

# COLBY GAUDET

CURRICULUM VITAE

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SSHRC POSTDOCTORAL FELLOW

DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY, DALHOUSIE UNIVERSITY, 2025–27

## EDUCATION:

- Sep 2018–Sep 2024* Doctor of Philosophy, Religion, Concordia University – Montreal, QC
- Jul 2016–May 2018* Master of Arts, Inter-Religious and Indigenous Studies,  
Vancouver School of Theology – Vancouver, BC
- Sep 2006–Apr 2008* Bachelor of Arts, Creative Writing, Concordia University – Montreal, QC
- Sep 2002–Apr 2006* Bachelor of Arts, English, Dalhousie University – Halifax, NS

## TEACHING APPOINTMENTS:

- Jan–Apr 2024* Instructor – Concordia RELI324 – On the Margins of Christianity
- Jan–Apr 2023* Instructor – Concordia RELI308 – Christianity in Canada and the U.S.
- Sep–Dec 2020* Instructor – Concordia RELI368 – Religion and Indigenous Traditions

## MONOGRAPHS:

- Forthcoming 2027* *Sacramental Communities: Kinship, Society, and Politics in the Catholic Atlantic*, McGill-Queens University Press. Submitted, revision requested.

## PEER-REVIEWED ARTICLES:

- Forthcoming 2027* “Practicing Elemental Healing: Religious and Medicinal Uses of Water in the Nineteenth-Century Canadian Maritimes,” *Journal for the Study of Religion, Nature, and Culture*. Submitted, in review.
- May 2026* “‘Unwilling to Die Unprepared’: Religion, Kinship, and Property in Nineteenth-Century Acadian Wills,” *Histoire sociale / Social History* 59, no. 121 (May 2026): 1–21.
- May 2026* “‘Luxury that has Grown Among the Women’: Rural Catholic Women, Daily Life, and Devotional Labor in the Pre-Confederation Canadian Maritimes,” *Church History*, <https://doi.org/10.1017/S0009640726103308>
- Jul 2025* “Agnes, Aimée, Alice: Three Acadian Sisters as Exemplary Twentieth-Century American Catholic Women,” *U.S. Catholic Historian* 43, no. 3 (Summer 2025): 1–31.

- Jun 2024* “‘Toutes sortes de vices’: Possession, Healing, and Religious Convergences in Early Nineteenth-Century Nova Scotia,” *The Canadian Historical Review* 105, no. 2 (June 2024): 181–205.  
\*\*Awarded *CHR* Best Article Prize for 2024\*\*
- Jun 2023* “Slavery and Black Labour in a St. Mary’s Bay Acadian Family, 1786–1840,” *Acadiensis* 52, no. 1 (Spring 2023): 9–35.
- Jun 2024* “Questioning Devotions, Reorienting Commitments: Using Christian Religious Archives and Church History to Study Indian Residential Schools,” *Arc: Journal of the McGill School of Religious Studies* 51 (2024): 180–230.

#### RESEARCH REPORTS:

- Sep 2023* “Exploring Concordia’s Colonial Past: An Examination of the University’s Past and Present Relationships with Indigenous Peoples,” Concordia University Office of Indigenous Directions.

#### BOOK CHAPTERS:

- Nov 2024* “Early Indigenous Programming and Pedagogies, 1970–1990,” in *Concordia University at 50: A Collective History*, eds. Gagnon and Webb (Concordia University Press, 2024), 215–224.

#### REVIEWS:

- Forthcoming 2026* Review of *Les Loyalistes noirs et la guerre d’Indépendance des États-Unis: Étude comparée d’une communauté réfugiée au Canada, 1775–1815*, by Seynabou Thiam-Pereira. *Port Acadie: revue interdisciplinaire en études acadiennes*.

#### THESES:

- Apr 2024* “Sacramental Communities: Atlantic Catholics and Sociopolitical Formations in British Nova Scotia,” PhD dissertation, Concordia University.
- Mar 2018* “Women and Acadian Popular Religious Culture in Southwestern Nova Scotia, 1795–1820,” MA thesis, Vancouver School of Theology.

#### BLOG CONTRIBUTIONS &

#### MEDIA ENGAGEMENT:

- Nov 2024* “‘Aujourd’hui habitants des États-Unis’: Acadian Social Networks of the Revolutionary Atlantic,” *Acadiensis* blog, [www.acadiensis.wordpress.com](http://www.acadiensis.wordpress.com)
- Oct 2023* “Investigating Jerome: Personal Reflections on Acadian Slave-owning,” *Acadiensis* blog, [www.acadiensis.wordpress.com](http://www.acadiensis.wordpress.com)
- May 2022* Historical consultant for CBC Gem docu-series, *Black Life: Untold Stories*.

Aug 2020 “Researcher unearths disturbing family history about slavery in Nova Scotia,” CBC News article by Emma Smith & CBC Radio One interview with Portia Clark.

#### CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS:

- Jul 2026 “Africans and Acadians between Revolution and Abolition,” *Rebellion, Resistance, and Refuge: Slavery and Border-Crossing during the American Revolution*, Slavery North, University of Massachusetts, Amherst.
- Jun 2026 “The Politics of Family Papers: Acadian and African-Nova Scotian Commercial Exchanges in the Nineteenth Century,” Canadian Historical Association annual meeting, University of Prince Edward Island.
- Jun 2026 “‘On désirait ici d’avoir un autre Prêtre’: Clergy, Acadians, and Lay Authority in Early-Nineteenth-Century Nova Scotia,” Canadian Catholic Historical Association annual meeting, University of Prince Edward Island
- Jun 2025 “‘Daniel Tony begs of me to write to you’: Indigenous Petitions, Government Aid, and Christian Charity in Pre-Confederation Nova Scotia,” Canadian Historical Association annual meeting, George Brown College.
- Mar 2025 “New Approaches to Studying the Religious History of Atlantic Canada,” Religious Studies in Atlantic Canada Conference, St. Mary’s University.
- Sep 2024 “L’sitkuk to London: Mi’kmaq Communities, Benevolence, and British Empire, c. 1812–1867,” Northeast Conference on British Studies, Trinity College, Hartford.
- Jun 2024 “Problems of Historiography/Hagiography: Christian Churches, Archives, and Indian Residential School History,” Canadian Society for the Study of Religion annual meeting, Université du Québec à Montréal
- Jun 2024 “Reassessing Post-Deportation Acadian Culture in Nova Scotia and Beyond, c. 1775–1845,” Canadian Historical Association annual meeting, McGill University.
- May 2023 “Examining Acadian Parish Archives for Evidence of Enslavement and Racial Violence in British Nova Scotia,” Canadian Historical Association annual meeting, York University.
- Aug 2022 “‘Wholly untenable’: Resisting Abolition in Early Nineteenth-Century Nova Scotia,” *Destinations and Departures*, Interdisciplinary Graduate Conference, Dalhousie University.

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| <i>Mar 2022</i> | “Clerical Silences between Canada and the US: Transnational Jesuits, Slavery, and College Education in the Nineteenth Century,” <i>Race, Racism, and Religion</i> , Religion Graduate Conference, Columbia University. |
| <i>Apr 2021</i> | “Disrupting Cherished Histories: Nineteenth-Century Imperial Roots in Acadian Settler-Colonial Sentiment,” <i>Interruption: History in the Making</i> , Graduate Student History Conference, Concordia University.     |
| <i>Feb 2020</i> | “River of Dreams: Alanis Obomsawin’s Oral Storytelling and the Mission History of Odanak,” <i>Landedness</i> , Concordia’s Annual Graduate Interdisciplinary Conference (AGIC).                                        |
| <i>Oct 2019</i> | “Hosting the Stranger: A Muñozian Queer Theology,” <i>Theology in the City</i> , Theological Studies Conference, Concordia University.                                                                                 |
| <i>May 2019</i> | “An Excess of Devotion: Interpreting the Violence of Catherine Tekakwitha’s Ascetic Practice,” <i>Religion and Violence</i> , Vancouver School of Theology’s Interreligious Studies Conference.                        |
| <i>Apr 2019</i> | “‘Ô filles folles’: The Possessed Girls of Bas-de-Tousquet and Acadian Popular Religious Culture,” <i>Myth, Magic, and Religion</i> , McGill Centre for Research on Religion (CREOR) Graduate Student Conference.      |
| <i>Mar 2019</i> | “Kinship, Conflict, and Peace: A Mixed Family Network in Early 18th-Century Mi’kma’ki,” <i>Place and Presence</i> , McGill-Queen’s Annual Graduate History Conference.                                                 |
| <i>May 2018</i> | “Santa Muerte: Devotion to Death and a Saint of the Marginalized,” <i>Spiritual Perspectives on Death and Dying</i> , Vancouver School of Theology’s Interreligious Studies Conference.                                |

#### LEADERSHIP EXPERIENCE & GUEST LECTURES

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| <i>Mar 2026</i> | Guest lecturer, “Ann Lee, the Shakers, and Sexuality,” Concordia RELI380 – Religion and Sexuality.                                                                                                                  |
| <i>Feb 2026</i> | Guest lecturer, “Practicing Public History: Possibilities, Pitfalls, and Payoffs,” Concordia HIST306 – History and the Public.                                                                                      |
| <i>Sep 2025</i> | Invited panelist, “Residential Schools: History, Research, and Settler-Colonial Legacies,” <i>Honouring Truth, Reflecting on Impact: A Day of Learning</i> , Concordia University, Office of Indigenous Directions. |
| <i>Mar 2025</i> | Guest lecturer, “Bastards, Concubines, and Libertines: Sin and Sexual Scandal in Early Modern North American Christianity,” Concordia RELI380 – Religion and Sexuality.                                             |
| <i>Mar 2025</i> | Guest lecturer, “Commemorating the Jesuit ‘Martyrs’ in Canadian History,” Concordia RELI223 – Introduction to Christianity.                                                                                         |

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| <i>Mar 2025</i>                           | Panelist and co-organizer, "Our Jesuit Legacy: Connections between Montreal's Loyola College and the Spanish Indian Residential School in Ontario," <i>Confronting Concordia's Colonial Past</i> , Concordia University.       |
| <i>Mar 2025</i>                           | Invited lecturer, "Acadians and Religion during the Period of Atlantic Revolutions," Acadian Archives Lecture Series, University of Maine, Fort Kent.                                                                          |
| <i>Feb 2025</i>                           | Invited lecturer, "La Vénérable Mère: The Life of Marie-Marguerite d'Youville, Founding Superior of the Grey Nuns of Montreal," Concordia University Residence Life.                                                           |
| <i>Oct 2024</i>                           | Guest lecturer, "Practicing Public History: Possibilities, Pitfalls, and Payoffs," Concordia HIST306 – History and the Public                                                                                                  |
| <i>Oct 2023</i>                           | Guest lecturer, "Evangelical Christianity in Early America: From the Great Awakening to the Civil War," Concordia RELI223 – Introduction to Christianity.                                                                      |
| <i>Jul–Sep 2023 &amp;<br/>Mar–Sep 202</i> | Lead investigator & author, "Exploring Concordia's Colonial Past: An Examination of the University's Past and Present Relationships with Indigenous Peoples," Concordia's Indigenous Directions Action Plan.                   |
| <i>May 2023</i>                           | Invited lecturer, "Religion and Reconciliation," <i>Decolonization and the Study of Religion: A Workshop Series</i> , McGill University School of Religious Studies & Concordia University Department of Religions & Cultures. |
| <i>Feb 2023</i>                           | Invited lecturer, "A History of the Grey Nuns of Montreal and Their Work at Indian Residential Schools," Concordia University Residence Life.                                                                                  |
| <i>Oct 2022</i>                           | Guest lecturer, "Loyola College and the Spanish Indian Residential School," Concordia RELI298 – Decolonizing the Local: Concordia, Montreal, and Residential School History.                                                   |
| <i>May 2022</i>                           | Guest lecturer, "Indian Residential Schools and the History of Christian Colonization in Canada," Dawson College BWS-03 – Introduction to World Religions.                                                                     |
| <i>Apr 2022</i>                           | Invited panelist, "Sensing Religious Space/Secular Space: Affect and History in Concordia's Spatial Atmosphere," <i>Soundwalk Symposium</i> , Concordia Department of Communications and Electroacoustic Studies.              |
| <i>Jan 2022</i>                           | Keynote lecturer, "Concordia's Institutional History in an Era of Truth and Reconciliation," <i>Religion &amp; Decoloniality</i> , Concordia's Annual Graduate Interdisciplinary Conference (AGIC).                            |
| <i>Sep 2021–Apr 2022</i>                  | Research assistant, co-investigator, <i>Decolonizing Religious Studies</i> research group, Concordia Department of Religions & Cultures.                                                                                       |

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| <i>Oct 2021</i>          | Guest lecturer, “The Jesuit College Tradition in Montreal and Quebec City,” Concordia HIST307 – History of Montreal.                             |
| <i>Sep 2020–Apr 2021</i> | Coordinator, <i>Sensing Atmospheres</i> research group, Concordia Centre for Interdisciplinary Studies in Society and Culture (CISSC).           |
| <i>Nov 2020</i>          | Guest lecturer, “Colonial Archives, Religion, and ‘the Intimate,’” Concordia RELI409 – Methodology and the Study of Religion.                    |
| <i>Sep 2019–Aug 2020</i> | Chair, Board of Directors, <i>Landedness</i> , Concordia’s Annual Graduate Interdisciplinary Conference (AGIC).                                  |
| <i>Sep–Dec 2019</i>      | Teaching assistant, Concordia RELI378 – Death and Dying.                                                                                         |
| <i>Mar 2019</i>          | Guest lecturer, “Catherine Tekakwitha, Indigenous Women, and Missionary Catholicism,” Concordia RELI382 – Women and Religion: Christianity.      |
| <i>Jan – Apr 2019</i>    | Guest lecturer, Concordia RELI398 – Sex, Gender, and Jews, “Spiritual Connectedness and the Queer Ancestors of <i>Transparent</i> .”             |
| <i>Dec 2018–Mar 2019</i> | Research assistant, copy editor, <i>Re-Making the World: Christianity and Categories</i> (Mohr Siebeck, 2019).                                   |
| <i>Sep–Dec 2017</i>      | Organizer & facilitator, <i>Spiritual Exiles: Explorations in Queer Theology</i> , graduate student study seminar, Vancouver School of Theology. |

#### RESEARCH INTERESTS:

Decolonial pedagogies; colonialism; religion and empire; race, gender, and sexuality; Indigenous traditions; popular religion; queer spiritualities; saints and hagiography; Christianity in the Americas; missionaries and humanitarians; Atlantic slavery and abolition; Acadian and Maritime histories; politics of archives; institutional histories; heritage studies; orality and public memory.