

# Nico Mara-McKay

✉ [nico@nicomarmackay.com](mailto:nico@nicomarmackay.com)  
🌐 [nicomaramckay.com](http://nicomaramckay.com)  
📍 Toronto, ON  
📠 XXX-XXX-XXXX

## Education

- 2019–2020 Master of Arts, History, University of Guelph  
"Questions of Categorization: Surgical Interventions on Intersex Bodies in Late Medieval Europe," supervised by Jacqueline Murray; won Best MRP Award in History.
- 2015–2019 Honours Bachelor of Arts with High Distinction, University of Toronto  
Majors in History and Art History, minor in History of Religions.

## Research Interests

Histories of gender and sexuality; queer and trans historiography; embodiment and identity.

## Academic Publications

### Journals

- 2021 "Witchcraft Pamphlets at the Dawn of the Scottish Enlightenment." *Journal of History* 56:3 (2021): 381–401. (Winner of the Linda F. Dietz Graduate Essay Prize.)
- 2018 "Becoming Gendered: Two Medieval Approaches to Intersex Gender Assignment." *Prandium: The Journal of Historical Studies* 7:1 (2018): 1–10.

### Catalogue

- 2020 "Commemorating Community: The St. Kunibert Office of the Dead." In *Illuminating Life: Manuscript Pages of the Middle Ages*, edited by Brittney Payer and Alex Wall, 62–74. Guelph, ON: University of Guelph, 2020.

## Scholarships, Grants, and Research Funding

### Competitive External Awards

- 2020–2025 Doctoral Fellowship, Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada (\$100,000).
- 2020–2021 Ontario Graduate Scholarship, PhD (\$15,000, declined).
- 2020 Hannah Studentship, Associated Medical Services and the Canadian Society for the History of Medicine (\$5,500).

### Institutional Funding

- 2022 Emeritus History Professors Graduate Fellowship, University of Toronto (\$500).
- 2022 Pre-Dissertation Research Award, University of Toronto (\$3,000).
- 2021 Jack Hallam Award, Sexual Diversity Studies, University of Toronto (\$500).

- 2020–2021 Department of History Graduate Program Award, University of Toronto (\$750).
- 2020 Department of History Best MRP Award, University of Guelph (\$100).
- 2020 Department of History Graduate Essay Prize, University of Guelph (\$100).
- 2020 Board of Graduate Studies Research Scholarship, University of Guelph (\$2,000).
- 2020 Graduate Travel, Research, and Creation Fund, University of Guelph (\$735).
- 2019–2020 Graduate Tuition Scholarship, University of Guelph (\$8,000).
- 2019–2020 University Graduate Scholarship, University of Guelph (\$8,000).
- 2019 Award for Outstanding Performance in Visual Studies, University of Toronto.
- 2019 Dean's Graduation Award, University of Toronto (\$100).
- 2015–2019 Dean's List Scholar, University of Toronto.
- 2018 Teaching Assistant Award, Historical Studies, University of Toronto.
- 2018 UTM Experiential Learning Bursary, University of Toronto (\$500).
- 2015–2018 Joseph Alfred Whealey Incourse Scholarship, University of Toronto (\$4,500).
- 2017 University of Toronto Excellence Award (\$6,000).
- 2017 Marjorie E. Simonds Travel Award, University of Toronto (\$2,000).
- 2017 Best Exhibition Proposal in Curatorial Studies Award, University of Toronto and Sheridan College.
- 2016 History Emeriti Award, Historical Studies, University of Toronto.

#### *Select Additional Awards*

- 2023 Dorothy Rosenberg Phi Beta Kappa Annual Meeting Travel Grant, American Historical Association (\$200).
- 2021 Linda F. Dietz Graduate Essay Prize, *Journal of History* (\$500).

### Teaching Experience

#### *Guest Lecturer*

- Mar. 2025 "The ArQuives and Community Archiving." For the Complexities of Data, Memorial University of Newfoundland (St. John's, NL).
- Oct. 2022 "Sexuality in Early Modern Western Europe." For Early Modern Europe, 1450–1648, University of Toronto (Toronto, ON).
- Sept. 2022 "Gender in Early Modern Western Europe." For Early Modern Europe, 1450–1648, University of Toronto (Toronto, ON).
- Aug. 2022 "Early Modern Atlantic Witchcraft." For Early Modern Europe, 1450–1648, University of Toronto (Toronto, ON).
- Feb. 2020 "The Development of Early Printing." For Premodern History: Medieval Manuscripts in Archives & Special Collections, University of Guelph (Guelph, ON).

### *Writing Teaching Assistant*

2022–2023    Lead Writing Teaching Assistant, History Writing-Integrated Teaching Program, University of Toronto

Designed and led training for faculty and TAs integrating writing instruction into course design and delivery. Developed student-facing programming that improved clarity around expectations and enhanced academic skills.

### *Course Teaching Assistant*

W2023            Early Modern Europe, 1648–1815, University of Toronto.

F2022            Early Modern Europe, 1450–1648, University of Toronto.

S2022            Early Modern Europe, 1450–1648, University of Toronto.

F2021–W2022    Histories of Violence, University of Toronto.

S2020            World Religions in Historical Perspectives, University of Guelph.

W2020            Science and Technology in a Global Context, University of Guelph.

F2019            Early Modern Europe, University of Guelph.

F2017            Happiness, University of Toronto. (Won the 2018 Teaching Assistant Award).

## Research Experience

2020–2023    Graduate Research Assistant with Practices of Commentary, University of Toronto.

2021            Graduate Research Assistant for Alison More, Boyle Seminar in Scripts and Stories Virtual Classroom, University of Toronto.

2019            Graduate Research Assistant for Nick Mulé, Queer Liberation Theory Project exhibition, York University, the ArQuives and Queer Ontario.

2016–2019    Research Assistant for Evonne Levy, History of Art History in Canada Project (1933–2018), Department of Visual Studies, University of Toronto.

2018–2019    Internship, The ArQuives, digital exhibition project: *Genderqueer in Canada*.

## Select Presentations

### *Select Papers Presented*

2023    "Theory in Medieval Trans Studies." Panel: The Shape of Sex, moderated by Ruth Mazo Karras, with Roland Betancourt, Gabrielle Bychowski, Robert Mills, and Maaïke van der Lugt, comment by Leah DeVun. American Historical Association Annual Meeting (Philadelphia, PA), 5 January 2023.

2022    "Thinking through *Silence* and Transness in Medieval Literary Texts." Panel: Revisiting Romances from Trans and Genderqueer Perspectives, moderated by Amy E. Brown, with Miles Smith and François.e Charmaille. International Congress on Medieval Studies. Western Michigan University (Kalamazoo, MI), 9–14 May 2022.

- 2021 "'Calling [Herself] Eleanor': Translike Gender Presentation in Medieval Europe." Sexual Diversity Studies Student Research Colloquium. University of Toronto (Toronto, ON), 26 March 2021.
- 2021 "Categorizing Gender: Historicizing the Nonnormative." Moving Trans History Forward, University of Victoria (Victoria, BC). 14 March 2021.
- 2020 "Commemorating Community: St Kunibert's Office of the Dead." From Parchment to Pixels Colloquium, University of Guelph (Guelph, ON), 12 March 2020.
- 2019 "Early Modern English Witch Bottles and the Logic of Counteractive Magic." Experience and Expression in the Renaissance: Exploring Early Modern Media Conference by the Association of Renaissance Studies, University of Toronto (Toronto, ON), 15 March 2019.

#### *Conference Panels Convened and Public Engagement*

- 2025 "Strengthening and Activating Your Communities through Collaborative Programming." Together for Change Conference, Enchanté Network (Ottawa, ON), 15 October 2025.
- 2023 Encounters in Medieval Trans Studies. Panellists: Antonoi Lenzo, Jonathan Davis-Secord, David Carrillo-Rangel, and Alice G. Fulmer. Sponsored by the Society for Queer Medieval Studies. International Congress on Medieval Studies (Kalamazoo, MI), 13 May 2023.
- 2021 Crisis of the Body. Panellists: Keif Godbout-Kinney, Carly Naismith, and Evania Petrangelo-Porco. Convergences: York and University of Toronto Graduate History Conference (Toronto, ON), 20–30 April 2021.
- 2021 "HPSUS Graduate Panel." Panel with Marga Vicedo, Denis Walsh, and Ata Heshmati. History and Philosophy of Science Department, University of Toronto (Toronto, ON), 21 October 2021.
- 2021 "History in the Time of Creative Pedagogy." Panel with Eriks Bredovskis and Steve Penfold. History Department, University of Toronto (Toronto, ON), 24 March 2021.
- 2020 "Sympathy for the Pittenweem Witch." Research and Revolt: International Women's Day Conference, University of Guelph (Guelph, ON), 7 March 2020.
- 2019 "Manuscripts in the Curriculum." Panel with Melissa McAfee, Susannah Ferreira, Kathryn Comper, Rosalie Engles, Brittany Payer and Richard Griffin. Library Forum, University of Guelph (Guelph, ON), 3 December 2019.

#### **Exhibitions**

- 2025 *Community Ties: Our Future Together*. Sole curator. The ArQuives (Toronto, ON), digital exhibition.
- 2020 *Illuminating Life: Manuscript Pages of the Middle Ages*. Curated with Brenna Clark, Kathryn Comper, Rosalie Engels, Richard Griffin, Brittney Payer, and Alex Wall. Archival and Special Collections, University of Guelph (Guelph, ON), 12 March–12 May 2020.
- 2020 *Queer Liberation Theory Project*. Sole curator, created for Dr. Nick Mulé and Queer Ontario. The ArQuives (Toronto, ON), digital exhibition.

- 2019 *Genderqueer in Canada*. Sole curator. The ArQuives (Toronto, ON), digital exhibition.
- 2018 *Between*. Curated with the Interstice Collective (Brendan Bradley, Natalie Chan, Anran Guo, Nada Hafez, John Ryan Manahan, Nico Mara-McKay, Aaliyah Mitchell Harris, and Abby Nowak). Blackwood Gallery, University of Toronto Mississauga (Mississauga, ON), 4-14 April 2018.

### Media Appearances

- 2024 "Trans History 1: How and Why We Name Trans People in History." Podcast interview. *Tilly's Trans Tuesdays*, 20 August 2024.
- 2024 "Trans History 2: Examples of Trans People in History." Podcast interview. *Tilly's Trans Tuesdays*, 27 August 2024.
- 2022 "Interview with Nico Mara-McKay." Podcast interview. *History Forward Podcast*. February 2022.
- 2020 "Manuscripts in the Classroom." Television news interview. *CTV Kitchener Evening News*, 5 February 2020.

### Academic Service

Graduate History Society, Canadian Historical Society Representative (elected, 2020–2023), University of Toronto.  
*Past Tense*, occasional reviewer (2020–2023), University of Toronto.  
 Canadian Historical Society, Graduate Student Society Committee (2020–2022), Mandate and Bylaw Pod (2020–2021).  
 Convergences: York-University of Toronto History Conference, Co-organizer (2020–2021).  
 Graduate Student Association, History General Director (elected, 2019–2020), GSA Bylaws Committee, and OUTline Advisory Committee, University of Guelph.

### Languages

Proficient in English; reading knowledge of French, German, and medieval Latin.