

Sylvia Nickerson
B.F.A., B.A., M.A., Ph.D.

October 2022

Academic Employment

- 2022-2023 Assistant Professor, Teaching Stream, Institute for History and Philosophy of Science and Technology (IHPST), University of Toronto
- 2020-2023 Instructor, Department of Mathematics & Statistics, McMaster University
- 2022 Instructor, Bachelor of Health Sciences program, McMaster University
- 2019-2022 Instructor, Institute for History and Philosophy of Science and Technology (IHPST), University of Toronto
- 2021 Instructor, School of Interdisciplinary Science, McMaster University
- 2014-2017 Postdoctoral Fellow, York University, Research teams *Science and Religion: Exploring the Spectrum* and *John Tyndall Correspondence Project*

Education

- 2006-2014 Ph.D. History of Science, University of Toronto (includes 2 yrs. leave)
- 2005-2006 M.A. History of Science, University of Toronto
- 2004-2005 Qualifying year to the M.Sc. in Mathematics, Dalhousie University
- 2002-2003 B.A. Mathematics (with distinction), Mount Allison University
- 1997-2001 B.F.A. Visual Art (with distinction), Mount Allison University
- 1997 O.S.S.D. Visual Art, Etobicoke School of the Arts

Research Articles

- (forthcoming 2022) "Marrying the radical, the conventional, and the mystical: Mathematics, gender and religion in the lives of William Kingdon and Lucy Lane Clifford," special issue of *Endeavour* on Calculating Couples: Domesticity and Gender in the Making of Mathematical Careers, edited by David E. Dunning and Brigitte Stenhouse.
- (2015) "Mathematics for the World: Publishing Mathematics and the International Book Trade, Macmillan and Co.," chapter nine in *Research in History and Philosophy of Mathematics*, Proceedings of the Canadian Society for History and Philosophy of Mathematics, Maria Zack and Elaine Landry (eds), New York: Birkhäuser, p. 121-137.
- (2013) "Referees, Publisher's Readers and the Image of Mathematics in Nineteenth Century England," winner of the Peter Isaac Essay Prize, *Publishing History* 71: 27-67.
- (2013) "Taking a Stand: Exploring the role of the scientist prior to the first Pugwash Conference on Science and World Affairs, 1957," *Scientia Canadensis* 36: 63-87.
- (2008) "Russell, Clifford, Whitehead and Differential Geometry," with Nicholas Griffin, *Russell: The Journal of Bertrand Russell Studies* n.s. 28: 20-38.

Book Chapters

- (2020) with Bernard Lightman and Parandis Tajbakhsh, “From Conflict to Complexity: Historians and Nineteenth Century Public Perceptions of Science and Religion,” in *Identity in a Secular Age: Science, Religion and Public Perceptions*, ed. Fern Elsdon-Baker and Bernard Lightman, University of Pittsburgh Press, pp. 13-29.
- (2019) “Darwin’s Publisher: John Murray III at the intersection of science and religion,” in *Rethinking History, Science and Religion: An Exploration of Conflict and the Complexity Principle*, ed. Bernard Lightman, University of Pittsburgh Press, pp. 110-128.

Reports

- (2021) “Report on CSHPM at CMS winter meeting,” *Canadian Society for the History and Philosophy of Mathematics Bulletin* 68 (May): 14-15.
- (2021) “Report on the British Society for the History of Mathematics meeting”, *Canadian Society for the History and Philosophy of Mathematics Bulletin* 68 (May): 15-17.
- (2018) “Graphic Medicine: An introduction,” *Canadian Medical Association Journal* (March 26, 2018) 190 (12): E368-E369.
- (2016) “What objects reveal about mathematical culture,” *Notes of the Canadian Mathematical Society* 48 (no. 4): 18-19.
- (2016) “Report on the Canadian Mathematical Society’s 2015 Winter Meeting,” *Canadian Society for the History and Philosophy of Mathematics Bulletin* 58 (May): 16-17.
- (2016) “About the Tyndall Project,” written by Nickerson, visuals co-created with Cameron Murray, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2lQpEsDC06A> [now removed]

Book Reviews

- (2013) Review of Elaine McKinnon Riehm and Frances Hoffman, *Turbulent Times in Mathematics: The life and times of J.C. Fields and the history of the Fields Medal* in: *Historia Mathematica* 40 (3): 325-329.
- (2010) Review of Timothy J. Madigan, *W. K. Clifford and The Ethics of Belief* in: *Russell: The Journal of Bertrand Russell Studies* 29: 188-190.
- (2009) Review of Apostolos Doxiadis and Christos Papadimitrou, *Logicomix* in: *Russell: The Journal of Bertrand Russell Studies* 29: 67-74.

Other Publications

- (forthcoming 2022) “Q&A with Dr. Jacqueline Feke,” *Canadian Society for the History and Philosophy of Mathematics Bulletin* 71 (November).
- (2022) “Q&A with Dr. Sarah Symons,” *Canadian Society for the History and Philosophy of Mathematics Bulletin* 70 (May): 15-18.
- (2021) “Q&A with Siobhan Roberts,” *Canadian Society for the History and Philosophy of Mathematics Bulletin* 68 (May): 7-10.
- (2020) “A cartoon from the editor’s desk,” *Canadian Society for the History and Philosophy of Mathematics Bulletin* 67 (November): 14-15.

- (2018) “Seeking graphic medicine narratives,” *Canadian Medical Association Journal* [26 March] 190 (12): E368-9.
- (2017) “Spiritualism, religion and mathematics in the Victorian period,” *Science and Religion: Exploring the Spectrum* blog, <https://sciencereligiionspectrum.org/blog-posts/victorian-spiritualism-math/>
- (2016) “Radicalism and Science at the Publisher John Chapman,” *Science and Religion: Exploring the Spectrum* blog, <https://sciencereligiionspectrum.org/blog-posts/the-most-pestilential-book-ever-vomited-from-the-jaws-of-hell/>
- (2015) “Interview with Nicholas Griffin: Bertrand Russell on science and religion,” *Bertrand Russell Society Bulletin* 152: 23-29.
- (2015) “Why I am not a Christian: Bertrand Russell on science and religion,” *Science and Religion: Exploring the Spectrum* blog, <http://sciencereligiionspectrum.org/blog-posts/why-i-am-not-a-christian-bertrand-russell-on-science-and-religion/#more-437>

Research Articles (unpublished manuscripts)

- (2017) “Destructing ignorance and reducing the world into order, beauty and harmony: Alexander Macmillan, evolutionists and the image of modern science”
- (2019) “Democracy without Christianity is catastrophe: John Murray, Charles Darwin and binding the future to the past”
- (2013) “Printing mathematics using moveable type printing and wood engraving techniques” (*Annals of Science* – Decision on Manuscript ID TASC-2012-0085)

Teaching

- (2023) Instructor, VIC259H Math and Creativity, Victoria College, University of Toronto
- (2023) Instructor, MATH3Z03 Inquiry: History of Mathematics, McMaster University
- (2023) Instructor, HPS391 History of Mathematics after 1700, University of Toronto
- (2022) Instructor, HPS390 The Story of Number: Math up to 1700, University of Toronto
- (2022) Instructor, HTHSCI 3KK3, Seeing and Understanding Data, McMaster University
- (2022) Instructor, HPS391 History of Mathematics after 1700, University of Toronto
- (2021) Instructor, SCICOMM 2A03, Foundations in Science Communication, McMaster
- (2021) Instructor, HPS390 The Story of Number: Math up to 1700, University of Toronto
- (2021) Instructor, MATH3Z03 Inquiry: History of Mathematics, McMaster University
- (2021) Instructor, HPS391 History of Mathematics after 1700, University of Toronto
- (2020) Instructor, MATH3Z03 Inquiry: History of Mathematics, McMaster University
- (2020) Instructor, HPS391 History of Mathematics after 1700, University of Toronto
- (2019) Instructor, HPS391 History of Mathematics after 1700, University of Toronto
- (2011) Instructor, HPS211 Scientific Revolutions II, University of Toronto
- (2011) Instructor, Writing Clinic, University of Toronto
- (2006-2013) Teaching Assistant, Scientific Revolutions I & II, University of Toronto
- (2006) Teaching Assistant, Introduction to History of Mathematics, University of Toronto
- (1999-2001) Teaching Assistant, Calculus, Mount Allison University

Research Funding

- (2023) Innovation Fund, Canada Council for the Arts (CAD 21,000, pending approval)
- (2022) Arts Abroad Program, Canada Council for the Arts (CAD 2,100)
- (2021) Research and Creation, Canada Council for the Arts (CAD 17,000)
- (2017) Writers' Works in Progress Grant, Ontario Arts Council (CAD 10,000)
- (2016) Creation and Presentation Grant, City of Hamilton Enrichment Fund (CAN 7,560)

Awards and Fellowships

- (2020) Doug Wright Award winner, for graphic novel, *Creation*
- (2019) Doug Wright Award nomination, for graphic novel, *All We Have Left, Is This*
- (2018) Hamilton Arts Award, Visual Arts
- (2018) Doug Wright Award nomination, for graphic novel, *Creation: The first three chapters*
- (2015) Best Student Paper Award, Canadian Society for the History and Philosophy of Mathematics (CAD 800 value)
- (2013) Peter Isaac Essay Prize, Print Networks committee (£400 value)
- (2012) Honourable mention, *Annals of Science Prize*
- (2012-2013) Doctoral Completion Award, University of Toronto (CAD 6,000)
- (2011) Michael Smith Foreign Study Supplement, Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada (CAD 6,000)
- (2011-2012) Doctoral Fellowship, IHPST, University of Toronto (CAD 10,750)
- (2009, 2011, 2013-14) Travel Grant, IHPST, University of Toronto (CAD 3,900)
- (2006-2011) Canada Graduate Scholarship, Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada (CAD 105,000)
- (2006) Frederic Hudd Bursary, Massey College (CAD 1000)
- (2006) Ontario Graduate Scholarship (CAD 10,000, declined)
- (2005-2008) Resident Junior Fellow, Massey College
- (2005) Frederic Hudd Scholarship, Massey College (CAD 1500)
- (2005) Ontario Graduate Scholarship (CAD 15,000)
- (2001) Crake Performance Award in Fine Arts, Mount Allison University
- (2001) University Leadership Certificate, Mount Allison University
- (2000) Crake Undergraduate Fellowship, Mount Allison University (CAD 5500)

Editorial Projects

- (2020-present) Editor, [*Canadian Society for History and Philosophy of Mathematics Bulletin*](#)
Responsible for writing articles, collecting and assembling member and society news, editorials and event listings pertaining to history of mathematics for this biannual publication.
- (2014-2017) Editorial Assistant, [*The Correspondence of John Tyndall*](#) (U. of Pittsburgh Press)
Among the 7000 letters published in this multi-volume, multi-year, editorial project, I edited more than 400. Attending bi-weekly editorial team meetings, I helped shape the project's digital strategy, managed research assistants, wrote scripts about the Tyndall project and edited images for vols. 2-5.

Conference Papers

- (2023) *W.K. Clifford's Evolutionary Approach to Mathematics and his Posthumous Reputation* (invited), Special Sessions on the History of Mathematics, Joint Mathematics Meetings of the American Mathematical Society and Mathematical Association of America, Boston
- (2022) *Calculating Couples: W.K. and Lucy Clifford* (invited), School of Mathematics and Statistics, The Open University, Milton Keynes, UK.
- (2017) *A Seat at the Table: Publishers, Periodicals, and the Agendas of Science and Religion*, History of Science Society, Toronto
- (2017) *Darwin's Publisher: John Murray III at the Intersection of Science and Religion*, International Congress of History of Science and Technology, Rio de Janeiro
- (2016) *Mathematics, Spirituality and Religion in the Victorian Period*, History and Philosophy of Mathematics session, Canadian Mathematical Society, Niagara Falls
- (2016) *Darwin in the Public Sphere: Evolutionary narratives and Macmillan publications, 1859-1890*, Public Perceptions of Science and Religion, University of California, San Diego
- (2016) *British Publishers as Agents within Evolution and Religion Debates, 1860-1890*, British-North American Joint Meeting of the British Society for the History of Science, Canadian Society for the History and Philosophy of Science and History of Science Society, Edmonton, Alberta
- (2015) *The John Tyndall Correspondence Project*, History and Philosophy of Mathematics session, Canadian Mathematical Society, Montreal
- (2015) *Darwin in the Public Sphere: Evolutionary narratives and Macmillan publications, 1859-1890* (invited), Victorian Studies Network Annual Symposium, York University and Society for the History of Authorship, Reading and Publishing, Longueuil and Montreal
- (2015) *Generating the mathematical book in Canada: Mathematical printing at the University of Toronto Press*, Canadian Science and Technology Historical Association, Toronto
- (2015) *Referees vs. publisher's readers as decision makers in mathematics and science* (invited), Publish or Perish? Scientific periodicals from 1665 to the present, The Royal Society, London
- (2015) *Science, Religion and Conflict: Thoughts on Historiography*, STS Workshop, Science and Technology Studies Department, York University
- (2014) *Publishing Britain's scientific sphere: Macmillan and Co. as publishers of science, 1860-1890*, History of Science Society, Chicago and Canadian Society for the History and Philosophy of Science, Brock University
- (2014) *Mathematics for the World: Publishing mathematics and the international book trade, the case of Macmillan and Co.*, Canadian Society for the History and Philosophy of Mathematics, Brock University, 2014; and Joint Mathematics Meetings of the American Mathematical Society and Mathematical Association of America, Baltimore
- (2013) *Les livres de mathématique dans l'Inventaire des imprimés anciens au Québec* (invited by Frédéric Charbonneau), McGill University Rare Books and Special Collections
- (2013) *Enabling a Mathematical Culture in Canada: The development of mathematical printing at the University of Toronto Press*, Canadian Association for the Study of Book Culture,

- University of Victoria
- (2013) *Sir Donald MacAlister as Publisher's Reader for Macmillan and Co.*, What is a Scientific Author? Cultures of Scientific Publishing Symposium, Department of the History of Science, Harvard University
- (2012) *Mathematics and the Book Trade in English Canada, 1850-1925*, History and Philosophy of Mathematics session, Canadian Mathematical Society, Montreal
- (2011) *Printing Mathematics using Moveable Type and Engraving*, History and Philosophy of Mathematics session, Canadian Mathematical Society, Toronto
- (2011) *Bringing Math to Market: Macmillan and Co. as publishers of mathematics, 1850-1900* (invited), Center for the History of the Mathematical Sciences, Open University
- (2007) *Taking a Stand: Exploring the role of the scientist prior to the Pugwash Conference on Science and World Affairs*, Canadian Science and Technology Historical Association, Toronto
- (2007) *Bertrand Russell's An Essay on the Foundations of Geometry* (1897), Brown bag presentation, Institute for the History and Philosophy of Science and Technology, Toronto

Community Presentations & Research Publicity

- (2022) "Visualizations in and of Science," History & Philosophy of Science Undergraduate Society, University of Toronto
- (2021) "The Missing Pages 02: History of Mathematics in the Middle East, South Asia and East Asia," SciXchange, Ryerson University at the link <https://youtu.be/vsYwh5pqXjc>
- (2020) "Darwin's publisher didn't believe in evolution, but sold his revolutionary book anyway" by Dan Falk, *Smithsonian Magazine*, 12 February 2020, <https://www.smithsonianmag.com/science-nature/how-darwins-publisher-changed-worlddespite-his-own-objections-180974189/>
- (2018) "Encounters – A new parent turns to graphic medicine to help sort her thoughts," *Canadian Medical Association Journal podcasts* (April) at the link <https://soundcloud.com/cmajpodcasts/171318-enc>
- (2012) *Fusing Art with Science and Stories of Women in Scientific History* (invited), lecture accompanying performance of John Mighton's play *The Little Years*, Tarragon Theatre, Toronto

Juries

- (2021) Best Book of Canadian Comic Arts, Doug Wright Awards

Professional Development

- (2022) *Relationships, Collaboration and Partnerships*, LLC, University of Toronto
- (2022) *Preparing Your Teaching Dossier*, CTSI, University of Toronto
- (2022) *TLS2022: Designing for the Future*, CTSI, University of Toronto
- (2021) *Course (re)Design Workshop*, MacPherson Institute, McMaster University
- (2020) *Hybrid vs. Online Instruction*, A&S Online Learning Academy, University of Toronto
- (2020) *PeerScholar: A Tool to Support Qualitative Assignments*, CTSI, University of Toronto

- (2020) *Connecting and Interacting with Your Students Online*, CTSI, University of Toronto
- (2020) *Assessing Student Work, Providing Feedback through Quercus*, CTSI, University of Toronto
- (2020) Site testing for pedagogical materials/assignments for TRIUMPHS ([Transforming Instruction in Undergraduate Mathematics via Primary Historical Sources](#))
- (2020) *What is Harassment? Tools to Identify & Address Racial and Sexual Harassment at Work*, Centre for Leadership, Learning & Culture (LLC), University of Toronto
- (2019) *Instructor Summer School and Syllabus Clinic*, Centre for Teaching Support and Innovation (CTSI), University of Toronto
- (2019) Course completion, *The99AICchallenge*, University of Toronto
- (2017) Participant, *Science in the 19th Century Periodical Workshop* directed by Sally Shuttleworth and Geoffrey Cantor, York University
- (2015) Commentary on “A dash of genius: Benjamin Lee Whorf and the promise of linguistics” by Jeffrey Wajsberg, STS Workshop, York University.
- (2004) Artist participant, *Creative Practice: Students from Dalhousie University’s Faculty of Medicine collaborate with students from Mount Allison University’s Department of Fine Arts*, Halifax, Nova Scotia and Sackville, New Brunswick.

Research in Teaching & Learning Practice

- (Applied for 2023) Nurturing Mathematical Discourse by Teaching with Primary Sources Fellowship
- (2023) *Animation for improved learning and engagement*, with Hakob Barseghyan, A&S Teaching & learning Community of Practice, University of Toronto

Administrative Responsibilities

- (2022-2023) Member, Joint Graduate Department Academic Appeals Committee, University of Toronto

Professional Service

- (begin 2023) Treasurer, International Commission on the History of Mathematics
- (2020-present) Content editor, *Bulletin of the Canadian Society for the History and Philosophy of Mathematics*
- (2021) Referee for *Convergence*, publication of the Mathematical Association of America
- (2020) Expert reviewer, Network for Study of Science & Belief in Society
- (2020-2021) Chief Steward Unit 2 (Sessional Instructors) CUPE 3906, McMaster
- (2019-2021) Department Steward, Unit 3 (Sessional Instructors) CUPE 3902, Toronto
- (2018-2019) Referee for *Canadian Medical Association Journal*, medical humanities section
- (2017) Donated art for 50th anniversary celebrations, *Institute for History and Philosophy of Science and Technology*, University of Toronto
- (2013) Referee for *Book History*, Johns Hopkins University Press
- (2014) Logo and visual branding for *Science and Religion, Exploring the Spectrum* project and *Center for Science, Knowledge and Belief in Society* at Newman University
- (2014) Referee for *Mémoires du livre/Studies in Book Culture*, Université de Sherbrooke

(2012) Advisor for *Spontaneous Generations: A Journal for the History and Philosophy of Science*,
University of Toronto

Other Professional Experience

(2005-2008) Print shop assistant, Robertson Davies Library, Massey College
(2003-2005) Project Manager, Atlantic Publishers Marketing Association
(2001-2002) Production Manager/Graphic Designer, Mosaic Press

Creative Works

Sylvia has published visual images in magazines, newspapers and books in Canada, the US and UK for clients including *The Globe and Mail*, *The National Post*, *The Washington Post*, *Rogers Media*, *The Boston Globe*, *Palgrave Macmillan* and *Cambridge University Press*. She won the Hamilton Arts Award in Visual Arts in 2018. Her graphic novel *Creation* was published by Drawn and Quarterly in 2019 to acclaim and she won the Doug Wright Award for best emerging talent in 2020. *Creation: The first three chapters* was nominated for a Doug Wright Award for excellence in Canadian cartooning in 2018, and her self-published book *All We Have Left, Is This* was nominated for a Doug Wright Award in 2019.

Her artistic work can be explored at <http://www.sylvianickerson.ca>