

WINTER 2022
NEWSLETTER NO.VIII

UCLA

The Department of Classics

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

*Department Life & Talks
Upcoming Events*

WINTER QUARTER

*The ever-changing quarter
sent UCLA back to remote
instruction for the first half of
Winter 2022*

Featured Cover Photo: Johann Christian Vollerdt.
Winter Landscape. 1753, Oil on canvas,
<https://www.rct.uk/collection/403527/winter>

UCLA Department of Classics

Greetings from the Chair



Fall 2021 saw the start of a new academic year *on campus* (!!) and the arrival of five new graduate students into our cohort. We were positively giddy to be back in the classroom again, and for new faculty Ella Haselswerdt as well as for several of our students this Fall was the first time that they were able to have an on-campus UCLA experience. At the Undergraduate Open House before the first week of classes, almost everyone in the room said they were "most excited" about the same thing: being in the classroom. I personally experienced a great sense of relief spending time with my graduate seminar in person and talking across the

table rather than the screen to my colleagues in meetings.

Although this quarter has been difficult, with a jumpy online-only start due to the Omicron variant, I am again grateful to be able to see my students (this time a fun-loving group of Intermediate Greek students, with whom I'm reading Lucian's *True Histories*) in person. Spirits in Dodd Hall are optimistic and supportive, despite the considerable toil and anxiety that have been weighing on students, faculty, and staff. We are in the process of hiring an Associate Professor of Latin (watch this space for news!) and are currently in the midst of reading graduate applications from an especially strong group of prospective students. Our undergraduates continue to amaze us with their passion and resilience, and we are particularly proud to announce that Greek and Latin major Dido Wang has been awarded the extremely competitive Lionel Pearson Award to study Classics in the UK at the Masters level (with offers to do so from Cambridge, Oxford, and UCL).

Amy Richlin will retire at the end of this Academic Year. As many readers of this newsletter will know, she is a scholar like no other - a figure who changed the direction of our field with her groundbreaking (and award-winning) work on women, slaves, and under-represented or silenced groups in Roman culture. We will be holding a conference in her honor this Spring where no fewer than fifteen of her UCLA students will return to give papers, in recognition of the role she has had in furthering their careers. We already find it difficult to imagine next year without her, but her drive and good humor, as well as zealous advocacy, pedagogy, and research, will remain firmly stitched into the fabric of our department. She has inspired - and will continue to inspire - all of us.

I hope you enjoy reading this newsletter and that you - our loyal friends of Classics - are faring well, despite all of the difficulties that the last two years have presented. As always, we look forward so much to seeing you again in person or just hearing your news.

ALEX PURVES



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DEPARTMENT NEWS

Dispatch from the Eternal City

By Adriana Vazquez



The Fellows gather on the steps of the McKim, Mead & White building of the American Academy in Rome.

As a Rome Prize Fellow at the American Academy in Rome, I arrived in sweltering September to the eternal city, eager to start a productive new academic year in the stimulating and engaging intellectual environment of the Academy. Even under the timid pall of a city stormed by the pandemic, Augustus' city of marble continues to offer no shortage of wonder and delight. Reconnecting with a city that constantly looms large in my imagination as a Latinist has brought a new energy to my research, and the sincere pleasure of getting to know my fellow Fellows - artists, architects, poets, and scholars - has expanded my imaginative horizons further than I could have expected. A highlight of my week are the Monday 'shop-talks', when pairs of scholars and artists present their work: an art installation

of woven garments and patterns, a monograph on the life of Italy's Ferrania film stock, six classic buildings in search of an architectural context, to name a few.

After a year cooped up in the pandemic, the year at the Academy has thus far presented the chance to rediscover what it means to explore, both topographically and intellectually. From visiting the mosaics in the Naples Archaeological Museum, surrounding myself in Livia's garden in the Palazzo Massimo collection, and even a scuba dive in Baia to visit the now sunken vacation home of the Roman Emperor Claudius, Rome and its environs present an indefatigable palimpsest. When I return to my study and the stacks of the Academy library, my mind teems with the places and sites I have seen. The journey continues!

Greek and Latin Tutoring Available for UCLA Students

The department is pleased to offer a free tutoring service over Zoom for students in Elementary Greek and Latin (levels 1-3) and (pending availability) Greek and Latin 100.

The tutor is a senior who has taken both Greek and Latin, from beginning to advanced level, in our department.

If you are interested please sign up [here](#).

**STAY CONNECTED**

Want to stay updated with department news? Stay connected by following our social media pages on Facebook and Twitter!

FACEBOOK: [UCLA CLASSICS](#)
TWITTER: [@CLASSICSATUCLA](#)

DEPARTMENT NEWS

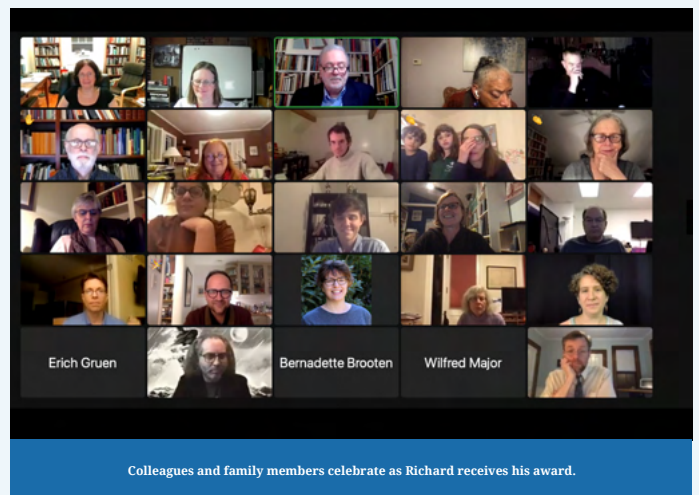
Professor Richard Ellis has won an award for "Excellence in the Teaching of Classics at the College and University Level" from the Society for Classical Studies. Congratulations Richard on this well-deserved achievement!

From the SCS Award Citation:

What sets Richard Ellis apart is his ability to care for his students and to recruit students into Classics – not just as a major or minor, but as a way to enhance and integrate into other fields the student cares about.

Professor Ellis connects with his students through comparative material, such as Walcott's *Omeros* or *The Warriors* (1979) (paired with the *Anabasis*). He reaches out to his students. He will prepare his classroom with images of athletes on the walls for the first day of "Ancient Athletics", throw a pizza party for a Xenophon class, take students to a Greek play, or meet for a weekly Sunday "Zoom brunch" during lockdown. When he knew that lockdown alienation was keenly felt, he designed collaborative assignments that required students to meet online. He is the kind of person who remembers every student's sports team. One alumna, a first-generation college student, remembers his unstinting support: "People judge me based on looks, and when I speak Spanish, they automatically assume that I was not 'good enough' to be a student at UCLA. Professor Ellis helped me squash that fear of mine because he believed in me...He told me that I have no reason to be afraid of failure because I am successful. It is rare for a professor to make an effort to get to know their students and ensure that they are thriving."

Professor Ellis works hard to help his students thrive. He is known for his engaging classes. It is no surprise that students frequently comment that his classes drew them towards Classics. We are honored to recognize Richard Ellis for his outstanding teaching with the SCS's 2021 Award for Excellence in Teaching of the Classics at the College and University Level.



DEPARTMENT NEWS

Goodbye, Savannah!

It is truly bittersweet for the Department of Classics and the Program in Indo-European Studies, and indeed all of the Dodd staff, to be saying goodbye to our wonderful Student Affairs Officer Savannah Shapiro this month. Savannah has accepted a new job at Ingram Micro as a copywriter for their global digital marketing team. Not only will this give her the opportunity to continue her love of writing (first developed as an intrepid sports journalist for the Daily Bruin) but also to move to Irvine and spend more time with her sister. There are so many things we will miss about Savannah, not least her truly brilliant organizational, problem-solving, and people skills, and her friendliness, kindness, and generosity.

It is not often that a department finds an administrative partner who engages so deeply with students and faculty, and who goes out of their way to learn about the fields they are helping. Savannah audited department classes in her spare time when she could, so that she could talk about the material with us. She acquired sophisticated new skills in budgeting and Excel, so that she could help us keep on top of graduate funding issues. She was calm when we were frantic and consistently saved the day when emergencies arose. We know that she will flourish in her new job, and hope that her new team knows just how lucky they are.

Good luck Savannah, we will miss you!



Pictured from left to right: Alex Purves, Savannah Shapiro, and Kathryn Morgan

New Class Offering for Spring 2022!

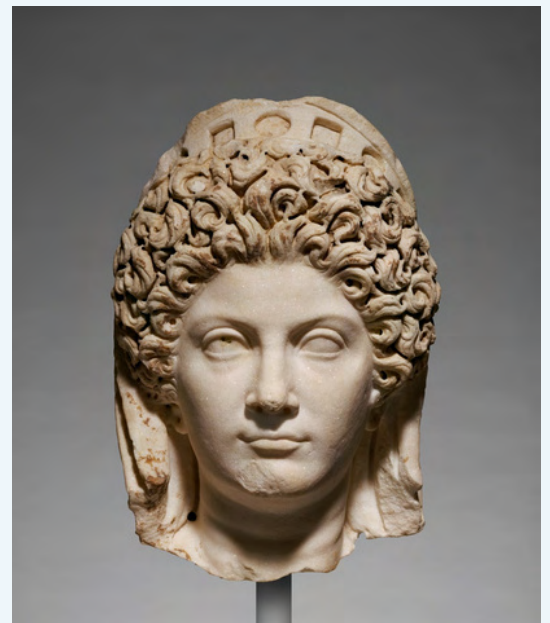
We are excited to share with our students that Caroline Lunt, a fellow undergraduate, will be teaching a course this spring entitled ***Out From Under: Women's Costuming in the Roman Empire***. She has developed this class over the past year with the help of the outstanding Dr. Sarah Beckmann.

The class is a one-unit Fiat Lux style course that will have a different fashion-centered focus each week. Highlights include a week on Jewelry and Adornment, a week on Slaves and Prostitutes, and a week on the Imperial Women. Classes will be activity and discussion based, for maximum fun!

Caroline has worked very hard to create this course from scratch. With the help of Sarah Beckmann, she has extensively researched the current scholarship and developed lesson plans and assignments for her prospective students.

This course is being offered as part of the USIE program (Undergraduate Student Initiated Education). The USIE program provides a unique opportunity to undergraduate students to develop and teach their own unique course under the advisory of a faculty mentor.

This course was pitched to the honors department last year, and is the first course to be facilitated within the Classics Department! Students who are interested in applying to teach their own course are encouraged to talk with a member of the faculty to develop their ideas.



DEPARTMENT NEWS

Welcome, Professor Elias Petrou!



We are delighted to announce that Dr. Elias Petrou will be joining us to teach a course in Introductory Modern Greek during the Winter Term! Elias Petrou's research focuses on Late Byzantine History, Byzantine Literature, Greek Paleography, and extends to Digital Humanities. He received his Ph.D. in 2017 in Byzantine History and Literature after completing his B.A. in History and Archaeology at the University of Ioannina, Greece, and his M.A. at the University of London, Royal Holloway, in Late Antique and Byzantine Studies. Dr. Petrou has worked with various special collections and libraries such as the Vatican Apostolic Library, the National Library of St. Mark in Venice, the Austrian National Library, and other collections in the eastern Mediterranean (e.g., Iveron monastery on Mount Athos, etc.). At the end of his doctoral studies, he worked as a researcher at the Institute of Byzantine and Modern Greek Studies at the University of Vienna, Austria, and served as an archivist for the special collections of the Greek communities of Holy Trinity and Saint George in Vienna, Austria.

Since 2017, Dr. Petrou has served as a Research Associate Specialist at the digital Project "Thesaurus Linguae Graecae" at the University of California, Irvine. He also teaches Modern Greek and Culture to youth and adults through various community organizations (e.g., St. Basil – San Juan Capistrano, St. Katherine – Redondo Beach), and serves as a member of the Education Council of Greek Language and Culture of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America.

Welcome, Professor David Goldstein!

We are very pleased to announce that Professor David Goldstein has joined the Classics faculty as a joint appointment in the department. David now holds a joint position in the Department of Linguistics and Program in Indo-European Studies at UCLA as well as a courtesy appointment in the Department of Classics. His research lies at the intersection of language change and linguistic theory, with a focus on syntactic, morphosyntactic, and semantic change among the Indo-European languages. David is proudly a member of the 2021 cohort of Guggenheim Fellows.



Welcome, David!

DEPARTMENT BOOKSHELF

Recent publications by UCLA Classics Faculty, Graduate Students, & Alumni

Sarah Beckmann, Review of F. Guidetti & K. Meinecke, eds., *A Globalized Visual Culture? Towards a Geography of Late Antique Art* (Oxford, 2020), *BMCR* 2021.11.22.

David Blank and David Armstrong, "PHerc. 1570, Cols. XI-XIII: Menander's *Georgos*, Epicurus, and (Perhaps) Metrodorus," *Cronache Ercolanesi* 51 (2021): 31-57.

Richard Ellis, "Touched by the Past: Trauma, Testament and Post-Memory in Aeschylus' *Suppliants*," *Classical Antiquity* 40.1 (2021): 1-44.

Sander Goldberg, "From Homer's Banquet to Fauchois' Feast: The *Odyssey's* *Odyssey*" in C. Caballero & S. Rumph, eds., *Fauré Studies* (Cambridge 2021) 134-51.

——, Review of G. Torello-Hill & A. J. Turner, eds., *The Lyon Terence: Its Tradition and Legacy* (Leiden 2020), *BMCR* 2021.12.18.

David Goldstein, "A multifactorial account of differential agent marking in Herodotus," *Journal of Greek Linguistics* 21 (2021): 3-57.

——, "renosco," in M. Hillen et al., eds., *Thesaurus linguae latinae* vol. XI.7, Berlin 2021: col. 1103.

—— ed. (with Stephanie Jamison and **Brent Vine**), *Proceedings of the Thirty-First Annual UCLA Indo-European Conference*, Bremen 2021.

Ella Haselswerdt and Mathura Umachandran, "Poetry and Profit" in L. Jansen, ed. *Anne Carson / Antiquity*, London: 2021: 207-219.

Nathan Kish (PhD 2018), "Comic Invective, Decorum and Ars in Cicero's *De Oratore*," in S. Papaioannou & A. Serafim, eds., *Comic Invective in Ancient Greek and Roman Oratory*, Berlin 2021: 191-209.

Kathryn Morgan, "Animating *agalmata*: The Philosophical Life as Art in Plato," in S. Dugast, D. Jaillard, & I. Manfrini, eds., *Agalma ou les figurations de l'invisible. Approches comparées*, Paris 2021: 339-353.

——, "Deinomenes," "Gelon," "Philosophy," "Praise," and "Theron," in C. Baron, ed., *The Herodotus Encyclopedia*, London, 2021.

——, "Mythological Role Playing among the Sophists," in P. Bassino & N. Benzi, eds., *Sophistic Views of the Epic Past from the Classical to the Imperial Age*, London 2021: 89-112.

John Papadopoulos, "The Emergence of the Polis," in J. Neils & D. Rogers, eds., *The Cambridge Companion to Ancient Athens*, Cambridge 2021, 35-46.

——, "The Painter of Athens 897: An Athenian Late Geometric Vase-painter at Home and Abroad," in V. Lambrinoudakis, L.G. Mendoni, M. Koutsoumbou, T.-M. Panagou, A. Sfyroera, and X. Charalambidou, eds., *ΕΞΟΧΟΣ ΑΛΗΘΩΝ. Τιμητικός τόμος για την Καθηγήτρια Εύα Σημαντώνη-Μπουρνιά*, Athens 2021, 591-608.

——, "Torone and Its Colonial Experiences: Thoughts on the Early History of the North Aegean," in Z. Bonias & J. Perreault, eds., *Argilos: 25 années de recherches. Organisation de la ville et de la campagne dans les colonies du Nord de l'Égée, VIIIe-IIIe siècles av. n.é. (Argilos 3)*, Athens 2021, 423-449.

Dale Parker (PhD 2018), "The Prologue of the Protagoras as a School of Dialectic," *Ancient Philosophy* 41 (2021): 291-297.

Elias Petrou, "A Game Between a Copyist and a Binder of a Manuscript: the Case of cod. Vat. gr. 897," in C. Dendrinos & I. Giarenis, eds., *Bibliophilos. Books and Learning in the Byzantine World*, Munich 2021: 331-339.

Alex Purves, "Sappho's Lyric Sensibility," in P. Finglass & A. Kelly, eds., *The Cambridge Companion to Sappho*, Cambridge 2021: 175-89.

Ben Radcliffe (PhD 2019), "The Politics of Aesthetic Experience in Odysseus' *Apologoi*," *AJP* 142.2 (2021): 177-216.

Amy Richlin, Review of J. Beneker and G. Tsouvala, eds., *The Discourse of Marriage in the Greco-Roman World*. *Classical Outlook* 96.2 (2021): 84-86.

——, Review of T. Ivleva and R. Collins, eds., *Un-Roman Sex: Gender, Sexuality, and Lovemaking in the Roman Provinces and Frontiers*. *SEHEPUNKTE* 21 (2021), Nr. 7/8.

——, "The Woman in the Street: Becoming Visible in Mid-Republican Rome," in R. Ancona & G. Tsouvala, eds., *New Directions in the Study of Women in the Greco-Roman World*. New York 2021: 213-30.

——, "The Stage at the Fair: Trade and Human Trafficking in the *Palliata*," in E. Z. Damer and M. Y. Myers, eds., *Travel and Geography in Latin Poetry*. London 2021: 25-45.

Brent Vine, "biass biitam, valetudinem vitam: On Alliteration in Italic Curse Texts," in H. Fellner, M. Malzahn & M. Peyrot, eds., *Lyuke wmer ra: Indo-European Studies in Honor of Georges-Jean Pinault*, Ann Arbor 2021: 501-12.

——, "Latin fimus/fimum 'fumier' et PIE *-mo- secondaire," in A. Blanc & I. Boehm, eds., *Dérivation nominale et innovations dans les langues indo-européennes anciennes*, Lyon 2021: 241-52.

——, "Latin glaciēs 'ice'," in L. Grestenberger, H. Fellner & C. Reiss, eds., *Ha! Linguistic Studies in Honor of Mark R. Hale*, Wiesbaden 2022: 395-400.

DEPARTMENT BOOKSHELF

Congratulations to Giulia Sissa on the publication of *Le Pouvoir des Femmes* (2021)

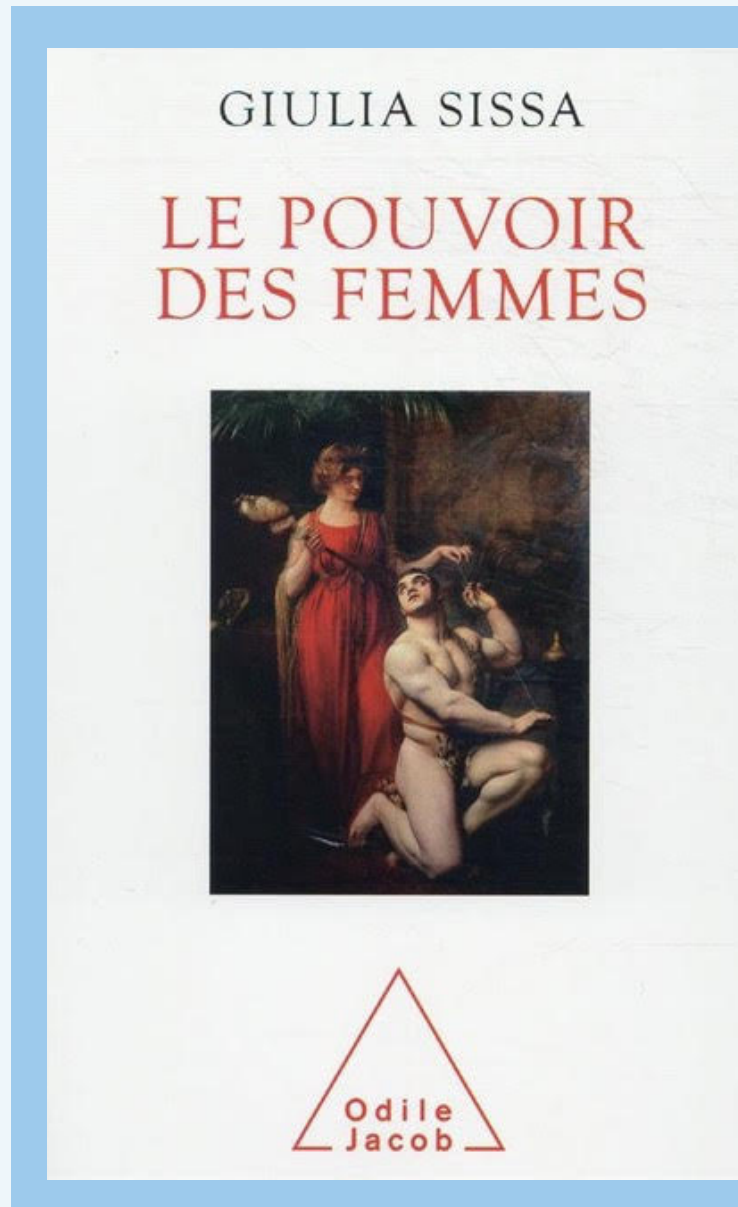
Modern democracy is an inclusive, egalitarian and universalistic manner of doing many things, such as governing, thinking or living together. Ancient *demokratia* is rather the executive power (*kratos*) of the people (*demos*). This power was born gendered and sexist. In ancient Greece, the *demos* is made up of citizens who must be able to debate fiercely and to rule authoritatively. They must be endowed with an active, combative and commanding energy, called *thumos*, spiritedness. Such a quality is masculine. It contributes to the virtue of "courage", *andreia*, which literally means "manliness". Two consequences: women are excluded from the political arena; men's gender expression and sexual activities must conform to an ideal of virility. Only males can hold office. Only males can deliberate properly about the public good. These males must function, morally and sexually, as males. No feminization allowed.

Why is masculinity so relevant to the power of the people? Because the rule of the many is intrinsically belligerent. Moreover, the people are an army. The political culture of ancient democracy connects systematically politics and war, warriors and citizens, public deliberation and defense of the homeland. Same requirements, same meritocracy. In such a normatively masculine world, what are women permitted to do? What are they supposed to be able to do? These two questions go together. And the answer is: nothing. Of course, women take care of procreation, family responsibilities and religious tasks, which are indispensable contributions to the common good of a society, and the Greeks think that women are good at that. But women are deemed unfit to fight and to govern – which are the essence of ancient *demokratia*.

From this historical moment, we can reconstruct a cultural history of gender. The Christian turn is crucially important. Far from being stupid or too passionate, a Greek woman lacks a bodily and emotional equipment (*thumos*), a character without which neither war nor politics is possible. The Ancients do not doubt women's intellectual abilities. The Christians do. Albert the Great and Thomas Aquinas argue for the identification of the superiority of men (and the justification of their power) with a stable and methodical rationality. A cold and fluid complexion determines the flux of a woman's ideas. The passions disrupt reason. La donna è mobile...

Modern philosophy and science endorse and spread these beliefs. There are, indeed, dissonant voices that made themselves heard over the centuries, from Plato already in classical Athens, to Christine de Pizan in fifteenth century France to François Poulain de la Barre, a Cartesian thinker who converted to Calvinism and moved to Geneva. But the turning point in the cultural history of gender is the Enlightenment. It was the attribution to all human beings of a truly "common sense", susceptible of flourishing through education, that created the conditions of possibility for a paradigm shift. In the words of the mathematician and philosopher who wrote *Sur l'admission des femmes au droit de cité* (1790), Nicolas de Condorcet, "the rights of human beings result solely from the fact that they are sentient beings, susceptible of acquiring moral ideas, and of reasoning on these ideas. Thus women, having these same qualities, have necessarily equal rights."

Today, we are still at work on this interminable project.



DEPARTMENT LIFE



Julian Beckelhymer (son to Sarah Beckmann and Sam Beckelhymer) listening intently to alumna Debby Sneed's discussion of ancient feeding bottles during her AIA Society talk, "Disability and Infanticide in Ancient Greece."



Ella Haselswerdt, Alex Purves, Bryant Kirkland and Lydia Spielberg (L-R) preparing to ride home at the end of the day on the "Classics Bike Caravan"!



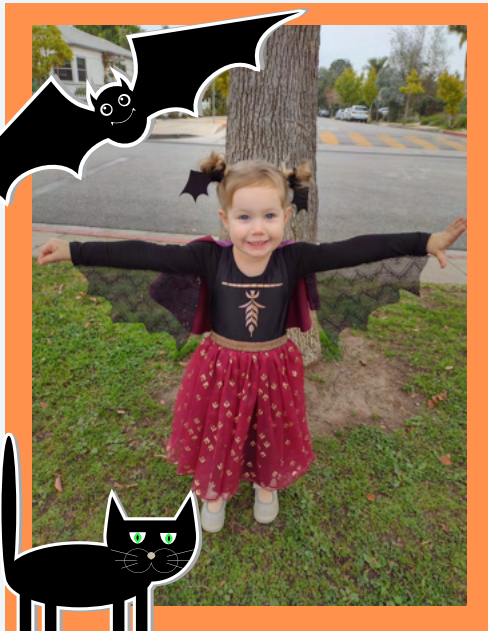
Bryant Kirkland enjoys his lunch (a tasty can of sardines, yum!) in the faculty lounge.

PIZZA TALK

Classics Undergraduate Nick Guymon, president of UCLA Classical Society, hosted the year's first ever pizza talk. Freshman and upperclassman mingled over plenty of pizza. What a wonderful introduction for those new to our program!

New Students: Don't forget that after two quarters of Latin or Ancient Greek at UCLA, you will be eligible to join Eta Sigma Phi, UCLA's undergraduate classical honors society.





HALLOWEEN

Department kids dress up for the holiday!

(Sally, Walter & Grace with Richard, Orlando, Luke)



DEPARTMENT LIFE

Talks & More!

In April 2021, assistant professor Bryant Kirkland gave a paper at a colloquium on “Greek Literary Topographies of the Roman Empire,” organized by Janet Downie (UNC Chapel Hill) and Anna Peterson (Penn State). Bryant’s paper, “Displacing Dio: Landscape in the Urban Orations,” examined the role of nonhuman elements (esp. rivers, trees, animals) in the expression of Dio Chrysostom’s Stoic-infused thought, to argue that Dio’s orations encompass ideas of an “expanded relational self,” in the parlance of Rosi Braidotti. The paper suggested that Dio’s implicit contrast of thesis (built setting) and phusis (nature) is analogous to distinctions between bios (anthropocentric life) and zoê (animal and non-human life), and that Dionian orations often thought to be “rhetorical” or limply ironic in fact gesture at deeper points about human and non-human relations.

DEPARTMENT LIFE

Update from Amy Richlin

Life in 2021 continued to look much like 2020: less eventful, more tedious as the novelty of Zoom wore off – that’s definitely over now. Highlights of the summer and fall for me included:

- Participating in a July conference at the University of Exeter on “Obscenity and Magic in Medieval Arabic Texts,” directed by UCLA NELC PhD (2012) Emily Selove, on whose committee I had the good fortune to serve. Prof. Selove has a Leverhulme grant to study a grimoire written by the Persian sage Siraj al-Din al-Sakkaki, who lived in Khwarazm in the 12th century. This is a topic about which I obviously know nothing, but - in a paper entitled “Altarboys” - I was able to comment on al-Sakkaki’s use of slave children in magical procedures. Thanks to ongoing lively conversations with colleague Sarah Beckmann about the use of slave children in Greek and Roman religion, I did have something to say; also because of what I learned when reviewing *Un-Roman Sex* (see below).

It was also good for my knowledge of geography: did you know that the Aral Sea has dried up?

- In September, the culmination of a long-in-the-works project, as the Troubadour Theater Company staged *Lizastrata* at the Getty Villa. As consultant, I sat in on the first table read in March 2020, and so was there when the news broke that the Getty would shut down the next day. Yet finally in 2021, after a summer of COVID-conscious rehearsals, the show did go on. Aristophanes would have approved the update to gender-bending, Cabaret-inspired fishnets and lingerie for all, with a shimmering Reconciliation finale. Great to see UCLA undergrads, postbaccs, grads, and colleagues well-represented in the audience!

- Also, in September, speaking “at” Manikchak College of the University of Gour Banga, hosted by Prof. Debaditya Mukhopadhyay, who is reading Ovid’s *Metamorphoses* with his students. Gour Banga, which is in West Bengal, is somehow 12.5 hours ahead of PST, but with a few practice sessions we did manage to synchronize our watches. I spoke on “Reading Ovid in the Time of #MeToo,” and once again learned a lot for the talk: did you know that, in India, a woman can be prosecuted for criminal defamation if she brings an accusation of sexual harassment? Google “Priya Ramani.”

- In research, I’ve gone back to work, finally, on my book on the love letters between the young Marcus Aurelius and his teacher, the orator Cornelius Fronto, although it seems that the chickens somehow got into the manuscript between 2011, when I put it aside to work on Plautus, and now. However, the Introduction is now out to readers and Chapter 1 will, I hope, follow close behind. In recent book reviews, I’m enthusiastic about the long-awaited and much needed collection *Un-Roman Sex: Gender, Sexuality, and Lovemaking in the Roman Provinces and Frontiers*; [this link](#) will take you to my review. This is where I learned about the faience flaccid phallus pendants which played such an important part in “Altarboys,” as the author traced their far-flung range of find spots from Sardinia to Gorny Altai.

- At the SCS panel marking the 50th anniversary of the Women’s Classical Caucus, I spoke about my time as editor of the WCC Newsletter in the 1980s, when I made the zine by hand using literal cut-and-paste methods and then mailed out the hard copies to the membership. Photo offset!

I ran the APA candidates’ questionnaire, special issues on “Survival” and “Is Classics Dead?,” and a blacklist of departments with “fewer than one” tenured woman. I had to overcome deep sadness that we didn’t meet in person that week. This 50th anniversary panel had a big UCLA presence: PhD Suzanne Lye (now an Assistant Professor at UNC-Chapel Hill); BA and postbacc Caroline Cheung (now an Assistant Professor at Princeton); and colleague Adriana Vazquez, WCC Membership Director, as well as Eunice Kim, PhD University of Washington, now an Assistant Professor at Furman University, and Nandini Pandey of Johns Hopkins. Profs. Lye and Cheung are WCC co-chairs this year, a job I held in 1987: ask me how proud I am!

-This spring, I’m looking forward most of all to my retirement conference, featuring UCLA PhDs and postbaccs, which I hope will still be taking place in person April 1-2. I’ll be speaking at Brown in person, COVID allowing, on April 21, and am slated to deliver the Jerome Lectures at University of Michigan and at the American Academy in Rome in November.



DEPARTMENT LIFE

Classics 10 Visits the Getty Villa

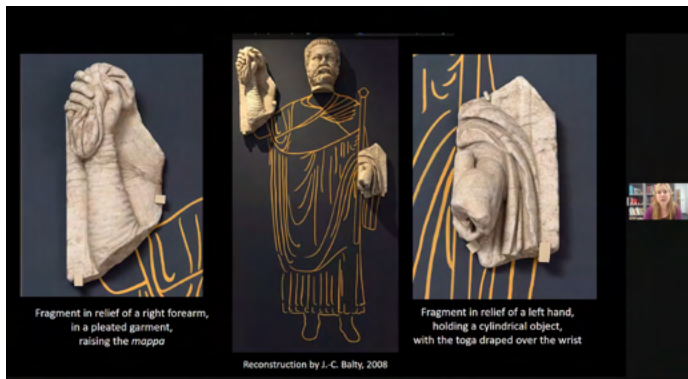
Amid the continued fallout of the Covid-19 pandemic, the Getty Villa was unable to hold an in-person College Night this year. But that didn't stop Professor Bryant Kirkland from leading a less formal, end-of-quarter "College Day" at the Getty Villa for students in his General Education course "Discovering the Greeks." Around thirty students joined Professor Kirkland on a yellow school bus out to the Pacific Palisades, where the morning fog gave way to cool December sunlight, wonderfully timed for strolling around the Villa's airy porticoes. Students reveled in the chance to see up close some of the very (or closely similar) material studied in "Discovering the Greeks," after a quarter of seeing objects in slide shows. Students reported that particular highlights included: the many symposium vessels, including the "eye" kylikes; a funerary amphora that put them in mind of the famous Dipylon Krater; a bust of the young Alexander the Great, along with a silver tetradrachm depicting Alexander with the Horns of Ammon; and the pristinely imposing image of Athena that dominates the Panathenaic Amphora.



CLASSICAL
SOCIETY

Stay tuned for announcements about upcoming Classical Society pizza talks! To receive information about these talks, email asalazar@humnet.ucla.edu to join our undergraduate listserv.

UCLA CLASSICS AT THE AIA-SCS ANNUAL CONFERENCE



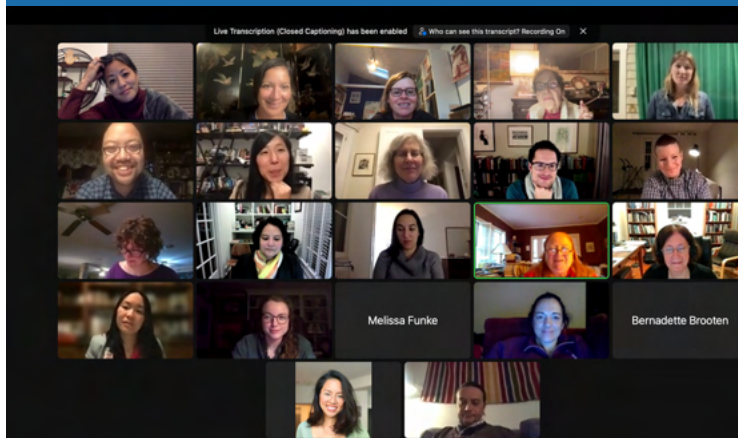
Sarah Beckmann giving her paper on "Urban Appropriations: the Villa in Late Antiquity"

Transformation of Lichas
Met. 9.216-229

dicentem genibusque manus adhibere parantem
corripit Alcides, et terque quaterque rotatum
mittit in Euboeas tormento fortius undas.
ille per acrias pendens induruit auras:
utque ferunt imbres gelidis concrevere ventis,
inde nives fieri, nivibus quoque molle rotatis
astringi et spissa glomerari grandine corpus,
sic illum validis iactum per inane lacertis
exsanguemque metu nec quicquam umoris habentem
in rigidos versum silices prior edidit aetas.
nunc quoque in Euboico scopulus brevis eminet alto
gurgite et humanae servat vestigia formae,
quem, quasi sensurum, nautae calcare venturum,
appellatque Lichas

But while he was still speaking and trying to grasp the hero's knees, Hercules seized him and whirling him around three and four times, hurled him into the Euboean sea more forcefully than a catapult. He stiffened as he hung in the air; just as rain is said to harden in icy winds, and then become snow, and whirling snowflakes condense to a soft mass and are finally packed in frozen hail. So hurled by strong arms through the empty air, bloodless with fear, nor having any moisture left, he changed, or so a former age reports, into hard flint. Even today a low rock rises in the Euboean sea from the

Francesca Martelli's paper on "Lichas and the Ovidian Anthropocene"



50 Years of the WCC with Adriana Vazquez, Amy Richlin, Classics PhD Suzanne Lye, and Classics Undergrad & Post-Bacc Caroline Cheung



Lydia Spielberg chairing "The Transformation of Classical Rhetoric During the Renaissance"

Petrarch, *Fam.* 21.15

"You will accept my solemn affirmation that I delight in both the thought and style of our poet, nor do I ever refer to him except with the greatest admiration. It is true that I have sometimes said to those who wished to know precisely what I thought, that his style was unequal, for he rises to a higher plane of excellence in the vernacular than in poetry and prose. But you will not deny this, nor will it be rightly understood, carry with it any disparagement of his fame and glory."

James Harvey Robinson, ed. and trans.



Andres Matlock
Santa Clara University

SCS 2022
Roman Philosophy

Cross-Pollinated Genealogies: Generating Futures in Cicero's Lucullus

A. "Neither Frenchman nor prelatist" (Baltin 2019: 8-9):

"In France, the revolutionary idea, which is two centuries old, ruled that there had to be a political subject... However, in the representation of this revolutionary idea, as in the counter-revolutionary idea in which the French people expressed itself, there was a good deal of illusion regarding the social bond. The supposition was that politics found its guarantee in the consistency of this bond, whether it was called the prelatist, the people, or—on the other side of the spectrum—the union of all the French. The thought of the political, conceived as the foundation of an experience, proposed a genealogy of revolutionary or national representation based on such social sets. What the crisis of the political reveals is that all sets are inconsistent, that there is neither Frenchman nor prelatist..."

B. A Crisis of Genealogy (Cicero, *Brutus* 74):

"On the contrary," said Brutus, "I am deeply interested in that sort of chronological distinction, and I think that accuracy such as yours is entirely suited to the task you have undertaken, of disentangling the characteristics of orators within their respective periods."

"Ergo vero," inquit Brutus, "et detector into quasi notationem temporum et ad id quod institui, orationum genera distinguere acturus, istam diligentiam esse accommodatam potes."

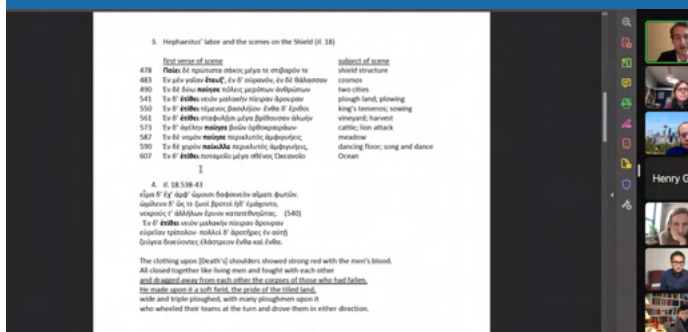
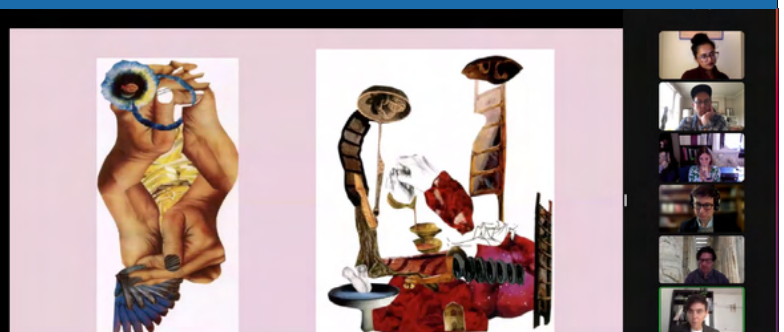
C. i. Politics // Philosophy (Lucullus 13):

"First, in citing the early physicians, what you are doing"—here he really was addressing me—"seems to me to be exactly what soldiers citizens do when they list a selection of famous men from the past, trying to represent them as populists, in order to make themselves look like them. They start with Publius Valerius, who was consul in the first year after the expulsion of the kings; and they list all the other consuls who



Diana Librandi, "Tityrus Unrevived in Petrarch's Pastoral Poetry"

Andres Matlock, "Cross-Pollinated Genealogies: Generating Futures in Cicero's Lucullus"

Ben Radcliffe, "Recasting Heroes: Labor, Metallurgy, and Critical Aesthetics in the *Iliad*"

Ella Haselswerdt, "Sappho's Body: Contemporary Art and Queer Identity"

UNDERGRADUATE NEWS

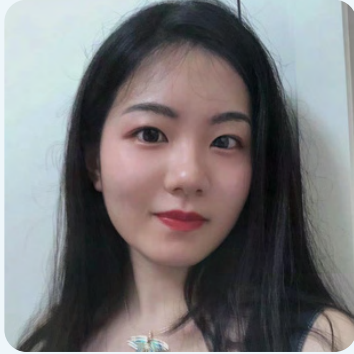
Helen Caldwell Prizes in Elementary Greek and Latin

Each year the Department is pleased to bestow the annual Helen Caldwell Awards and Prizes, named in honor of a dedicated teacher of Greek and Latin in our department for over thirty years (1939-70). Helen F. Caldwell graduated in the first class at UCLA to award the Bachelor of Arts in 1925 and earned her M.A. in Latin fourteen years later. She later was employed by the Classics Department for 30 years until her retirement in 1970. A dedicated teacher of Latin and Greek, Helen Caldwell was also a respected scholar of Brazilian literature, one of the first to translate into English some of the most important works of the 19th century novelist Machado de Assis. The Caldwell Prizes in Elementary Greek and Latin are given each year to the top students in our elementary language classes and are awarded at our annual fall welcome reception (which to everyone's satisfaction took place in-person in October). Congratulations to our 2020-2021 Helen Caldwell Award winners in Elementary Greek and Latin: **Gideon Burnes Heath (Greek)** and **Amay Jain (Latin)**. And many congratulations to the award winner of the Gus and Judie Christopoulos Award for Modern Greek, **Sofia Foondos**.



Pictured from left to right: Gideon Burnes Heath with Prof. Alex Purves, Amay Jain with Prof. Sam Beckelhymer, and Sofia Foondos with Prof. Simos Zenios

UNDEGRADUATE NEWS

Homeric Hymns by Dido Wang

In spring 2021, the Classics Department, supported by the UCLA Stavros Niarchos Foundation Center for the Study of Hellenic Culture, scheduled an innovative general education seminar course on the Homeric Hymns: “Ancient Music, Modern Performance: Reimagining Homeric Hymns.” The class was taught by Mat Diafos Sweeney and Sebastian Peters-Lazaro, the creative minds behind the performance group [Four Larks](#). One student in that memorable class was Greek and Latin Major Dido Wang, who will graduate this spring. As those of us who know Dido might expect, her final project was a tour de force, and we thought that our wider community might enjoy hearing about it.

The project had two parts, a poem enriched visually by complex color-coding and alchemical symbols, and a narrative explanation that reveals Dido’s creative strategy. The poem itself, “A Death Wreath of Immortality,”

takes as its inspiration the Homeric Hymn to Demeter. The text is presented in the form of a wreath, consisting of words and alchemical symbols of different colors, which represent herbs and flowers. It opens with the section “Persephone Asks”:

Why do you seek me amongst the shadows, Mother?
 Why do you kneel and beat the dead corpse of Earth?
 It has no life to give to you.
 Open-eyed, I weep into the dryness of its flesh,
 But it will not be moistened. It will not let me out.
 I cannot feel the softness of your palms, the warmth of your fingers.
 Deep down in this withered womb.
 Do you beat still? You beat in vain.
 The Earth is dead. It will not yield crops for you.

Subsequent sections (punctuated by quotations from Byron, Baudelaire, Marlowe, and the Orphic Gold Tablets, among others) speak with the voices of Tithonus, Semele, Aphrodite, and Helen, before ending with Persephone once more. Dido lays out a complex trajectory of despair and reconciliation as mortals and immortals struggle to come to terms with death and loss through the redeeming power of memory. Images of the earth, of blossoming and vegetation, of water and fire suffuse the poem. Semele, the Theban princess who was incinerated by the glory of her lover Zeus, yet who was also the mother of the god Dionysus, cries out

I am scattered with fire,
 I am wide and thin and many,
 I burn across the ground in flying ashes,
 But what is this cluster of ivy, this fresh living heart,
 Wriggling out from under my breast?

The alchemical symbols in the text remind us, says Dido, that “the ultimate object of alchemy, the creation of the Philosopher’s Stone, seeks to produce not only the pure and perfect gold but also the elixir of life, both of which are appropriate for my theme of death and immortality.” The poem ends by quoting the Orphic formula:

I am the child of Earth and starry Heaven.
 I am parched with thirst, and I perish.
 Quickly let me drink from the water of memory.

For Dido, the “water of memory” is also the “water of love.” It is the bringer of life, as well as the bringer of immortality.

Congratulations to Dido for a project that models the vitality of ancient poetry and its reception, reimagining ancient hymns in the service of her own lyric vision.

UNDERGRADUATE NEWS

Caroline Lunt Selected to Give Paper in February



Caroline Lunt will be participating in her first ever conference at the University of Tennessee’s Annual Undergraduate Classics Conference on February 18th and 19th, 2022. She is the first student from the University of California to attend this prestigious conference. She will present a paper that she wrote for Professor Piros’ Spring 2021 Class *Ovid and Consequences*. The paper, entitled "They Were Sisters: Reading the Lais of Marie de France as a Queer Reception of Ovid," examines many of de France’s most famous poems, from the collection known as *The Breton Lais*. By using familiar pagan minstrel stories as a means to explore sapphic relationships and gender expression, de France situates herself within the existing Ovidian tradition by “changing the bodies” of her medieval heroes and heroines away from the canonical Christian schema and challenges the concepts of heteronormativity and the gender binary.



2022 Spring Course Offerings

Here is a list of courses being offered in the Classics Department this Spring. What will you take?

Classical Civilization Courses

- Classics 30 - Classical Mythology
- Classics 51B - Art and Archaeology of Ancient Rome
- Classics 88GE - Ancient Slavery and Its Legacy
- Classics M125 - Invention of Democracy
- Classics 143A - Ancient Tragedy
- Classics M145A - Ancient Greek and Roman Philosophy
- Classics M153C - Archaic Greek Art and Archaeology
- Classics 165 - Ancient Athletics

Latin Courses

- Latin 2 - Elementary Latin
- Latin 3 - Elementary Latin
- Latin 106 - Catullus
- Latin 119A - Readings in Roman Prose

Greek Courses

- Greek 3 - Elementary Greek
- Greek 8C - Elementary Modern Greek
- Greek 106 - Aristophanes
- Greek 130 - Readings in New Testament (look out for this course as a possible offering in summer as well!)

GRADUATE NEWS

Patrick Callahan's MA Paper and Celebration!

Congratulations to Patrick Callahan who passed the MA requirements at the end of the Fall 2021 quarter with a brilliant paper on "Pliny's Epistolary Feast" (abstract of Patrick's paper can be found below). We were so happy to celebrate with you, Patrick!

Abstract: Inspired by Mary Beard's (2002) argument in support of the letter collection as a fundamental literary unit, along with the changing approaches to epistolary theory in Classics surveyed by scholars such as Michael Trapp (2003) and Roy Gibson (2012), I explored the effects of encountering the letters of Pliny the Younger in the collected form in which he himself preserved them for posterity. What follows is a reflection on one particular motif – the letterbook- as-convivium – which I discovered in Epistles II and

which I argue exemplifies the value of reading letters as transmitted in their letterbooks, rather than extracted and isolated from that context.

*Graduate Student Workshops*

The UCLA Classics Graduate Workshop is a bi-weekly seminar for graduate students in Classics and related fields; the purpose of the workshop is to provide a venue in which graduate scholars can showcase their ongoing research and receive useful commentary from their peers in an informal setting. To see topics of past sessions this spring quarter, visit [Graduate Workshop](#).

Sessions this Quarter (Winter 2022)

Lena Barsky (Jan. 20 at 5 PM): "How Do You Solve a Problem Like Caeneus? On Dido, Gender, and Virgil's Accidental* Trans Narrative"

Jasmine Akiyama-Kim (Feb. 3 at 5PM): "Nero and the Imperial Double"

Collin Moat (Feb. 24 at 5 PM): "Sympathy with the Spear: Iliadic Tree Similes and Achilles' Entanglement with the Pelian Spear"

GRADUATE NEWS

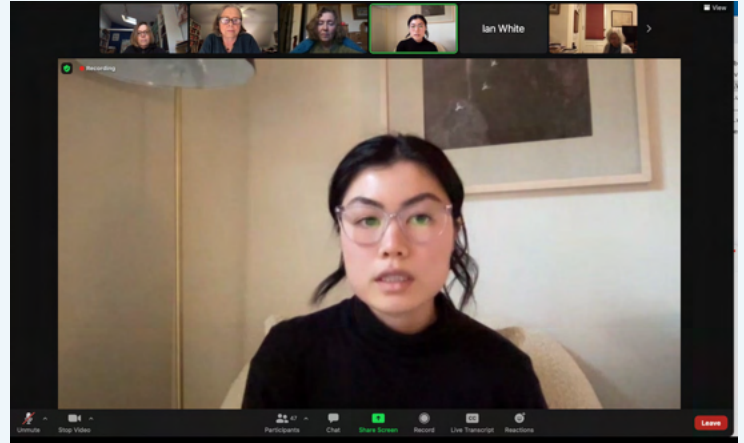
Graduate Students at the SCS

Jasmine Akiyama-Kim - At this year's SCS annual meeting, I presented a paper entitled "Odysseus's Two Bodies: Recognition as Construction in *Odyssey* 19." The paper examines one of the lesser-treated (and more confusing!) recognition scenes in the *Odyssey*. In this scene, Odysseus and Penelope come face-to-face for the first time in twenty years. The former, in disguise as the beggar Aithon, claims to have met Odysseus when he was blown off course on his way to Troy; in response, Penelope asks Aithon to describe Odysseus's clothes, which she had picked out for him. I argue that this recognition scene brings out the implicitness of construction in the recognition process, and the degree to which recognition depends more on the recognizer than the recognized.

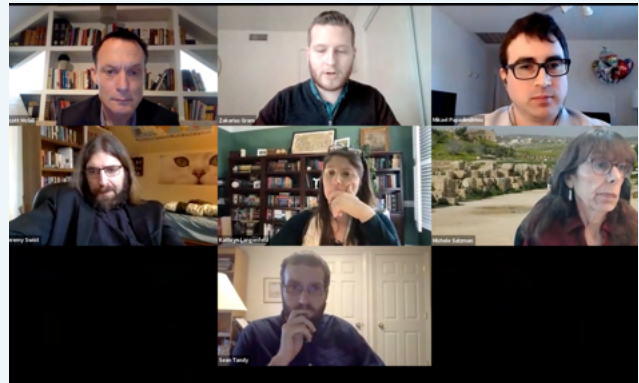
Zakarias D. Gram - "A Condemnation of Nature": The Reception of Propatheia in Late Antiquity

While the origins of the Stoic principle of propatheia remain mysterious, the concept was much more popular in certain philosophical and religious debates of late antiquity. Propatheia essentially softened the almost impossible ideal of the Stoic sage who does not feel passions by conceding that the initial impression of a passion is not a willful action, and therefore does not vitiate the individual. The most prolific user of the concept was not a Stoic philosopher at all, but rather Didymus the Blind (313–398 CE), the patristic commentator and instructor. My paper analyzes one of the primary uses of propatheia in Didymus' commentaries, especially his Commentary on the Psalms, which appears primarily in connection with Jesus' fear in the Garden of Gethsemane in the Gospel of Mark.

at the SCS annual meeting with Adriana Vazquez, Amy Richlin, Classics PhD Suzanne Lye, and Classics Undergrad & Post-Bacc Caroline Cheung



In Spring 2021, Jasmine Akiyama-Kim was honored with a GSA Presidential Service Award for her work as Humanities Council President (2019—present). The GSA Presidential Service Award celebrates advocacy, service, and engagement on behalf of graduate and professional students. **Thank you Jasmine for your valuable service representing Classics and the Humanities!**



ALUMNI NEWS

Alumni News

Jessica Richter (née Phoenix) (Classical Civilization BA, 2016) Since graduating UCLA in 2016, Jessica went to College of the Canyons nursing school and graduated December 2019 with her ADN. She got her RN license in February 2020 and started working just as the pandemic started in March 2020. Since then, she has been working in a community hospital caring for COVID patients. She spent 2020 working full time as a new nurse and going to school to get her second bachelor's degree, this time in Nursing. Jessica graduated with her BSN in December 2020. She spent 2021 planning her wedding and house hunting, all while still working full time taking care of COVID patients. Jessica and her husband bought their house July 2021 and got married October 2021. She finally had a holiday off, and both her and her husband spent their first Christmas in their new house. Jessica's goal for this year is to move to outpatient care and to take more time for herself to relax.

Sanjaya Thakur (Biology and Latin BA, 1998; Post-Bacc 1999). Congratulations to Professor Sanjaya Thakur, who has been appointed as an Elizabeth A. Whitehead Distinguished Scholar at the American School for Classical Studies, Athens, for 2022-23. Dr. Thakur is Associate Professor and Chair of the Classics Department at Colorado College, where he has taught since 2008. Professor Thakur's primary research interests are Augustan literature and culture. The ASCSA is the oldest American overseas research center for advanced inquiry in the fine arts and humanities. Its mission is to advance knowledge of Greece and all aspects of Greek culture, from antiquity to the present, by training young scholars, sponsoring and promoting archaeological fieldwork, providing resources for scholarly work, and disseminating the results of that research. Thakur joins the list of eminent professors of classics and archaeology who have held the highly coveted position, but is one of the few liberal arts college faculty members to ever hold the fellowship.

Sanjaya completed his undergraduate degree at UCLA in Biology and Latin, followed by a year in our Postbacc program before going on to complete his PhD at the University of Michigan, where he wrote his doctoral dissertation on Ovid's presentation of the imperial family in the exile poems. Sanjaya has published a number of articles on the history and literature of the Augustan age. At UCLA, he remembers fondly the Latin courses he took with Bob Gurval, Sander Goldberg, and Bernie Frischer. Sarah Morris was his professor for most things Greek and he notes that the graduate seminar on Athens that he was able to take with her was especially influential.

UCLA College | Humanities
Classics

Alumni Network

We want to keep in touch with all our students and friends, so please do send any news of your lives and accomplishments to purves@humnet.ucla.edu!

Visit our alumni on our department website at <https://classics.ucla.edu/alumni/our-alumni/>

UPCOMING EVENTS

THE UCLA DEPARTMENT OF CLASSICS PROUDLY PRESENTS

ON OUTGROUPS AND MUTED GROUPS

A Conference in Honor of Amy Richlin



April 2 | UCLA Luskin Conference Center

To RSVP and receive more information about this event, please visit classics.ucla.edu/events

Panel I Comedy & Satire

HANS BORK

ASSISTANT PROFESSOR OF CLASSICS,
STANFORD UNIVERSITY

"The Artistry of Insult in Plautus"

KRISTIN MANN

UNDERGRADUATE ACADEMIC ADVISOR,
INDIANA UNIVERSITY

"Hens, Eunuchs, and Goddesses: Teaching
Jokes in Phaedrus's Fabulae"

GRACE GILLIES

VISITING ASSISTANT PROFESSOR OF
CLASSICAL AND MEDIEVAL STUDIES,
BATES COLLEGE

"Tearing Homelessness in Martial's Rome"

ELLIOTT PIROS

LECTURER, UCLA AND CSU NORTHRIDGE

"Painted Faces in Martial's Epigrams"

Panel II History

ANTHONY VIVIAN

LECTURER, UCLA

"Slippery Athenians"

NATHAN KISH

VISITING ASSISTANT PROFESSOR,
TULANE UNIVERSITY

"Xenophobia and Violence in Livy's Ab Urbe
Condita"

MIK LARSEN

INTERIM DAVID HOOD PROFESSOR OF
ANCIENT HISTORY, CSULB

"Public Abuse and the Problem of Speech in
Roman Declamation"

CAROLINE CHEUNG

ASSISTANT PROFESSOR OF CLASSICS,
PRINCETON UNIVERSITY

"Dangerous Work"

HENRY GRUBER

PHD CANDIDATE, HARVARD UNIVERSITY

"Recovering Armentaria, Mother of Gregory
of Tours, through her Favorite Miracles"

Panel III Gender & The Body

CELSIANA WARWICK

ASSISTANT PROFESSOR OF CLASSICS,
UNIVERSITY OF IOWA

"Homeroic Heroes and the Anxieties of
Masculinity"

HILARY LEHMANN

ASSISTANT PROFESSOR OF CLASSICS,
KNOX COLLEGE

"Antigone and the Egyptian: Sex and Other
Commodities in Hypereides' Against
Athenogenes"

SUZANNE LYE

ASSISTANT PROFESSOR OF CLASSICS,
UNC CHAPEL HILL

"Rage Becomes Her: Angry Women and
Cursed Bodies"

KATIE TARDIO

PHD CANDIDATE, UNC CHAPEL HILL

"Esse Quam Videri: Role Playing as a
Pedagogical Tool"

BRIAN WALTERS

ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR OF CLASSICS,
UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS URBANA-
CHAMPAIGN

"Womanly Vomicae"

UPCOMING EVENTS

2022 Annual Joan Palevsky Lecture in Classics

Dr. Jennifer Stager, “Cut from the Womb: Towards a Feminist History of Ancient Greek Medicine”


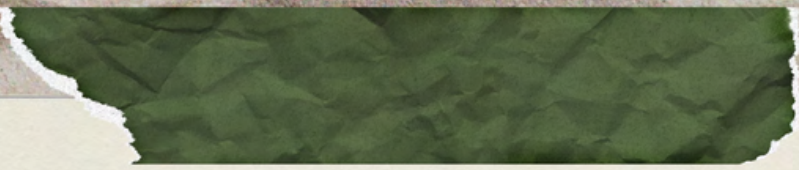


Images of surgical tools inside an open case flanked by cupping vessels carved onto a marble base. Marble. c. 320 BCE, Athens NAM 1378

The UCLA Classics Department is pleased to announce that the Joan Palevsky Lecture in Classics for 2022 will be delivered by Jennifer Stager, Assistant Professor of History of Art at Johns Hopkins University.

The event will take place at the Fowler Museum, UCLA, on April 21st (5–7pm). More details to follow. All are very welcome to attend this event, which will be held in person.

UCLA Department of Classics



Classics 10 - Discovering the Greeks
Classics 20 - Discovering the Romans
Classics 30 - Classical Mythology
Classics 47 - Medical Terminology

Classics I85 - Origins of English

Vocabulary

Latin I6 - Ist Year Summer Intensive

Greek I6 - Ist Year Summer Intensive

Register at - <https://summer.ucla.edu>



Summer

-2022-

Course

Offerings

UCLA Summer Travel Study Abroad **Exploring Ancient Rome**

July 3-30 MMXXII

Classics M114 A/B and History M112C/E

Professor Robert Gurval

UCLA Department of Classics



This Travel Study Abroad program, cross-listed in Classics and History, eight units, offers an exciting introduction to the antiquity of Rome, its history, culture, and architecture. The program is organized as a daily walking tour – our classroom is the city itself. Along the way, we explore the old cattle market on the Tiber River, the Roman Forum, Colosseum, Trajan's Markets, Pantheon, Mausoleum of Hadrian, St. Peter's Basilica, and these are only the highlights. We also visit the major art museums like the Villa Giulia of Etruscan art, Palazzo Massimo, Capitoline Museums, Galleria Borghese (photograph above of current exhibition), and of course the Vatican!

In the evenings, discover the city's cafes, restaurants and bars. On our last night, throw your coin in the Trevi Fountain in the hope of your return to Rome.

The program also includes a day trip to Tivoli and the villa of the Emperor Hadrian. A weekend trip takes us to the Bay of Naples, Pompeii, and, if you wish to stay longer, the island of Ischia. For details about the program, contact Professor Gurval at gurval@humnet.ucla.edu.