ALEXANDRA PRÉGENT

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RESEARCH INTERESTS

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

EDUCATION

Leiden University, Institute for Philosophy   2021 – present
PhD in Philosophy   *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   2019 – 2021
MA in Philosophy   *Québec, Canada*

- **Advisor**: Prof. Jocelyn Maclure

Montreal University   2016 – 2019
BA in Philosophy and French Literature   *Montréal, Canada*

PUBLICATIONS

[1] **Alexandra Prégent** Is There Not an Obvious Loophole in the AI Act's Ban on Emotion Recognition Technology?, (Under review at *AI&Society*).

[2] **Alexandra Prégent** (2025) Why You Should Not Use CI to Evaluate Socially Disruptive Technology, *Philosophy & Technology*, 38(6).

[3] **Alexandra Prégent** (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 Prégent** & Keven Bisson (2021) La conception dividuelle de l'identité : une possible solution au casse-tête du deuil de Marušić ?, *Phares*, 21(1).

[5] **Alexandra Prégent** (2021) How to Define a Group Without Excluding Any of Its Parts? Gender and the Sartrean Notion of Serial Structure According to Iris Marion Young, *Era Novum*, 21(1).

SCHOLARSHIPS & AWARDS

PhD Graduate Scholarship   2021 – 2025
SSHRC of Canada   *The Netherlands*

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

PhD Graduate Scholarship   2021 – 2024
Joseph-Armand Bombardier   *Canada*

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

MA Graduate Award   2020 – 2021
OBVIA   *Canada*

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

BA Award 2016

Desjardins *Canada*

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

ORGANIZATION OF CONFERENCES & EVENTS

2024 Montréal Annual AI Ethics Conference 2024

5th Conference on Surveillance / Co-Organization *Montréal, Canada*

2023 10th Annual OZSW Conference 2023

Dutch National Conference in Philosophy / Track Lead Philosophy of Technology *Leiden, The Netherlands*

2023 Montréal Annual AI Ethics Conference 2023

4th Conference on Affective Computing / Co-Organization *Montréal, Canada*

2022 Montréal Annual AI Ethics Conference 2022

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

2021 Montréal Annual AI Ethics Conference 2021

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

[3] **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.

[4] **EAAMO 2024.** The 4th ACM Conference on Equity and Access in Algorithms, Mechanisms, and Optimization. Title: "Contextual Integrity and Socially Disruptive Technology", San Luis Potosí (Mexico), Fall 2024.

[5] **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.

[6] **SPT 2023.** Joint Conference from Society for Philosophy and Technology & Japanese Society for Science and Technology Studies. Title: "Emotion Recognition Technology: An Analysis of the Risks at Stake", Tokyo (Japan), Summer 2023. Supported by Van Haersolte Grant.

[7] **OZSW 2023.** 10th Annual OZSW Conference, Dutch National Conference. Title: "Revisiting Our Conception(s) of Privacy", Leiden (NL), Summer 2023.

[8] **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.

[9] **AIES 2022.** The 5th 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.

[10] **IID 2021.** Guest Speaker at the Institute of Intelligence and Data. Title: "Ethical Quandaries in Emotion Recognition Systems", Québec (Canada), Winter 2021.

[11] ***Rendez-Vous en IA* 2021.** Guest Speaker at *Rendez-Vous en IA*. Title: "Algorithmic Discrimination", Montréal (Canada), Fall 2021.

[12] **Parlons Éthique 2021.** Guest at the French-Canadian Podcast "Parlons Éthique", Épisode #17: "Les Systèmes de Reconnaissance des Émotions avec Alexandra Prégent", Montréal (Canada), Fall 2021.

[13] **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.

[14] **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.

JOURNAL AND CONFERENCE REVIEW

- **Philosophy & Technology** / 2024 –

- **EPSSE European Philosophical Society for the Study of Emotions** / 2025 –

RELEVANT ACADEMIC EXPERIENCE

Lecturer   Jan. 2023 – Aug. 2023
Leiden University   *Leiden, The Netherlands*

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

Invited Guest Lecturer   Mar. 2021
Laval University   *Québec, Canada*

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

Teaching Assistant   2019 – 2021
Laval University   *Québec, Canada*

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

Research Assistant   2019 – 2021
Laval University   *Québec, Canada*

- 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

ESDiT (NWO Project)   2024 – present
Associate Member   *The Netherlands*

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 Line & Conceptual Disruption Line).

SRPoiSE (Consortium)   2024 – present
Board Member   *International*

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 schedule 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 Coucil
Council Member

2024 – present

The Netherlands

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

REFERENCES

Dorota Mokrosinska
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Leiden University
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