

Victoria J.L. Fisher, PhD

647-607-4113

victoria.fisher@utoronto.ca

Education

2016-2023

PhD – History of Science & Technology

Institute for the History and Philosophy of Science and Technology, University of Toronto

- Focus on the history of science in Canada, and collections of historic scientific artifacts and collections, particularly in universities.
- Dissertation: *Getting Down to Brass & Wax: The Material Culture of Physics at Canadian Universities, 1890-1939*

2012-2013

MSc – History of Science, Technology and Medicine

London Centre for the History of Science, Technology and Medicine, Imperial College London/University College London

- Dissertation: *La Véritable Idée du Monde: Exploring the Proportional Universe in Huygens' Cosmotheoros*

2009-2010

BEd - Junior/Intermediate – English

Ontario Institute of Studies in Education at the University of Toronto (OISE/UT)

- Additional Qualification (AQ) in Senior English (2010)

2004-2008

BA (Hon.) Majors: History, English; Minor: Political Science

University of Toronto, Toronto

Awards and Scholarships

2016-2022

Jackman Institute Junior Fellowship

2017-2021

Ontario Graduate Scholarship

Experience and Employment

Collections/Museums

2016-

Assistant Curator/Teaching Assistant, University of Toronto Scientific Instruments Collection (UTSIC)

- Closely involved in daily management and running of collection: cataloguing and research of objects; object accessions and moves; object photography; website management; and advancement among university community and beyond (e.g. with media).

- Engaged in teaching and outreach activities: teaches material culture workshops at high school and university level; attends university community events with objects for display and education
- Co-curator of collection exhibits: successfully applied for university grants, research of objects and themes, liaison with and oversaw students creating exhibits; writing label text
- In 2016-2017 co-wrote and researched overview report outlining University of Toronto historic collections for presentation to collections steering committee.

2018-2021 Research Assistant, Department of Astronomy, University of Toronto

- Cataloguing and researching historic collections of Department of Astronomy & Astrophysics, and associated with David Dunlap Observatory.
- Conducting oral histories with department personnel for object research and archival record.

2018 Archive Assistant, Department of Physics, University of Toronto

- Organising of documents for accession, and creating Finding Aid for Department of Physics archival collections for transfer to University of Toronto archive.

2015-2016 Volunteer, University of Toronto Scientific Instruments Collection (UTSIC), University of Toronto

- Collections assistant: catalogued and researched objects in collection.
- Reviewed cataloguing instructions and management techniques; suggested improvements.

2013 Volunteer, National Maritime Museum (Greenwich Observatory) – London, UK

- In Horology department, transcribed 19th century ledgers listing maritime chronometers into database for eventual creation of International Chronometer Index.

2008 Volunteer, Canadian Museum of Nature (Natural Heritage Campus) – Gatineau, QC, Canada

- Mounted dried botanical specimens according to museum procedure for inclusion in National Herbarium Collection.

Teaching

2020-2023 Teaching Assistant, University of Toronto – Toronto

- Planned and led tutorials focused on historical subject matter, and development of academic research and writing skills.
- Assessed student work exams, essays and writing proposals, creating rubrics and giving supportive and detailed feedback at all stages of the process on submitted work and in office hours.
- Lectured on topics related to my research; introduced elements of material culture studies in lecture and tutorials.

2011-2012 Primary School Teacher (Long-term Temporary and Supply) - TimePlan (Supply Agency) and Frieth School - Buckinghamshire, UK

- As long-term teacher (Frieth School) took on regular duties of elementary Year 3/4 classroom (ages 7-9), planned program of study for lessons in English, math and science.
- Delivered engaging lessons; assessed students using a variety of methods according to UK national expectations and wrote report cards.
- As supply teacher, adapted quickly to new school environments and classrooms. Both delivered lessons left by regular teacher as required and created/adapted own where necessary.

2010-2011 Primary Teacher (Long-term Temporary), Gayhurst School – Gerrard's Cross, Buckinghamshire, UK

- Regular subject teacher in elementary classroom; planned and delivered classes in math and religious studies to students aged 8-13.
- Tailored lessons to groups and students' individual needs, worked with teaching team to develop and deliver coordinated lessons and exams, assessed students according to school expectations and wrote report cards; met with parents.

Academic & Administrative

2017-2019 President, History and Philosophy of Science and Technology (HAPSAT) Society, University of Toronto (Graduate Student Society/Union) - Toronto

- Organised meetings and elections, collaborated with other elected personnel to plan and host social gatherings, workshops and other events.
- Met with department faculty and university administrators regarding student concerns; counselled students on concerns
- Co-planned and ran inter-university graduate student conference (2019)

2019-2022 Secretary/Treasurer, History and Philosophy of Science and Technology (HAPSAT) Society, University of Toronto (Graduate Student Society/Union) - Toronto

- Oversaw budget, handled reimbursements, and fulfilled financial requirements of HAPSAT finances; took meeting minutes.

Other Employment

2015-2016 Cashier on Duty (COD), Indigo (Bay & Bloor) – Toronto

- Responsible for cash opening and closing procedures in store, including charge of the safe, tills and daily reconciliation and paperwork.
- Led and supported cashier team (up to 11 people)
- Courteously handled customer issues and inquiries concerning transactions and online orders, including liaison with online customer service, managers and other stores in order to resolve issues.
- Responsible for weekly audit and ordering of store operations supplies.

- 2014-2016** **Customer Experience Leader (CEL) Indigo (Bay & Bloor) – Toronto**
- Supported management team in support of running of shop floor, including periods as primary supervisor on floor.
 - Trained new staff, familiarizing them with store and procedures.

Publications

- 2022** Fisher, V., Pantalony, D. “The Physics Collection at the University of Saskatchewan: The development of an instrument-making culture on the Prairies (1920-1950)” *Scientific Instrument Society Bulletin* Vol. 154 pp. 25-31 (September 2022)

Presentations

- 2019** Canada Science and Technology Historical Association biannual conference, King’s College, Halifax – “*What Lives, What Dies, What Tells Our Stories: The formation and fate of Canada’s university physics collections.*”
- 2018** Canadian Society for the History and Philosophy of Science annual conference, Regina, Saskatchewan – “*Inside the Instrument: Cave Markings of the Late 20th Century*”
- 2017** ‘Binocular’ Conference – Institute for the History and Philosophy of Science and Technology, University of Toronto & Department of Science and Technology Studies, York University – “*Migrating Laboratories*”
- 2016** ‘Binocular’ Conference – Institute for the History and Philosophy of Science and Technology, University of Toronto & Department of Science and Technology Studies, York University – “*What to do with old stuff*” (with Erich Weidenhammer)