

# SYDNEY BURTON

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## EDUCATION

2018-Present **Ph.D Classics and Religion** at University of Calgary (Transfer from Memorial University of NL Ph.D Philosophy Interdisciplinary September 2020)

Comprehensive Exams: Passed with Distinction

Thesis: *Gender Fluidity and Power in Byzantium*

Supervisors: Dr. Marica Cassis (History), Dr. Jennifer Dyer (Gender Studies), Dr. Kathy Simonsen (Classics)

2015-2017 **M.A History** at Memorial University of Newfoundland

Thesis: *The Role of Vitae in the construction of Byzantine Female Identity*

Supervisor: Dr. Marica Cassis

2009-2013 **B.A History** at St. Francis Xavier University

Concentration: Western Medieval History with a Minor in Religious Studies

Main Supervisor: Dr. Donna Trembinski

2006-2009 **High School Diploma** from Mount Pearl Senior High School

Graduated with Honours Status

## TEACHING AND RESEARCH INTERESTS

- Byzantine Social and Religious History
- Saints in the Byzantine Orthodox Church
- Gender in the Ancient Near East

## TEACHING AND RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

2021-Present **TA for James Hume**

Duties Include: Hosting office hours over zoom, becoming familiar with Greek and Roman Mythology to adequately aid students and answer their questions, grading, and posting grades and news items to the D2L Online Learning Platform

2020-2021 **TA for Dr. Leslie Bolton**

Duties Include: Hosting study groups and office hours for a 300 level Ancient Technology Class and grading final projects and midterms.

**2018-2020 Graduate Student Editor for the MUN Writing Centre**

Duties Include: Editing and teaching graduate students how to strengthen their writing abilities for academic reports and research papers.

**2015-2016 T.A for Dr. Marica Cassis**

Duties Include: Hosting study groups and tutorials and grading research papers and midterms

**2008-2009 Research Assistant at St. Francis Xavier University for Dr. Ken Penner in the Religious Studies Department.**

Duties Include: Translation and formatting of Apocrypha from French, Norwegian, German, Gaelic, Latin and Greek into English. Placing these Apocrypha into an online database for public consumption

## WORK AND VOLUNTEER EXPERIENCE

**2021-Present Office Administrator for the Department of Classics and Religious Studies**

**Duties:** Creating poster for a variety of guest speakers at the University of Calgary, posting news items for undergraduate students on the D2L platform, organizing speakers biographies and presentation information in Microsoft Power Point, Excel, and Word.

**2020- Present Treasurer of CLARE Departmental Graduate Association (DGA)**

**Duties:** Oversee the financial operations of the CLARE (Classics and Religious Studies Department) DGA for the University of Calgary and keeping informed of the financial state of the organization. Creating and maintaining all financial records of the DGA. Preparing and monitoring purchases and expenditures of the approved budget from the prior meetings. Forming and chairing meetings of the Finance Committee. Compelling and submitting financial statements with the annual report to the Graduation Association. Aid in the planning and execution of the CLARE Graduation Student Conference.

**2020-Present CLARE Graduate Conference Committee**

**Duties:** Planning and executing the Graduate Conference for the Classics and Religious Studies Department at the University of Calgary including: deciding on conference theme, poster creation, recruitment of key note speakers, recruitment and organization of

graduate and undergraduate workshops during the conference, creation and distribution of call for papers, acceptance of abstracts, organization of speakers, running online conference platform.

**2020- Present Graduate Student Mentor for Undergraduates at the University of Calgary**

**Duties:** Encouraging and helping undergraduate students as they navigate the beginnings of their academic career in the Classics and Religious Studies Department. Helping them to fill out graduate applications, answering questions on their course work, helping them navigate the degree program, providing them with tools to further research their final papers and their future graduate work.

2020- Present **Member of the Graduate Handbook Committee**

**Duties:** Aiding in revising and rewriting the Graduate Handbooks for the Classics and Religious Studies Department at the University of Calgary.

2019- 2020 **Barista at Jumping Bean Coffee**

**Duties:** Creating speciality drinks and sandwiches for customers in all downtown locations. Kitchen food prep and cleaning duties. Money management upon store closure.

2019- Present **Executive Producer on Student Horror Film**

**Duties:** Oversee budgeting for pre, during and post production. Input on legal affairs such as actor waivers and filming permits. Input on creative decisions such as film location, props, lighting, etc. Audition marketing and casting. Overseeing pre, during, and post production operations.

2018- 2020 **Graduate Student Tutor at Memorial University Writing Centre**

**Duties:** The tutoring of writing techniques for a variety of grad students including engineers, science students, ESL students and arts students for projects, reports and papers. Lessons include higher order concerns such as the clarifying of thesis statements, flow and unity, topic sentence and paragraph structure, and lower order concerns such as grammar, spelling and formatting.

2018- 2020 **Secretary of the Memorial University Gender Studies Society**

**Duties:** One of the students that helped found the society. Currently in charge of drafting up a constitution, collecting reports on each executive position and outlining executive

duties, writing minutes, creating brochures and posters for community and the society alike, seeking out volunteer opportunities, writing up of proposals ( specifically for the creation of a harassment office to guide students experiencing multiple forms of harassment at the university through the administrative processes), aiding with agenda creation, and continual contact with executive members to ensure all are on track.

2018- Present    **Volleyball Statistician/ Game Sheet Scorer/ Colour Commentary at the Works**

**Duties:** Taking stats and doing score sheet during Memorial Universities female volleyball games. Providing webcast commentary for University Volleyball Games.

2016- 2020    **Ronald McDonald House Volunteer**

**Duties:** Baking sweet treats and cooking dinners for families of sick children at the Ronald McDonald House in St. John's Newfoundland once a month. On occasion guiding new volunteers on house tours and helping them prepare for their baking sessions.

2011-2020    **Head Female/ Male Volleyball Coach Max Athletics and Wellness**

**Duties:** Member of the City Stars coaching staff (3 years) which included the planning and execution of a variety of volleyball based youth camps. Head coach of a MAX Academy Volleyball team (2 years) including practice planning, team direction/ management, the planning and organizing of national competitions across Canada for upwards of 24 youth. Current Head-Coach/ Program creator of recreational volleyball after school program for ages 8-15.

2011-Present    **Team Newfoundland and Labrador Volleyball Coach**

**Duties:** Planning and executing volleyball programs for 14u/15u/16u/17u volleyball teams to compete at Easter Elite / National Championships. Chaperoning teams as they travel cross country. Providing skills training, mental training, physical fitness training, and team bonding activities both on the road and at home. Choosing athletes and placing them on appropriate teams to be able to compete and attain their full potential.

2009-Present    **Head High School and Junior High Volleyball (Volunteer)**

**Duties:** Designing and implementing practice plans for Grades 7-12 based on appropriate skill level and maturity. Encouraging team play, conflict resolution, communication techniques, active listening, anxiety management, and mindfulness within a sport setting.

Implementing volunteer programs to promote community involvement amongst the team, and ensuring local referee certification, grass roots coaching certifications, and promoting of healthy lifestyles.

2006-present **Volunteer with the City of Mount Pearl (Frosty Festival, YAT, AAMP, CPC, City Days)**

**Duties:** A member of the Youth Action Team that designed, organized and implemented concerts, panels, debates, safe spaces, events and learning opportunities/workshops for the youth of the city of Mount Pearl. Frosty Festival Committee member and City Days Committee member focusing on the recruitment and organization of volunteers for both week long events. Member of the Associations of the Arts of Mount Pearl and the Crime Prevention Committee for the City of Mount Pearl.

Frosty Festival Sub-Committee Member who was tasked to create and maintain a volunteer database. Organize and recruit all volunteers for the two week long festival. Interview potential volunteers, review credentials, contact references, manage volunteer training and appreciation functions and assign volunteers to various events.

2017- 2019 **Shift Supervisor Starbucks Hebron Way**

**Duties:** Customer support, drive thru and store front service and handling of payments, counting tills, inventory count, handling/ acceptance of orders, partner deployment/ staff management, drink assembly, stocking, cleaning and sanitization.

2014-2017 **Assistant Coach of the 2017 Canada Games Female Volleyball Team (Volunteer)**

**Duties:** Aid in the design and implementation of practice plans alongside of the head coach; design and implement of emergency action plans for each competition/ training camp; coordination of team bonding and volunteer activities; aiding in the planning and implementation of competition travel and season planning; aiding in conflict resolution

amongst team members combined with peer mentorship opportunities and injury prevention amongst the young athletes.

2011-2013 **Campus Police Officer**

**Duties:** Ensuring the safety of students on St. Francis Xavier campus through nightly patrols. Providing security to the attendees of university events and functions. Providing

students with services such as a Student Mental Health Hot Line and a Nightly Walk Home service for students.

2011-2013 **Preventing Violence Against Women (Antigonish, NS)**

**Duties:** Aided in the organization and implementation of various events and campaigns to raise awareness about violence against women, provide safe places for women to feel empowered by music, testimonials, and activities. Initiatives included: 16 Days of Activism Poster Campaign, V-Day Celebration, One Billion Rising video and celebration.

2011-2013 **Golden X Inn Security Staff**

**Duties:** Providing security for the on campus bar, checking identification upon entry, and bartending for bar patrons.

2011-2013 **St Francis Xavier Peer Mentor (Volunteer)**

**Duties:** Providing legal, emotional, and educational support systems for first and second year students in St. FX residence.

2011-2013 **Service Learning (Volunteer)**

**Duties:** Providing tutoring services for junior high and high school students in math, english, french, gaelic, science, and social studies.

2011-2013 **Tramble Centre Tutor and Notetaker at St. Francis Xavier University**

**Duties:** The tutoring of students with learning disabilities and troubles 3 times a week. Taking notes in class for those that are unable to do so due to learning differences.

2010-2015 **Newfoundland and Labrador Volleyball Association Programs Coordinator (Sport Newfoundland and Labrador)**

**Duties:** Planning, scheduling and convening volleyball tournaments across the province of Newfoundland and Labrador; aiding in the planning and execution of mini volleyball programs within the NL school system; during the summer months I helped to develop and coach the junior elite and provincial team programs (Team Newfoundland and Labrador); helped to manage incoming finances for tournaments and programs, and

developed/implement new policies for the organization; designing and selling of tournament t-shirts for fundraising efforts.

2010-2014 **Women's Inter Church Council of Canada (WICC) Board Member**

**Duties:** Review and decide how to distribute grants given to world-wide organizations through WICC initiatives. Contributor to WICC's national magazine *Riding the Waves*. Aid in the design and organization of World Day of Prayers, Fellowship of the Least Coin, International Women's Day Service (remembering L'Ecole Polytechnique). Elected to the board in fall of 2011 as Programs Coordinator. Duties include organizing, documenting, and running task groups surrounding topics such as current affairs, education days ( in which speakers address the council on a specific topic concerning women and children globally), Festival Days for World Day of Prayers, and the National Women's Gathering.

2009-2011 **Scouts Canada Program Designer (Volunteer)**

**Duties:** The creation, revamping and implementation of new programming for Beavers, Scouts, Venturers and Rovers. Monthly meetings concerning constitution design, program design and badge systems.

#### AWARDS AND CERTIFICATION

- Passing Comprehensive Exams with Distinction, Recipient of the Alberta Graduate Excellence Scholarship, Certified Development Volleyball Coach, Certified Elementary School Volleyball Coach, Trained Advanced Development Coach, Trained Performance Coach, Certified Bring Your Own Parent Coach, Certified in the following Multi Sport National Coaching Certification Courses: Making Ethical Decisions, Planning a Practice, Basic Mental Skills, Nutrition, Design a Basic Sports Program, Air Aware, Injury Prevention and Recovery, Leading Drug Free Sport, Coaching and Leading Effectively, Psychology of Performance, Coaching and Leading Effectively, Developing Athletic Abilities, Managing Conflict, Advanced Practice Planning, Performance Planning, Making Head Way in Sport, Coaching Athletes with Disabilities, BodySense, Nature of the Group, Stages of Group Development, Learning to Debrief, and Action Planning
- First Responder and First Aid Training
- Certified Local Volleyball Canada Referee

- Mental Health First Aid
- Level 2 Peer Mentor
- Positive Space Training
- Bilingual Certification ( English and French)
- Mount Pearl Coach of the Year Nominee (2016)
- Mount Pearl Team of the Year Recipient (2016)
- Youth Volunteer of the Year (2008)
- Gold Medalist at the AUS Rowing Championships (2012)
- First Aid Certification
- Food Safe Certification
- Starbucks Partner of the Quarter (2017)
- Writing Centre Education ( Tutoring/ ESL / Tutoring students with anxiety)
- Canada Fair Play Award / Silver Medalists at Volleyball Canada Nationals ( 2016)
- Eastern Canadian National Championships Tier 1 Bronze Medalists ( 2018)

#### CONFERENCES ATTENDED

2020 Aldrich Conference in St. John's Newfoundland- Oral Presentation "Queering the Byzantine"

2020 Annual Byzantine Studies Conference (BSANA)

2020 7th Annual Online Career Conference for PhDs presented by Beyond the Professorate - Attendee

2019 Atlantic Mediaeval Association Conference in St. John's Newfoundland ( Transformations and Violence Panel Chair)



2018 Byzantine Studies Conference in San Antonio Texas

2016 Graduate Student History Conference at Memorial University of Newfoundland and Labrador - Presenter

2008 Religious Studies Conference at St. Mary's University

#### LANGUAGES

Spoken: French, English, Irish Gaelic, and Italian

Reading and Writing: Latin, Aramaic, and Ancient Greek

#### REFERENCES

Dr. Marica Cassis Department of History at Memorial University of Newfoundland  
Contact Info: [marica.cassis@ucalgary.ca](mailto:marica.cassis@ucalgary.ca)

Dr. Jennifer Dyer Department of Gender Studies at Memorial University of Newfoundland  
Contact Info: [jdyer@mun.ca](mailto:jdyer@mun.ca)