

**Gaëtan Thomas**

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**EDUCATION**

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- 2018 PhD, History of Science, École des hautes études en sciences sociales (EHESS)  
 Dissertation title: *Routinizing Vaccination. An inquiry into the French project of rationalizing immunization with numbers, 1949-1999*, under the supervision of Patrice Bourdelais, EHESS, and Luc Berlivet, Centre National de la recherche scientifique (CNRS)  
 Committee members:  
 Anne Marie Moulin, CNRS  
 Gerald Oppenheimer, City University of New York & Columbia University  
 Anne Rasmussen, Strasbourg University  
 Didier Torny, CNRS
- 2010 Master's Degree (*with Distinction*) in Social Sciences of Health, EHESS  
 Erasmus Mundus Exchange Semester at Linköping University, Sweden  
 Three-month research residency, Casa Oswaldo Cruz, Universidade Fiocruz, Brazil
- 2008 Bachelor's Degree in History with a minor in Philosophy, Université Paris 1  
 Classes préparatoires AL (hypokhâgnes and khâgnes modernes), Lycée Fénélon, Paris
- 2004 Baccalauréat (*summa cum laude*), Lycée Triboulet, Romans

**EMPLOYMENT**

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- Feb.2021- Feb. 24 Postdoctoral Fellow, médialab, Sciences Po, Paris and Cermes3, CNRS  
 Under the supervision of Prof. Guillaume Lachenal
- Jul 2020- Dec. 20 Postdoctoral Fellow, Centre de Sociologie des Organisations, Sciences Po, Paris  
 Under the supervision of Prof. Guillaume Lachenal & Daniel Benamouzig
- 2019 Teaching and Research Fellow, médialab, Sciences Po, Paris
- Sept. 2016 Teaching Fellow, History of Medicine, EHESS, Paris  
 Sept. 2018

**GRANTS AND FELLOWSHIPS**

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- 2022 University of Edinburgh, Research Fellowship (The Epidemiological Revolution), 2.8 years, declined
- 2021 ANRS Postdoctoral Fellowship, 3 years
- 2019 Publication Grant, Centre national des arts plastiques

2019	Publication Grant, Terra Foundation for American Art
2018	Alain Desrosières Prize, French Society of Statistics
2016	Teaching Fellowship, EHESS, 2 years
2015	Arthur King Peters Memorial Travel Grant Award, Institute for International Education
2014-15	Fulbright Fellowship, Mailman School of Public Health, Columbia University, 9 months
2013	Aire culturelle Fieldwork Travel Grant, EHESS
2013	Fieldwork Grant, Institut Francilien Recherche Innovation Societé (IFRIS)
2013	Publication Grant, Centre national des arts plastiques
2010-13	Dissertation Fellowship, EHESS, 3 years
2008	Erasmus Mundus Master's Fellowship, EHESS
2004	Bourse du mérite, Académie de Paris, 3 years

## **PUBLICATIONS**

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### Books

Gaëtan Thomas, *Vaccination. Histoire d'un consentement*, Paris, Le Seuil, March 2024

Gaëtan Thomas & Guillaume Lachenal, *Atlas historique des épidémies*, Paris, Autrement/Flammarion, 2023

### Edited books

Gaëtan Thomas (editor & translator), Craig Owens, *Le discours des autres. Essais choisis*, Romainville, Même pas l'hiver, 2022

Gaëtan Thomas (editor & co-translator), Douglas Crimp, *Pictures. S'approprier la photographie, New York, 1979-2014*, Paris-Cherbourg, Le Point du Jour, 2016

### Edited special issue

Gaëtan Thomas & Kylian Godde, "Fragile Numbers in Medicine", *Revue d'Anthropologie des Connaissances*, forthcoming, fall 2024

### Peer Reviewed Articles

"The Cost of Trust: The World Health Organization and Vaccination's Contested Economization in France, 1978- 2000," *Journal of Contemporary History*, vol. 5, n° 4, 2022, p. 939–958

with Guillaume Lachenal "Epidemics Have Lost the Plot," *Bulletin of the History of Medicine*, vol. 94, n°4, 2020, p. 670-689

“Keeping Vaccination Simple: Building French Immunization Schedules, 1959–1999,” *Bulletin of the History of Medicine*, vol. 94, n°3, 2020, p. 423-458

“La politique des petits nombres. Comment appréhender l’histoire de la statistique vaccinale et de ses effets ?” *Statistiques et société*, vol. 6, n°3, 2019, p. 39-45

Reprinted in E. Didier et al (ed.), *Les nombres, acteurs de changement*, Paris, Presses de mines, 2023

#### Other articles and chapters

with Guillaume Lachenal, Simon de Nys-Ketels, Johan Lagae, “The Claude Bernard Hospital in Paris : a Debris of Empire”, in *Reclaiming Colonial Architecture*, RIBA Publishing, London, forthcoming, 2024.

“Acceptability studies”, in Lukas Engelman, Carolina Mayes & John Nott (ed.), *The Palgrave Handbook for the History of Epidemiology*, forthcoming, 2024

“La Françafrique du vaccin,” *La santé publique sous Georges Pompidou*, Inserm/Institut Georges Pompidou, forthcoming, 2024

“Craig Owens et Douglas Crimp, deux critiques d’art dans la pensée queer, ” in N. Liucci-Goutnikov (ed.), *Over the rainbow*, Paris, Centre Pompidou, 2023, p. 156-158

“Morts bêtes,” in E. Lebovici and F. Piron (ed.), *Exposés*, Paris-Bruxelles, Palais de Tokyo-Fonds Mercator, 2023, p. 221-225

“ Une volonté de critique,” in Gaëtan Thomas (ed.), *Le discours des autres*, op. cit., p. 12-36

“After Douglas Crimp Questionnaire Response: Gaëtan Thomas, ” *InVisible Culture*, n° 33, 2022, <https://ivc.lib.rochester.edu/questionnaire-response-gaetan-thomas/>

with Anne Marie Moulin, “L’hésitation vaccinale ou les impatiences de la santé mondiale, ” *La vie des idées*, 2021, <https://laviedesidees.fr/L-hesitation-vaccinale-ou-les-impatiences-de-la-sante-mondiale.html>

with Guillaume Lachenal, “L’histoire immobile du coronavirus, ” in *Comment faire ?*, Paris, Le seuil, 2020

with Guillaume Lachenal, “When History Has no Lessons,” *History Workshop*, 2020, <https://www.historyworkshop.org.uk/covid-19-when-history-has-no-lessons/>

“Un monde moderne : l’épidémiologie des maladies infectieuses avant sa réinvention des années 1990,” *Cahiers du Comité pour l’histoire de l’Inserm*, n°1, 2020

“La France et l’Afrique en parallèle,” in Yves Denéchère and Patrice Marcilloux (ed.), *Le Centre International de l’Enfance*, Presses Universitaires de Rennes, Rennes, 2016, pp. 153-168

“Pas d’images sans contexte,” in Douglas Crimp and Gaëtan Thomas (ed.), *Pictures*, op. cit., pp. 5-51

“À propos de l’absence de controverses,” *Pratiques*, n° 71, 2015, pp. 86-89

“L’immense expérience,” *La Lettre du Chemin des Dames*, n° 28, 2013, pp.18-27

“Le désordre de la mémoire. Entretien avec Douglas Crimp,” *Revue Poli*, n.6, 2012, pp.90-97

“Définir pour compter,” *Revue Monstre*, n.3, 2011, pp.38-42

#### Book Reviews

“Antivax & Vaccinations. Le mythe du refus, ” *Annales de démographie historique*, n° 139, 2020, p. 283-288

“The economization of life,” *Genèse*, n° 117, 2019, pp. 136-143

“Vaccine Nation,” *Global Public Health*, vol. 12, n° 2, 2017, pp. 266-267

“Le médicament qui devait sauver l’Afrique,” *Global Public Health*, vol. 10, n° 9, 2015, p. 1136-1137

“Atlas, ou le problème de l’imagination scientifique,” Nonfiction.fr, 2012

with Frédéric Vagneron, “Monde grippé, poules mouillées: la peur de la contagion dans un monde globalisé,” Nonfiction.fr, 2011

### Translation

Simeon Wade, *Foucault en Californie*, Paris, La découverte, 2020

### Reviewer

*Statistique et société*

*Anthropologie et Société*

*Canadian Bulletin of Medical History*

*Sciences Sociales et Santé*

*Le Mouvement Social*

### Media appearances (selection)

“Le vaccin et les fractures du monde,” France culture, February 2, 2021

<https://www.franceculture.fr/emissions/affaires-etrangeres/affaires-etrangeres-emission-du-samedi-02-janvier-2021>

“Il faut relativiser le discours catastrophiste sur l’opposition aux vaccins,” *Le Monde*, December 11, 2020 [https://www.lemonde.fr/planete/article/2020/12/10/il-faut-relativiser-le-discours-catastrophiste-sur-l-opposition-aux-vaccins\\_6062871\\_3244.html](https://www.lemonde.fr/planete/article/2020/12/10/il-faut-relativiser-le-discours-catastrophiste-sur-l-opposition-aux-vaccins_6062871_3244.html)

“L’exécutif indécis face au Covid: «l’acceptabilité sociale» a bon dos,” *Mediapart*, September 21, 2020 <https://www.mediapart.fr/journal/france/230920/l-executif-sans-boussole-face-au-covid?onglet=full>

## **CONFERENCE, SYMPOSIUM, AND SEMINAR PRESENTATIONS (SELECTION)**

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### Conference Organization

Co-organizer of the workshop “Small numbers in health, a social history of fragile statistics”, Maison des Sciences de l’Homme Paris-Nord, October 2023

Member of the organizing team for the conference, “L’évaluation dans le champ de la santé,” EHESS, Paris, October 2012

Member of the organizing team for the conference, “Enquêter sur la subjectivité dans le domaine de la santé,” EHESS, Paris, October 2011

Conferences and Symposia

“Le problème de la bêtise,” 15th international conference Max and Iris Stern “Troubler la représentation,” Musée d’Art Contemporain de Montréal – Centre Canadien d’Architecture, September 28th-29th, 2023.

“La Françafrique du vaccin,” conference “La santé publique sous Georges Pompidou,” Inserm/ Institut Georges Pompidou, Paris, November 10th, 2023

with G. Lachenal, “Erased histories of the early AIDS epidemic in Paris: Space, loss, and postcolonial connections at the Claude Bernard Hospital,” conference of the American Association for the History of Medicine, Saratoga Springs, April 26<sup>th</sup>, 2022

“Vaccine Acceptability: Accuracy and Sensibility”, conference “Inception”, Pasteur Institute, Paris, November 26<sup>th</sup>, 2021

Roundtables on the “History of African public health” and “Health Communication” at the Conference of the French Society of Public health, October 13-16, 2021

“Price and mistrust: the case of immunization,” conference “Science and Society: Novel Perspectives,” Saint-Francis College, New York, October 23, 2019

“Is the World Health Organization to blame? The Hepatitis B controversy in France and a new approach to vaccine pricing in the 1990s,” conference “Global Knowledge, Global Legitimacy? Transatlantic Biomedicine since 1970,” German Historical Institute, Washington DC, September 6-7, 2019

“The quest for simplicity: combining vaccines in the 1950s and 60s,” conference “Simplicities and Complexities,” Bonn, May 22-24, 2019

“Une épidémiologie clinique et pragmatique parrainée par Daniel Schwartz, l'exemple des essais vaccinaux réalisés dans les années 1950 et 1960,” at the INSERM conference “Histoire de l'épidémiologie Enjeux passés, présents et futurs,” Paris, January 23, 2019

“Theoretical Girls and Vibrant Activists,” at the symposium, “1977: Année des théoriciennes de la photographie,” Centre Photographique d’Île-de-France, Pontault-Combault, May 6, 2017

“Apogée et effondrement d'une configuration, l'expertise vaccinale de 1984 à la fin des années 1990,” Congrès de la Société française d'histoire des sciences et des techniques, Strasbourg, April 20, 2017

“About *Portraits of People Living with AIDS*,” at the symposium, “Love D. – A generation of young scholars, critics, and student celebrate Douglas Crimp on his 70th birthday,” University of Rochester, December 5, 2015

“La France et l’Afrique, en parallèle,” at the symposium, “Le Centre international de l’enfance, une histoire à construire,” Université d’Angers, June 10, 2014

“Un usage libre de la comparaison,” at the symposium, “Produire du savoir, gouverner des populations,” Ecole Normale Supérieure, Lyon, September 2013

“Les essais vaccinaux africains et indonésiens du CIE, créer un savoir populationnel,” at the conference, “Bio-savoir, bio-pouvoir et bio-économie,” Florence, March 2012

“Sur la reconnaissance par l’Etat du statut de victime du vaccin contre l’hépatite B,” at the symposium, “Enquêter sur la subjectivité dans le domaine de la santé,” EHESS, Paris, October 2011

Research Seminars

With Guillaume Lachenal, “Enquêter sur des débris », CERMES3, Villejuif, January 13th, 2024

“Une panique de santé publique ? Statistiques et classements mondiaux de l’acceptation vaccinale, ” médialab seminar, February 16, 2021

“Un problème d'enclavement, un vaccin d'un nouveau genre : la crise de la vaccination contre l'hépatite B en France, ” seminar “Gouverner le progrès et ses dégâts, ” Centre Alexandre Koyré, Paris, February 5, 2019

“Une déviation nationale : le Centre International de l'Enfance (1949-1999),” seminar “Regards croisés sur la petite enfance, ” EHESS, Paris, December 7 2018

“Simplifier l'enfance. La construction du calendrier vaccinal, 1959-1969,” seminar “Construire une histoire de la santé publique, ” EHESS, Paris, February 23, 2018

“Le meilleur rapport à tous les coups, ou comment le calcul économique a sauvé le programme mondial de vaccination de l’OMS (1974-1990),” ESOP seminar, EHESS, Paris, February 7, 2018

“Sur la disparition des épidémies et l’oubli du terrain africain,” at the research seminar, “Les Années 1980,” Parsons – The New School, Paris, April 12, 2016

“Quarante ans de solitude,” at the CERMES3 doctoral seminar, Université Paris Descartes, February 10, 2016

“Modernity on the cheap,” at the monthly faculty seminar of the Center for the History and Ethics of Public Health, Mailman School of Public Health, Columbia University, New York, June 17, 2015

“L’épidémiologie des maladies infectieuses quand on annonçait leur fin,” at the seminar, “Construire une histoire de la santé publique,” EHESS, Paris, March 2013

“Réduire la complexité, faire de la routine, histoire de l’épidémiologie du vaccin en France,” at the CERMES3 doctoral seminar, Villejuif, October 2012

Residencies

“Queer collective approaches to harm reduction and the act of gathering.” September 23-26, 2021, Grimonster, Belgium

“Art of Ethnography, Ethnography of Art,” organized by CréaLab, Villa Arson, Freie Universität, Université Paris Ouest Nanterre, Université Franco-Allemande, at Villa Arson, Nice, September 17-24, 2017

**TEACHING, RESEARCH SUPERVISION, AND ADVISING**

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Since 2022 “History of the Modern World – XX-XXI Centuries” (24 hours in English, spring semester), Sciences Po, Paris

Since 2018 “A History of the Vaccine Industry since the 1950s,” Guest Lecturer (2 hours in English every September), Erasmus+ Master’s Program, “Leading International Vaccinology Education,” Université Claude Bernard, Lyon

- 2020 “A Planetary Atlas of Epidemics – Place, Pathogens, Politics” (24 hours in English, fall semester), Sciences Po, Paris
- 2019-2021 “Sciences & Society” (16 hours in English, spring semester), Sciences Po, Paris
- 2016-2018 “Methods in Social Sciences,” (24 hours in French, fall semester) EHESS Master’s program, Santé, Populations, Politiques Sociales (SPPS)  
 “Collective Research,” (24 hours in French, spring semester), EHESS, SPPS  
 Advising (48 hours in French and in English, each year), EHESS, SPPS
- 2011-2013 “Reading Seminar on the Foundational Texts of the History of Medicine,” (24 hours in French, each year), EHESS, SPPS  
 “Writing Workshop,” (24 hours in French, each year), EHESS, SPPS

### **LANGUAGES**

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French (mother tongue); English (full working proficiency); Spanish (high intermediate); Portuguese (beginner)