

# HAYLEY BIRSS

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## EDUCATION:

- 2024–present    **Doctoral Student, University of Chicago**  
**Committee on the Conceptual & Historical Studies of Science (CHSS)**  
*Expected completion: 2031*
- 2022–2023    **Master's of Art, University of Toronto**  
**Institute for the History & Philosophy of Science & Technology (IHPST)**  
Thesis: *The Vertical Farm: Modularity & Settler-Colonial Logic*  
Supervisor: Dr. Adrien Zakar, Near & Middle Eastern Civilizations
- 2015–2019    **Bachelor's, Liberal Arts & Science (Hnrs), Quest University Canada (QUC)**  
**Major(s): Molecular Biology & Science Studies**  
Thesis: *In situ: Undressing the Politics of Biological Fact Formation*  
Supervisor: Dr. John Reid-Hresko, Sociology

## HONOURS & SCHOLARSHIPS:

- 2022–2023    University of Toronto Graduate Fellowship
- 2018–2019    Academic Distinction in Research & Field Work (Quest University Canada)
- 2015–2019    Canadian Academic Performance Scholarship (Quest University Canada)

## PEER-REVIEWED PUBLICATIONS:

- 2024            Birss, Hayley. 2024. "Mapping the Dynamics of the Vertical Farm: A Biopolitical Epistemology of Valuation." *Social Epistemology*, 1–11.  
<https://doi.org/10.1080/02691728.2024.2342854>.

## BOOK REVIEWS:

- 2025            Birss, Hayley. 2025. "Tamar Novick, Milk and Honey: Technologies of Plenty in the Making of a Holy Land, Cambridge, Massachusetts: The MIT Press, 2023." *History and Philosophy of the Life Sciences* 47 (1): 1–3. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s40656-025-00662-w>.

## CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS:

- 2024            **A Politics of Verticality in 'Green' Technologies**  
The 3CT Lauren Berlant Graduate Conference · Chicago, IL
- 2023            **The Vertical Farm: Modularity & Settler Colonial Logics**  
Canadian Society for the History & Philosophy of Science · Toronto, ON  
British Commonwealth Postcolonial Studies Conference · Savannah, GR  
International Society for Cultural History · Singapore [*Declined invitation*]  
Committee for the History of Technology · Estonia [*Declined invitation*]
- 2023            **The Vertical Farm & Its Techno-Tomatoes**  
HAPSAT Graduate Student Conference: The Written Word · Toronto, ON
- 2019            **The Biopolitics of Sertraline Self-Administration**  
Our\_Futures Academic Conference · Squamish, BC

## TEACHING:

- 2022–2023    **Teaching Assistant, University of Toronto**  
Course Title: Introduction to the History & Philosophy of Science (HPS100H)  
Responsibilities: *Tutorial Facilitation & Grading*
- 2017–2019    **Peer Tutor, Quest University Canada**  
Course Title: Energy & Matter, Chemistry I & II

## RESEARCH:

- 2018–2019     **Research Associate, Quest University Canada**
- Designed original ethnographic research of wet lab scientists (observational fieldwork and semi-structured interview schedule) studying neuro-degenerative disease;
  - Delivered undergraduate honours thesis rooted in canonical Science & Technology Studies (STS) literature, discourse analysis, and critical theory.
- 2018     **Research Assistant, University of British Columbia**
- Conducted wet-lab experiments to advance neurodegenerative disease translational research, providing novel targets for immunotherapeutics focused on propagated misfolding of the proteins SOD1, TDP43, and FUS.

## ACADEMIC & ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICE:

- 2025-2027     **Social Science Division, Deans Advisory Council | University of Chicago**
- One of two course representatives provided student perspectives to senior administrators on areas in which the Division supports the academic life of doctoral students.
- 2023–2024     **Research Coordinator, Northrop Frye Centre | University of Toronto**
- Organizes and coordinates events sponsored by the Northrop Frye Centre and the Victoria College Principal's Office such as guest lectures, symposia, dinners, recruitment events, and special events.
  - Prepares cost estimates, manages room bookings, and oversees all aspects of event planning, including set-up, catering, audio-visual support, signage, etc.
  - Designs and distributes notice of events and registration materials
- 2023–2024     **Program Coordinator, Scholars-in-Residence | University of Toronto**
- Managed the Scholars-in-Residence program, a 4-week paid research fellowship in humanities and humanistic social-science research for upper-year undergraduates;
  - Prepares recruitment materials for faculty projects and undergraduate participants, administered the admissions process, and coordinated residency across 10+ independent colleges for ~150 participants across U of T's three campuses.
  - Organized and coordinates special research colloquia and social events for undergraduate participants on behalf of the Scholars-in-Residence Program
- 2022–2023     **Course Representative, IHPST | University of Toronto Graduate Student Union**
- Acted as liaison between the Institute for the History & Philosophy of Science (IHPST) graduate students, faculty, administration, and various university funding bodies.
- 2016–2018     **Vice President & Chairperson | QUC Students' Representative Council**
- Acted as co-chair, Executive member of the council, and co-signer to all bank accounts assigned to the collection Quest University Canada (QUC) student body.
  - Maintained clear leadership vision within the council, the undergraduate student body, the university executive, and the faculty.

## RELEVANT COURSEWORK:

<i>Race, Diaspora, &amp; Indigeneity</i>	Prof. Ryan Jobson
<i>Adventures in Speculative Environments</i>	Prof. Michael Fisch
<i>More-Than-Human Ethnography</i>	Dr. Mary Wilhoit
<i>Climate Change, History &amp; Social Theory</i>	Prof. Neil Brenner & Prof. Frederik A. Jonsson
<i>Globalization &amp; Its Discontents</i>	Prof. Jonathan Levy & Prof. Tara Zahra
<i>Anthropological Encounters with Technology</i>	Prof. Michael Fisch
<i>Feminist Approaches to Science &amp; Technology Studies</i>	Prof. Elise Burton
<i>New Methods in History of Technology</i>	Prof. Edward Jones-Imhotep

*Social Epistemology*  
*Post-Colonial Science & Technology Studies*  
*History & Philosophy of Science & Technology*  
*Capital, Technology & Utopia in the Modern Middle East*  
*Laboratory Life: Social Studies of Science*  
*Science, Exploration, Empire*  
*Critical Theory of Technology*

Prof. Joseph Berkowitz  
Prof. Adrien Zakar  
Prof. Denis Walsh  
Prof. Adrien Zakar  
Prof. John Reid-Hresko  
Prof. James Byrne  
Dr. Tobias C. Van Veen

## **PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE:**

- 2021–2022      **Retail-Marketing Manager, Infarm Indoor Vertical Farming | Toronto, ON**
- Planned and implemented new marketing projects in the North American market, including developing new in-store display solutions and increasing market share by >10%.
- 2020–2021      **Account Manager, Infarm Indoor Vertical Farming | Vancouver, BC**
- Ensured successful partnerships between Infarm and B2B clients (45+ store locations) by tailoring in-store displays and product offerings to drive increases in revenue across customer portfolios.
- 2020-pres.      **Assistant Director, Camp Tawingo | Huntsville, ON**
- Supervised all educational programming (nature, camp-craft, boating skills, & swimming) for +450 overnight campers across three skill levels;
  - Directed the extended canoe-tripping program, ensuring the successful execution of four 15-day canoe trips in the Zec Kipawa Forest Reserve for senior campers.