

SUMMER 2023

UCLA

Department of Classics

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INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Department News

*Welcome to new colleagues, students
and our new Chair*

Congratulations to the Class of 2023!

UCLA Department of Classics

Greetings from the Chair



The past academic year has certainly been eventful. To catch you up a bit, Amy Richlin retired at the end of June 2022, and we miss her wit and deep, humanistic learning. Still, we greeted the advent of a new Latinist, Hannah Čulík-Baird. Hannah's arrival marked a return to Los Angeles, as she took her Ph.D. at U.S.C. before going off to

Boston University. Now in her second year with us, Hannah has graciously stepped into the role of Graduate Adviser following Francesca Martelli's three-years' service in that position. With Hannah the Department began the process of replenishing its senior faculty, and that process continues with Bryant Kirkland, who earned tenure last year—congratulations, Bryant!—and, now Associate Professor, has taken over from Chris Johanson as Undergraduate Adviser. Chris, meanwhile, is serving as chair of the Program in Digital Humanities.

Another colleague with feet—and heart—in two programs is Brent Vine, who has just retired from his position in Classics and the Program in Indo-European Studies. We marked Brent's retirement with a well-attended reception in the newly renovated Faculty Club, and the event featured reminiscences of students and colleagues, as well as a poem in the Indo-European manner by Amy Richlin. You can read Brent's initial reflections on his retirement (what the late, lamented Phil Levine christened "the blissful state of emerititude") in this Newsletter. With the support of our new Dean of Humanities, Alex Stern, Classics and PIES are at this moment beginning to search for a new classical linguist to join us next year. We are all very much aware that it will be impossible to fill Brent's shoes, and we have been only half-jokingly puzzling over how we can divide up Brent's 200% commitment



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to his two UCLA programs and cover it with just one new colleague. But for the near future, the master himself will be back teaching with us during one term each year, so look out for Greek Dialects this Winter. In fact, we've been fortunate to have two other emeriti return to teach for us, as well: Bob Gurval and Sander Goldberg. Sander, for his part, has been busy not only teaching, but also publishing his commentary on Terence's *Andria*, and was awarded the University's Edward A. Dickson Emeritus Award to recognize all the contributions he has been making since retiring. Meanwhile, Amy Richlin delivered the prestigious Jerome Lectures in Ann Arbor and Rome last October-November on "Dirty Words: The Selective Survival of Latin Erotica".

We welcomed six wonderful new graduate students last year and the Fall term began well, only to be disrupted by the largest strike of graduate student employees in U.S. history. Faculty generally supported the goals of the strike, which shut down graduate classes and many undergraduate discussion sections for the latter part of the quarter, and all of us are pleased at the progress achieved by the strikers, as well as being thrilled that the Winter Quarter saw us begin to return to teaching as usual. We hope that all our graduate students, including our three excellent new recruits, will enjoy a more placid year with excitement generated by their academic achievements. The same wish goes for all the Postbaccalaureate and undergraduate students, who bring so much joy and enthusiasm to Dodd Hall.

Finally, we are thrilled to begin the 2023-24 academic year with a new colleague. Kelly Nguyen, who comes to us fresh from a post-doc at Stanford, will divide her teaching between Classics and the new Mellon Data / Social Justice curriculum. She will join the growing number of our faculty who are driving a new curriculum in Classical Reception studies, and you can read more about her in the first article below.

This year, too, three colleagues will be on leave having won prestigious fellowships: my two immediate predecessors as chair, Kathryn Morgan and Alex Purves, who are largely responsible for the good shape in which the Department finds itself, and Lydia Spielberg. Read about their projects later in this issue!

As for me, I am now seven weeks into my fifth appointment as chair of our Department. Despite my over four decades' experience at UCLA, new developments, mandates, bureaucratic forms, challenges and, most importantly, opportunities are showing me that I have quite a lot to learn. The new year will have us respond to the eight-year review just undergone by the Department. The review takes stock of the changes we are undergoing, with a series of senior faculty retiring, and it recognizes the brilliance of the young faculty we have been able to bring to campus. I am lucky to be able to work with what I reckon to be among the most cooperative and accomplished colleagues on this campus, and I am looking forward to a year full of hard work, to be crowned with success. It's a great pleasure and privilege to invite you all, dear friends, to follow our progress.

**DAVID BLANK**

DEPARTMENT NEWS

Welcome to Assistant Professor Kelly Nguyen

Kelly Nguyen's research and teaching engage classical studies in a comparative manner to explore histories of empires, forced displacement, and race and ethnicity in a global context. She received her Ph.D. in Ancient History from Brown University and her B.A. in Classics and Archaeology from Stanford University. She was a University of California Presidential Postdoctoral Fellow in the Department of Rhetoric at UC–Berkeley, and most recently, she was an inaugural IDEAL Provostial Postdoctoral Fellow for studies in race and ethnicity at Stanford University. Her current book manuscript is the first major project to explore how Vietnamese intellectuals—both national and diasporic, from the French colonization era to contemporary times—have engaged with the Greco-Roman classical tradition in their fight for liberation. She is also working on an exciting new community-engaged project that aims to build a transhistorical and trans-spatial digital archive of refugee art and artifacts

(from antiquity to today). The initial phase of this project was in collaboration with the Việt Museum in San Jose and she was funded by Stanford's Center for Spatial and Textual Analysis (CESTA). At UCLA, she will continue to build out this project by collaborating with refugee communities in Los Angeles, as well as throughout Southern California more generally.

Professor Kelly Nguyen joins the UCLA Classics Department as a member of the inaugural cohort of the UCLA Mellon Data / Social Justice Curriculum Initiative, and will split her teaching between Classics and the new Social Justice curriculum.

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Professor Greg Woolf, UCLA Ronald Mellor Chair in History, receives joint appointment in Classics

Professor Greg Woolf joined the UCLA History Department in 2021 as the Ronald Mellor Chair in Ancient History. As soon as he arrived, Professor Woolf became a friendly and engaged interlocutor with Classics, offering seminars in Ancient History that our graduate students attended and participating in many of our lectures and events. This year we were delighted to officially welcome him to our department with a joint appointment in Classics.



DEPARTMENT NEWS

Professor Bryant Kirkland is promoted to Associate Professor of Classics, with tenure



As of July 1 of this year, Dr. Bryant Kirkland has been promoted to Associate Professor with tenure at UCLA. Professor Kirkland has a habit of not reading email on Saturdays, so when Professor and then-chair Alex Purves called him on a Saturday morning in April to tell him he should consider briefly breaking his email rule, he knew something important must be going on. Indeed, the tenure announcement was definitely the best Saturday email he has received in years!

Professor Kirkland came to UCLA in 2017 by way of Kenyon College in Ohio, where he taught for a year as Visiting Assistant Professor. Before that he completed his doctoral work at Yale under the supervision of Emily Greenwood, writing a dissertation on the reception of Herodotus in Imperial Greek literature. That dissertation became the basis for Prof. Kirkland's first book, *Herodotus and Imperial Greek Literature: Criticism, Imitation, Reception*, published in 2022 by Oxford University Press. He was honored to have the book long-listed for the Anglo-Hellenic League's Runciman Award for best new book on Greece or Greek culture, and he was equally delighted that the book received a [glowing review](#) in the *Times Literary Supplement*. Prof. Kirkland has published several peer-reviewed articles on Greek literature of the Roman Empire, including an essay in *TAPA* (2018) on one of the ancient biographies of Homer and, most recently, an article in *The Journal of Hellenic Studies* (2023) on Plutarch's ideas of sympotic friendship. He has three book-chapters forthcoming on the philosophically-inclined orator Dio Chrysostom, treating topics as diverse as the meaning of landscape imagery in Dio, the role of philosophical ideas in Dio's urban orations, and the concept of anxiety in Dio's corpus. Atop his research agenda, Professor Kirkland puts a great deal of energy into the classroom, where he teaches both Ancient Greek literature and its post-classical reception, most recently represented in his newly-debuted course "Black Classicism" (see p. 28).

Professor Francesca Martelli is promoted to Full Professor

Congratulations to Professor Francesca Martelli who has just been promoted to the rank of Full Professor at UCLA. Professor Martelli joined the Department as an Assistant Professor in 2013 and is the author of *Ovid's Revisions: The Editor as Author* (CUP 2013), *Ovid* (Brill 2020), and the forthcoming *Souvenirs of Cicero: Shaping Memory in the Epistulae ad Familiares* (OUP). She is also most recently the editor of *Ovid and the Environmental Imagination* (with Giulia Sissa, see p. 14, below). Congratulations, Professor Martelli!

Professor Sander Goldberg receives the 2022-23 Edward A. Dickson Emeritus Award

The Department of Classics is delighted to announce that Professor Sander Goldberg, Distinguished Research Professor in the Department of Classics, has been honored with the Edward A. Dickson Emeritus Award in recognition of his "extraordinary research, scholarly work, teaching and educational service since retirement." Please follow [this link](#) to read Professor Goldberg's full citation.

Welcome, Lola Borst!

Zach and Anneke Borst are happy to announce the newest (and littlest) member of the UCLA Department of Classics: Lola Borst!

Lola was born in February and loves to roll over and spend time with her mommy and daddy. Her research interests include Sappho and bright objects. The Borsts would also like to thank Prof. DaVia for filling in for Dr. Borst during the Winter Quarter!



DEPARTMENT NEWS

Professor Brent Vine writes from Japan on his recent retirement

We were very sad to bid farewell to Professor Brent Vine this June, who retired as Chair and Professor in the Program in Indo-European Studies and longtime professor in the Department of Classics. We celebrated Brent's retirement with a party at the Faculty Club in May, with reminiscences, toasts, and even some roasts from colleagues and students, with many former students returning to express their heartfelt thanks to Brent, who stands out as a teacher and colleague for his erudition, kindness, and generosity. He will be sorely missed. Brent writes the following from Japan:

It is no easy task to distill into a paragraph my thoughts upon retiring (as of July 1, 2023) after nearly 30 years of full-time teaching and service at UCLA, following a decade teaching elsewhere. I look back on the generosity of colleagues and the skilled support by staff members, and above all on the pleasure and stimulation afforded by teaching and working with so many talented students, both graduate and undergraduate. No surprise, then, that I was not in fact able to make a clean break! I look forward to teaching part-time for a few years, and to continued mentoring of student research. It has been a special pleasure to serve as a kind of bridge between two world-class academic units at UCLA, i.e. the Department of Classics and the Program in Indo-European Studies, both of which provided me with rich environments in which to teach and conduct research. In retirement, research will continue: strangely, some projects on the workbench seem somehow to be progressing more efficiently than before. (Could this be due to the sudden disappearance of administrative chores? Just a guess.) But, needless to say, retirement will definitely not be all work and no play. Having had the opportunity, starting some years ago, to take up a series of visiting professorships in the Department of Linguistics at Kyoto University, Japan has become a home away from home. I look forward to spending significant amounts of time in that beautiful country, where the culture (to my great delight) is obsessed with good food (to the point where it's virtually impossible to find a bad meal), and where the level of politeness and courtesy – encoded as it is even in the grammar of Japanese – gives one the impression of having traveled back in time to a saner and altogether more pleasant world.



— B. Vine (7/28/23)

DEPARTMENT NEWS

Professor Sarah Beckmann reports on her year as a 2022-23 Rome Prize Fellow



Sarah with Sally and Julian and a votive statue of a mother with 12 swaddled babies at the Museo Campana in Capua

Greetings from Rome! It is late July and the heat wave in southern Europe has finally lifted. Just as Rome begins to feel habitable once again, I come to the end of my year as the 2022-23 Andrew Heiskell fellow in ancient studies at the American Academy in Rome. I applied for this fellowship to help me reconceptualize my book project, a material forward history of the late Roman villa in the western provinces. Indeed, this past year gave me much needed time to restructure the monograph – it now includes discussion of not only the elite owners of these structures, but also and perhaps more importantly, the subaltern populations responsible for the care and maintenance of these sites. At the AAR I explored ways that a bottom-up approach to villas builds space for synthetic discussion of the varied experiences of the full social spectrum of actors at Roman villas, from elite senators to enslaved laborers. I am grateful for the chance

to present early work in this vein at several institutions in Rome, and for the chance to visit villas throughout the Italian Peninsula, many of which are proving themselves as worthy comparanda for my own temporally and geographically distant late Roman villas. While I certainly embraced the break from teaching that 2022-23 granted me, I did spend time thinking through ways that we as classicists might better connect modern audiences with the ancient world. Without a classroom of my own, however, I was free to explore these questions in different venues, e.g. over dinner conversations and on “walk and talks,” or thematic tours of various aspects of the Roman city. I led several for the AAR, and one in particular merits more detailed description – a collaborative tour on ancient Roman funerary traditions led by myself and another fellow, Jasmine Hearn, who is a dancer, choreographer, doula, artist, and archivist (<https://www.jasminehearn.com/>). Our tour of the Tomb of the Scipios and the Columbarium of Pomponius Hylas aimed to connect participants with Roman antiquity using both mind and body. I played to my strengths, using history and archaeology to illuminate Roman attitudes towards death; Jasmine complemented this work with something new, as far as site visits are concerned: a series of embodiment scores designed to help participants reflect on how we as humans retain memories, on different ways we grieve,

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Sarah and Jasmine Hearn leading a tour of the Tomb of the Scipios, June 6, 2023. Photo: Giulia Barra

and on the myriad ways our bodies and our collective experiences bridge the past and the present. I hope to work with Jasmine again soon and employ embodied research methods in the next iteration of, e.g., CL 51b (Art and Archaeology of Ancient Rome). To close, let me share perhaps the greatest joy of the Rome Prize, which has been working alongside a larger community of scholars and artists. I have many happy memories of quotidian interactions with my fellow fellows, residents, and long-time staff: morning coffee chit-chats; conversations over meals about work and especially the food itself (special thanks to Rome Sustainable Food Project); stimulating discussions after other fellows' talks (which often spilled over into lunchtime); and celebratory gatherings of every kind with fellows and their families. I will be forever grateful for the friendships that arose in the course of this past year, and for the support of a generous and inspiring group.

A presto! xx, Sarah

For more details on Prof. Beckmann's year in Rome, click [here](#).



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DEPARTMENT NEWS

Professor John Papadopoulos, Director of the Athenian Agora Excavations, reports on 2023 season



John Papadopoulos, Director of the Athenian Agora Excavations, on the upper floor of the Stoa of Attalos.

Excavations in the Athenian Agora were conducted June 12 to August 4, 2023 (Figure 1). This season marked the first excavation of the area beneath a modern building that was demolished in November 2022. The resulting area, some 300m², was divided into three trenches that were laid out on the basis of the geophysical survey conducted by Dr. Brian Damiata (UCLA). The digging was supervised by Debby Sneed (UCLA PhD, now assistant professor of Classics at California State University, Long Beach). All the soil was dry sieved and samples were taken for flotation to

retrieve both organic (flora and fauna) and inorganic material, and samples were taken for phytolith and other analyses. The study of the plant seeds and animal bone was spearheaded by two UCLA PhDs, John (Mac) Marston (Boston University) and Adam DiBattista (American School of Classical Studies). An international team of some 30 graduate and undergraduate students (Fig. 2), aided by Greek workmen, excavated for eight weeks, and there was a large team of specialists working on all the material retrieved. Most of the season was devoted to clearing modern fill immediately below the demolished building, and related Ottoman period material, but there were interesting deposits, including a series of constructed pits, the function

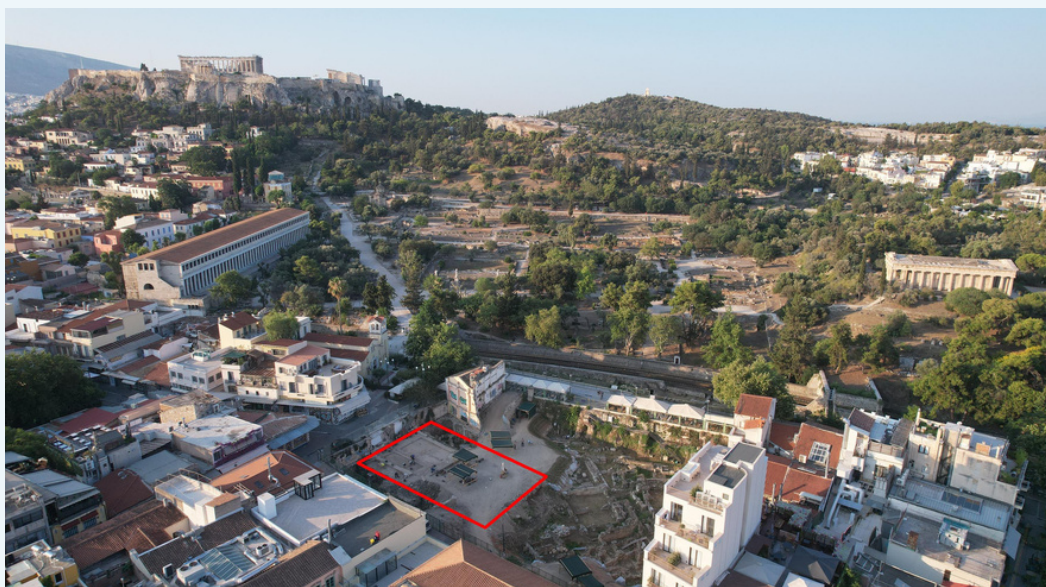


Fig. 1. Aerial photograph of central Athens, showing the Acropolis, the Agora of Athens, including the Stoa of Attalos (left) and the Temple of Hephaistos (right), with the area of the current excavations outlined in red. Photo Gerasimos Trasanis.

DEPARTMENT NEWS

of which will be determined in future seasons when they are fully excavated, and ample evidence of quantities of Murex shells, indicating the possible production of purple dye in the 19th and earlier 20th centuries. By the end of the season, we encountered the upper levels of deposits of the Middle Byzantine period (12th century AD), which will be further explored in 2024. This entire area is immediately above the central portion of the celebrated Stoa Poikile or Painted Stoa, built immediately after the Battle of Salamis in 480 BC, a small portion of which was exposed in earlier campaigns. The entire area is a rich palimpsest of continuous human occupation and use from the Middle Helladic period (ca. 2200-1600 BC), through the Bronze and Iron Ages, into the Archaic, Classical, Hellenistic, and Roman periods, and on to Late Antiquity and the Byzantine and Modern periods. During the first week of excavations we also conducted a LiDAR model of the Hephaisteion, the best-preserved temple in Greece, led by Dr. Robert Kayen (US Geological Survey and UC Berkeley). As in the past, the excavations were supported primarily by the Packard Humanities Institute, with additional support from UCLA and several private donors.

John K. Papadopoulos



Fig. 2. The Athenian Agora team in 2023 inside the Hephaisteion. Photo Debby Sneed.

DEPARTMENT NEWS: FELLOWSHIPS

Congratulations to the following faculty who have received fellowships for the coming year

Ella Haselswerdt is a recipient of a 2023-24 residential fellowship at The Patrick & Joan Leigh Fermor House in Kardamyli, Messenia, Greece. Provided by the [UCLA Stavros Niarchos Foundation Center for the Study of Hellenic Culture](#) in collaboration with the Benaki Museum, these fellowships allow scholars to devote the majority of their time to research and writing during one academic term. During her residency this Winter Quarter, Professor Haselswerdt will focus on a short, experimental monograph called *Deep Lez Philology*, which attempts to bridge the gap between academic and popular conceptions of Sappho.

Drawing from her own philologically-attuned readings of the Sapphic corpus alongside its literary and artistic reception, both ancient and modern, this project seeks new, non-positivist ways to construct the poet and her poetry as open sites of contemporary queer identification, while simultaneously offering a provocation to philology itself.



The Patrick & Joan Leigh Fermor House, Greece

Kathryn Morgan was recently honored by the award of a fellowship for the Fall Term 2023 at the Institute for Advanced Study in Princeton, New Jersey. Professor Morgan will be hosted in the School of Historical Studies and will be conducting research for her current book project, *Plato, Thucydides, and the Uses of History*, which focuses on the reception of Thucydides by the philosopher Plato. The starting point of her new project is that Plato found in Thucydides' *History of the Peloponnesian War* a powerful model of inductive world-building that challenged his own analysis of ethics and politics, and that this challenge was taken up in a number of Platonic dialogues. She hopes that the book that will emerge will engage classicists and ancient historians, but more broadly, all who investigate the cultural uses of the past, and she will present part of her research in a public lecture (her inaugural Joan Palevsky Chair lecture) in Royce Hall at UCLA on October 16, 2023.



Detail from a Roman mosaic in the 'House of the Dancing Faun', Pompeii. c. 100 BCE, Naples National Archaeological Museum.

Alex Purves has received a John Simon Guggenheim Memorial Foundation Fellowship and a Loeb Classical Library Foundation Fellowship for her project "Blue Homer: Reading the Sea in and beyond the *Odyssey*." In this book, she intends to argue that seawater, as an elemental medium, draws together micro and macro ecologies, science and the imaginary, and abstract as well as fully immersive forms of knowledge. Her project takes its shape from the seas of the *Iliad* and *Odyssey* but also extends to the Irish Sea of Joyce's *Ulysses* and the Caribbean Sea of Walcott's *Omeros*, both of which reframe questions posed in the first half of the book about the relationship between epic poetry and its aquatic environment.

DEPARTMENT NEWS: FELLOWSHIPS

Lydia Spielberg has received a Loeb Classical Library Fellowship for 2023–24, which she will spend finishing a monograph on the representation of “what was actually said” in Roman historical writing. Unlike modern historians, ancient historians did not take documentary evidence as a starting point for research, and when they do introduce it, it is usually in the service of some specific argumentative end. We can understand the rhetorical and narrative functions of documentary quotation in writers such as Sallust, Livy, Tacitus, and Ammianus Marcellinus by comparing what they do to other scenarios in the Roman world where the authenticity of quoted or cited speech mattered, such as witness testimony or letters of recommendation and appointment. Even when we may doubt the actual authenticity of documents or speech that ancient historians claim are real, we can learn a lot from the claim itself about how and why “authenticity” mattered to them and their readers.

DEPARTMENT BOOKSHELF

PUBLICATIONS (JAN 2022–AUGUST 2023) FROM UCLA CLASSICS FACULTY, GRADUATE STUDENTS, AND RECENT PHDS

Sarah Beckmann, "Portraits and Identity: 'Roman' and 'Elite' in the Late Antique Villas of Aquitania," *Art Bulletin* 104.1 (2022): 21–47.

—, "The Naked Reader: Child Enslavement in the Villa of the Mysteries Fresco," *American Journal of Archaeology* 127.1 (2023): 55–83.

Hannah Čulík-Baird, "Erasing the Aethiopian in Cicero's *Post Reditum in Senatu*," *Ramus* 51.2 (2023): 182–202.

Sander M. Goldberg, *Terence, Andria. Text and Commentary*, Cambridge 2022.

David Goldstein, "Correlated grammaticalization: The rise of articles in Indo-European," *Diachronica* 39 (2022): 658–706.

—, "The Old Irish article," *Journal of Celtic Linguistics* 23 (2022): 1–34.

—, "There's no escaping phylogenetics" in L. Grestenberger, C. Reiss, H. A. Fellner, and G. Z. Pantillon, eds., *Ha! Linguistic studies in honor of Mark R. Hale* (Wiesbaden 2022): 71–91.

—, Stephanie Jamison and **Brent Vine**, eds., *Proceedings of the Thirty-Second Annual UCLA Indo-European Conference*, Hamburg 2022.

Irene Han, *Plato and the Metaphysical Feminine: One Hundred and One Nights*, Oxford 2023.

Ella Haselswerdt, "Mythic Landscapes and Ecologies of Suffering in Sophocles' *Philoctetes*," *Classical Antiquity* 42.1 (2023): 87–120.

N. Bryant Kirkland, *Herodotus and Imperial Greek Literature: Criticism, Imitation, Reception*, Oxford 2022.

—, Review of T. Harrison and J. Skinner (eds.) *Herodotus in the Long Nineteenth Century* (Cambridge 2020): *Journal of Hellenic Studies* 142 (2022): 464–65.

—, Review of J. König and N. Wiater (eds.) *Late Hellenistic Greek Literature in Dialogue* (Cambridge 2022): *Classical Review* (2023).

—, "'The Friend-Making Table': Variety and the Definition of Friendship in Plutarch's *Table Talk*," *Journal of Hellenic Studies* 143 (2023).

DEPARTMENT NEWS: DEPARTMENT BOOKSHELF

Francesca Martelli and **Giulia Sissa**, eds., *Ovid's Metamorphoses and the Environmental Imagination*, Bloomsbury 2023.

Andres Matlock, "Feral Futures, or The Animal That Therefore I Am Not (Less to Follow)" in S. Gurd and M. Telò, eds., *The Before and the After: Archê and Avenir in a Time of Crisis* (Santa Barbara 2022).

—, "Shadow and Stone: Niobe in Stoicism and Platonism" in M. Telò and A. Benjamin, eds., *Niobes: Antiquity/Modernity/Critical Theory* (Corvallis 2022).

Sarah P. Morris, "Close Encounters of the Lasting Kind: Greeks, Phoenicians and Others in the Iron Age Mediterranean," in J. M. Hall and J. F. Osborne, eds., *The Connected Iron Age: Interregional Networks in the Eastern Mediterranean, 900-600 BCE* (Chicago 2022): 98-123.

—, and **John K. Papadopoulos**, eds., *Ancient Methone, 2003–2013: Excavations by Matthaïos Bessios, Athena Athanassiadou, and Konstantinos Noulas*, Cotsen Institute of Archaeology, UCLA, Los Angeles 2023.

Kelly Nguyen, Review of J. Bromberg, *Global Classics* (New York 2021), *BMCR* 2022.02.40.

—, "What's in a Natio: Negotiating Ethnic Identity in the Roman Empire" in L. Roig Lanzillotta, J. Brandão, C. Teixeira, Á. Rodrigues, eds., *Roman Identity: Between Ideal and Performance* (Turnhout 2022): 371–394.

John K. Papadopoulos, "Canon Creation/Destruction and Cultural Formation: Authority, Reception, Canonicity, Marginality" in M. J. Versluys and D. Agut-Labordère, eds., *Mémoire volontaire: Textual Canonisation and Cultural Formation in the First Millennium BC* (Leiden 2022): 3–33.

—, "Greeks, Phoenicians, Phrygians, Trojans, and Other Creatures in the Aegean: Connections, Interactions, Misconceptions" in J. R. Hall and J. Osborne, eds., *The Connected Iron Age: Interregional Networks in the Eastern Mediterranean, 900-600 BCE* (Chicago 2022): 142–168.

Emma Pauly, Review of Massimiliano Morini, *Theatre Translation: Theory and Practice* (London 2022), *The Mercurian*, Fall 2022.

Alex Press, "Broken Horses and Broken Heroes: the Last Word of the *Iliad*," *CW* 115 (2022): 213–37.

Ben Radcliffe, "Children of Heracles: Queer Kinship: Profit, Vivisection, Kitsch" in S. Olsen and M. Telò, *Queer Euripides: Re-Readings in Greek Tragedy* (Bloomsbury 2022), 76–85.

John Tennant, "'If the Wolf Sees You First, You Lose Your Voice': Proverbs and the Agōn over Definitions of Justice in Book 1 of Plato's Republic," *TAPA* 152.1 (2022): 103–36.

Brent Vine, "Myc. tu-wo, Hom. θύοϝ and the vocalism of s-stems in Proto-Indo-European," *Acta Linguistica Petropolitana* 18.1 (2022): 444–62.

—, "Latin edepol 'by Pollux!': Background of a Latin adverbium iurativum" in J. N. Adams, A. Chahoud and G. Pezzini, eds., *Early Latin: Constructs, Diversity, Reception* (Cambridge 2023): 206–20.

Celsiana Warwick, "Chthonic Disruption in Lycophron's *Alexandra*," *Classical Quarterly* 72.2 (2022): 541–57.

Greg Woolf, "The Roman Mediterranean as a Fluid System" in A. Usacheva and E. Mataix Ferrándiz, eds., *Mediterranean Flows: People, Ideas and Objects in Motion* (Leiden 2023): 1–16.

—, "Ritual Mediation on the Middle Ground: Rome and New Spain Compared" in D. Wright-Carr and F. Marco Simon, eds., *From Ancient Rome to Colonial Mexico: Religious Globalization in the Context of Empire* (Boulder 2023): 48–72.

— and Hannah Cornwell, eds., *Gendering Roman Imperialism*, Leiden 2023.

—, "An Evolutionary Success Story: The Ascent of the Urban Ape," *Metode Science Studies Journal* 13 (2023): 69–75.

—, "Religion and Identity on a Microcontinent" in A. G. Sinner and V. Revilla Calvo, eds., *Religious Dynamics in a Microcontinent: Cult Places, Identities, and Cultural Change in Hispania* (Turnhout 2022): 117–124.

DEPARTMENT NEWS: FACULTY BOOKS

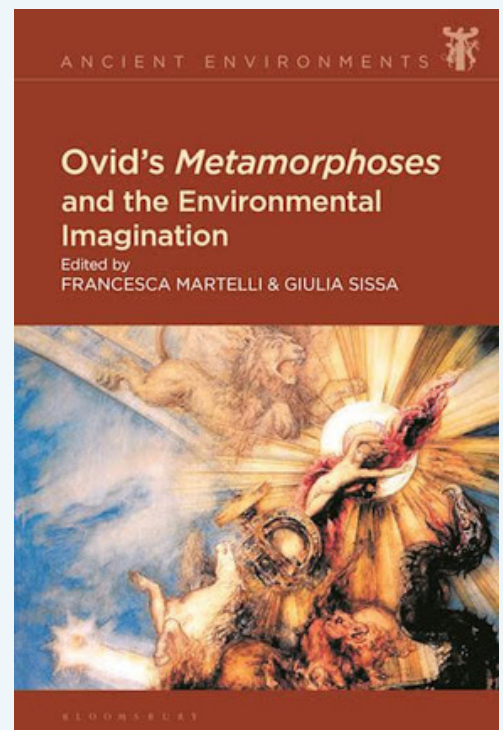
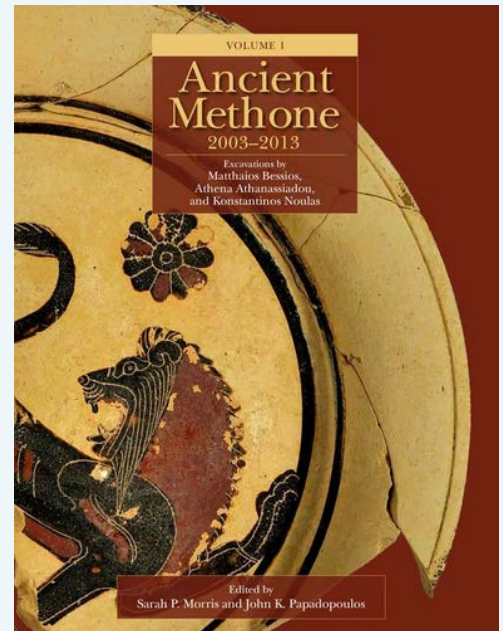
Congratulations to Sarah Morris and John Papadopoulos on the publication of *Ancient Methone, 2003-2013: Excavations by Matthaïos Bessios, Athena Athanassiadou, and Konstantinos Noulas* (Los Angeles, 2023)

Sarah Morris and John Papadopoulos are pleased to announce the appearance of two volumes presenting the results of a ten-year collaboration with Greek colleagues to bring to light discoveries made at Ancient Methone from 2003 to 2013. The site of Methone in Pieria was inhabited from the Late Neolithic period until its destruction by Philip II of Macedon in 354 BC, a long history that included colonization by Eretria in the late eighth century BC and close affiliation with Athens, which valued its access to timber for ships. The two volumes cover historical sources and inscribed materials as well as prehistoric domestic and burial remains, Iron Age settlement, and Archaic through Classical workshops and products in clay, glass, metal, bone and ivory, through the siege by Philip II.

There will be a book launch event (author spotlight) on Sunday October 8, 2023. Details to follow on our department website.

Congratulations to Francesca Martelli and Giulia Sissa on the publication of *Ovid's Metamorphoses and the Environmental Imagination* (Bloomsbury 2023)

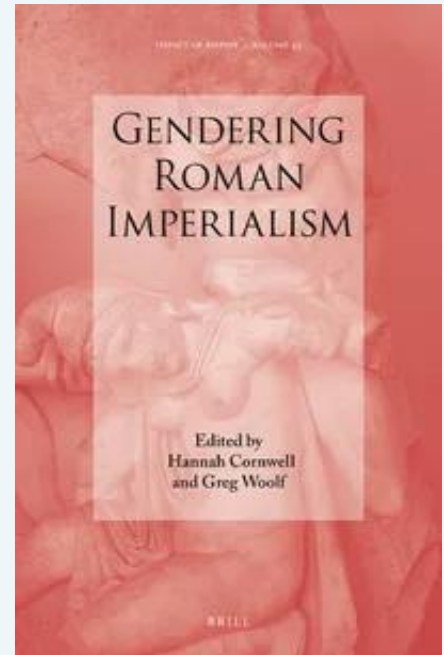
Drawing on a range of modern environmental theorists and approaches, the contributors to this volume trace how the *Metamorphoses* models the relationship between humans and other life forms in ways that resonate with the preoccupations of contemporary eco-criticism. They make the case for seeing the worldview depicted in Ovid's poem as an exemplar of the 'premodern' ecological mindset that contemporary environmental thought seeks to approximate. They also highlight critical moments in the history of the poem's ecological reception, including reflections by a contemporary poet, as well as studies of Medieval and Renaissance responses to Ovid.



DEPARTMENT NEWS: FACULTY BOOKS

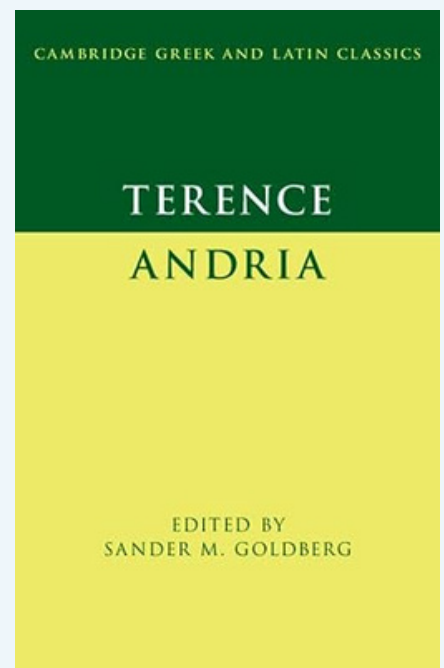
Congratulations to Greg Woolf on the publication of *Gendering Roman Imperialism*, with Hannah Cornwell (Leiden 2023)

Gendering Roman Imperialism emerged from a workshop run by Hannah Cornwell (now at the University of Birmingham) and Greg Woolf when both were at the Institute of Classical Studies in London. The aim was to revisit the vast literature on Roman Imperialism from the perspective of gender relations and women's studies. The contributors to the volume are an international group and include both leading figures like Rebecca Flemming, Emily Hemelrijk, Alison Keith and Ida Östenberg, and others who were (at the time) early-career researchers. Together they illustrated how much more can and should be said about Roman expansion beyond political decision-making and military tactics.



Congratulations to Sander Goldberg on the publication of *Terence, Andria. Text and Commentary* (Cambridge 2022)

Terence's *Andria* was the first Roman comedy produced after antiquity (at Florence in 1476) and the first translated into English, and it has inspired writers from Jonson and Dryden to Thornton Wilder. This new commentary addresses both the linguistic and technical problems confronting readers of Roman comedy and matters of dramaturgy and performance, while remaining alive to the interpretive challenges posed by Terence's experiments with a secondary plot line and his play's ambivalence in representing the perspectives of women and slaves. A recent review can be found [here](#).



DEPARTMENT NEWS

Faculty Reading Recommendations

Sarah Morris - While on spring sabbatical and preparing the Townsend Lectures for delivery at Cornell University next April (working title: "Out of Anatolia: the Trojan War from Hatti to Hissarlik"), I enjoyed diving into Daniel Mendelsohn's *Three Rings: A Tale of Exile, Narrative, and Fate* (2020, based on his 2019 Page-Barbour lectures at the University of Virginia).

Bryant Kirkland - Two books from the past year with classical connections include the bizarre (and now out-of-print) novel *Frenzy*, by Percival Everett, which retells Euripides' *Bacchae* through the point-of-view of Dionysus's 'assistant' named Vlepo. The fact that I cannot breezily recommend the book may indicate something of its achievement: how it renders anew the strangeness and horrific ecstasy of being under the god's spell. The other (somewhat) classically-connected book to mention is Iris Murdoch's *The Sea, The Sea* (1978), whose Xenophontic title calls up the narrator's quest for a kind of home at the end of his life. Murdoch's life as a Platonist philosopher ensures that nearly all of her novels have classical lineaments, but the world of her books (love it or loathe it) is *sui generis*: enchanted, rife with absurd coincidence, whimsical—yet, when it comes to questions of love and meaning, somehow laughably serious.

Kelly Nguyen - I recommend Ocean Vuong's latest poetry collection, *Time is a Mother* (Penguin, 2022). Written in the wake of his mother's death, Vuong meditates on life and death, and even more poignantly, the space in between them. Like his previous poetry collection, *Night Sky With Exit Wounds* (Copper Canyon Press, 2016), this one is also a powerful example of classical reception as he draws both overtly and subtly on Greek epic and Latin elegy to center the embodied experiences of those who have been historically marginalized.



UCLA alumna Mayra Villegas working on the Thomas J. Price exhibition at Hauser & Wirth Gallery, LA. See more on Mayra's work since graduation in our Alumni Spotlight section, p. 26



Professor Amy Richlin delivering her second lecture of the Jerome series at the Villa Lante (Finnish Academy): "Billy Johnson of Eton: Classics, the Closet, and the Schools."

UNDEGRADUATE NEWS

Congratulations, Class of 2023!

Under beaming sunny skies that broke through weeks of June Gloom, the Department of Classics celebrated its wonderful Class of 2023 on Saturday, June 17. Family and friends gathered from across the country to laud our illustrious Majors and Minors. Professor David Blank offered remarks as incoming Department Chair, while Professor Bryant Kirkland read individualized citations that the department had collectively written to honor each graduating student. Finally, Professor Lydia Spielberg read citations for each of our graduating Post-Baccalaureate students. The Department's ceremony, held outdoors under the Coral Tree Walk, came the day after UCLA's "big" Commencement Ceremony (one of three that day!) held in Pauley Pavilion, where Prof. Kirkland was a member of the official party for the mid-day ceremony (spot him seated behind this year's Commencement speaker, the actor Randall Park). Finally, Professors Blank and Kirkland represented the Department as Chair and Reader, respectively, at the official Humanities II degree conferral ceremony.

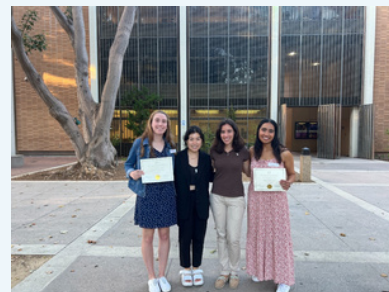
We are so proud of everything our majors and minors have achieved and look forward to the bright futures ahead of them. We have valued your presence in our department and will miss you. Please keep in touch!



UNDERGRADUATE NEWS: AWARDS AND PRIZES

The Helen Caldwell Awards in Elementary Ancient Greek and Latin

Congratulations to the winners of our Helen Caldwell Prizes for outstanding performance in Elementary Ancient Greek and Latin, awards bestowed in Fall 2022. Pictured at left are **Lilly Morrison-Jaime**, receiving the Helen Caldwell Prize for Elementary Ancient Greek from Professor Richard Ellis, and, pictured at right, **Kaitlyn Coons** and **Khushi Bhatt** (L-R), joint winners of the Helen Caldwell Prize in Elementary Latin, receiving their awards from TAs Jasmine Akiyama-Kim, Valentina Lunardi (above, L-R), and Ben Davis (below).



The prize winners for the Caldwell Awards in Greek & Latin for this past academic year will be celebrated at our Department reception this coming Fall.

The Helen Caldwell Award for Outstanding Major

The Department of Classics is proud to award the Helen Caldwell Award for Outstanding Major to two students this year: **Gideon Burnes Heath** (major: Greek and Latin) and **Zheng ("Patrick") Wangyuan** (Major: Greek and Latin; Minor: Comp Lit). Gideon was a wonderful student in all his classes, who made reading even the most difficult Greek and Latin look easy. He radiated warmth and a relaxed atmosphere in class. Professor Purves observed that his paper for her *Odyssey* course carefully showed how the similes in *Odyssey* 5 worked as a thread to connect and resolve the emotional impact of Odysseus' journey home. Patrick stood out as an excellent student in all of his classes throughout his time as a Greek and Latin major at UCLA. In "Ancient Historiography: Theory and Practice" Prof. Kirkland noted that he always stayed after to ask penetrating questions—not about exams or grades, but about Thucydides' historical method, Polybius's political allegiances, and any number of other issues.

The Helen Caldwell Award for Outstanding Minor

The Department of Classics is proud to award the Helen Caldwell Award for Outstanding Minor to two students this year: **Alexia Andrikopoulos** (major: Biochemistry; minor: Greek Language and Culture) and **Catherine Liliana Jones** (major: History; minor: Classical Civilization). Alexia's final project in CL 162 (W23), a short story adaptation of Antigone to the Greco-Turkish War of 1921-22, stood out for the attention to historical, spatial, and linguistic detail. She has been a stellar student, with consistently superb performance in all of her Classics courses at UCLA. Catherine wrote an excellent Honors Contract paper for CL 10 ("Discovering the Greeks"), in which she delved into the images of motherhood in Euripides' *Bacchae* to reveal the complexities of the concept of "nature" in the play. She has been a delight to teach and has produced outstanding work throughout her time as a minor in our department.

The Joan Palevsky Award For Extraordinary Achievement

The Joan Palevsky Award for Extraordinary Achievement is awarded on an occasional basis to a student who exhibits just that: extraordinary achievement in the Department of Classics. We were delighted this year to honor, from the Class of 2023, **Caroline Elizabeth Lunt**, who has graced the Department with her lively and inquisitive mind; her trenchant contributions to various courses; and her infectious enthusiasm for all things classical, both in the classroom and in departmental clubs and events. We wish her all the best as she begins her MA program in Classics at the University of Kansas!

UNDERGRADUATE NEWS: AWARDS AND RESEARCH

The Gus and Judie Christopoulos Award in Modern Greek

Congratulations to **George Kefalas**, recipient of the Gus and Judie Christopoulos Award in Modern Greek. The Award recognizes and honors exceptional performance in modern Greek language courses by an undergraduate student. George, who is planning to major in physiological science in preparation for medical school, distinguished himself for his aptitude in all facets of language learning (in various settings: from daily classroom meetings to long-term projects) and for his enthusiastic engagement with Hellenic culture in general.

UCLA Undergraduate Research Week

This Spring, Greek, Latin and Classical Civilization major Caroline Lunt presented the results of her honors thesis, supervised by Prof. Sarah Morris, at Undergraduate Research Week. Congratulations Caroline on a superbly researched and stimulating thesis!

"I had the privilege of delivering my honors thesis, *A Cult of Their Own? Space and Identity in Literary Descriptions of Nymph Worship*, during UCLA's Undergraduate Research Week (UCW), the



university's largest undergraduate conference. After two long quarters of research and writing, including a very special trip to the Getty Ranch House, I was eager to present my project and share my newly developed passion for the nymphs. At first, I was hesitant to apply to URW, being as large and competitive as it is. I had spent so much time staring at every little detail of my thesis, the commas were starting to get to my head – but after a bit of encouragement from my advisor Dr. Morris, I applied, and was overjoyed at the acceptance! Condensing over 40 pages of writing, figures, and translations down into a 10 minute PowerPoint presentation was surprisingly difficult, and at first I thought there was no way I could get things below 13 minutes without major sacrifices. Thankfully, I was able to go in and cut out just about that much from my stuttering alone!

My talk offered listeners a deep dive into a surprisingly understudied group of deities in Ancient Greek religion, the nymphs. I approached the questions of nymphs and their cults from both art historical and literary perspectives, spanning from the Early Archaic period to the Hellenistic. After a brief synopsis of nymphs' religious iconography in Vases and Votives, I transitioned to the larger body of my paper, which closely examined instances of nymph cult in Homer's *Odyssey*, Menander's *Dyskolos*, and Theocritus' *Idylls*. I concluded the talk with what I hope was a clearer image of the religious functions of nymph cults and their significance in Ancient Greek society. Most importantly, I brought attention to evidence which challenged the previously established notion that nymphs were not a part of the urban religious scene. To the contrary, I found that nymphs were venerated at all levels of Greek society as facilitators of *xenia*, marriage, and education, and not just as companions to other more 'major' gods, but whose good favor was called upon distinctly in order to ensure the development and maintenance of these important institutions of inter and intra socio-cultural connections."

— Caroline Lunt, Greek and Latin and Classical Civilization BA, Class of 2023.

UNDERGRADUATE NEWS: EVENTS



THE BLUES OF ACHILLES



Singer, songwriter, & musician Joe Goodkin performed for the Classical Society this Spring



Valentine's Day treats in Latin Prose Composition with Prof. Goldberg



GETTY VILLA

Prof. Adriana Vazquez at the Getty Villa with students from her Classics 20 class



ΗΣΦ

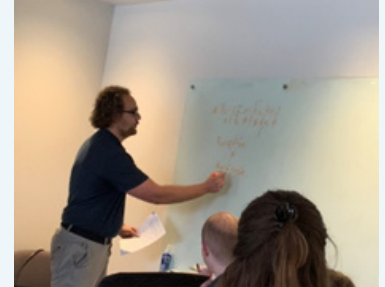
Eta Sigma Phi's newest initiates

GRADUATE NEWS

MA Paper Presentations

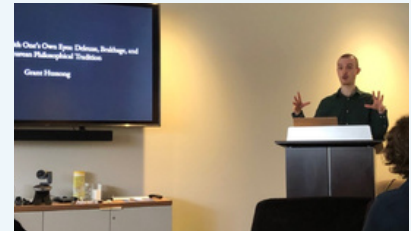
Congratulations to Grant Hussong and Tom Francis for presenting their MA papers this past Spring and receiving their MA degrees and progressing to the PhD!

Tom Francis, "Italic Funky Facts and Nitty Gritty: A Semantic Reappraisal of Umbrian *-nky- Perfects and Oscan -tt- Perfects." My MA Paper research focused on the historical background of two Italic perfect forms: the Umbrian *-nky- and Oscan -tt- perfect forms. Recent scholarship (see esp. Dupraz 2016, Willi 2010, Willi 2016) has been divided on their respective historical backgrounds. In my paper, I employed semantic analyses and a study of comparative data from Latin to provide a new analysis of the two forms. My research supported Willi's proposal for the historical background of Umbrian *-nky- perfects but suggested that the most recent proposals for Oscan -tt- perfects have some difficulties and that further research is still required for the Oscan data.



Tom Francis

Grant Hussong, "The Act of Seeing With One's Own Eyes: Deleuze, Brakhage, and the Epicurean Philosophical Tradition." My presentation examined the Epicurean atomic theory of perception alongside the works of the experimental filmmaker Stan Brakhage and Gilles Deleuze's writing on cinema. I utilized both the Epicureans and Brakhage because they foreground the materiality of perception (i.e. atomic eidōla, celluloid). Drawing on Deleuze's distinction between human and cinematic vision, I read Epicurean epistemology alongside Brakhage's *Dog Star Man* to argue that perception is not mimetic of an external, unified world by virtue of its material basis, nor is it faulty to the extent it isn't mimetic. Rather, these thinkers showcase how human perception is itself a generative act involving "cutting" and "editing."



Grant Hussong

Graduate Student Conference Presentations

Mary Anastasi, "Epistolarity and Monumentality in the Letters of Diogenes of Oenoanda," SCS (New Orleans).

---, "Time, Nostalgia, and Asynchronous Desire in the Letters of Fronto and Marcus Aurelius," USC Classics Graduate Colloquium on Fragments (Los Angeles).

Nicolette D'Angelo, "Queer failures of form in the Hippocratic case history of Phaethousa and Nanno," SCS (New Orleans).

---, "Do No Harm? Anti-Trans Receptions in Hippocratic Discourses," Princeton Workshop on Ancient Greco-Roman Medicine & Biology (Princeton).

Benjamin Davis, "Snuffing the Fire: Contextualizing the Temple of Vesta in the Late Antique Roman Forum," CAMWS (Provo, UT).

Zak Gram, "Papirius Fabianus: Philosopher or Declaimer?," Classical Association (Cambridge, England).

---, "Diogenes of Oenoanda's Criticism of Plato's Psychology," CAMWS (Provo, UT)

Collin Moat, "Stranger in the Doorway: the Significance of Thresholds in the Odyssey's Hospitality Scenes," Retirement Conference for Steve Reece at St. Olaf College (Northfield, MN).

---, "Observing Sensuous Death: Nymphs and their Trees in the Hymn to Aphrodite," Society for Ancient Mediterranean Religion: GODSCAPES: Ritual, Belief and the Natural World in the Ancient Mediterranean and Beyond (St. Andrews, UK).

GRADUATE NEWS

Rachel Morrison, "*ubique praesentem mihi: Long-Distance Amicitia and Physical Presence in the Letters of Paulinus of Nola*," SCS (New Orleans, LA).

Emma Pauly, "Gendering the Pantheon in Dungeons and Dragons' Mythic Odysseys of Theros," Antiquity in Media Studies Conference (online).

---, "The Roaring God and an Everything Bagel: Queer Rage and Rejection in Bacchae and Everything, Everywhere, All at Once", Tragedy Queered Conference (Reading, UK).

---, co-organizer of "What is Gender in Antiquity?: Applying Queer and Trans Methodologies to Classics: A Roundtable", CAMWS (Provo, UT).

---, Participant in the National Endowment for the Humanities Institute on the Performance of Roman Comedy (Chestnut Hill, MA).

Marco Saldana, "In or Out?: Political Blame in Alcaeus," CAMWS (Provo, UT).

For more details on the individual student papers, please click [here](#).



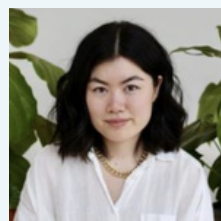
Nicolette D'Angelo, second from left, with fellow panelists



Rachel Morrison at the podium

Photo courtesy of @MetalClassicist on Twitter

Graduate Student Awards



Congratulations to **Jasmine Akiyama-Kim** (L), who has been awarded the **Classics Department Citation for Teaching Excellence 2023**. Jasmine has been an outstanding teacher for the department and an invaluable co-teacher of CL 495, our teaching practicum course. Jasmine has gained a wide range of teaching experience at UCLA, including Latin, Classical Mythology, Discovering the Greeks, Discovering the Romans, and Greek Art & Archaeology.

We are also delighted to announce that **Nicolette D'Angelo** has won the **Lambda Classical Caucus Best Graduate Student Paper award for 2022** with "What would Hippocrates do? Contagious classical reception in the time of COVID-19." Nicolette delivered this paper at the 2022 SCS Annual Meeting. She is pictured above delivering a second paper ("Queer failures of form in the Hippocratic case history of Phaethousa and Nanno." at this year's SCS.

GRADUATE NEWS

Collin Moat reports on his fellowship year at the American School of Classical Studies in Athens

It is hard to overestimate the value of studying archaeological evidence *in situ*, of witnessing the Greek landscape firsthand, of coming to terms with the physical realities of the sites and cities we so often read about in ancient texts and modern scholarship. These are just some of the experiences the Regular Member Program at the American School of Classical Studies at Athens (ASCSA) has afforded me over the past academic year. Alongside ten other graduate students from Classics, Art History, and Archaeology departments across the US, I was fortunate enough to study Greek history, from the Neolithic to the Modern period, in the very spaces where it took place.

As at UCLA, the year was divided into quarters. The Fall quarter was dedicated to multi-day trips which had us traveling to sites and museums in the regions of Thrace, Macedonia, Epirus, Aetolia, Acarnania, the Western and Central Peloponnese, Crete, Boeotia, Phocis, and Thessaly. These trips were led by experts on these regions, including Prof. Bonna Wescoat, the current director of the ASCSA, and Prof. Brendan Burke, the current Mellon Professor and leader of the Regular Year Program. With their guidance, we gained firsthand experience of the archaeological and ecological diversity of Greece, from the Temple of Apollo Epikourios at Bassae in the mountains of Arcadia to the Minoan palatial complex of Zakros on the coast of eastern Crete.

For the Winter quarter, we focused our attention on Athens and Attica. Amid the modern city, we followed the circuit of ancient walls hidden in parking garages and the basements of buildings, explored complex remains of the Classical Agora with the director of excavations Prof. John Papadopoulos, and witnessed firsthand the imagination and finesse of the craftspeople who have worked on the Acropolis from past to present. Our weekly day trips took us outside the city center to understand local history through some less-visited Attic sites, like the Classical border forts and towers and the 19th-century summer palace of the Greek Royal family at Tatoï. A final long trip took us to the rich landscapes of the Argolid and Corinthia, where we hiked Mycenaean roads and citadels to better understand the political and economic interconnectivity of the Late Bronze Age and learned the history and future directions of the ASCSA's ongoing excavation at Corinth.

The Spring quarter was reserved for pursuing our own research, making use of the school's rich libraries and archives, and attending academic lectures around Athens. We used this time to work on current projects, prospectuses, and dissertation chapters and to pursue new research questions which our travels had inspired. Some of us participated in the excavation sessions at Corinth, where ASCSA students receive training as trench supervisors and learn to identify and catalog finds. As one last hurrah for traveling, Prof. Burke led a short trip to the island of Samos, where we toured the Samian Heraion, famous for its immense temple and colossal *kouros* statues, and the Tunnel of Eupalinos, an over kilometer-long aqueduct cut straight through the heart of Mount Kastro.



GRADUATE NEWS

My year at the ASCSA was very fruitful for my own research, which focuses on how ancient Greek uses and thinking about trees and wood can offer insight into their relationships with and perceptions of the environment. It was especially impactful for me to visit Lefkandi and other sites with important archaeological evidence for Early Iron Age and Archaic cremation burials, as well as to examine in person some of the wooden objects from antiquity which rarely survive today. All in all, my time in the Regular Member Program has helped me grow significantly as a student and scholar, and I look forward to bringing back the benefits of my experience to the UCLA community in the fall. I owe many thanks to Profs. Alex Purves, Sarah Morris, John Papadopoulos, and Kathryn Morgan for their advice and unwavering support throughout the application process and the Regular Year. I would also like to thank the ASCSA for the Thomas Day Seymour

Fellowship, which funded my studies for the year and James and Carolyn Kolokotronis and the Stavros Niarchos Foundation Center for the Study of Hellenic Culture for their financial support which made my travel to Greece possible.



3 UCLA PhDs past and present on an ASCSA field trip to the Messolonghi Salt Museum: (L-R) Seymour Fellow Collin Moat, Hirsch Fellow Adam DiBattista (PhD, Arch.) & Mellon Prof Brendan Burke (PhD, Arch.).

Congratulations to the following graduate students who have won UCLA grants and fellowships for their research

Graduate Summer Research Mentorship Awards (2023)

Mary Anastasi, "Food for Thought: The Parasite as Intellectual in Imperial Greek Literature" (mentor: David Blank)

Nicolette D'Angelo, "Queer corporealities in Hippocratic case histories" (mentor: Ella Haselswerdt)

Jennifer MacPherson, "'Like an Egg': De-universalizing the Cosmic Egg Myth" (mentor: Giulia Sissa)

Emma Pauly, "A Glittering Assemblage: Diffuse Divine Embodiment in the Homeric Hymn to Aphrodite" (mentor: Alex Purves)

JuliAnne Rach, "Cicero's Historical Narratives" (mentor: Hannah Čulík-Baird)

Graduate Research Mentorship Award (2023-24)

Grant Hussong, "Disability in Herodotus: Individuation, Narrative, Medicine" (mentor: Bryant Kirkland)

Dissertation Year Fellowship (2023-24)

Jasmine Akiyama-Kim, "Nero v. False Neros: Imposture and Succession in Imperial Historiography" (dissertation supervisors: Francesca Martelli & Lydia Spielberg)

Welcome, Incoming PhD Students!

Welcome to our incoming 2023-2024 PhD cohort! This year we have the pleasure of three new graduate students joining our program in the Fall:

Elisa McAtee (most recently at UCLA and the University of Southern California)

Caleb Speakman (most recently at the University of Arizona)

Jiakai Zhang (most recently at the University of Chicago)

POSTBACCALAUREATE NEWS

Our postbaccalaureate program continues to attract students keen to expand their study of Classics, and in particular of Greek and Latin, after their undergraduate education. This year, five students successfully completed their certificate during 2022-2023, including three who applied to graduate programs and will be attending graduate schools next year with funding (**Valerie Liang** and **Irene Wu** will enroll at Notre Dame University to obtain their MA in Classics, and **Mohammed Rehan** will begin the PhD Program in Indo-European Studies at UCLA). In addition to our seven graduates, two others will continue Greek and Latin next year for their certificate, along with other languages (one bonus of our program is the opportunity to study modern and other ancient languages): last year, students enrolled in French, German, Sanskrit, and Coptic; next year, students look forward to offerings in Luwian, Middle Egyptian, Demotic and Vedic.

This fall, we expect 8-10 new students to enroll in our year-long program, with interests ranging in ancient history, linguistics, poetry and philosophy, including **our new Palevsky Scholar, Ashley Jordan**, who received degrees in Ancient History and Classics at Ohio State University.

Update on alumna Katie Tardio (Postbacc 2011-12)

Meanwhile, we continue to be proud of our alumni/ae in the postbaccalaureate hall of fame: Katie Tardio (Postbacc, 2011-2012) received her PhD in Classics from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, and begins a tenure-track appointment in the Department of Classics and Ancient Mediterranean Studies at Bucknell University. Congrats, Katie! Her dissertation, "Feeding Tarraco," was a study of zooarchaeological remains (animal bones) from a Roman villa in Spain.



Katie in front of the Classics dept at UNC Chapel Hill

Update on alumnus Henry Gruber (Postbacc 2013-15)

In a double Tarheel triumph and a kindred Iberian theme, Henry Gruber (another two-year postbacc veteran, 2013-2015) received his PhD in Medieval History at Harvard (thesis subtitle: "Archaeology, Violence and the End of Roman Spain") and has been appointed Assistant Professor of History at UNC, Chapel Hill.

Update on alumna Elisa McAtee (Postbacc 2021-22)

And among our more recent graduates, Elisa McAtee (USC BA 2021 in Classics and Comparative Literature, UCLA Postbacc 2021-2022), is joining our graduate program in Classics at UCLA this fall, to continue her conjoined study of Classics and Asian/Asian American Literature.

Update on alumna Allyson Blanck (Postbacc 2017-19)

Meanwhile, Allyson Blanck (two-year postbacc, 2017-2019) completed her MA in Classics at the University of Arizona, and begins a PhD program in the Institute for the Study of the Ancient World at New York University this fall. This summer brought her to the Agora excavations in Athens, Greece (directed by John Papadopoulos), with Dodd Hall's favorite quadruped, Bo.



Allyson Blanck at Agora excavations

ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

Mayra Villegas (Art History BA, Minor in Classical Civilization 2011)

My life since graduation has been wildly unpredictable and varied. There is too much to tell, but fast forward nearly 12 years of odd jobs, volunteer positions, and finally a 2-year MFA program at Claremont Graduate University, I am happily situated with a job I thought I would never have and a craft I once considered a hobby now turned to a full-time enterprise. For the past 7 years, I have been working as an Assistant Conservator for a private art conservation studio based in Los Angeles. Our studio, Fine Arts Conservation LLC, owned by Chief Objects Conservator Irena Calinescu, specializes in the conservation and preservation of sculpture and three-dimensional objects. While my time there has tested every fiber of my being it has also been rewarding on many other levels. The work is challenging and educational as there are never two works or treatments alike. The objects we receive range in both time periods and materials used; ancient to modern, bronze to plastics. Some exciting objects that I have had the privilege to work on have been an ancient Greek Kyathos and larger, time extensive projects such as repairing the Aries 1B shuttle from the film *2001: A Space Odyssey*. The shuttle is currently on display at the Academy of Motion Picture Arts & Sciences and I always feel a small sense of pride knowing that my very hands helped this object continue its journey and social impact.

Aside from my conservation work, I have been fortunate enough to maintain an art practice. I have always been a crafty person; sewing plushies and painting throughout my teen years. At UCLA, I began taking formal art classes – alongside my art history and classics classes – and it was during this time that I developed a true and serious taste for painting. Everything came together in graduate school as I immersed myself completely into my work and defined my style. My paintings are highly inspired by the various forms of storytelling that were used by my Aztec ancestors, but also by ancient Greek playwrights and vase painting artisans. I have created my own *mythos* filled with gods, heroes, and villains and have had many opportunities over the years to showcase my work throughout Los Angeles.

My next art show will take place next month, a two-day event: September 23rd 5pm-9pm and September 24th 11am-2pm, 1057 E. Green St., Pasadena CA 91106. All are welcome!

My art website: <http://www.acrocodilepassedby.com/>

Fine Arts Conservation LLC website: <https://fineartsconservationllc.com/>

For an additional picture of Mayra's work in Los Angeles arts, see p. 16



Mayra repairing the Aries 1B shuttle from 2001: A Space Odyssey for display at the Academy of Motion Pictures



Mayra working on an 18th c. Turkish bed at the Getty Center

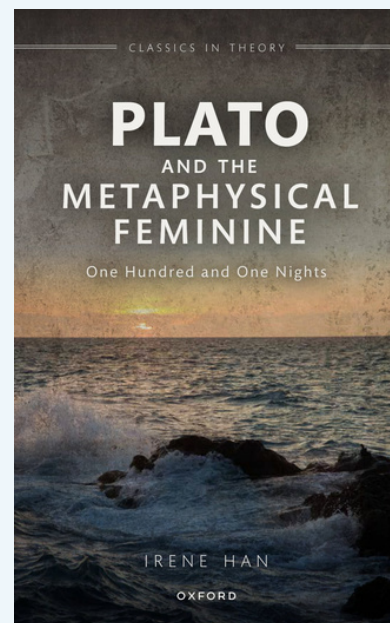


Un Jarrito Hace Bien. Mayra's artwork, inspired by Aztec and ancient Greek forms of storytelling and vase painting.

ALUMNI NEWS

Congratulations to Irene Han (Classics PhD 2017) on the publication of *Plato and the Metaphysical Feminine: One Hundred and One Nights*, Oxford 2023.

Plato and the Metaphysical Feminine offers a new interpretation of the role of the female and the feminine in Plato's political dialogues—the *Republic*, *Laws*, and *Timaeus*—informed by Deleuze's film theory and Irigaray's psychoanalytic feminism. Irene Han reads Plato against the grain in order to close the gap between the vitalists and Plato, instead of magnifying their differences. The application of Deleuzian and Irigarayan concepts to the ancient texts produces a new reading of Plato, focusing on the centrality and importance of motion, change, sensuality, and becoming to Platonic philosophy and, thereby, reinterprets Platonic philosophy in the direction of Heraclitus rather than Parmenides: as feminist rather than masculinist, and as mimetic. It therefore prioritizes Heraclitean principles of movement and flux over Form, the feminine over masculine, and materiality, feeling, or sensation over abstraction and universal essence.



Congratulations to **John Tennant** (Classics PhD 2019) on his position as Lecturer and Director of Undergraduate Studies in the Department of Classics at Stanford.

Congratulations to **Hans Bork** (Classics PhD 2018) on winning the Phi Beta Kappa Undergraduate Teaching Prize at Stanford in 2022 and the PhBKNCA Excellence in Teaching Award from Phi Beta Kappa, Northern California, in 2023.

Congratulations to **Suzanne Lye** (Classics PhD 2016) on receiving a UNC Institute of Arts and Humanities Faculty Fellowship for Spring 2024, a UNC Junior Faculty Development Grant, and a 2023 Mellon Emerging Faculty Leaders Fellowship.

Congratulations to **Hillary Lehmann** (Classics PhD 2016) for being promoted to Associate Professor of Classics with tenure at Knox College.

Congratulations to **Jesse Lundquist** (PIES PhD 2017, with Classics certificate) on his new position as Assistant Professor of Classics at Princeton University.

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 blank@humnet.ucla.edu!

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

Update on Classics BA and post-bacc Elke Nash

Congratulations to Dr Elke Nash, who has accepted a position as Assistant Professor in the Department of Classics, Humanities & Italian Studies at the University of New Hampshire. Elke received her BA in Classical Civilization from UCLA in 2007 and her Post-baccalaureate certificate in Classics from our department in 2008-10. She received her PhD in Classics from USC and has most recently been serving on the faculty of Arts, Classics, and Ancient History at the University of Auckland. Good luck in your new position, Dr Nash, and we are excited to have you back in the US!



DEPARTMENT COURSES

Fall 2023 and Winter 2024 Course Offerings

Here are the undergraduate courses offered in Classics this Fall and Winter. What will you take?

Fall

CL 10: Discovering the Greeks

CL 42: Cinema and the Ancient World

CL 51A: Art and Archaeology of Greece

CL 165: Ancient Athletics

CL 166A: Greek Religion

Greek 1: Elementary Greek

Greek 9A: Intermediate Modern Greek

Greek 20: Intermediate Greek

Greek 131: Plutarch's *Life of Antony*

Latin 1: Elementary Latin

Latin 3: Elementary Latin

Latin 20: Intermediate Latin

Latin 115: Caesar

Winter

CL 20: Discovering the Romans

CL 47: Medical Terminology

CL M125: Invention of Democracy

CL 143A: Ancient Tragedy

CL 152B: Ancient City: Roman World

CL M153B: Mycenaean Art and Archaeology

CL 163: Ovid and Consequences

CL 191: Capstone Seminar: Subaltern Voices

Greek 2: Elementary Greek

Greek 9B: Intermediate Modern Greek

Greek 100: Readings in Greek

Greek 104: Sophocles

Greek 110: Study of Greek Prose

Latin 1: Elementary Latin

Latin 2: Elementary Latin

Latin 100: Readings in Latin

Latin 105B: Adv. Vergil



Romare Bearden, *Odysseus Leaves Circe* (1977), from *A Black Odyssey*

Course Spotlight

CL 171: Black Classicism

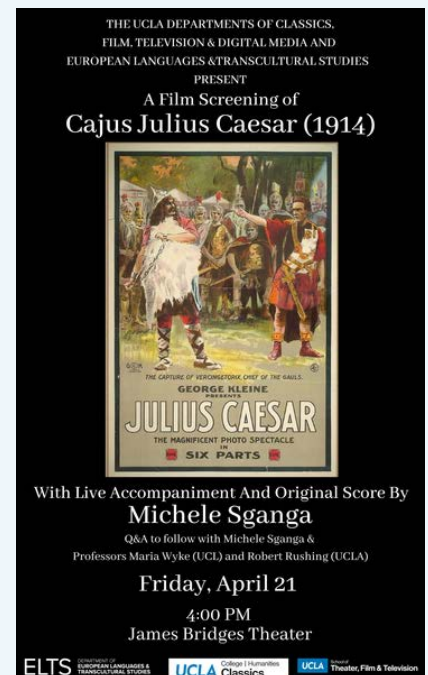
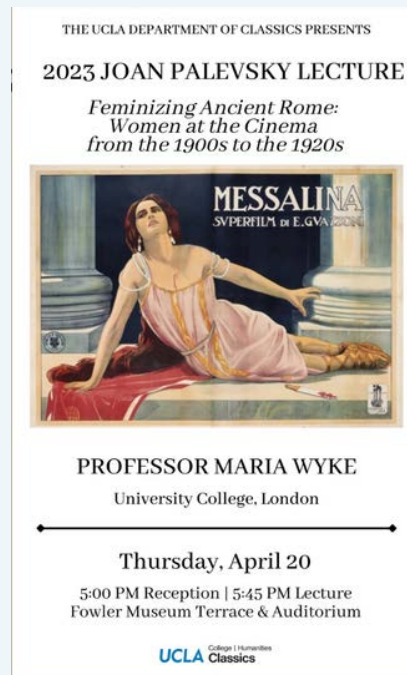
In the Spring Quarter of 2023 Professor Bryant Kirkland premiered a new upper-division undergraduate course called “Black Classicism: African-American Receptions of Greco-Roman Antiquity.” The class focused on African-American writers, artists, and thinkers who have variously engaged and reimagined versions of the classical tradition. Students analyzed texts and works across medium and genre, including lyric poems by the 18th-century enslaved writer Phillis Wheatley; a dramatized translation of portions of the *Aeneid* by 19th-century feminist scholar and Latin teacher Anna Julia Cooper; the Cleopatra series of sculptures by Barbara Chase-Riboud; the Black Odyssey collages of Romare Bearden; and former U.S. Poet Laureate Rita Dove’s marvelous reworking of the Oedipus story set in antebellum South Carolina, *The Darker Face of the Earth*. Professor Kirkland now hopes to offer the course regularly at UCLA.

PAST EVENTS: JOAN PALEVSKY LECTURE

The 2023 Annual Palevsky Lecture & Silent Film Screening with Original Score Piano Accompaniment

The Department of Classics was pleased to again host the annual Joan Palevsky lecture in April 2023. This year's lecture was presented by **Professor Maria Wyke** from University College, London. The medium of the moving image started out as part of variety programs and women often appeared in it advertising to men the pleasures of the new technology. However, cinema soon began to give greater agency to women including in its reconstructions of the Roman world. Storylines gave women larger roles than those in the primary sources. Visual perspective, words, and accompanying music worked to color women's stories in empathetic terms,

from empresses to slaves. The lecture explored some of those strategies for feminizing Roman history and some of the reasons why they were developed. The following day, the department enjoyed a live screening of the rarely seen yet remarkable Italian silent feature film *Cajus Julius Caesar* (1914, dir. Enrico Guazzoni) brought over especially from the archives of the Netherlands Film Institute and accompanied by an original score composed for the occasion by the noted concert pianist and composer Michele Sganga. Caesar's life is presented in three movements: first romantic melodrama (his secret love for the beautiful Servilia); then triumph (his victory in Gaul); finally tragedy (death at the hands of his friends). The screening was followed by a Q&A with Prof. Maria Wyke, Prof. Robert Rushing of the Department of European Language & Transcultural Studies, and Michele Sganga.



L-R Robert Rushing, Michele Sganga, Maria Wyke



PAST EVENTS: CONFERENCES

Res Difficiles 4

On March 24th 2023, Prof. Hannah Čulík-Baird, together with her co-organizer, Prof. Joseph Romero (University of Mary Washington), held the fourth iteration of *Res Difficiles*, an annual online conference addressing inequities within the field of classics, with keynote by Prof. Jackie Murray (SUNY Buffalo), "Race, Slavery, and Tyranny in Plato's Republic." *Res Diff 4* saw a wide range of papers on a variety of topics - ancient and modern theories of slavery, ancient theories of race, indigenous approaches to classics, critical classical reception, and digital approaches to translation - from scholars at various career stages, including a contribution from UCLA PhD, Prof. Suzanne Lye (UNC Chapel Hill), "Can We Please Get Back to Research?: Creating Space Through Service." All recordings of conference presentations are available online: resdifficiles.com.

RES DIFFICILES 4

Schedule of Speakers
March 24, 2023
Co-organizers:
Hannah Čulík-Baird
Joseph Romero



#ResDiff4

9-9:30 Setting In

9:30-10 "Can We Please Get Back to Research?: Creating Space Through Service"
Suzanne Lye

10-10:30 "Networking in the Margins: Towards a Future for Affinity Groups in Classics"
Tori Lee

10:30-10:45 Q&A

10:45-11:15 "The Dangers of Reception: Harmful Uses of Classical Art for the Oppression and Othering of Indigenous Americans – Why It Matters"
Tara Vietti

11:15-11:45 "Rez Diff: Indigenous Philosophies and Ancient Thought"
Ashley Lance

11:45-12 Q&A

12-12:30 BREAK

12:30-1 "Black Carthage: Rethinking Perceptions and Presentations of Race in the Punic City"
Lytaah Bhalerao

1-1:30 "Beyond Reception: On the Limits of Classical Reception and New Directions"
Jermaine Bryant

1:30-1:45 Q&A

1:45-2:15 "Comparative Slavery in Ancient and Modern Contexts"
Javal Coleman

2:15-2:45 "Re-reading Plato in Persian: Linguistic Diversity Through Digital Annotations"
Farnoush Shamsian and Gregory Crane

2:45-3 Q&A

3-4 Keynote: "Race, Slavery, and Tyranny in Plato's Republic"
Jackie Murray

All times are US Eastern. The event will be live-streamed via Zoom and use automated Zoom captioning. Participants/viewers may live-tweet the event on the hashtag #ResDiff4

Elemental Readings I: Air

The UCLA Departments
of Classics and English
and the Humanities
Division present

Elemental Readings: Air

a Luskin Endowment
for Thought Leadership
Conference

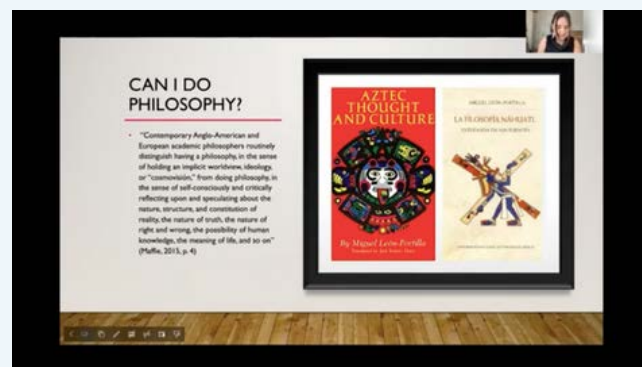
1-5:30pm on May 19
8:30am-5pm on May 20
at the Luskin
Conference Center

Keynote by
John Durham Peters

with Hsuan Hsu, Victoria Wohl, Dora
Zhang, Verity Platt, Katharine Earnshaw,
Justine Pizzo, Karla Nielson, Ben Tran,
Mario Telò, Elizabeth DeLoughrey, Shane
Butler, Eleanor Kaufman, Jim Porter,
Louise Hornby, and Alex Purves

Image: Rob Reynolds, Holiday, 2016

In Spring 2024 the Department of Classics, in partnership with the Department of English and the Division of Humanities and with the generous support of a grant from the Luskin Center for Thought Leadership, hosted a conference entitled *Elemental Readings I: Air*. Co-organized by Alex Purves (Classics) and Louise Hornby (English) this conference brought together scholars from a variety of disciplines to discuss the role of air, atmosphere, and the weather in traditionally non-scientific media (predominantly poetry, writing, music, photography, and film). A list of speakers and topics can be found [here](#).





UPCOMING EVENTS

8th Biennial UCLA Classics Graduate Conference

The UCLA Department of Classics Presents
The 8th Biannual UCLA Classics Graduate Student Conference

**Knowing & Knowing Nothing:
 Learning, Teaching,
 and Apprenticeship
 in the Ancient Mediterranean**



Date September 29-30, 2023 Location Royce 314	Keynote Speaker Rebecca Futo Kennedy <i>Associate Professor & Chair of Classical Studies, Denison</i>	Registration 
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The graduate students of the Department of Classics invite the UCLA Classics community to join us at the 8th Biennial Graduate Conference at the University of California, Los Angeles, "Knowing & Knowing Nothing: Learning, Teaching, and Apprenticeship in the Ancient Mediterranean." The conference will be held in-person at UCLA on September 29th–30th, 2023.

Learning, teaching, and apprenticeship took a variety of forms in antiquity. Regardless of the specific field or pedagogical method, the

acts of teaching and learning have a far-reaching impact, particularly on the students and their ensuing work. A keynote address will be delivered by Professor Rebecca Futo Kennedy, Associate Professor of Classical Studies, Women's and Gender Studies, and Environmental Studies at Denison University. The title for her keynote presentation is "Knowing and Not Knowing Others: Ethnography as an Unreliable Teacher." We hope to see you there!

For more information, please visit the conference site [here](#).

UPCOMING EVENTS

The Joan Palevsky Chair of Classics Inaugural Lecture
Professor Kathryn A. Morgan
"Projecting the Past: Plato's Historical Imagination"

The Department of Classics cordially invites you to the Inaugural Lecture of the first Joan Palevsky Chair in Classics at UCLA, Professor Kathryn A. Morgan. The lecture will take place on Monday, October 16, 2023. A drinks reception will be held at 5pm in 306 Royce Hall, followed by the lecture at 5:45. All are warmly invited.



This lecture proposes a new vision of Plato as an important player in the creation of the historical imagination. In several dialogues, we see the philosopher highlighting issues of emotional and intellectual engagement with historical narrative. Plato models for the first time a vision of projection into the past, engaging also with the allure of counterfactual history and historical wishful thinking. How are we to understand this focus? I suggest that his goal is to rework sentimental attitudes to historical tradition and create a vision of ethically-informed historical research, a vision that emphasizes rational reconstruction of the past and outlines the positive philosophical purposes in which it might be deployed.

IN MEMORIAM

Trevor Fear, former department lecturer

The department is sad to announce that Trevor Fear passed in February after a short struggle with pancreatic cancer. Trevor taught as a lecturer in the Department from Fall 1999 to Winter 2002. He was a very successful and popular teacher of our large GE courses (Myth, Cinema, and Roman Civilization) and supervised our Elementary Latin program. He earned his B.A. in Classics at Bristol University, M.Litt at Durham, and PhD at USC, where he wrote his dissertation, "Love's Economy: Aesthetics, Exchange and Youthful Poetics in Roman Elegy," under the direction of Amy Richlin. Before coming to UCLA, he taught at SUNY Buffalo and Iowa State University. He assumed his position with the Open University as a lecturer and Staff Tutor (based in Birmingham) in 2003. His research focused on Latin poetry and Latin love elegy in particular. He published articles and book chapters on Catullus and Roman elegy. More recently, he was working on classical reception, especially the reception of Cleopatra. He is survived by his wife Cindy Benton, who also received her PhD from USC in 1999. A remembrance can also be found on the Open University's website [here](#).

DEPARTMENT OF CLASSICS ANNUAL PALEVSKY LECTURE 2024

Please save the date for next year's Annual Palevsky Lecture: Thursday, April 25, 2024. Next year's speaker will be Professor Nandini Pandey of Johns Hopkins University, with a presentation provisionally titled "Affirmative Action & Ancient Rome?". We look forward to catching up with all of our friends, alumni, and colleagues at this lecture and reception.

We welcome your continued engagement and partnership in our ongoing commitment to advance access and opportunity for our vibrant, diverse community of UCLA students. Please consider [making a gift](#) in support of the Department of Classics today!

GIVE NOW