EMMANUEL CUISINIER

Ph.D Candidate
Department of Philosophy
Université de Montréal

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www.emmanuelcuisinier.ca
https://philpeople.org/profiles/emmanuel-cuisinier

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, 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 2025 – 2026
Université de Montréal, Department of Philosophy

Course Instructor in Philosophy 2024 – Now
Culinary, Tourism and Hotel Institute of Quebec, Montreal

Course Instructor 2025 – Now
Ahuntsic College, Department of Philosophy, Montreal

Graduate Research Fellow 2023 – 2024
Research Group on Normativity (GRIN), Montreal

Teaching Assistant 2022 – 2024
Université de Montréal

Teaching Assistant 2020 – 2022
Concordia University

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/

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS *(R = Refereed; I = Invited)*

"Merleau-Ponty's Critique of Moral Values" ***(R)*** January 2027
American Philosophical Association, Eastern Meeting, Boston, USA

"Merleau-Ponty's Critique of Moral Values" ***(R)*** November 2026
Society for Phenomenology and Existential Philosophy, Chicago, USA

"La phénoménologie et les sciences sociales" ***(I)*** November 2026
Invité au séminaire doctoral de Prof. Mélissa Blais
Université du Québec en Outaouais, Département de sociologie

"The Genesis of Morality in Merleau-Ponty" ***(R)*** October 2026
Panel *New Research on Merleau-Ponty*
Canadian Society for Continental Philosophy, Montreal

"Merleau-Ponty's Critique of Moral Values" ***(R)*** June 2026
Existential and Phenomenological Theory and Culture, University of Victoria

« La critique des valeurs morales de Merleau-Ponty » ***(R)*** March 2026
Colloque des cycles supérieurs en philosophie, Université de Montréal

"Merleau-Ponty and Early Moral Phenomenology" ***(I)*** March 2026
California Phenomenology Circle

« Peut-on enseigner la pensée critique aux gens qui n'en ont pas ? » February 2026
Philopolis, UQAM

"Value Theory in Early Moral Phenomenology" ***(R)*** March 2025
Colloque des cycles supérieurs en philosophie, Université de Montréal

"Perception, Heroism, and The Problem of Expression" ***(R)*** January 2025
American Philosophical Association, Eastern Division Meeting, New York City, USA

"Perception, Heroism, and The Problem of Expression" ***(R)*** September 2024
Society for Phenomenology and Existential Philosophy, Rochester, NY, USA

"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

COURSES TAUGHT

Université de Montréal

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

Ahuntsic College

- 340-102-MQ – L'être humain *(Introduction to Metaphysics and Epistemology)*

Culinary, Tourism and Hotel Institute of Quebec

- 340-101-MQ – Philosophie et rationalité *(Introduction to philosophy)*
- 340-102-MQ – L'être humain *(Introduction to Metaphysics and Epistemology)*
- 340-103-MQ – Éthique *(Introduction to Ethics)*

ACADEMIC SERVICE

Graduate Student Representative 2026 – 2027
Canadian Society for Continental Philosophy

Guest Editor 2024 – 2025
Dialogue: Canadian Philosophical Review

Reviewer Summer 2024
The Montreal Workshop on Emotions and Normativity

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

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

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
Canadian Society for Continental 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 bring to light the striking but underappreciated relevance of his work to contemporary ethics while deepening our understanding of his moral philosophy, which currently remains understudied. Although he is widely regarded as the philosopher of perception *par excellence*, I argue, against prevailing interpretations, that his work has a serious ethical dimension and that the apparent lack of interest in ethics attributed to him rests 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.