



Florence Piron Day

Bridging Open Science and Local Knowledge

April 26, 2024



1. Context and Rationale for the Symposium

Florence Piron (1966-2021), French-born Canadian anthropologist and ethicist, professor in the Department of Communications and Information at Laval University in Quebec City, Canada, has made a major contribution to the social sciences. This is demonstrated by her founding of the *Association science et bien commun* (ASBC).

Her work focuses on a number of fields of investigation, including (i) ethics, (ii) Open Science and Open Access, (iii) participatory research and collaboration with local communities, (iv) critical pedagogy, (v) local knowledge and its potential contribution to sustainable local development, (vi) cognitive justice, (vii) the *métissage* of knowledge, democracy, decolonial studies, citizen science, and participatory approaches, and so on. Her legacy around these issues continues to influence many researchers, teachers, students, and activists, as well as politicians and decision-makers, driven by the desire to promote more ethical, inclusive and open research and education, to fuel civic debate and stimulate reflections in many related disciplinary fields.

To perpetuate the intellectual and scientific legacy of Florence Piron, an international day called Florence Piron Day is organized every year on April 26th. The inaugural edition in 2022 saw the deployment of several face-to-face and online activities - conferences, debates, collective readings, collaborative writing - in several locations around the world, including Benin, Burkina Faso, Canada, Côte d'Ivoire, Cameroon, France, Haïti and Niger.

The third anniversary will aim to place Florence's intellectual legacy in the context of her contributions to UNESCO Canada's Open Science submission (2020) and UNESCO's Decade of Indigenous Languages (2022-2032). Highlighting her master's thesis (1990), "The Construction of Knowledge on Aboriginal Delinquency in Canada", the Indigenous Centre (Nukshahtowin) at Athabasca University, Canada's online university, has agreed to virtually host the conference on April 26, 2024. This event will provide a platform to

reshape one of ASBC's initiatives - the Agora - by enhancing the links between Open Science and indigenous languages.

The *Florence Piron Day: Bridging Open Science and Local Knowledge* is part of this perspective. More broadly, it aims to deepen and broaden the above-mentioned fields of research by directing them more towards the challenges for perpetuating the ASBC, in a society undergoing profound change and which fundamentally aspires to true social justice.

2. Axes of Interventions of the Symposium

Four main themes for interventions will enable researchers and specialists in the social sciences and humanities, who have witnessed and/or been involved in Florence Piron's ideas, to make their contribution to understanding and mastering the phenomenon of cognitive justice.

Open Science and Cognitive Justice

Open Science and cognitive justice are closely linked and aim to ensure equity, diversity and inclusion in the production, dissemination and use of scientific knowledge.

Local Knowledge and Cognitive Justice

Local knowledge is an essential lever for sustainable local development. By integrating it into policies, it is possible to promote a form of development at a local level that respects community needs, preserves the environment and strengthens local cultural identities.

Revitalisation of Minority Languages with Cognitive Justice

Minority languages are very often marginalized in Western-inspired education and research systems, creating inequalities in access to knowledge and participation in scholarly debate. Cognitive justice, on the other hand, calls for their recognition and enhancement. Valuing minority languages contributes to linguistic diversity and equity in the production and dissemination of knowledge. This axe fits perfectly with the vision promoted by UNESCO's International Decade of Indigenous Languages (2022-2032).

Knowledge Democracy

Knowledge democracy is based on the idea that the production, use and dissemination of knowledge should be underpinned by inclusive democratic values. It refers to inclusion, diversity, equitable participation, collaboration and dialogue, transparency and accountability.

3. Submission Process

Researchers, students, PhD students and other specialists in the present call are invited to submit their proposals in the form of title and a 500-word abstract accompanied by a brief biography of 100 words, using Google Forms: tinyurl.com/flopirl

4. Calendar

February 12, 2024 : Call for Papers

March 29, 2024 : Deadline for Receipt of Abstracts

March 31, 2024 : Selection of Abstracts and Notification of Participants

April 26, 2024 : Virtual Symposium

Just 1st, 2024 : Deadline for Receipt of Article Submissions

* July 22 - 31, 2024 : Online Reading Workshop with the The Future of Research

Communications and e-Scholarship (FORCE11) at UCLA

October 31, 2024 : Publication of Symposium Proceedings

* Submission currently under review by FORCE11 organizers

5. Scientific Committee

- Gilbert Babena, Professor at the University of Maroua, Cameroon
- Cécile Ouattara-Coulibaly, Professor at the Université virtuelle de Côte d'Ivoire, LIBSENSE Focal Point (Côte d'Ivoire) et member of the Board of Directors of the African Open Science Platform (AOSP)
- Alpha Dia, FORCE-N Program Manager, Université numérique Cheikh Hamidou Kane, Sénégal
- Rory McGreal, UNESCO/ICDE Chair in Open Education Resources, Canada
- Léonie Tatou Métangmo, Professeur at the Université de Ngaoundéré, Cameroon
- Richard Kistabish, President of Minwashin, Canada
- Budd Hall, Ordre of Canada and UNESCO Co-Chair in Community Based Research and Social Responsibility in Higher Education, Canada
- Thomas Mboa, Professor at ESSTIC, Cameroon
- Bijayani Mishra, Professor at the University of Delhi, India

6. Organizing Committee

- Paul Murphy, Founder of Vitalism Civic Innovation, Canada
- Marthe Anémone Loko Bille, Doctoral Student in Translation at the Protestant University of Central Africa, Cameroon
- Freddy Liones Bellasmin, Master 2 at ISCOM Paris, France
- Zakari Liré, Doctoral Student in Public Communications at Laval University, Canada
- Priscilla Campeau, Assistant Vice President-Indigenous at Athabasca University, Canada

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