

Victoria JL Fisher

Public Historian and Collections Researcher
Toronto, Ontario, Canada

Education

2016–2023

PhD – History of Science & Technology

Institute for the History and Philosophy of Science and Technology, University of Toronto, March 2023

- 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)

Selected Experience

Sept 2024–pres.

Historian in Residence, David A. Dunlap Department of Astronomy & Astrophysics – University of Toronto, Toronto, ON.

- Collection liaison, consultant and curator for departmental history and historical artifact collection; responding to collections inquiries, organising loans, researching objects; conducting oral histories; managing transfer of documents to University of Toronto archive.

2023–Nov. 2024

Postdoctoral Fellow/Chercheuse postdoctorale, Ingenium – Canada's Museums Science and Innovation, Ottawa, ON.

- Lead researcher and writer on digital humanities project on the history of the scientific and precision instrument and equipment industry in Canada.
- Original research for and development of new and publicly-available database of precision and scientific equipment manufacturing and manufacturers in Canada on Omeka online exhibit platform
- Using geomapping and relational database methodologies to depict relationships in innovation and development in industry, science and technology.

- 2023–Dec. 2024** **Co-Guest Editor, Special Issue of *Scientia Canadensis* on the Material Culture of Science and Technology in Canada**
- Soliciting, organising, and editing of papers for an upcoming issue of Canadian history and technology of science journal, to be published December 2024.
- 2020–2023** **Teaching Assistant, Institute for the History and Philosophy of Science and Technology, University of Toronto. Toronto**
- Reviewed, designed and modified assignments, wrote assignment outlines and developed rubrics for student use and for marking.
 - Planned and led interactive and activity-focused tutorials.
 - Assessed student exams, essays, assignments, and writing proposals according to rubrics.
- Courses:
- HPS331 – *Global History of Mapping Sciences*
 - HPS205 – *Science, Technology and Empire* (partially delivered online)
 - HPS211 – *Scientific Revolutions II*
- 2018–2024** **Educator/Assistant Curator, University of Toronto Scientific Instruments Collection (UTSIC), Institute for the History and Philosophy of Science and Technology, University of Toronto**
- Developed material culture workshop program introducing hundreds students to material culture analysis and artifact close reading.
 - Developed outreach pop-up exhibits giving community members access to material culture of science at scientific and heritage settings.
 - Liaison with and mentorship of undergraduate and master’s students in exhibit creation, archival and material artifact research.
 - Daily management and running of collection: cataloguing and research of objects; object accessions and moves; photography; exhibit development.
- 2011–2012** **Primary School Teacher (Long-term Temporary and Supply) – TimePlan (Supply Agency), and Frieth School - Buckinghamshire, UK**
- Long-term and short-term supply teacher in elementary schools.
 - Delivered engaging lessons in all subjects; assessed students using a variety of methods according to UK national expectations.
- 2010–2011** **Elementary School Teacher, Gayhurst School - Gerrard's Cross, Buckinghamshire, UK**
- Elementary classroom teacher. Planned and delivered engaging, interactive classes to students aged 8–13, focused on math, religious studies, geography and home room.
 - 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; proactively communicated with student guardians.

Publications

- Upcoming** Fisher, V. “A Most Useful Man: Instrument makers, workshops, and the development of physics research in Canada, 1920-1939” *Nuncius*. (Accepted for review)
- 2024** Weidenhammer, E., Fisher, V., Yeang, C.-P., Spurr, A., Finnigan, P. “Reading Galvanometers: Reflecting on the Infrastructure and Instrumental Practice of Electrical Metrology at the University of Toronto” *Scientia Canadensis*, Dec. 2024
- 2023** Falk, D., Fisher, V. “The Einstein Camera” *University of Toronto Magazine*, Sept. 2023
- 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)

Recent Presentations

- 2024** Scientific Instrument Commission Conference, September 17, 2024, Ingenium, Ottawa, Ontario – *Making Space: Situating precision makers in Canadian Communities*
- 2024** Canadian Society for the History and Philosophy of Science annual conference, Université de Québec à Montréal, Montréal – *Reading Galvanometers: Reflecting on the Infrastructure and Instrumental Practice of Electrical Metrology at the University of Toronto*
- 2023** Canadian Society for the History and Philosophy of Science annual conference, York University, Toronto, Ontario – ‘*One Lonely Glassblower*’ – *Canadian university technicians in the 1920s*