

EMMANUEL CUISINIER

Ph.D Candidate
Department of Philosophy
Université de Montréal

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Areas of Specialization: Phenomenology (esp. Merleau-Ponty), Philosophy of Perception, Moral Philosophy & Moral Psychology, Philosophy of Heroism, Philosophy of Love, Philosophy of Trauma

Areas of Competence: Continental Philosophy, Critical Theory, Ethics, Epistemology & Metaphysics, Kant, Ancient Greek Philosophy, History of Philosophy

EDUCATION

Doctorate in Philosophy 2022 – Present
Université de Montréal
Supervisor : Prof. Maxime Doyon
Thesis Project: Merleau-Ponty's Ethics and Moral Phenomenology

Visiting Graduate Student Fall 2023
McGill University

Master of Arts in Philosophy 2020 – 2022
Concordia University
Master Research Paper Title: "Spontaneous Heroism and the Intersubjective Nature of Sacrificial Selflessness in Merleau-Ponty"
Defense committee: Prof. David Morris (Supervisor), Prof. Matthias Fritsch (Examiner)

Bachelor of Arts 2016 – 2020
Double Major in Philosophy & English Literature
Concordia University, Montreal

RELEVANT PUBLICATIONS

1. Cuisinier, E. 2026. "A Phenomenological Account of Heroism Using Merleau-Ponty's *Phenomenology of Perception*" in *Continental Philosophy Review*. Vol. 59. pp.381-403.
<https://link.springer.com/article/10.1007/s11007-026-09740-7>
2. Cuisinier, E. 2025. "Heroism, Perception, and The Problem of Expression" in *Journal of Speculative Philosophy*. Vol. 39 no. 3, pp. 348-364.
<https://muse.jhu.edu/pub/2/article/966532>

ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

Visiting Scholar Summer 2026
Merleau-Ponty Archives, National Library of France, Paris

Course Instructor Winter, Fall 2025, Fall 2026
Université de Montréal, Department of Philosophy

- PHI1901 Pensée rationnelle et argumentation (*Introduction to Critical Thinking*)

Course Instructor 2024 – Now
Institut de tourisme et d'hôtellerie du Québec (ITHQ), CEGEP Curriculum

- 340-101-MQ – Philosophie et rationalité (*Introduction to Philosophy*)
- 340-102-MQ – L'être humain (*Philosophical Conceptions of Being Human*)
- 340-604-TH – Éthique (*Introduction to Ethics*)

Course Instructor Summer 2025
Collège Ahuntsic

- 340-102-MQ – L'être humain

Graduate Research Fellow 2023 – 2024
Groupe de Recherche sur la Normativité (GRIN)

Teaching Assistant 2022 – 2024
Université de Montréal

- PHI2990 Fundamentals & Practical Issues in Ethics (x2)
- PHI1880 From Presocratics to Plato
- PHI2960 Chinese Philosophy
- PHI2180 Philosophy of Language

Learning Assistant 2022 – 2024
Collège Brébeuf

Research Assistant Winter 2023
Spontaneity & Normativity in Perception – Prof. Maxime Doyon

Teaching Assistant 2020 – 2022
Concordia University

- PHIL-235 Biomedical Ethics (x2)
- PHIL-263 Introduction to Epistemology
- PHIL-210 Critical Thinking (x2)
- PHIL-261 Aristotle & Hellenistic Philosophy

PUBLICATIONS

JOURNAL ARTICLES

3. Cuisinier, E. 2026. "A Phenomenological Account of Heroism Using Merleau-Ponty's *Phenomenology of Perception*" in *Continental Philosophy Review*. Vol. 59. pp.381-403.

<https://link.springer.com/article/10.1007/s11007-026-09740-7>

4. Cuisinier, E. 2025. "Heroism, Perception, and The Problem of Expression" in *Journal of Speculative Philosophy*. Vol. 39 no. 3, pp. 348-364.
<https://muse.jhu.edu/pub/2/article/966532>
5. Cuisinier, E., Garant, H.. 2025. « Numéro spécial sur la normativité : introduction » in *Dialogue : Canadian Philosophical Review*. <https://doi.org/10.1017/S0012217325000137>

TRANSLATIONS

1. Alloa, Emmanuel. "Merleau-Ponty's First Book : A Novel." in *Merleau-Ponty and Literature*. Translated by Emmanuel Cuisinier. Routledge. Forthcoming.
2. Martin, Marcel. "Meaning in Film" in *Merleau-Ponty and Literature*. Routledge. Translated by Emmanuel Cuisinier with Emmanuel Alloa. Forthcoming.

EDITED VOLUMES

1. Cuisinier, E., Garant, H., Côté-Bouchard, C. (eds). Special Issue on Normativity in *Dialogue: Canadian Philosophical Review*. 2025.
<https://doi.org/10.1017/S0012217325000137>
2. Cuisinier, E., Fortin, S. E., eds. *From Beginnings to Ends*. Gnosis: Graduate Journal of Philosophy. Vol. 20. Fall 2022. Print.
3. Cuisinier, E., Faingold, L., and Wenzel, E., eds. *Pensées Canadiennes*. Vol 18. Montreal: McGill University. Fall 2021.

ESSAYS

1. Cuisinier, E. "What Is Trauma? Sketch of a Phenomenological Description" *Oxford Public Philosophy*. Vol. 3. January 2023. <https://www.oxfordpublicphilosophy.com/turn-three/orientation/cuisinier>
2. Nounours, E. "Speaking About Death." *The Sophia Review*, Vol. 1, 2018, pp.16-21.

INTERVIEWS

1. Kounkou, Malia. 2024. « Avez-vous secrètement souhaité la mort de Donald Trump ? » *Urbania*. July 15, 2024. <https://urbania.ca/article/avez-vous-secretement-souhaite-la-mort-de-donald-trump>
2. MisirHiralall, Sabrina D. 2021. "APA Member Interview: Emmanuel Cuisinier." Blog of the APA. September 24, 2021. <https://blog.apaonline.org/2021/09/24/apa-member-interview-emmanuel-cuisinier/>

OPINION ARTICLES

1. Cuisinier, E. "Our Romantic Heart Needs To be Known." *The Concordian* [Montreal, QC], 18 February 2020, <http://theconcordian.com/2020/02/thinkpiece-our-romantic-heart-needs-to-be-known/>
2. Cuisinier, E. "The right to learn comes before the right to free speech." *The Concordian*. 29 August 2017, p. 15. <http://theconcordian.com/2017/08/the-right-to-learn-comes-before-the-right-to-free-speech/>

POETRY

1. Cuisinier, E. "July in June." *The Initial Journal*, Vol. 1, August 2020.
2. Nounours, E. "The Story of Cake" & "For My Editor", *Burning Magazine*, Vol. 1. 2019.

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS (R = Refereed; I = Invited)

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|---|----------------|
| "Merleau-Ponty's Critique of Moral Values" (R)
American Philosophical Association, Eastern Meeting, Boston, USA | January 2027 |
| "Merleau-Ponty's Critique of Moral Values" (R)
Society for Phenomenology and Existential Philosophy, Chicago, USA | November 2026 |
| "Merleau-Ponty's Critique of Moral Values" (R)
Existential and Phenomenological Theory and Culture, University of Victoria | June 2026 |
| « La critique des valeurs morales de Merleau-Ponty » (R)
Colloque des cycles supérieurs en philosophie, Université de Montréal | March 2026 |
| "Merleau-Ponty and Early Moral Phenomenology"
California Phenomenology Circle | March 2026 |
| « Peut-on enseigner la pensée critique aux gens qui n'en ont pas ? »
Philopolis, UQAM | February 2026 |
| "Value Theory in Early Moral Phenomenology" (R)
Colloque des cycles supérieurs en philosophie, Université de Montréal | March 2025 |
| "Perception, Heroism, and The Problem of Expression" (R)
American Philosophical Association, Eastern Division Meeting, New York City, USA | January 2025 |
| "Perception, Heroism, and The Problem of Expression" (R)
Society for Phenomenology and Existential Philosophy, Rochester, NY, USA | September 2024 |

“Perception, Heroism, and The Problem of Expression” (R)

June 2024

Existential and Phenomenological Theory and Culture, FHSS Congress
 McGill University

“A Phenomenological Approach to Romantic Love in Contexts of Mental Health” Apr 2023

APA Pacific Meeting, Society for Philosophy of Sex and Love Session
 San Francisco, USA

“Spontaneous Heroism in Merleau-Ponty’s *Phenomenology*” (I)

June 2023

Merleau-Ponty & Expression Workshop
 Concordia University

“Challenges and Contentions to Romantic Love in Spinoza’s *Ethics*”

March 2021

Kent State Philosophy Graduate Conference
 Kent State University, Ohio, USA

“Taking Over Subjectivity: The Intersubjective Nature of Being Heroic in Merleau-Ponty”

Philopolis Montreal

Jan. 2021

Université du Québec à Montréal

“The Place of Romantic Love as Robust Concern Theory in Spinoza’s *Ethics*” Nov. 2018

The Steven Humphrey Undergraduate Philosophy Colloquium (Refereed by faculty)
 University of Louisville, Kentucky, USA

“Counter Arguments to Social-Constructionist and Materialist Theories of Love” Mar. 2018

Liberal Arts College Students Academic Conference,
 Concordia University, Montreal, Canada

“Fundamentals in Philosophy of Love.”

February 2018

Philopolis Montreal
 Concordia University, Montreal, Canada

“Ethics in Love : The Case of Spinoza’s *Ethics*”

February 2017

McGill University, Montreal, Canada

ACADEMIC SERVICE**Guest Editor**

2024 – 2025

Dialogue: Canadian Philosophical Review

Reviewer

Summer 2024

The Montreal Workshop on Emotions and Normativity

Editor

2023 – 2024

Oxford Public Philosophy

Co-Editor-in-Chief

2021 – 2022

Gnosis: Graduate Journal of Philosophy – Concordia University

Reviewer

March 2021

Concordia Graduate Philosophy Conference

Reviewer

Feb. 2021

Gnosis – Concordia University

Editor

2020 – 2021

Gnosis – Concordia University

Editor-In-Chief

2019 – 2020

Pensées Canadiennes – McGill University

Conference Organizer

2017 – 2018

Philopolis, Montreal, Canada

Editor

2017

Pensées Canadiennes – McGill University

REFeree REPORTS

Revue Philosophiques

AWARDS, BURSARIES & SCHOLARSHIPS

Bourse de mobilité France-Québec Sophie Germain (\$3000)	2026
Fonds de recherche du Québec (FRQ) & Consulat Général de France à Québec	
Teaching Award, Nominated for Impact of Teaching on Students, ITHQ	2026
Financial Support of FAVE, Université de Montréal (\$3000)	2026
Travel Stipend, Philosophy Department, Université de Montréal (\$2000)	2025
American Philosophical Association Graduate Travel Stipend (\$300 USD)	2025
Bourse Wilrose Desrosiers et Pauline Dunn (\$1000)	2024
Graduate Merit Award, Canadian Congress of Humanities and Social Science (\$500)	2024
Bourse du Groupe de Recherche sur la Normativité (\$2000)	2023 – 2024
American Philosophical Association Graduate Travel Stipend (\$300 USD)	2023
Université de Montréal Doctoral Bursary (\$6000)	2022 – 2026
Concordia Split Merit Scholarship FAS (\$5000)	2020 – 2021
Kai Nielsen Bursary (\$1000)	2020 – 2021
Carolyn and Richard Renaud Bursary (\$5000)	2016 – 2018

MEMBERSHIPS

International Merleau-Ponty Circle
American Philosophical Association
Society for Phenomenology and Existential Philosophy
Society for Philosophy of Sex and Love

LANGUAGES

French (native), English (fluent), German (A1.1 intermediate), Ancient Greek (reading)

THESIS SUMMARY

My thesis aims to retrace and analyze the development of French philosopher Maurice Merleau-Ponty's moral philosophy throughout his career. My goal is to demonstrate the hidden and remarkable relevance of his work in contemporary ethics as well as to improve our knowledge of his moral philosophy specifically, which is currently lacking. Although he remains perceived as the philosopher of sense perception *par excellence*, I want to argue, contrarily to other interpreters, that there is in fact a serious ethical dimension to his work and that his seemingly lack of interest for ethics is based on a misunderstanding in the literature. In my view, these two sides of his work are intrinsically connected: *his work on perception provides the basis for his moral philosophy* and this connection is what allowed him to write on politics, moral values and human freedom.

Moreover, I argue that Merleau-Ponty's writings on morality provide many original contributions to contemporary ethics which remain underexplored, especially with regards to themes of moral responsibility, the opposition between freedom and political regimes, heroism, and moral meaning. What makes his contributions original, I believe, is the way in which he draws a link between sensorial experience and moral experience. On my interpretation, Merleau-Ponty's interest for ethics is mainly guided by his concern about the nature of moral values, which are forward-looking and perceptual according to him, thus giving rise to experiences of moral perception. By combing through all his writings, including his lectures notes, drafts, unpublished works and war journal, as well as the secondary literature in French and English, I explain that morality, according to him, depends first and foremost on a perceptual experience in which perception plays the role of capturing moral and social norms insofar as perception is conditioned by the level of freedom that one possesses in order to perceive. Although his moral and political philosophy cannot be reduced to this, my thesis demonstrates that we must begin from the *primacy of perception* in order to understand the evolution of his thought on the various ethical issues that appear in his work.