

# HAYLEY BIRSS

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## EDUCATION:

- 2024–present **Doctoral Student, University of Chicago**  
**Anthropology | Conceptual & Historical Studies of Science (CHSS)**  
*Expected completion: 2031*  
**Doctoral Certificate:** Environment, Geography, & Urbanization (CEGU), *in progress*
- 2022–2023 **Master's of Arts, 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

## TEACHING & RESEARCH AREAS:

Feminist science & technology studies; North-American settler-colonial studies 1850–present; environmental humanities; frontier ideologies; space technologies & enclosed habitats

## 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>.

## SELECTED AWARDS, GRANTS, & FELLOWSHIPS:

- 2026–2027 Award for Excellence in Seminar Leadership, *Morris Fishbein Center*
- 2025–2028 Doctoral Fellowship, *Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC)*
- 2025–2026 Urban Doctoral Fellowship, *Mansueto Institute for Urban Innovation*
- 2024–2025 Social Science First-Year Scholars Research Grant, *University of Chicago*
- 2022–2023 Recruitment Graduate Fellowship, *University of Toronto*
- 2015–2019 Canadian Academic Performance Scholarship, *Quest University Canada*

## 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*

## 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
- 2023      **The Vertical Farm & Its Techno-Tomatoes**  
HAPSAT Graduate Student Conference: The Written Word · Toronto, ON

## INVITED TALKS & COMMENTARY

- 2025      **Discussant** | History of Human Sciences Workshop, *University of Chicago*
- 2026      **Discussant** | Current Ethnography and Social Theory Workshop, *University of Chicago*

## ACADEMIC & ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICE:

- 2025-2026      **Workshop Coordinator, Fishbein Center | University of Chicago**
- Facilitated the History and Philosophy of Science (HPS) and History of the Human Sciences (HHS) bi-weekly workshops, and ‘*Seminar on Important Things*’, in collaboration with the Assistant Director of the Fishbein Center.
- 2025-2027      **Dean's Advisory Council, Social Science Division | 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**
- Organized and coordinated 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;
  - Prepared cost estimates, managed room bookings, and oversaw all aspects of event planning, including set-up, catering, audio-visual support, signage, etc;
  - Designed and distributed 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.

**LANGUAGES:** *English*, native speaker | *French*, research purposes

## RELEVANT COURSEWORK:

*Advanced Readings in Technoscience: Earthly Conditions*

Prof. Joe Masco

*The Nervous System*  
*On Violence*  
*Environmental History*  
*Race, Diaspora, & Indigeneity*  
*Adventures in Speculative Environments*  
*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*

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