



U N I V E R S I T É

Concordia

U N I V E R S I T Y

Concordia University
Research Chair

HIV/AIDS and Sexual Health (Tier 2)

Annual Report

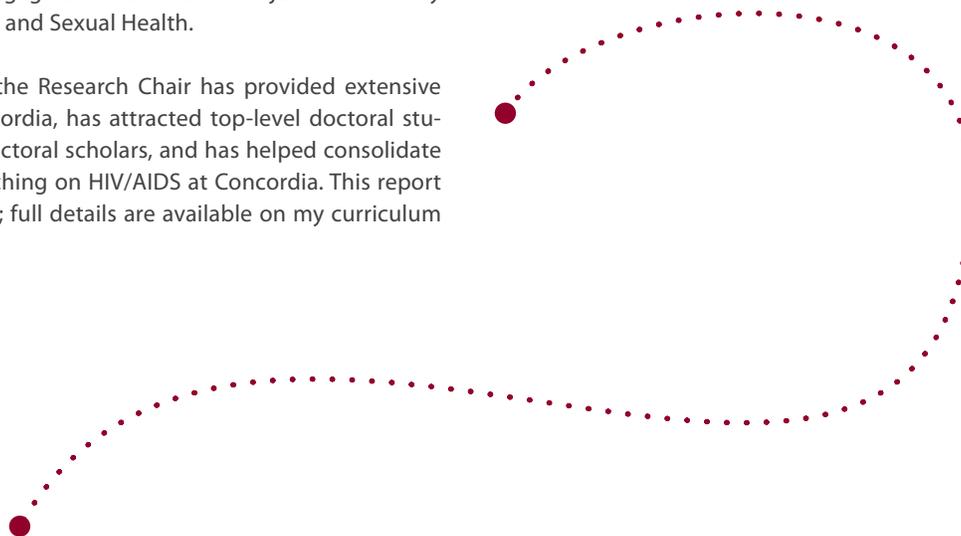
June 1, 2010–May 31, 2011

Dr. Viviane Namaste

Overview

This report offers an overview of my research, teaching, and community engagement activities in conjunction with my CURC in HIV/AIDS and Sexual Health.

In its third year, the Research Chair has provided extensive visibility for Concordia, has attracted top-level doctoral students and postdoctoral scholars, and has helped consolidate research and teaching on HIV/AIDS at Concordia. This report offers a summary; full details are available on my curriculum vitae (attached).



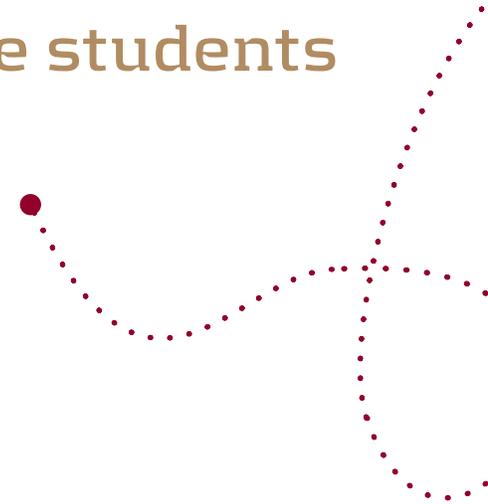
Highlights

- » **3 keynote addresses and special conferences, including one at UNAIDS in Geneva**
- » **Recipient of two major human rights awards for my work in HIV/AIDS: *Grand prix du Conseil Québécois des Gais et des lesbiennes*, and *Hommage aux Héros 2010 de la Fondation Farha***
- » **26 different media articles and representations during 2010-2011**
- » **Ongoing promotion and recruitment of 15 potential graduate students and 11 postdoctoral scholars working in HIV/AIDS**

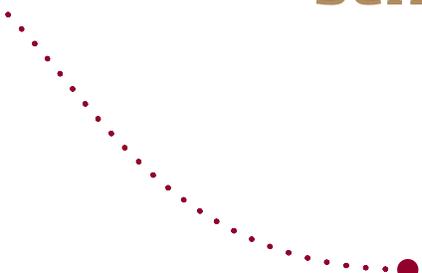
The action plan submitted as part of this CURC outlined an intent to promote Concordia University as an engaging place to study HIV/AIDS, in conjunction with the university's broader strategic planning. As part of this work, I have been active recruiting potential graduate students and postdoctoral scholars.

I have had in-depth discussions with 11 potential doctoral level students, three of whom prepared applications for admission (2 PhD in Humanities; 1 SIP). I also had in-depth discussions with 4 potential MA students, two of whom prepared applications (2 SIPs). This work has also involved assisting students in preparing applications for grants and financial support. In addition, I have been in contact with 11 different postdoctoral scholars about the possibility of continuing their research here at Concordia. Five postdoctoral applications were submitted in the fall of 2010, including one for the prestigious Banting competition.

15 potential graduate students



11 different postdoctoral scholars



In total, one MA applicant was offered both SSHRC and FQRSC funding and has elected to come to Concordia, one PhD applicant has accepted admission for the SIP PhD and plans to enroll in 2012, and one SSHRC postdoctoral application was successful and the applicant has decided to begin her postdoctoral studies at Concordia as of May 2011.

A special note of recognition needs to be extended to librarians Vince Graziano and Susie Breier. My recruitment with potential graduate students has included introducing them to the excellent collection of materials on HIV/AIDS available at Concordia, as well as setting up meetings with librarians when they came for a campus visit while considering study at Concordia. More than one student who decided to study at Concordia has communicated to me how impressed they were by the scope of Concordia's collection, as well as the dedication of these librarians, and that these factors heavily influenced their choice of institution for graduate study.

I currently supervise 7 graduate students, and am on the committees of one additional student. Two of these students hold SSHRC CGS funding, and came specifically to Concordia to work with me. In addition to giving 2 directed reading courses, my graduate teaching has included preparing a guidebook for graduate students working with me. This book explains everything from my expectations for producing original knowledge, to the best ways to communicate with me, to planning a realistic timeline, to tips and strategies for surviving graduate school. A copy of this guidebook is available from me upon request.

I also supervised a postdoctoral scholar in the fall of 2010 (Marilou Gagnon), who brought her own postdoctoral funding with her to Concordia.

Guidebook

for graduate students

A new initiative related to my teaching (as well as recruitment) is that of a biweekly reading group on HIV/AIDS and Sexual Health. This group was an immense success, attended regularly by five MA and PhD students. The group provides an occasion for us to read an article and to discuss it, and helps foster a sense of intellectual community at Concordia for scholars working in this field. This is especially important for graduate students who have moved here from another city (providing an occasion to meet students working in their field).

Moreover, it is particularly useful for students in the SIP and PhD in Humanities programmes, who do not have access to the same kind of infrastructure and support as graduate students in a more traditional department. The Reading Group, then, offers them an occasion to break their isolation.

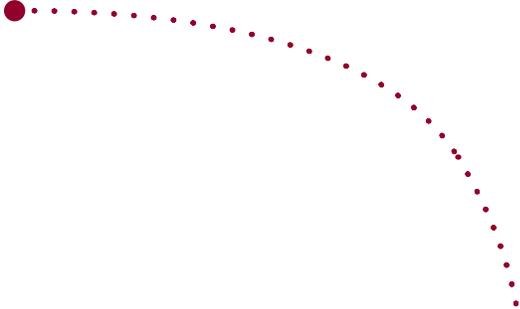
Two biweekly Reading Groups on HIV/AIDS one in Montréal and one in Paris

The success of the group was witnessed by its continuity throughout the academic year. Although I was absent from Montréal from January to April 2011 (in order to conduct field research in Paris), group members decided to continue meeting nonetheless.

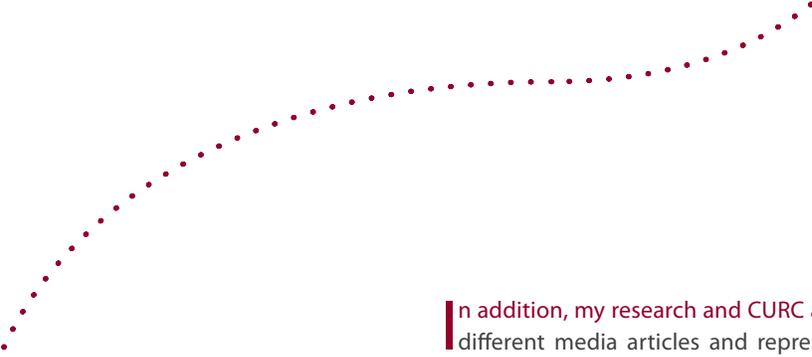
I also organized a similar Reading Group from January to April 2011 in Paris, while I was doing field research there. Working closely with the Réseau des jeunes chercheurs sur le VIH/Sida, we met every two weeks to discuss a relevant article in the field. This group was also successful, and provided an excellent occasion for recruitment of potential postdoctoral scholars from France.

Supervision of a postdoctoral scholar working on HIV/AIDS and body image

I have been active promoting the CURC, and Concordia more broadly, within the past year. Specifically with regards to HIV/AIDS, I helped sponsor a meeting of HIV positive women with regards to research (Pouvoir partager/Pouvoirs partagés, octobre 2010), supported a local community film festival on HIV/AIDS (vihsion, November 2010), provided funding for a Moroccan HIV activist (Latifa Imane) to speak in the Concordia HIV/AIDS Lecture Series (March 2011), and organized a talk by an historian of HIV/AIDS (Richard McKay, May 26, 2011).



Sponsorship of **4** different community events



26

media articles
& representations

In addition, my research and CURC activities have yielded 26 different media articles and representations in 2010-2011. These appearances have provided visibility for Concordia at the local, national and international levels (for instance, the radio show of Christiane Charette, the print publication *24 Heures*, or the television channel RDI). My research accomplishments have also been featured in Concordia's larger marketing strategy, notably its "Big Thinking for a Small Planet" advertisements.

My research remains committed to fulfilling the broad objectives of the CURC, as well as the strategic goals of Concordia: academic work of the highest quality; outstanding student experience; community engagement and responsibility.

A number of issues ought to be highlighted here in terms of my research. In the first instance, I have been honoured with two prestigious awards – the Grand Prix du Conseil Québécois des Gais et des lesbiennes, whose previous winners include Svend Robinson and Louise Arbour; and the Hommage aux Héros of the Fondation Farha. These awards testify to the visibility and originality of my work.

Hommage aux Héros

Fondation Farha
2010

Field research for a project on the history of HIV/AIDS

Grand prix *2010*

Conseil Québécois des Gais et des lesbiennes

With respect to grants and funded research, I note in particular ongoing work with two national projects: one an infrastructure grant for HIV/AIDS research across Canada (REACH), the second a training grant for graduate students and postdoctoral scholars working in the field (Universities Without Walls). Moreover, I was awarded a CIHR grant in the History of Medicine to conduct an oral history of the impact of HIV in trans communities in Paris and Montréal (1980-2000). I conducted field research for three months in Paris in the winter of 2011, as an initial component of this three-year study.

My cv outlines more extensive research achievements, grants, and knowledge transfer activities.

The Budget and Monies

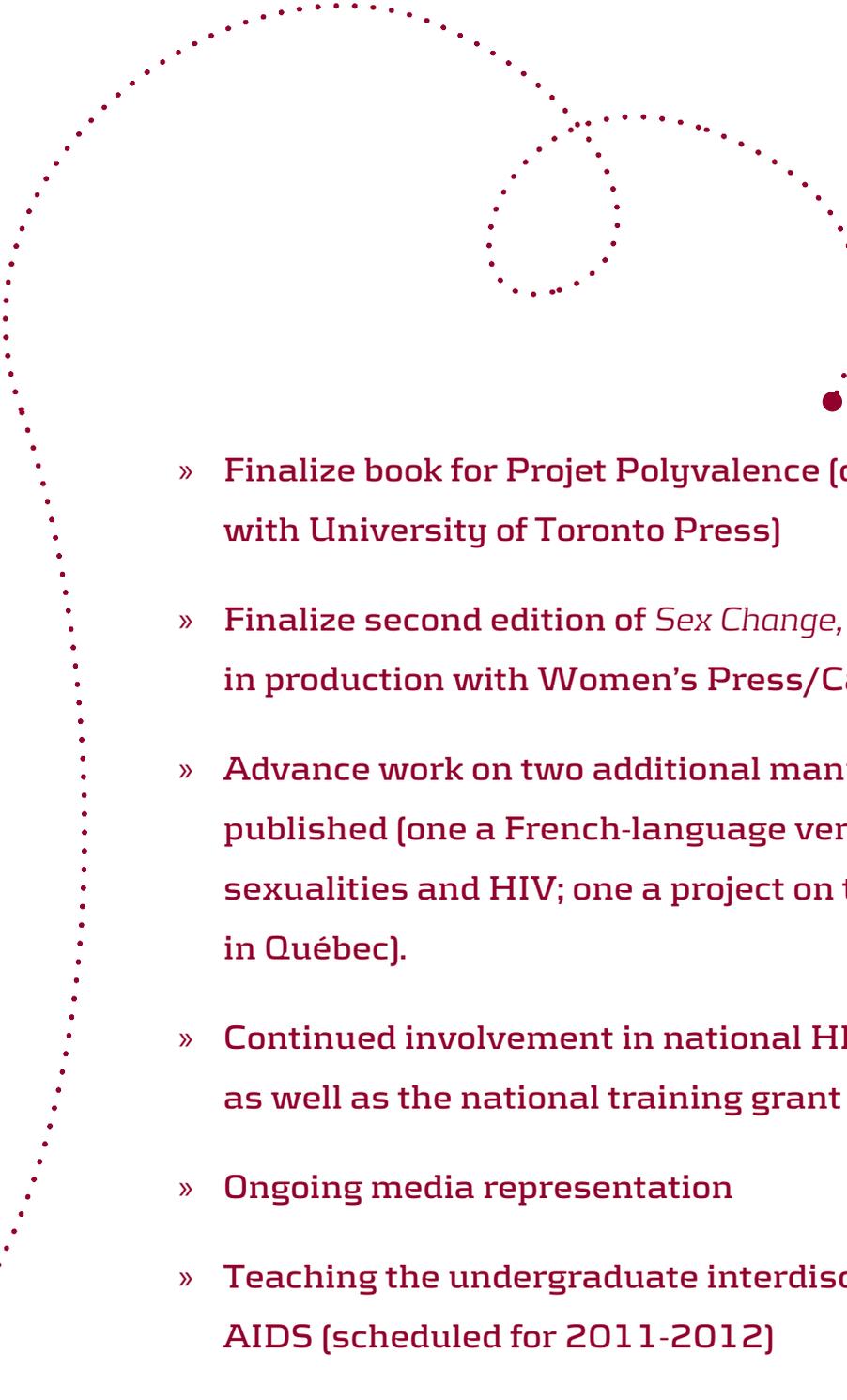
The financial resources allocated to support the CURC activities have been used in the following ways: support of graduate students (research contracts; funding for international travel to support their field research); community outreach (Concordia HIV/AIDS lecture series;

community events; visions film festival); printing and mailout of recruitment pamphlets; recruitment; Reading Groups in Montréal and Paris; conference travel and expenses; books and relevant documentation.

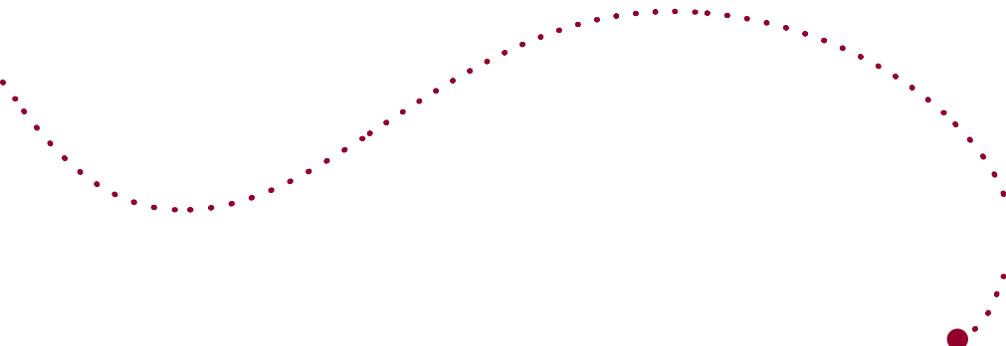
And the Future ?

Look forward to continuing the work associated with this CURC. Specific activities planned for the next year include:

- » Ongoing recruitment of graduate students and postdoctoral scholars. As per the original CURC workplan, I will concentrate some of these recruitment efforts in francophone sites, notably at the 6th International Francophone AIDS Conference to be held in Geneva in March 2012.
- » Preparation of a website for the CURC in HIV/AIDS and Sexual Health, to facilitate recruitment of potential graduate students and postdoctoral scholars
- » One postdoctoral scholar has begun her tenure at Concordia later this year, meaning there will be ongoing supervision and mentoring.

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- » Finalize book for *Projet Polyvalence* (currently in production with University of Toronto Press)
 - » Finalize second edition of *Sex Change, Social Change* (currently in production with Women's Press/Canadian Scholars' Press)
 - » Advance work on two additional manuscripts so they can be published (one a French-language version of the research on bisexualities and HIV; one a project on the history of censorship in Québec).
 - » Continued involvement in national HIV/AIDS research grant, as well as the national training grant
 - » Ongoing media representation
 - » Teaching the undergraduate interdisciplinary course on HIV/AIDS (scheduled for 2011-2012)

Concluding comments



This year has been particularly satisfying for me in terms of CURC activities. The visibility of my research was increased tremendously with the two prizes bestowed upon me. With regards to graduate students, after some initial labour to get the CURC up and running, it is clear to me that Concordia offers a unique institutional setting to study HIV/AIDS, and that this appeals to graduate students working in the field. These graduate students are among the best in their field, many of whom have been awarded FQRSC and or SSHRC CGS funding. Postdoctoral scholars are also drawn to Concordia as a site for scholarly research, as evidenced by the numerous applications submitted in conjunction with this CURC, as well as two postdoctoral scholars working here with me in current and recent years.

