le spécisme dans l’assiette, ou la banalisation de la souffrance animale”, August 11th, 2015.
- “Une jeunesse unie pour un avenir engagé, un avenir dégagé”, co written with Raphaëlle Élément, 29 October 29th, 2014.

Le Journal de Montréal

- « Les vaches de Saint-Barnabé doivent être envoyées dans des sanctuaires », December 7th, 2022.

Journal Métro

- Interview for the “Discussions de salon” with columnist Frédéric Bérard, published on *Journal Métro*'s digital platforms, November 21st, 2019.

Présence-Info

- “Est-il moral de manger de la viande ?”, November 22nd, 2021.

La Presse+

- “Une façon de diminuer les abandons d’animaux”, June 23rd, 2019.

Ponder Me This, Pembroke Oxford Philosophy

- “Should we bring about the extinction of pets in the name of animal rights?”, March 11th, 2021.

The Montreal SPCA’s media

- Guest speaker for the activity “Hommage à Me Joan Clark”, held on Zoom and Facebook live, April 15th, 2021.
- “La SPCA de Montréal : la porte-parole des animaux depuis 150 ans”, July 12th, 2019.

Printed Magazines and Newspapers

Journal Métro

- “La saison des abandons”, June 19th, 2019.

Le Devoir d’histoire

- “Jour du Souvenir : les animaux, ces soldats oubliés de la Première Guerre mondiale”, November 9th, 2019.

Véganes Magazine

- Book review: Giroux, Valéry et Larue, Renan (2017). *Le véganisme*, Presses universitaires de France, collection “Que sais-je ?”, 128 pages, *Véganes Magazine*, No. 5, fall 2017.

Television

- Interview for the documentary “Zoo, une cage dorée ?”, Doc Humanité, Radio-Canada (French branch of CBC), May 2021.
- Interview with Lisa-Marie Blais on the history of the Montreal SPCA, *Le Québec matin week-end*, LCN, June 22nd, 2019.

Radio and Podcasts

- Interview for *Aujourd’hui l’histoire*, ICI Radio-Canada Première, January 24th, 2023.
- Interview for *Four Thought*, BBC Radio 4, December 21st, 2022.
- Interview for *The Philosopher’s Nest*, April 11th, 2022.
- Interview for *Le chaînon marquant*, CISM 89,3 FM, October 21st, 2021.
- Interview on *Que veulent les véganes ?* for the podcast *Éthique en pandémie*, October 1st, 2021.
- Interview on *Que veulent les véganes ?*, *Les Balados du Collectif de recherche Action Politique et Démocratie (CAPED)*, September 30th, 2021.
- Interview on *Que veulent les véganes?*, *Faites du Bui*, FM 93, September 23rd, 2021.
- Interview on *Que veulent les véganes?*, *Pour faire un monde*, Radio-Canada Saskatchewan, September 23rd, 2021.
- Interview for the radio segment “Les nouveaux penseurs”, *Plus on est de fous, plus on lit*, Radio-Canada, January 16th, 2020.
- Interview on the history of the Montreal SPCA, *Elias Makos Show*, CJAD, August 12th, 2019.
- Interview on the history of the Montreal SPCA, *Plus on est de fous, plus on lit*, Radio-Canada, June 5th, 2019.
- Interview on the history of the Montreal SPCA, *À nous la terre*, CKIA, May 17th, 2019.
- Interview on the history of the Montreal SPCA, *Le 15-18*, Radio-Canada, April 23rd, 2019.

OTHER ACADEMIC ACTIVITIES

Research Groups and Centres

- Member of the executive committee, Groupe de recherche en éthique environnementale et animale (GRÉEA), affiliated with the Centre de recherche en éthique de Montréal (CRÉ), academic year 2019-2020.

Boards and Committees

- Vice-president for external affairs, Comité étudiant pour la reconnaissance des droits des animaux, Law Department,

Université du Québec à Montréal (UQÀM), academic year 2017-2018.

- Member and organizer, Student Women's Committee, Philosophy Department, Université de Montréal, academic years 2016-2017 and 2017-2018.
- Member and organizer, Comité Accès à l'Égalité et Climat, Philosophy Department, Université de Montréal, from February 2017 to September 2018.

Journals

- Journal co-coordinator and co-prose lead, *oxford public philosophy*, fourth issue, 2023.
- Prose lead, *oxford public philosophy*, third issue, 2022.
- Reviewer, *Philosophiques*, occasional, since 2021.
- Editor-in-chief, *Pensées Canadiennes*, the Canadian undergraduate journal of philosophy, academic year 2015-2016.

Conference Organization

- Panel chair, 'Philosophy in the 'real world'', annual meeting of the American Philosophical Association, Eastern Division, panel organized by the Graduate Student Council, Centre Sheraton, Montreal, January 6th, 2023.
- Panel chair, « Repenser les relations humain-non-humains / Rethinking human-non-human relationships », second edition of GRÉEA'S early career scholars workshop, organized by the Groupe de recherche en éthique environnementale et animale (GRÉEA), Centre de recherche en éthique (CRÉ) de Montréal, on Zoom, Septembre 22nd, 2023.
- Reviewer, second edition of GRÉEA'S early career scholars workshop, organized by the Groupe de recherche en éthique environnementale et animale (GRÉEA), Centre de recherche en éthique (CRÉ) de Montréal, on Zoom, Septembre 22nd and September 23rd, 2023.
- Reviewer, Oxford Graduate Conference, 2022.
- Member of the organizing committee, panel on speciesism and sexism, *Spécisme et autres discriminations*, annual conference, Groupe de recherche en éthique environnementale et animale (GRÉEA), Centre de recherche en éthique de Montréal (CRÉ), held on Zoom, August 30th and 31st, 2021.
- Member of the organizing committee, *Éthique, justice et connaissance*, annual conference, Centre de recherche en éthique de Montréal (CRÉ), held on Zoom, May 12th and 13th 2020.
- Member of the organizing committee, *Femmes philosophes des 20^e et 21^e siècles : réappropriations et nouveaux horizons philosophiques*, conference organized by the Student Women's Committee, Philosophy Department, Université de Montréal, February 19th to February 23rd, 2018.
- Member of the organizing committee, *Femmes philosophes : une semaine de rencontres - 2017*, conference organized by the Student Women's Committee, Philosophy Department, Université de Montréal, March 6th to March 10th, 2017.
- Member of the organizing committee, *Par-delà les vagues : Introduction à la philosophie féministe*, conference organized by the Student Women's Committee, Philosophy Department, Université de Montréal, February 23rd, 2017.
- Member of the organizing committee, Symposium annuel de la Société de philosophie du Québec, Collège du Vieux-Montréal, Montréal, June 2nd, 2016.