

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
Doctoral Certificate: Environment, Geography, & Urbanization (CEGU), *in progress*
- 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: Prof. 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: Prof. John Reid-Hresko, Sociology

AWARDS & FELLOWSHIPS:

- 2025–2028 Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council Doctoral Fellowship
2025–2026 Urban Doctoral Fellowship, Mansueto Institute for Urban Innovation
2024–2025 University of Chicago Social Science First-Year Scholars Research Grant
2022–2023 Recruitment Graduate Fellowship, University of Toronto
2015–2019 Canadian Academic Performance Scholarship, Quest University Canada

PEER-REVIEWED PUBLICATIONS:

- 2025 Birss, Hayley. 2025. "Mapping the Dynamics of the Vertical Farm: A Biopolitical Epistemology of Valuation." *Social Epistemology* 39 (3): 298–308.
<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:

- 2024/5 **A Politics of Verticality in 'Green' Technologies**
Society for Literature, Science & the Arts · Corvallis, OR
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

TEACHING:

- 2025-2026 **Preceptor, Committee on Environment, Geography and Urbanization (CEGU)**
Course Title: BA Colloquium I/II
Responsibilities: *Office Hours, Feedback Sessions, Administration, Colloquium Coordination*

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
Responsibilities: *Tutorial Facilitation & Office Hours Host*

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, Dean's Advisory Council | University of Chicago**

- Provided senior administrators with student perspectives 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;
- Prepared 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 coordinated 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 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:

On Violence
Environmental History
Race, Diaspora, & Indigeneity
Adventures in Speculative Environments

Prof. Lisa Wedeen
Prof. Liz Chatterjee
Prof. Ryan C. Jobson
Prof. Michael Fisch & Prof. Adam Nocek

More-Than-Human Ethnography
Climate Change, History & Social Theory
Globalization & Its Discontents
Anthropological Encounters with Technology
Feminist Approaches to Science & Technology Studies
New Methods in History of Technology
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

Dr. Mary Wilhoit
 Prof. Neil Brenner & Prof. Fredrik A. Jonsson
 Prof. Jonathan Levy & Prof. Tara Zahra
 Prof. Michael Fisch
 Prof. Elise Burton
 Prof. Edward Jones-Imhotep
 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 counselling staff (52) and their respective age-group supervisors (13) to ensure the delivery of safe, inclusive, and developmentally appropriate programming for over 1,200 campers (aged 7-16). Provided ongoing mentorship and leadership training, supported conflict resolution and staff wellbeing, and helped maintain the camp's high standards of camper care, creativity, and community life.
 - 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.