

Zoey Lavallee

Assistant Professor, Department of Philosophy and Department of Equity, Ethics and Policy
McGill University

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Research areas: Philosophy of psychiatry; philosophy of mind; philosophy of addiction; situated cognition and affectivity; feminist social epistemology; ethics of AI and mental health

EMPLOYMENT

2026–present	Assistant Professor Department of Philosophy and Department of Equity, Ethics and Policy McGill University
2026	Postdoctoral Researcher SSHRC Insight Grant, McGill University
2024–2025	Postdoctoral Researcher The Centre for Research in Ethics McGill University
2022–2023	SSHRC Postdoctoral Fellow McGill University

EDUCATION

2021	Ph.D., Philosophy, The Graduate Center, CUNY Dissertation: <i>Desire, Culture, and the Body</i> Committee: David Papineau (chair), Miranda Fricker, Linda Martín Alcoff, Peter Godfrey-Smith (external examiner)
2014	B.A. Honours, Philosophy, minor in Spanish, University of Victoria

PUBLICATIONS

Refereed

- Paquin, V., **Lavallee, Z.**, Huot-Lavoie, M., Ku, B. S., Díaz-Caneja, C. M., & Gülöksüz, S. (2026). Situating problematic gaming and psychotic-like experiences in the adolescent landscape of affordances: A cohort study. *Journal of Behavioral Addictions*, 15(1), 320–331.
- Petropoulos, G., Copoeru, I., Kemp, R., **Lavallee, Z.**, Moskalewicz, M., Westin, A., & Messas, G. (2026). The unrealized potential of phenomenology in understanding addiction: A critical exploration. *Philosophy, Psychiatry, & Psychology*, 33(1), 123–140.
- Lavallee, Z.**, Snoek, A., & Gammelsæter, F. (2025). Addiction and emotions: From distress-regulation loops to affective recovery niches. *Philosophical Psychology*, 1-28.
- Lavallee, Z.** (2024). There's a pill for that: Bad pharmaceutical scaffolding and psychiatrization. *Topoi*, 44(2), 353–366.

- Lavallee, Z., & Gagné-Julien, A.-M.** (2024). Affective injustice, sanism and psychiatry. *Synthese*, 204(3), 94.
- Lavallee, Z., & Osler, L.** (2024). Affordances and the shape of addiction. *Philosophy, Psychiatry, & Psychology*, 31(4), 379–395.
- Lavallee, Z.** (2023). Affective scaffolding in addiction. *Inquiry*, 69(4), 2286–2314.
- Lavallee, Z.** (2020). Addictive craving: There’s more to wanting more. *Philosophy, Psychiatry, & Psychology*, 27(3), 227–238.
- Lavallee, Z.** (2016). What’s wrong with the (White) female nude? *The Polish Journal of Aesthetics*, 41(2), 77–98.

Commentaries

- Lavallee, Z.** (2025). Addiction, agency, and the limits of the ‘Epistemic Prerequisites Model’. *Philosophy, Psychiatry, & Psychology*, 32(4), 367–370. (Commentary on Krieger)
- Lavallee, Z.** (2020). The phenomenology of craving, and the explanatory overreach of neuroscience. *Philosophy, Psychiatry, & Psychology*, 27(3), 247–251. (Response to commentaries by Owen Flanagan and Douglas Porter)

Under Review

- A paper on hegemonic emotion norms and sanism (with A.-M. Gagné-Julien)
- A paper on AI mental health chatbots and the risk of emotional overreliance

RESEARCH FUNDING

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| 2025–2027 | Co-applicant , SSHRC Insight Development Grant, “A Pilot Study of the Anomalous Experience Hypothesis of Delusion Formation” (\$39,697)
PI: I. Gold; co-applicant: J. Shah |
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PRESENTATIONS

Invited

- “AI-Driven Mental Health Chatbots and the Risk of Emotional Overreliance” (May 2026). Journée de formation annuelle, Association québécoise de psychiatrie de l’enfant et de l’adolescent (AQPEA), “Quand l’IA rencontre la psychiatrie de l’enfant et de l’adolescent,” Université Laval, Québec City.
- “Framing Emotional Distress: Psychiatric Norms, Commercial Interests, and the Case of Mental Health Chatbots” (December 2025). Cognition Seminar, School of Psychology, University of Exeter (online).
- “Loneliness and Addiction” (June 2024). Phenomenology of Addiction: Substance Use and Lived Experience, UCD Centre for Ethics in Public Life, University College Dublin (online).
- “Affordances and the Shape of Addiction” (July 2023). Philosophy Research Forum, University of Bayreuth.
- “Affordances and the Shape of Addiction” (June 2023). Advanced Study Institute, *The Situated Brain: Culture, Context and Ecologies of Mind*, Division of Social and Transcultural Psychiatry, McGill University.

- “Affective Scaffolding in Addiction” (March 2023). Workshop on Epistemic Injustice and Agency in Psychiatry and Mental Health, Canada Research Chair on Epistemic Injustice and Agency, Université du Québec à Montréal (online).
- “Addictive Craving” (October 2019). Medical Practice and Epistemic Injustice Workshop. The Graduate Center, CUNY, New York City.
- “Addictive Craving” (January 2019). Philosophy Colloquium, University of Victoria, Victoria.
- “What’s Wrong with the (White) Female Nude?” (March 2017). Central Division Meeting, American Philosophical Association.

Refereed

- “Mental Healthism and AI Psychotherapy Chatbots,” with A.-M. Gagné-Julien (June 2026). Symposium “Mental Health and Technology: Philosophical Problems in the Age of AI” (co-organized with A.-M. Gagné-Julien), Annual Congress of the Canadian Philosophical Association, Dalhousie University, Halifax.
- “Mental Health Chatbots and Hegemonic Emotion Norms,” with A.-M. Gagné-Julien (May 2026). 37th Annual Meeting of the Association for the Advancement of Philosophy and Psychiatry, University of Texas at Dallas (online).
- “The Role of Social Affordances as Environmental ‘Breaks’ to Problematic Gaming,” with V. Paquin (June 2025). Annual Conference of the Canadian Game Studies Association, *Breaks/Arrêts*, Concordia University, Montréal.
- “Emotion Hegemonizing and the Case of Psychiatry,” with A.-M. Gagné-Julien (March 2025). Philosophy of Psychiatry and Lived Experience Conference, Sowerby Project for Philosophy and Medicine, King’s College London (online).
- “Addiction and Self-Control: On the Role of Emotions” (January 2025). Eastern Division Meeting, American Philosophical Association, New York.
- “Affective Injustice in Psychiatry: Emotion Hegemonizing and Psychiatric Drugs,” with A.-M. Gagné-Julien (October 2024). Montreal Workshop on Emotions and Normativity, Université du Québec à Montréal.
- “Affective Injustice in Psychiatry: Emotion Policing and Medication Centrism” (June 2024). Annual Conference of the European Philosophical Society for the Study of Emotions, NOVA University Lisbon.
- “Affective Injustice and Psychiatry,” with A.-M. Gagné-Julien (March 2024). Pacific Division Meeting, American Philosophical Association, Portland.
- “Affective Injustice and Psychiatric Coping,” with A.-M. Gagné-Julien (September 2023). Madpeople’s Coping Mechanisms, Faculty of Philosophy, University of Oxford (online).
- “Affective Scaffolding in Addiction” (March 2023). 114th Annual Meeting, Southern Society for Philosophy and Psychology, Louisville.
- “Contextualizing Agency and Self-Control in Addiction” (May 2022). Annual Congress, Canadian Philosophical Association (online).
- “Addiction as a Response to Unlivable Conditions” (April 2022). Unliveability and the Precarity of the Living, Centre de recherche en éthique, Université de Montréal (online).

“The Nature of Sexual Desire” (February 2021). Central Division Meeting, American Philosophical Association (online).

“Addictive Craving: There’s More to Wanting More” (February 2020). Central Division Meeting, American Philosophical Association, Chicago.

“The Illusory Divide Between Compulsion and Choice Models of Addiction” (May 2018). Annual Meeting, Association for the Advancement of Philosophy and Psychiatry, New York.

“The Illusory Divide Between Compulsion and Choice Models of Addiction” (March 2018). Annual Meeting, Southern Society for Philosophy and Psychology, San Antonio.

“Motivating Addiction: Desires as Reasons, a Hybrid Model” (July 2017). Annual Meeting, Society for Philosophy and Psychology, Baltimore (poster).

“Motivating Addiction: Desires as Reasons, a Hybrid Model” (June 2017). Cognitio 2017, Affective Minds: The Cognitive Science of Emotions and Affects, Montreal.

“What’s Wrong with the (White) Female Nude?” (October 2016). Midwest Society for Women in Philosophy Conference, Danville.

“What’s Wrong with the (White) Female Nude?” (June 2016). 3rd Barcelona Conference on Gender, Race and Sexuality.

AWARDS AND FELLOWSHIPS

2024–2025	Postdoctoral Fellowship, Centre de recherche en éthique
2022–2023	SSHRC Postdoctoral Fellowship
2020–2021	Altman Dissertation Fellowship, The Graduate Center, CUNY
2019–2020	Writing Across the Curriculum Fellowship, Kingsborough Community College
2019	Graduate Assistantship, Philosophy in an Inclusive Key Summer Institute (PIKSI), Rock Ethics Institute, Penn State University
2016–2019	SSHRC Doctoral Fellowship
2014–2019	Graduate Center Fellowship, The Graduate Center, CUNY

KNOWLEDGE MOBILIZATION AND PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT

Feb 2025	Public presentation on craving, Open Door, a weekly gathering hosted by Communitas
May 2024	Continuing-education training on craving for physicians, Communauté de pratique médicale en dépendance (CPMD)
2024	“The Philosophy of Addiction.” Jeanette Kennett in conversation with Zoey Lavallee (interviewer), <i>The Philosopher</i>
2022	“Why We Crave: The Neuroscientific Picture of Addiction Overlooks the Psychological and Social Factors That Make Cravings So Hard to Resist.” <i>Aeon</i>

TEACHING

McGill University

Winter 2027	History and Philosophy of Psychiatry, cross-listed graduate seminar, Department of Psychiatry (co-taught with J. Shah)
Winter 2025	History and Philosophy of Psychiatry, cross-listed graduate seminar, Department of Psychiatry (co-designed and co-taught with A. Gómez-Carrillo)
Winter 2024	History and Philosophy of Psychiatry, cross-listed graduate seminar, Department of Psychiatry (co-designed and co-taught with A. Gómez-Carrillo)

Brooklyn College, CUNY

2015–2018	Introduction to the Problems of Philosophy (six sections)
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SERVICE

To the Profession

Journal referee	<i>Aesthetic Investigations; Contemporary Drug Problems; Crítica; Erkenntnis; Journal of the American Philosophical Association; Passion: Journal of the European Philosophical Society for the Study of Emotions; Phenomenology and the Cognitive Sciences; Philosophia; Philosophical Psychology; Philosophical Studies; Philosophy, Psychiatry, & Psychology; Res Publica; Topoi</i>
Book referee	<i>Palgrave Macmillan</i>

Events Organized

2026	Culture, Mind and Brain Workshop, McGill Summer Program in Social and Cultural Psychiatry (co-organized with CRÉ-POMH, LIPP, and RPSH)
2025	<i>Philosophical Perspectives on Values and Mental Health</i> , CRÉ-POMH Conference (co-organized with A.-M. Gagné-Julien)
2023, 2024	Radical and Critical Approaches to Mental Health Workshop (co-organized with A.-M. Gagné-Julien)
2022–2023	Mad Studies Reading Group (co-organized with A.-M. Gagné-Julien)
2018	Oppression and Resistance, NY Minorities and Philosophy Conference (co-organized with MAP chapters across New York City)
2018	NY-MAPWorks, Minorities and Philosophy Spring Workshop Series (co-organized with MAP chapters across New York City)

Institutional

2023–2026	Postdoctoral Representative, Executive Committee, Centre de recherche en éthique (CRÉ)
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Community

2018–present	Volunteer, Parole Preparation Project, New York
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Graduate Service and Pedagogy, CUNY

2014–2021	Member and organizer, Minorities and Philosophy (MAP), CUNY chapter
2020	Training manual developer, LGBTQ+ Initiative, Kingsborough Community College
2016–2019	Facilitator, Minorities and Philosophy Pedagogy Workshop Series
2018	Facilitator, “Diversity and the Classroom,” Fordham University
2017–2018	Student Steering Committee, Philosophy Program
2015–2016	Committee on Representation and Diversity, Philosophy Program

AFFILIATIONS

Centre de recherche en éthique (CRÉ), Regular Member, Ethics and Health axis

Philosophy of Mental Health group, CRÉ (CRÉ-POMH), Co-organizer

Critical Emotion Theory network (CET), Core Member

American Philosophical Association

Canadian Philosophical Association