

# MATTHEW HAYES

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\*Canadian Citizen

## POSITION

2020-Present. Instructor (permanent), Northern Lakes College  
2020 (May-Aug). SSHRC Postdoctoral Fellow in History, University of Western Ontario  
2017-2020. Contract Instructor and Academic Skills Instructor, Trent University

## EDUCATION

Mohawk Language (certificate), 2023-2025, First Nations University

Mohawk Language and Culture (certificate) 2022, Queen's University

eLearning Developer (certificate) 2020, Durham College

Ph.D. 2019, Canadian Studies, Trent University

M.A. 2012, Anthropology, Simon Fraser University

B.A. (Hons) 2010, Anthropology, Trent University

Diploma in Advanced Study, 2009, Anthropology, Oxford Brookes University, Oxford, UK

## PUBLICATIONS

### Book

2022 *Search for the Unknown: Canada's UFO Files and the Rise of Conspiracy Theory*. McGill-Queen's University Press.

Reviews:

[Tim Cook, Canada's History, 17 July 2023](#)

[Kevin Anderson, Canadian Historical Review 104\(2\): 299-300, June 2023](#)

John Zada, *Literary Review of Canada*, July-August 2022  
[Eyes Like Saucers: Dispatches from the probe and mail](#)

Chris Rutkowski, *Winnipeg Free Press*, 21 May 2022  
[Disdain, confusion around officials' handling of UFO reports](#)

Matthew Farish, *Choice*, August 2023 (60.2)

David Clarke, 4 August 2022  
[Canada's UFO Files: book review](#)

[Kate Dorsch, H-Net Reviews, October 2022](#)

Magonia Review  
[U-F-OH Canada](#)

### **Scholarly Journal Articles**

- 2024 “The Fear of Being Drawn In: Investigating Ecophobia and the Gothic in the Marysburgh Vortex,” *Ontario History* (forthcoming)
- 2020 Coauthored with Noah Morritt, “Michael W. Burke-Gaffney and the UFO Debate in Atlantic Canada, 1947-1969,” *Scientia Canadensis* 42(1): 54-74.
- 2018 Coauthored with Lachlan MacKinnon, “Social Media, the Folk, and Bizarre Stories of Nova Scotia,” *Canadian Journal of Media Studies* 16 (Winter): 76-98.
- 2017 “‘Then The Saucers Do Exist?’ UFOs, The Practice of Conspiracy, and the Case of Wilbert Smith,” *Journal of Canadian Studies* 51(3): 665-696.
- 2017 “Never Mind the Ballots: The Edible Ballot Society and the Performance of Citizenship,” *Contention: A Multidisciplinary Journal of Social Protest* 5(2): 1-27.
- 2017 “Causing a Ruckus: Complicity and Performance in Stories of Port Moody,” *Public History Review* 24: 38-53.
- 2017 “The Funeral Director and His Film,” *Studies in Social Justice* 11(2): 307-315.

### **Contributions to Edited Collections**

- 2024 “Screaming Specks of Dust: Emotion and the Moon Landing Conspiracy Theory,” In *Conspiracy Theories and Extremism in New Times*, edited by Christopher T. Connor, Matthew N. Hannah, and Nicholas J. MacMurray (Rowman & Littlefield).
- 2019 “Moon Landing Hoax,” “Death of Stephen Hawking,” and “Project Blue Beam” entries (11 pages total) in *Conspiracies and Conspiracy Theories in American History*. Christopher R. Fee and Jeff Webb (eds.) ABC-CLIO.

## Book Reviews

- 2017 “Raf De Bont, *Stations in the Field: A History of Place-Based Animal Research, 1870-1930*,” *Scientia Canadensis* 39(1): 111-112.
- 2017 “Beth A. Robertson, *Science of the Seance: Transnational Networks and Gendered Bodies in the Study of Psychic Phenomena, 1918-40*,” *American Review of Canadian Studies* 47(3): 328-330.
- 2016 “Ryan M. Touhey, *Conflicting Visions: Canada and India in the Cold War World, 1946-1976*,” *American Review of Canadian Studies* 46(4): 537-539.

## Other Contributions

- 2023 “What UFO fears tell us about trust in government,” *The Walrus*, 17 February.
- 2022 “Stuff Stories: A Flying Saucer,” *Niche: Network in Canadian History & Environment*, 25 July.
- 2020 “UFOs in Canada,” *The Canadian Encyclopedia*, 20 October.
- 2017 “Canada, UFOs, and Wishful Thinking,” *ActiveHistory.ca blog*, 10 February.
- 2016 “The Whale That Slaps the Nova Scotian: ‘Bizarre’ News Reports, Media Framing, and the Folk,” *Acadiensis Blog*, 27 June.
- 2012 *Tracks in Time: Port Moody’s First 100 Years* (contributing author). Port Moody, BC: Port Moody Heritage Society.

## INVITED TALKS

- 2024 “UFOs, Conspiracy Theory, and Emotion,” *University of Calgary’s Institute for the Humanities’ Annual Community Forum*, 10 May
- 2020 Moderation for film screening and Q&A of *Unfractured*
- 2018 “Making Space for UFOs in Canada,” *Suds n’ Speakers*, Trent University
- 2018 “Conspiracy Theories Are Like Witchcraft,” *Anthropology 1020*, Trent University
- 2017 “Artist in the Community Coffeehouse,” *Precarious: Peterborough ArtsWork Festival*.
- 2016 “Doing Arts-Based Public History,” *Everyday History 3011*, Trent University.

## TEACHING EXPERIENCE

### Courses Taught at NLC, 2020-Present

Spy Fiction and the Cold War, ENGL2010  
Introduction to Philosophy, PHIL1010  
Ethics, PHIL2500  
Introduction to Research, RESE1000  
Ethics for the Helping Professions, ETHI1000

Religious Ethics, RELS2000  
English Language and Literature, ENGL1000  
Critical Reading and Writing: Prose Forms, ENGL1011  
Introduction to Canadian Politics, POLS1010  
Literature Before 1700, ENGL3000

### **Courses Taught at Trent University**

2019-2020 “Death in the Peaceable Kingdom: Canadian History Through Murder, Execution, Assassination, and Suicide from Confederation to the War on Terror” HIST2360Y (online)  
2019, Fall “Conspiracy Theories and How to Make Sense of Them,” Continuing Education course  
2019, Fall “Canada in the 1980s” CAST3785H  
2018-2019 “Documenting Canada” CAST2600Y  
2018 “UFOs in Canada,” Continuing Education course  
2017, Summer “Conflicted Canada” CAST1100H (online)

### **Courses Developed**

2022 “Introduction to Philosophy” PHIL1010 (online), NLC  
2021 “Spy Fiction and the Cold War” ENGL 2010 (online), NLC  
2017 “Conflicted Canada” CAST 1100H (online), Trent University

### **Teaching Assistantships**

2018, Winter “Introduction to Cultural Anthropology” ANTH 1020H, Trent University  
2017, Fall “Conflicted Canada” CAST 1100H, Trent University  
2015-2017 Undergraduate Research Project Developer and Supervisor (Community Based Research), Trent Community Research Centre, Trent University  
2015, Winter “Ontario Since 1945” CAST 2225H, Trent University  
2014, Fall “Empire Ontario, 1867-1945” CAST 2215H, Trent University  
2014, Winter “Introduction to Cultural Anthropology” ANTH 1020H, Trent University  
2011-2012 “Digital Media Communication Techniques” CMNS 226, Simon Fraser Uni  
2011, Winter “Introduction to Sociology” SOCI 150, Simon Fraser University  
2010, Fall “Introduction to Anthropology” ANTH 101, Simon Fraser University

### **GRANTS/AWARDS**

2020 President’s Medal, Trent University  
2020 CUPE 3908-1 Award for Excellence in Teaching (shortlisted), Trent University  
2020 Symons Award for Teaching Excellence (nominated), Trent University  
2020-2022 Postdoctoral Fellowship, SSHRC: \$90,000.

2016-2019	Canadian Graduate Scholarship (Doctoral), Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council: \$105,000.
2016-2017	Ontario Graduate Scholarship: \$15,000.
2016	Vanier Canada Graduate Scholarship (nominated)
2017-2018	Mary Northway Award, Trent University: \$2,000.
2015-2016	Ontario Graduate Scholarship: \$15,000.
2015	Vanier Canada Graduate Scholarship (nominated)
2015-2017	Graves-Cummings and Frost Award, Trent University: \$4,000.
2014-2016	Quaker Oats Entrance Scholarship, Trent University: \$4,000.
2011-2012	Canada Graduate Scholarship (Master's), Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council: \$17,500.
2011-2012	Graduate Fellowship, Department of Anthropology, Simon Fraser University: \$6,000.
2008-2010	Millennium Foundation Excellence Award, Trent University: \$12,000.
2009-2010	Moore Family Award, Trent University: \$1,000.
2008-2009	Ontario International Education Opportunity Scholarship, Trent University: \$1,000.

## CONFERENCE PARTICIPATION

### Conferences Organized

2017 UFOs, Aliens, and the Academy: An Interdisciplinary Conference, Trent University

### Panels Organized

2019 "Citizens Vs. Government: Conflict and Letter-Writing in Postwar Canada," Canadian Historical Association Annual Meeting, including papers from Shirley Tillotson, Katrina Ackerman, and Matthew Hayes

### Papers Presented

2024 "The Satirical *Birds Aren't Real* Conspiracy Theory and the Feeling of Belonging," *Emotional Dynamics of (In)security and Politics*, Saarland University, Germany

2022 "Conspiracy Theory and Politics in Canada," *Atlantic Provinces Political Science Association* annual meeting, St. Mary's University

2019 "Very Persistent Men: Citizens Write to the Canadian Government About UFOs," *Canadian Historical Association* annual meeting, UBC

2018 "UFOs and the Conquest of Gravity in Wilbert Smith's "New Science"," *Making it Up: Histories of Research Integrity and Fraud in Scientific Practice* Conference, Uppsala University, Sweden

2017 "The Failure of Wilbert Smith's UFO Observatory," *Canadian Science and Technology Historical Association* Conference, King's College, London, Ontario

- 2017 “Credible Cranks: Canada, UFOs, and Boundary Work,” *UFOs, Aliens, and the Academy* Conference, Trent University
- 2016 “The Whale That Slaps the Nova Scotian: ‘Bizarre’ News Reports, Media Framing, and the Folk,” *Atlantic Canada Studies* Conference, Mt. Allison University
- 2015 “Lies, Damn Lies, and Peterborough,” *New Directions in Active History* Conference, Huron University College
- 2015 “My Melancholia,” *Engaging Boredom* Conference, Queen’s University
- 2012 “Put the Good Stories In,” *Qualitative Analysis* Conference, Memorial University

## **RESEARCH WORK**

- February-March 2020 Researcher, Canadian Museum of History
- May 2015-August 2015 Research Assistant, Dr. Nadine Changfoot and Ann MacLeod
- May 2015-August 2015 Researcher, Lang Pioneer Village Museum, ON
- May 2011-August 2011 Researcher, Port Moody Station Museum, BC
- May 2010-August 2010 Researcher, Township of Cavan Monaghan, ON

## **SERVICE TO PROFESSION**

### **Professional Associations**

- 2022-2023 Secretary, Canadian Science and Technology Historical Association

### **Journal Manuscript Reviews**

- 2017 *Contention: A Multidisciplinary Journal of Social Protest*

## **INSTITUTIONAL SERVICE**

- 2024-Present Member, Academic Freedom, IP, and Copyright Committee, NLC
- 2022-Present Member, Faculty Assoc. Professional Development Fund Committee, NLC
- 2021-Present Member, Research Ethics Board, Northern Lakes College
- 2018 Member, Search Committee for Department Chair, Trent University
- 2016-2018 Member, Frost Centre Executive Committee, Trent University
- 2017 Member, Food Service Evaluation Committee, Trent University
- 2015-2017 President, Frost Centre Student Association, Trent University
- 2016 Member, Department of Canadian Studies Hiring Committee, Trent University
- 2007-2008 President, Champlain College Cabinet, Trent University
- 2006-2008 Trent Central Student Association Commissioner for Champlain College, Trent University

## COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

2017-2019 Member, Filmmaker Advisory Panel, ReFrame Film Festival, Peterborough  
2013-2020 Photographer and Videographer, Artspace Artist-Run Centre, Peterborough  
2013-2014 Board Member, Electric City Culture Council, Peterborough

## PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

2019-2020 Canadian Historical Association  
2016-present Canadian Science and Technology Historical Association  
2016-2019 Documentary Organization of Canada  
2014-2019 Canadian Studies Network

## MEDIA APPEARANCES

2023. UFO Talker podcast. "[Does the Robert Sarbacher-Wilbert Smith memo...](#)" 20 September.  
2023. The Hub Dialogues. "[Uncovering Canada's UFO files.](#)" 28 March.  
2022. *We're All Gonna Die (Even Jay Baruchel)*. CraveTV. 30 April.  
2022. The Nighttime Podcast. "[Keep Canada Weird.](#)" 13 April.  
2022. The Superstitious Times. "[Ottawa writer explores deeper issues of UFOs, conspiracies in Search for the Unknown.](#)" 27 March.  
2021. Global News. "Canadian UFO sightings are up - ..." July 3.  
2021. Vice. "The Canadian Military Has Been Encountering UFOs for Decades." June 1.  
2021. CBC News: The National. "UFO Sightings: U.S. Senate to Hear Report." May 23.  
2021. Vice. "Commerical Airline Pilots Keep Reporting UFOs Over Canada." April 21.  
2020. Phantom Signals (documentary TV series). Super Channel. November 8-22.  
2020 "[UFO spotting has replaced bird watching as pandemic obsession.](#)" *The Wall Street Journal*, September 1.  
2020 "[David Hamel's Granite Saucer.](#)" *The Nighttime Podcast*, August 16.  
2020 "[The United States deems UFOs a national security threat. Why is Canada not taking it as seriously?'](#)" *The Globe and Mail*, August 14.  
2019 "[Close encounters of the northern Ontario kind.](#)" *TVO*, October 31.  
2019 "[The Canadian Government and UFOs.](#)" *Nighttime Podcast*, January 30.  
2018 "[Trent PhD Student Investigates History of UFO Sightings across Canada.](#)" *Trent Arthur*, October 31.  
2018 "[UFO Research by PhD Candidate.](#)" *CBC Ontario Morning*, May 14.  
2018 "[Canada's Confidential UFO Files.](#)" *CBC Ideas*, May 11.  
2018 "[Canadian Mint reveals UFO coin.](#)" *The Monocle Daily*, April 4.  
2018 "[Making sense of the paranormal.](#)" *University Affairs*, February 7.  
2017 "[Pushback at Rendezvous With Madness Film Festival.](#)" *CBC Ontario Morning*, November 7.  
2017 "[UFO Investigator and Campus Reporter.](#)" *Arthur Hour*, October 25.  
2017 "[Film Review: Pushback.](#)" *Electric City Magazine*, July 20.

- 2017 “Special on UFOs,” *Speculating Canada* radio show, March 29.
- 2017 “Trent University library closing for renovation,” *CBC Ontario Morning*, March 16.
- 2017 “Students, profs concerned over library renovations,” *Peterborough Examiner*, March 13
- 2017 “The curious case of Ontario’s UFO shortage,” *QNet News*, February 16.
- 2017 “Establishing Shots: Film in Peterborough,” *Electric City Magazine*, January 4.
- 2016 “The Filmmakers Behind Pushback,” *CogecoTV*, November 24.

## **FILMOGRAPHY (also see [IMDB page](#))**

- 2021 *Everlasting Wheat* (4 min)  
 Official Selection: Chatham-Kent Film Fest  
 Winner: Best Cinematography and Audience Award at the 300 Seconds Film Fest; Best Cinematography at the Bloomington Indiana Film Fest
- 2020 *The Granite Man of Gilmour* (15 min)  
 Featured on Film Shortage and Retrospective of Jupiter  
 Official Selection: ReFrame Film Festival, Belleville DocFest, Kingston Canadian Film Fest, Diversions International Film Fest
- 2019 *A Certain Texture* (9 min)  
 Official Selection: Kingston Canadian Film Fest, ReFrame Film Fest, Belleville DocFest
- 2018 *locked in a way* (7 min)  
 Official Selection: Small Dance for Small Space Fest; ReFrame Film Fest; Cinema Spectacular; Diversions Short Film Fest, Minikino Film Week  
 Winner: Best Film, Snowdance Film Fest
- 2017 *Pushback* (90 min)  
 Official Selection: Rendezvous With Madness Film Fest; ReFrame Film Fest; Belleville Downtown DocFest; Walkerville Film Fest
- 2016 *The Masjid* (5 min)  
 Official Selection: Resistance International Film Fest; Samawa Cinema
- 2016 *Milkweed* (15 min)  
 Official Selection: EBE Film Fest; McMinnville UFO Film Fest  
 Winner: Best Film, Snowdance Film Fest
- 2015 *Tilco Striker* (3 min)  
 Official Selection: Canadian Labour International Film Fest; Hamburg International Short Film Fest; Brazilian International Labour Film Fest; ReFrame Film Fest; Cinema Spectacular; Nextfest Film Fest  
 Winner: London Labour Film Festival Short Film Competition
- 2015 *Tonight Is For The Trees* (3 min)  
 Official Selection: ReFrame Film Fest; Envoi Poetry Fest; Ó Bhéal Poetry-Film Competition; ZEBRA Poetry Film Fest
- 2014 *The Rib Thief* (5 min)  
 Official Selection: Snowdance Film Fest
- 2014 *Argus* (7 min)  
 Official Selection: Seattle True Independent Film Fest; Canaltown Short Spooky Movie



Fest; Waves of Horror Film Fest; Censored in Canada Film Fest

Finalist: Shelburne Film Expo's "Get Your Shorts On" Competition

2012 *Tom Quixote* (20 min)

Official Selection: Gimli Film Festival

Winner: Best Film (Jury) and Best Screenplay, Annapolis Valley Short Film Fest