

Dr. Matthew Hayes

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*Canadian Citizen

POSITION

2024-Present. Professor, General Arts & Science (part-time), Loyalist College

2020-Present. Instructor, University Studies (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](#)

[Stanislav Panin, Magic, Ritual, and Witchcraft 19\(1\): 124-127, Spring 2024](#)

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

2025 "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

2024-Present Volunteer/Board Member, Kanhiote Library (Tyendinaga Mohawk Territory)
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
2016-2023 Canadian Science and Technology Historical Association
2016-2019 Documentary Organization of Canada
2014-2019 Canadian Studies Network

MEDIA APPEARANCES

2024. *Alien Corridors*. Blaze TV (UK). 19 December.
2024. The Mirror (UK). "[Beauty Spot becomes UFO hotbed...](#)" 15 November.
2024. U.S. DoD AARO. "[Report on the Historical Record of U.S. Government Involvement with Unidentified Anomalous Phenomena](#)." February.
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*. 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; Censured 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