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## *News from the DSH*

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### **Our Team is Expanding!**

The [Data for Society Hub \(DSH\)](#) would like to extend a warm welcome to our new developers Saeh Panahifar and Hicham Semlani, as well as project manager Esmael Mourtaza and communications assistant Sara Selma Maref! We are delighted to introduce these new additions to the team and look forward to working with them on this initiative.

### **Drawing the DSH**

We have teamed up with illustrator and graphic artist [Chloé Germain-Thérien](#), known as “Chloloula,” to create an educational comic strip that will present the DSH’s mission and make its scientific research accessible to a wider audience. The project will be exhibited in Fall 2022 along with four additional popular science projects that originated during [Shaking the Foundations](#), an international conference co-organized by the CIRM and the [Montréal Comic Arts Festival](#).

### **LACONDA Attends LaboPop and Acfas Events**

On May 26, Pascal Brissette spoke on behalf of the [Laboratory for Collective Narratives and Discourse Analysis \(LACONDA\)](#) at a LaboPop “journées d’études” event. The presentation outlined the preliminary results of a study on Montréal’s media discourse regarding human nutrition in Québec.

During the 89<sup>th</sup> [Acfas Congress](#), two members of LACONDA, Julien Vallières-Gingras and Elisabeth Doyon, [presented the results](#) of a corpus extraction and analytical indexing pilot using text mining on printed archives belonging to Acfas. The DSH has supported the pilot’s development and is particularly interested in its outcome.



PROJET  
PILOTE



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## *Ongoing Initiatives*

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The DHS coordination team is developing a “use case” in partnership with the team at Synthetic Ecosystem (known as “SynthEco”), a digital platform currently being developed by the [McGill Centre for the Convergence of Health and Economics](#) to provide researchers and decision makers with a virtual representation of the population of any given region. More information will be available in Fall 2022.

On the data governance framework side of things, interviews with partner organizations were conducted in April. The plan is to gather them in September for a workshop to determine different use cases for the data, including the identification of personas.

The LACONDA team is making progress on the second development phase of the information tool—a monitoring report using text mining—produced as part of the food security proof of concept. The team is also beginning to design a processing chain based on a centrality index.

In addition, the team behind the [Commun Axiom](#) software package is working on finalizing an initial working prototype of the data sharing platform. This summer, the developers will start expanding portfolio functionalities, relational databases, among other elements, and will add transformations.

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## *The DHS Blog*

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**Join our team and partners on [Medium](#) for special insight into the activities and ideas that underpin this technological endeavour.**



New blog posts have been added over the last few months, including a [Q&A with solutions architect Luc Véronneau](#) and a [Q&A with Jonathan van Geuns](#) to learn more about their involvement with the DSH and the challenges they are each facing.

The DSH blog now also features English translations of texts published in the fall: the DSH coordination team's "[Module 2: The Commun Axiom Software Package](#)," and postdoctoral researcher Anne-Sophie Hulin's "[Introduction to Data Trusts in Québec](#)."



Keep an eye out for an upcoming Q&A with the CIRM's Audray Fontaine and Nik Luka, as well as an English translation of an [article](#) that discusses the human factors that drive data decisions, written by the DSH team and Samuel Kohn, Senior Program Manager at [Open North](#).

[Discover the DSH Blog](#)

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## *The Montréal in Common Ecosystem*

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### **The Montréal in Common Webinars**

Since January 2022, [Montréal in Common](#) (MIC) has been hosting a series of webinars to promote network expansion, knowledge-sharing, and dialogue among program partners and communities of practitioners working on mobility, food, open data, and urban innovation challenges in Montréal. The series will be on hiatus this summer and will resume in the fall.

[Watch previous sessions](#) and [subscribe to the MIC Newsletter](#).

The LACONDA team presented a new information tool for the DSH at a MIC webinar on May 25. Participants discussed the development of a monitoring report using text mining to help civic and municipal actors better understand Montréal's communities. The presentation was followed by a critical assessment of what the team has learned thus far.



[Watch LACONDA's Presentation](#)

**Don't miss out:** Follow Montréal in Common's community innovation efforts on the [Montréal Urban Innovation Lab's Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#) accounts.

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# Going Further

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## MSSI Launches “Sus”

On April 25, the [McGill Sustainability Systems Initiative](#) (MSSI) launched the platform “Sus,” a tool for exploring urban sustainability in Montréal. This new online platform helps policymakers, researchers, and members of the public explore and understand urban sustainability issues in Montréal.

## Now Online: Three Panel Discussions on Artificial Intelligence

The [Multimedia](#) section of the CIRM website now includes video recordings of two panel discussions held on February 10, 2022 during the AI in the City: Building Civic Engagement and Public Trust symposium with DSH senior research advisor Ana Brandusescu and CIRM member Jess Reia. You can also find an additional panel recording entitled *L'éthique de l'IA : l'utilisation des technologies de surveillance à la Ville de Montréal*, presented in collaboration with the Conseil jeunesse de Montréal.



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