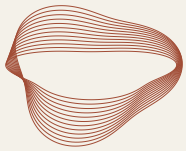
François Lespinasse



RESEARCH / CREATION / COLLECTIVE EXPERIMENT

Researcher and artist working across sensory ethnography, neuroscience and generative AI. I make interactive installations, develop open-source tools, and build spaces for collective experimentation with embodied, analog and computational instruments.

Montréal · Tiohtià:ke | Contact via website
github.com/sangfrois · Google Scholar · ORCID 0000-0002-6897-2119

EDUCATION

2023-present

PhD, Individualized Social Sciences | Computational Sensory Ethnography

Concordia University | 2023-present. SSHRC Doctoral Scholarship recipient (2024-2028). Expected graduation: January 2029. Main affiliation: Machine Agencies, Milieux Institute. Member of Réseau Hexagram.

2021-2024

Programme court de 2e cycle en Présence Attentive | Profil relation d'aide

Université du Québec à Montréal | 2021 - 2024

2019-2023

M.Sc. Psychologie | recherche en neurosciences computationnelles

Université de Montréal | 2019 - 2023 cneuromod.ca

2016-2019

B. Sc. Neuroscience cognitive | Profil: Neuropsychologie

Université de Montréal | 2016 - 2019

RESIDENCIES

2024

Milieux Institute x Applied AI Institute GenAI Studio

May-August 2024 Development and prototyping of Mechanical Meanderings , a multi-AI interactive installation for real-time image generation from live action cameras and spoken queries.

2023

Santa Barbara center for Arts Science and Technology (SBCAST)

September 2023 Industrial Collaboration with Shiftwave under mutual NDA

2023

Reflective Iterative Scenario Enactment - Lento: an opera on slowing down

April 2023

2023

Reflective Iterative Scenario Enactment - Heart Tethers

February 2023

Research & professional practice

EXPERIENCE

2024-present
Co-founding Partner - kairos~hive
2024-present · Transdisciplinary collective working across art, science and technology through bio-adaptive experiences, design, research-creation and education. S.E.N.C. registered in Québec.

2023-2025
Research Assistant & Liaison with Applied AI Institute
Concordia University - Centre for Sensory Studies | 2023-2025

2024-2025
Applied AI Institute, Working Group Lead - GenAI Research-Creation Methodologies
Concordia University | 2024-2025

2022-2023
Psychosocial intervention through meditation - primary and secondary schools and seniors' residences
Méditation en Zone Éducative (MenZoÉ) | 2022-2023

2020-2021
Teaching Assistant
Université de Montréal - Department of Psychology | 2020-2021

2019-2023
Research Assistant - Neuroimaging data collection, processing and analysis
Centre de recherche de l'Institut Universitaire Gériatrique de Montréal - Courtois-NeuroMod project | 2019-2023

2017-2019
Events Representative
Mouvement Desjardins | 2017-2019

FELLOWSHIPS & AWARDS

2024-2028 Bourse Doctorale du Conseil de Recherche en Science Humaines (CRSH/SSHRC) | 2024-2028 | 40 000 $ / an

2023-2024 Bourse Fondation R. Howard Webster, Université Concordia | 2023-2024 | 10 000$

2023-2024 Bourse Fondation Louise Dandurand, Université Concordia | 2023-2024 | 15 000 $

2019-2023 Bourse de maîtrise Fondation Courtois, Université de Montréal | 2019-2023 | 20 000 $ / an

2018-2019 Bourses de stage, Fondation Courtois, Université de Montréal | 2018-2019 | 8 500 $

2017 Bourse de persévérance du service aux étudiants, Université de Montréal | Janvier 2017 | 1 500 $

Works & encounters

RESEARCH-CREATION

2026

The Monolith - Creative direction

2026 · Machine Agencies / Milieux Institute / Réseau Hexagram. Speculative social game on AI and culture, presented at MUTEK Forum, Édifice Wilder, Montréal, 27 August 2026. Production: Aurélie Petit and Bart Simon; technical direction: Kamyar Karimi.

2026

Viraf 2.0 - Performance & design

2026 · Hive Theatre, Montréal Fringe. Performed with Syd Hamidreza Hosseini, directed by Hosseini; sound design by Kamyar Noak Karimi. A theatre and new-media work on memory, loss and technological mediation.

2026

Uncanny Nova Phenomenon - Machine Consciousness Conference (MC0001)

May 2026 · Invited to the exhibition organized by the California Institute of Machine Consciousness (CIMC).

2025

Machinic Encounters - Technical direction

2025 · GenAI Studio / Machine Agencies, Milieux Institute. Technical support with Kamyar Karimi for the residency and exhibition curated by Ceyda Yolgörmez. MUTEK Forum, 21 August 2025.

2025

Inescapable Contradictions in Creative Encounters Across Ethnography, Art, and Technology

2025 · Artwork-performance, Uncommon Senses V, Concordia University, 7 May. With Paolo Gruni and Thomas Seibel.

2025

UKAI Shipwreck @ Milieux Institute

Lespinasse, F. (2025). Mechanical meanderings . Interactive experience exploring the powerful act of making home amidst the ruins of potential futures, exploring how we navigate ecological, cultural, and technological devastation.

2024

Milieux Institute @ MTL Connect

Lespinasse, F. (2024). Mechanical meanderings. Showcase to conference curators of MTL Connect.

2024

Cyberdelic Safari - Abundant Intelligences × Hexagram

Bellemare-Pépin, A., Esterella, M., Harel, Y., Lespinasse, F. , Thölke, P. (2024). Cyberdelic safari : an AI-driven visual neurofeedback experiment, exploring more-than-human relationality

2024

Wilding AI LAB @ MUTEK MTL

Lespinasse, F. (2024). Mechanical Meanderings . Open forum showcase and collective experimentations.

2024

Meteomythosophy @ Embodied Interventions LePARC - Milieux Institute

Gruni, P., Lespinasse, F. , Seibel, T. (2024). Meteomythosophy: Being and Knowing in Queer Cyber-Ecosystems

Collective practice

EVENTS & WORKSHOPS

2025

Télécom SudParis - Technology, territory and creativity

April 2025 · Invited lecture and workshop during IMAGIN week, exploring connections between technology, territory and creativity.

2025

Chatting with Ollama - Build your own AI Bot

2025 · Workshop facilitator, Machine Agencies / GenAI Studio, Concordia University. Retrieval-augmented generation with local language models. Listed by Concordia on 14 March 2025.

2024-2025

Laboratoire expérimental @ Take-Care-Baby MTL

Michel, H., Lespinasse, F. (2024-2025). Monthly multi-disciplinary open mic for Montreal francophone community (Mechanical meanderings , responding to performers' interventions)

2024

Sensorium Colaboratory @ Centre for Sensory Studies, Milieux & Applied AI Institutes

Lespinasse, F., Bellemare-Pépin, A., Gruni, P., Seibel, T., Thölke, P., Howes, D. (Oct. 2024). Sensorium Colaboratory: a series of Arts-Science workshops exploring biofeedback and GenAI. Supported by the Applied AI and Milieux institute, in collaboration with the Centre for Sensory Studies.

2023

ARTS : Le Média - Événement rave multiculturel

Thölke, P., Bellemare-Pépin, A., Harel, Y., & Lespinasse, F. (Oct. 2023). Neuro-AI Immersive installation : Mechanical Poet. KAIROS.

2023

Neuro-AI Creative Hack Night

Workshop & Party for OHBM Conference (Jul. 2023). Co-organized by UNIQUE & Courtois-NeuroMod

2023

La Forêt Dorée, milieu communautaire pour les arts

Bellemare-Pépin, A., Lespinasse, F., Tremblay, T.J. (2023) Poésie pour les plantes: musique procédurale depuis l'activité électrophysiologique des plantes et poésie collective

PERFORMANCE & LITERATURE

2022

Sherbrooke prend la parole, festival de poésie de Sherbrooke (maintenant, En Verve et Poésie)

Lespinasse, F. (2022) Granularité

2023

Fragments 1ère édition, Revue des étudiants·es en psychologie de l'UQAM - Oeuvres visuelles et textuelles

Lespinasse, F. (2023) Particules. Éditrice-en-chef : Nessa Ghassemi-Bakhtiari

2022

Production théâtre amateur, L'Atelier cours de théâtre

Acteur. Mise en scène et réalisation par Lili-Rachel Morin. (2022) Au milieu des milliards

Publications & software

PUBLICATIONS

2026

Divergent creativity in humans and large language models

2026 · Bellemare-Pepin, A.*, Lespinasse, F.*, Thölke, P., Harel, Y., Mathewson, K., Olson, J. A., Bengio, Y., & Jerbi, K. Scientific Reports, 16, 1279. *Equal contribution / co-first authors.

2026

The harmonicity of brain dynamics: A neurophenomenological approach to creative biofeedback

2026 · Bellemare-Pepin, A., Lespinasse, F., & Tsabary, E. Organised Sound, 1-15. doi:10.1017/S1355771826101162.

2026

Bio-Adaptive Mythologies: Envisioning a Cyber-Ecology of Narrative Design

2026 · Bellemare-Pepin, A., Estarellas, M., Thölke, P., Lespinasse, F., Gagnon Lortie, G., & Harel, Y. Metacritic Journal for Comparative Studies and Theory, 12(1), 36-61.

2024

Bio-Mechanical Poet: An Immersive Audiovisual Playground for Brain Signals and Generative AI

2024 · Thölke, P., Bellemare-Pepin, A., Harel, Y., Lespinasse, F., & Jerbi, K. Proceedings of the 15th International Conference on Computational Creativity.

2021

NeuroKit2: A Python toolbox for neurophysiological signal processing

2021 · Makowski, D., Pham, T., Lau, Z. J., Brammer, J. C., Lespinasse, F., Pham, H., Schölzel, C., & Chen, S. H. A. Behavior Research Methods.

SOFTWARE

Goofi-pipe

Collaborator · Real-time, multimodal data processing and creative biofeedback. With Philipp Thölke, Antoine Bellemare-Pépin and Yann Harel.

2023

Physiopy / phys2bids

Contributor · BIDS formatting of physiological recordings. Software release v2.8.2 (2023), with Daniel Alcalá and collaborators.

Physprep

Physiological data preparation workflow adapted for MR settings. With Marie-Eve Picard, Mary Miedema, Jen-I Chen, Basile Pinsard, Julie Boyle, Pierre Bellec and Pierre Rainville.

Biotuner

Open-source toolbox bringing music theory and signal processing to the harmonic analysis of physiological and natural time series. Feedback and assistance in developing and refining the toolbox.

Public engagement & community



PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT

2026 — Townships Bookfest - Beyond the AI moment: a public dialogue for readers and writers
November 2026 · Invited guest, interviewed by Linda Morra, host of Getting Lit with Linda.

2023 — Podcast pour Écothèque avec le collectif Éco-Motion
Lespinasse, F., Béliveau I. (2023) Discussion sur les éco-émotions

2022 — Conférence pour l'organisme de vulgarisation scientifique BistroBrain
Lespinasse, F. (2022) Ton cerveau manque de cœur!

COMMUNITY WORK

2019-2023 — Intervenant, formateur, et animateur de méditation
MenZoÉ - Organisme à but non-lucratif | 2019-2023

2019-2023 — Vulgarisateur/conseiller scientifique et intervenant
Collectif Éco-Motion - Organisme à but non-lucratif | 2019-2023

Scientific communications

TALKS, POSTERS & NON-REFEREED CONTRIBUTIONS

2023 — CuttingEEG Montréal - panéliste et présentateur - collaborateur

Thölke, P., Bellemare-Pépin, A., Harel, Y., Lespinasse, F. (2023) Goofi-pipe: an accessible and modality-agnostic biofeedback framework for exploratory experiments

2023 — Society for Psychophysiological Research - Poster, second author

Picard, M.-E., Lespinasse, F., Miedema, M., Chen, J.-I., Pinsard, B., Boyle, J., Bellec, P., & Rainville, P. (2023). Physprep: physiological data preparation workflow adapted for MR settings. Conference abstract, Psychophysiology, 60, S121-S122.

2023 — Organization for human brain mapping - poster - 1er auteur

Lespinasse, F., Bellec, P., Boyle, J., Pinsard, B., Rainville, P. (2023) CNeuroMod-Friends: does intersubject correlation of heart-rate yield localized brain synchronization while watching TV?

2022 — Société européenne de neurosciences cognitives et affectives (ESCAN) - présentation orale

Lespinasse, F., Bellec, P., Boyle, J., Pinsard, B., Rainville, P. (2022) Sync-in with friends

2021 — Conférence pour étudiants en anthropologie Université de Montréal - Conférencier invité

Lespinasse, F. (2021) Neuroscience et Anthropologie - ANT-3450

2021 — Organization for human brain mapping - poster - 1er auteur

Lespinasse F. , et al. (2021) physiopy / phys2bids: BIDS formatting of physiological signals

2021 — Organization for human brain mapping - poster - 1er auteur

Lespinasse, F. , Bellec, P., Boyle, J., Pinsard, B., Rainville, P. (2021) Neuromod Movie10: Standardized processing of large-scale cardiorespiratory signals in MR environment

2021 — Organization for human brain mapping - poster - collaborateur

Boyle, J. Pinsard, B. et al. (2021) The Courtois project on neuronal modeling 2021 data release