

Areas of Expertise

- Innovative Teaching Methods
- Academic Assessment/Feedback
- Instructional Design/Development
- International Team Collaboration
- Institutional History and Archival Research
- ELL Education
- Digital Humanities & Data Visualization
- Student Support
- University Service & Governance
- Faculty Development
- Special Needs Education
- Curriculum Development / UBD
- Pedagogical Improvement
- Historical Research Methodologies
- Gender & Social Policy Studies
- Community Engagement
- Research & Writing Support
- Teaching & Lesson Planning
- Interdisciplinary Collaboration
- Conference Presentation & Public Speaking

Education

Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) in Gender & Social History, York University, Toronto, ON (2024)

Master of Arts in Gender & Social History, York University, Toronto, ON (2015)

Bachelor of Education (International Specialization), Primary/Junior, York University, Toronto, ON (2012)

HBA (Summa Cum Laude) History/Philosophy, York University & University of Helsinki, Helsinki (2012)

Diploma (Hons) in Professional Sales, Humber College, Toronto, ON (2005)

Certifications

Ontario Additional Qualification/Teacher Librarian, York University, Toronto, ON – Ongoing

Graduate Studies Certificate/Wellness & Learning Skills, York University, Toronto, ON (2020)

Ontario Additional Qualification/Special Education 1, York University, Toronto, ON (2015)

Ontario Additional Qualification/Senior History, York University, Toronto, ON (2015)

Ontario Additional Qualification/Intermediate History, York University, Toronto, ON (2014)

University Teaching

York University, Markham, ON

2025 – Current

Course Director, Language & Literacy in Primary-Junior Divisions

- Design and teach a survey course on literacy theory and practice for primary/junior teacher candidates, emphasizing equity, anti-oppression, and culturally sustaining pedagogy (CRRP).
- Develop lectures, assignments, and collaborative activities aligned with Ontario Ministry documents (*Right to Read Report*, *Growing Success*, *Learning for All*).
- Mentor Teacher Candidates in assessment, curriculum analysis, and inclusive classroom design while fostering collaboration, critical conversations, and professional growth.
- Integrate digital platforms (eClass, Zoom, Google Workspace) to support multimodal and experiential learning.
- Facilitate teacher candidates' engagement with literacy debates and evidence-based instructional strategies, preparing them to apply research to classroom practice.

- Develop and implement innovative teaching methods, including multimedia resources and collaborative projects, to accommodate diverse learning styles and maintain student interest.
- Provide personalized support and resources, ensuring accessibility and individualized attention to student needs.
- Facilitate engaging and interactive tutorials, emphasizing human rights and equity to foster critical thinking and comprehensive understanding among students.
- Designed tutorials that led to measurable improvements in student grades and comprehension.
- Developed critical thinking exercises that helped students apply academic concepts to practical situations.
- Offered additional one-on-one consultations, improving accessibility and support for individual student success.
- Employed a variety of teaching techniques to cater to different learning styles, resulting in enhanced student engagement.

- Guide faculty in adopting active learning strategies like flipped classrooms and problem-based learning to boost student engagement and academic performance.
- Develop comprehensive teaching resources and established feedback systems for continuous improvement of instruction.
- Facilitate multi-disciplinary workshops and training sessions for new teaching assistants, focusing on enhancing teaching skills and incorporating technology in the classroom.
- Lead collaborative projects to unify faculty from various disciplines, sharing best practices and fostering interdisciplinary teaching approaches.
- Established peer review and student feedback systems, contributing to the refinement of teaching practices.
- Introduced active learning strategies, resulting in a measurable increase in student engagement and performance.
- Assisted in the creation of teaching dossiers, emphasizing importance of reflective practice in educational development.
- Authored online modules and instructional guides, providing faculty with essential resources for pedagogical enhancement.
- Equipped faculty members with advanced teaching techniques through workshops, improving learning outcomes.

Additional University Teaching Experience

Teaching Assistant - British History, York University, Toronto, ON (2021 – 2023)

Teaching Assistant - Growing Up in North America, York University, Toronto, ON (2018 – 2021)

Teaching Assistant - The Worlds of Childhood Course, York University, Toronto, ON (2016 – 2018)

Other Teaching Experience

- Teaching Family Studies with a focus on fostering critical discussions around child development, parenting, and the societal influences on family dynamics.
- Teaching English Language Learners (ELL) with a focus on foundational literacy, vocabulary development, and practical communication skills through culturally responsive and scaffolded instruction.
- Incorporating real-world examples and interdisciplinary approaches, including historical context, to deepen students' understanding of contemporary issues in parenting and family studies.

- Utilizing differentiated instructional strategies and diverse assessment methods to engage all learners, including those with IEPs and Multi Language Learners.
- Building an inclusive classroom culture where students feel empowered to share perspectives and connect course content to their own lived experiences.

Simcoe County District School Board, Simcoe County
Primary/Junior/Intermediate/Senior Occasional Teacher

2016 - Present

- Provide dynamic and adaptable teaching services across K-12 levels, including special needs, History, French, and music, for a minimum of 60 days per academic year (30 for elementary, 30 for secondary).
- Engage students through diverse instructional strategies, tailoring lesson plans to accommodate varying learning styles and abilities.
- Collaborate with permanent teaching staff to ensure continuity of curriculum and support student learning objectives during planning time.
- Taught a broad spectrum of subjects from Pre-Kindergarten to graduate level, demonstrating versatility and commitment to education while concurrently pursuing a PhD.
- Maintained proficiency in elementary education techniques and knowledge, balancing teaching responsibilities with advanced academic training.

Hitherfield School, Cambellville, ON
Classroom Teacher/Head of Social Studies

2015-2016

- Revitalized primary, junior, and intermediate Social Studies curriculum as Head Teacher, fostering a comprehensive understanding of historical and cultural concepts.
- Served as homeroom teacher for a Grade 4/5 class, providing a nurturing and structured learning environment.
- Taught Language Arts and Social Studies (Grades 4–7) as well as Art and Health (Grades 1–3), demonstrating versatility across multiple subject areas.
- Redesigned the Social Studies program to create a more dynamic and engaging learning experience.
- Applied the Understanding by Design framework to strengthen curriculum planning and pedagogy.
- Administered the Raz Kids Reading Program, supporting the advancement of reading skills among primary students.

Antofagasta International School, Chile
Grade 2 & 3 PYP Classroom Teacher

- Integrated grade 2/3 Chilean curricula into an inquiry-based model, aligning with International Baccalaureate standards. Maintained consistent communication with parents through multiple channels, ensuring transparency and involvement in their children's education journey. Developed and implemented innovative teaching strategies to foster a dynamic and engaging learning environment. Facilitated after-school reinforcement club to support struggling students, enhancing their academic performance.
- Contributed as a member of PYP committee and management panel, playing a key role in achieving PYP Certification through collaborative curriculum development efforts.
- Assisted in attaining PYP Certification by collaborating with educators and administration on curriculum development.
- Enhanced student understanding/engagement by adapting Grade 2/3 Chilean curricula into inquiry-based learning model.
- Ensured effective parent-teacher communication through various mediums, providing regular updates on student progress.

Additional Teaching Experience

IB Substitute Teacher, Toronto French School, The York School, Toronto, ON (2016 – 2018)

ELL Teacher, Canadian International Student Services, University of Toronto, Toronto, ON (Summer 2016)

Grade 2/3 - Volunteer Teacher, Dublin Heights Elementary School, Toronto, ON. (2014 – 2015)

Elections Ballot Officer, Toronto, ON (2014)

Editor, AIS Sixth Grade Math Workbook, Chile. (2013)

Merchandising /Fresh Chicken Buyer/Inside Sales /Logistics/A/R, SYSCO Foodservices of Toronto, Mississauga, ON (2001 - 2013)

Volunteer Experience

York Pioneer and Historical Society (2016 – Current)

Royal Ontario Museum (ROM) – Events Planner & Special Programs Committee (2014 – Current)

Conference Organizer: 1st London Foundling Hospital Academic Conference (2023)

Member of York University's Committee for Teaching, Learning, and Student Success (2018 – 2022)

Equity Officer/Committee, Graduate Studies History Association (elected position) (2013-2014 | 2020 – 2022)

Editing Team, York Pioneer and Historical Society Annual Journal (2020 – 2022)

Book Reviewer, Past Tense Journal & Journal of International Women's Studies (2020 – 2022)

Ph.D. Adjudication Committee, York U History (elected position) (2021)

York University Graduate Student Representative for the Canadian Historical Association (2016 – 2017)

“Dancing with Parkinson’s” Program Volunteer (National Ballet School) (2014 – 2015)

Equity Officer, Graduate Studies History Association (elected position) (2014 – 2015)

PYP Committee Member & PYP Exhibition Mentor (for Grade 5 students) (2013 – 2014)

Developing World Connections International Volunteer (Manyatta, Kenya) (2012)

International School of Berlin - Grade 2 - Volunteer Teaching Assistant (2011)

Come On and Come Home (COACH) Mentor, York University (2011 – 2012)

Professional Affiliations

Royal Ontario Museum Volunteer Worker (2014 – Current)

Women’s Studies Group Member (2021– Current)

York Pioneer and Historical Society Member (2016 – Current)

Victorian Studies Association of Ontario (2014 – Current)

Ontario College of Teachers (2012 – Current)

Golden Key International Honour Society (2010 – Current)

Teaching Commons Advisory Board Member, York University (2022 – 2024)

Canadian Historical Association (2016 – 2023)

Toronto Renaissance and Reformation Colloquium Member (2016 – 2022)

History Education Network Member (2014 – 2022)

Honours & Awards

St. George's Society of Toronto Endowment for Graduate Student Award (2019 & 2021 & 2023-24)

Albert Tucker Award in Graduate British History (2016 & 2020 & 2023)

Ontario Graduate Scholarship (2017 – 2021)

FGS Certificate in Personal Wellness & Learning Skills (2020)
CIBPA Education Foundation Endowment Award (2020)
University of Ottawa Graduate Student Conference Award: Best Paper (2017)
York University Graduate Studies Scholarship (2014 – 2015)
PYP Certifications: Collaborative Planning; Assessment (2013 – 2014)
TESOL Certification (Teaching English as a Second Language) (2012)
Eight Undergraduate Academic Performance Achievements (York University) (2008 – 2012)
SMARTboard™ Training Level 1 & 2 Completed (2011)
Canadian Italian Business & Professional Association Education Award (2010)

Publications

- Grimaldi, Virginia L., "The Chosen Ones: A Revisionist History of Paternalism, Admissions, and Maternal Agency at the London Foundling Hospital (1739-1869)," PhD Thesis, York University, 2024.
- Grimaldi, Virginia L. "Experiential Education: A Pedagogical Approach for All Ages," *York University Teaching Commons*, Blog 129, Original: February 2020. Republished: February 2021. https://www.yorku.ca/teachingcommons/2021/02/11/blog-129/?fbclid=IwAR3uSTW_PfLG4EqBheIDWD1R_PanhqdcO4apNDsmXyzj9O0lterajpWXzKw.
- Grimaldi, Virginia L. "Infusing Global History into Elementary and Secondary Classrooms," *Au-delà des frontières: La nouvelle histoire du Canada/Beyond Borders: The New Canadian History*, The Wilson Institute, McMaster University, September 25, 2017, <https://thenewcanadianhistory.com/2017/09/25/infusing-global-history-into-elementary-and-secondary-classrooms/>.
- Grimaldi, Virginia L. "Single, Unwed, and Pregnant in Victorian London: Narratives of Working-Class Agency and Negotiation," *Madison Historical Review* 14: 3 (2017): 11 - 41.
- Grimaldi, Virginia L. "Working-Class Illegitimacy in Victorian London: Chronicles of Negotiation," *Strata: University of Ottawa Graduate Student Journal* 7 (2017): 129 - 158.
- "The Foundling Hospital: A Site of Negotiation in Victorian London", Masters Research Paper, York University, 2015.

Conference Organizing and Chairing

Conference Creator, Organizer, and Facilitator, First Annual London Foundling Hospital History Conference, London, UK, June 2023.
<https://lfhconference23.wixsite.com/site>

"All About Love: A Symposium in Honour of bell hooks," Graduate History Association Black History Month Events (presented by the Equity Committee), York University, Virtual, February 14, 2022.

Papers Presented at Professional Conferences

"The Chosen Ones: From First Come, First Serve to 'Proper Objects of Charity' - Transformations in the Infant Admission Process at the London Foundling Hospital," First Annual London Foundling Hospital History Conference, London, UK, June 2023.

"Evolution of Infant Admission Policies at the London Foundling Hospital," New Paths in Victorian Studies 14th Annual Research Symposium, Victorian Studies Association of Ontario, York University, Toronto, October 2022.

[“The London Foundling Hospital: Challenging Fiscal-Military State Interpretations of Charity and Philanthropy,”](#) “Spaces of Confinement, Correction, and Spectacle,” Victorian Studies Association of Ontario, Toronto, Glendon College, Toronto, April 2022.

[“Rethinking Charity and Philanthropy: The London Foundling Hospital's Challenge to Fiscal-Military State Interpretations,”](#) Convergences History Conference, “Recollecting Historical Narratives: Facing the Past, Understanding the Present, and Shaping the Future,” York University, Toronto, March 2022.

[“Student Learning for Today’s World,”](#) New Frontiers 24th Annual History Conference, “Life in the Age of Extremes,” York University, Toronto, February 2020.

[“Infusing Global History into Ontario’s Classrooms,”](#) “Doing History in Precarious Times,” The Wilson Institute for Canadian History, McMaster University, Hamilton, July 2019.

[“Mission Fulfilled?: Using Archival Evidence to Examine Illegitimacy and Constructions of Gender in a Victorian London Charitable Institution,”](#) “Unwieldy Archives: The Past, Narratives, & History,” 15th Annual University of Toronto Graduate History Conference, University of Toronto, Toronto, May 2019.

[“Single & Pregnant in Victorian London: Narratives of Agency: 1849-1872,”](#) New Frontiers 21st Annual History Conference, “Gender, Sexuality, and the Body,” York University, Toronto, February 2017.

[“Single, Unwed, and Pregnant in Victoria’s Reign: Narratives of Agency and Negotiation,”](#) 13th Annual Pierre Savard History Conference, “The History of the Future: Reinterpretation, Adaptation, Corruption,” University of Ottawa, Ottawa, April 2017 (Winner, Pierre Savard Conference Essay Publication Contest 2017).

Conference Moderating

[“A Gendered World: constructions of the sexual other,”](#) Chair and Commentator, New Frontiers 24th Annual History Conference, “Life in the Age of Extremes,” York University, Toronto, February 2020.

[“Communities, Group Tensions, and Resistance in Early Modern Italy,”](#) Moderator, New Frontiers 23rd Annual History Conference, “Reclaiming Histories: Discourses of Colonization, Reconciliation, and Recolonization, York University, February 2019.

Conference Round-Table Participation

Roundtable Presenter, [“Palaeography: Reading the Writing in the Archives, or How Not to Curse the Cursive,”](#) New Frontiers 26th Annual History Conference, “Recollecting Historical Narratives: Facing the Past, Understanding the Present, and Shaping the Future,” York University, Toronto, March 2022.

Public Lectures

[“Learning about Hands-On Learning from Across the World - Experiential Education from Kindergarten to University,”](#) Inhabited Pedagogy: A Cross-disciplinary Teaching Workshop: Strategies, Devices, Benefits, Ethical Boundaries,” York University, Toronto, March 14, 2019.

[“The Nature of Doing History: A Window into PhD Research,”](#) Royal Ontario Museum, DMV, February 9, 2018.

Peer Review Service

Journal of International Woman’s Studies, 2020

Past Tense Journal, November, 2019