

LAUREN DONOVAN GINSBERG

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UNIVERSITY EMPLOYMENT

- 2020-present Associate Professor of Classical Studies, Duke University, Durham, NC.
Secondary appointment in Theater Studies.
- 2018-2020 Associate Professor of Classics, University of Cincinnati, Cincinnati, OH.
- 2012-2018 Assistant Professor of Classics, University of Cincinnati, Cincinnati, OH.
- 2011-2012 Visiting Assistant Professor of Classics, Bucknell University, Lewisburg, PA.
- 2011 Adjunct Professor of Latin, Wesleyan University, Middletown CT

RESEARCH AND TEACHING INTERESTS

- Roman literature of the early empire (esp. drama, epic & historiography)
- Roman historical poetry
- cultural memory
- intertextuality
- civil war
- age of Nero & its reception

EDUCATION

- 2011 Ph.D. Classics, Brown University, Providence, RI.
- 2003 B.A. Classics, Cornell University, Ithaca, NY.
- 2001 Intercollegiate Center for Classical Studies in Rome.

PUBLICATIONS AND WORKS IN PRESS

MONOGRAPHS

- 2017 *Staging Memory, Staging Strife: Empire and Civil War in the Octavia*. Oxford UP.

EDITED VOLUMES

- 2018 *After 69: Writing Civil War in Flavian Rome*. co-edited with Darcy Krasne (*Trends in Classics Supplementary Volume 65*). De Gruyter.

ARTICLES AND CHAPTERS

- 2023 "Great Expectations: Wordplay as Warfare in Caesar's *De Bello Civili*?" *Classical Quarterly* 73.1: 184-97.
- 2021 "Lucan and Caesar" in *Reading Lucan's Civil War: A Critical Guide* (P. Roche, ed.). Oklahoma University Press: 246-65.
- 2020 "Allusive *Prodigia*: Caesar's Comets in Neronian Rome (*Ann.* 15.47)" *TAPA* 150.1: 231-49.
- 2019 "The Failure of Female *Fides* in the *Octavia*" in *Fides in Flavian Literature* (A. Augoustakis, E. Buckley, and C. Stocks, eds). Phoenix Supplementary Volumes 56.

- 2019 “A Tale of Two Waters: Agrippina’s Death in Flavian Poetry” in *Campania in the Flavian Poetic Imagination* (A. Augoustakis and J. Littlewood, eds). Oxford: 25-41.
- 2017 “Jocasta & the Poetics of Civil War in Seneca’s *Phoenissae*” in *Verba Aliter Instructa: Senecan Poetics* (C. Trinacty, M. Sampson, eds.). *Ramus* 46.1-2: 58-74.
- 2016 “Jocasta’s Catilinarian Oration (Sen. *Phoen.* 632-43)” *CJ* 111.4: 483-94.
- 2016 “History as Intertext and Intertext as History in the *Octavia*” in *Roman Drama and its Contexts*. (S. Frangoulidis, S. Harrison, G. Manuwald, eds.). *Trends in Classics Supplementary Volumes* 34: 417-32.
- 2015 “Tragic Rome? Roman Historical Drama and the Genre of Tragedy” in the *Brill Companion to Roman Tragedy* (G. Harrison, ed). Leiden: 216-37.
- 2015 “Don’t Stand So Close To Me: Antigone’s *Pietas* in Seneca’s *Phoenissae*” *TAPA* 145.1: 199-230.
- 2013 “Wars More than Civil: Memories of Caesar and Pompey in the *Octavia*” *AJP* 134.4: 637-74.
- 2011 “*Ingens* as an etymological pun in the *Octavia*” *CP* 106.4: 357-60.

BOOK REVIEWS

- 2021 Review of Shusma Malik, *The Nero-Antichrist: Founding and Fashioning a Paradigm* (Cambridge University Press, 2020). *Classical Journal*.
- 2020 Review of Vassiliki Panoussi, *Brides, Mourners, Bacchae: Women’s Rituals in Roman Literature*. (Johns Hopkins University Press, 2019). *Classical World* 113.3: 372-73.
- 2019 Review of Stefano Rebeggiani, *The Fragility of Power: Statius, Domitian, and the Politics of the Thebaid*. (Oxford University Press, 2018). Bryn Mawr Classical Review BMCR 2019.12.03.
- 2017 Review of Anthony A. Barrett, Elaine Fantham, John C. Yardley (eds.), *The Emperor Nero: A Guide to the Ancient Sources*. (Princeton University Press, 2016). Bryn Mawr Classical Review 2017.03.09.
- 2014 Review of Emma Buckley, Martin T. Dinter (eds.), *A Companion to the Neronian Age. Blackwell Companions to the Ancient World*. (Wiley-Blackwell, 2013). Bryn Mawr Classical Review 2014.02.29.

WORKS UNDER CONTRACT

BOOK PROJECTS

“Claudia Octavia: Wife of Nero, People’s Princess” (monograph in progress for OUP’s Women in Antiquity series, R. Ancona and S. Pomeroy, eds)

ARTICLES AND CHAPTERS

“Staging *Orbitas* in Ennius’ *Andromacha*” *Ennius Beyond Epic*, J. Hill and C.W. Marshall, eds. Cambridge University Press (final version submitted).

“Selling personal glamour in 1950s America: Jergens Lotion, Neronian decadence, and Christian purity,” in *I’m Your Venus: The Reception of Antiquity in Modern Cosmetic Advertising and Marketing*, J. Draycot and L. Totelin, eds. Bloomsbury (chapter in progress)

FELLOWSHIPS, HONORS, AND AWARDS

- 2023-2025 Mellon Leadership Fellow, Ivy+ Faculty Advancement Network Consortium.
2017-2018 CAMWS First Book Award for *Staging Memory, Staging Strife*.
2017-2018 Andrew Heiskell Post-Doctoral Rome Prize, American Academy of Rome, Italy.
2015-2016 Loeb Classical Library Foundation Fellowship.
Fall 2015 Junior Research Scholarship, Fondation Hardt, Geneva, Switzerland.
Spring 2011 Joukowsky Presidential Fellowship for Dissertation Research, Brown University.
Fall 2010 Dissertation Fellowship from the *Memoria Romana Project* (K. Galinsky).
Spring 2010 Joukowsky Presidential Fellowship for Dissertation Research, Brown University.
2006-2007 Joukowsky Presidential Fellowship for Graduate Study, Brown University.
2005-2006 Andrew W. Mellon Fellowship in Humanistic Studies.

CONFERENCES AND SCHOLARLY PRESENTATIONS

CONFERENCES ORGANIZED

- [2025] *Ages of Nero: Reality and Receptions*. 19th Trends in Classics International Conference. Thessaloniki, GR. Co-organized with Christopher Trinacty, Stavros Frangoulidis, and Antonios Rengakos.
2014 *Writing About Civil War in Flavian Rome*, three-day session, Celtic Conference in Classics VIII, Edinburgh, Scotland. Co-organized with Darcy Krasne.

PANELS AND WORKSHOPS ORGANIZED

- 2017 *Imitation and Allusion: Cross-Disciplinary Perspectives*, co-directed workshop with Silvio Bär, American Academy of Rome, Rome, Italy.
2015 *Historia Proxima Poetis: The Intertextual Practices of Historical Poetry*, SCS annual meeting, New Orleans, LA.
2014 *Civil War and Flavian Epic*, APA annual meeting, Chicago, IL. Co-organized with Darcy Krasne.

SELECT PAPERS DELIVERED (* = invited)

- 2023 “Remembering Octavia, People’s Princess of Neronian Rome,” Department of Classics, Smith College, Northampton, MA.*
2023 “*semper memor*: Memory, forgetting, and the power of women’s rage in the *Octavia*,” Forgetting and Power in Greek and Latin Literature Conference (V. Schultz, C. Pieper, organizers), University of Eichstätt-Ingolstadt, Eichstätt, Germany.*

- 2023 “Staging *Orbitas* in Ennius’ *Andromacha*,” Department of Classics, Washington University, St. Louis, MO.*
- 2022 “Terror, duty, compassion: the ethical conflicts of Caesar’s civil warriors,” Figures of Civil War Panel (M. Lowrie, organizer), Association of Literary Scholars, Critics, and Writers. New Haven, CT.*
- 2022 “Steam heat parches your skin: Jergens lotion, Neronian violence, and gendered decadence,” *I’m Your Venus: The Reception of Antiquity in Modern Cosmetic Advertising and Marketing*, Cardiff University, Cardiff, Wales. [zoom presentation]
- 2021 “Under the cover of night: tracing the psychology of the civil warrior in Caesar’s *De Bello Civili*,” Department of Classical Studies, Indiana University, Bloomington, IN.* [zoom presentation]
- 2021 “Remembering Neroes from Ancient Nostalgia to Modern Consumerism,” lecture to freshman seminar, Department of Classics, College of the Holy Cross, Worcester, MA.* [zoom presentation]
- 2021 “Philosophies of Violence & Empire in the *Octavia*” lecture for graduate seminar, Department of Classics, University of Virginia, Charlottesville, VA.* [zoom presentation]
- 2019 “Nostalgia, Ruins, Lament: Listening to Captive Women in the *Hercules Oetaeus*,” Memorial Lecture in honor of David Mankin, Cornell University, Ithaca, NY. *
- 2019 “Intertextual Comets & Caesarian Bloodshed at Tacitus *Ann.* 15.47,” CAMWS, Lincoln, NE.
- 2019 “The Intertextuality of Annalistic Prodigies: A Case Study from Tacitus,” Department of Classics, University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign, Urbana IL. *
- 2018 “Between History and Epic: Caesar and Lucan,” Dipartimento di Studi Letterari, Filosofici e di Storia dell’Arte, University of Rome Tor Vergata, Rome, IT. *
- 2017 “Caesar and Lucan on Ilerda,” Department of Classics and Ancient History, Durham University, UK. *
- 2017 “Lucan and Caesar” *Epic and History Conference*, Tallahassee, FL. *
- 2017 “Elegiac destruction and pastoral devastation in the *Hercules Oetaeus*” *Symposium Cumanum: Vergil and Elegy*, Cuma, Italy.
- 2017 “Perusia as *Erinnerungsfigur* in Propertian Elegy and the Augustan Age” *Augustan Cultural Memory*, Paris, France.
- 2017 “*Venturi Me Teque Legent*: Caesar’s Epic Successor” Classics Colloquium, Department of Classics, Columbia University, NY, NY. *
- 2016 “Nero’s Landscape of Dread in the *Octavia*” *Landscapes of Dread*, Celtic Conference in Classics IX, Dublin, Ireland.
- 2016 “Remembering Nero’s *Venus Victrix*: The Many Faces of Poppaea in the *Octavia*” *Flavian Responses to Nero’s Rome*, Amsterdam, Netherlands. *
- 2016 “The Failure of *Fides* in the *Octavia*” *Fides in Flavian Literature*, SCS annual meeting, San Francisco, CA.

- 2015 “From Bauli to Baiae: Agrippina’s Death in the Flavian Poetic Imagination” *International Conference on Flavian Campania*, Campania, Italy.
- 2015 “Don’t Stand So Close To Me: Antigone’s *Pietas* in Seneca’s *Phoenissae*” CAMWS annual meeting, Boulder, CO.
- 2015 “The Intertextual Practices of Historical Poetry: Introductory Remarks” *Historia Proxima Poetis: The Intertextual Practices of Historical Poetry*, SCS annual meeting, New Orleans, LA.
- 2014 “Remembering Augustus’ Civil Wars: Then and Now” Denison University Department of Classics, Granville, OH. *
- 2014 “Remembering Augustus Throughout History: Antiquity to the Present” Ohio University Department of Classics & World Religions, Athens, OH. *
- 2014 “Remembering Nero’s Augustan Model in the *Octavia*” *Commemorating Augustus: a Bimillennial Re-evaluation*, Leeds, UK.
- 2014 “History as Intertext and Intertext as History in the *Octavia*” *Trends in Classics 8: Thessaloniki International Conference on Roman Drama and its Contexts*, Thessaloniki, Greece. *
- 2013 “*Civis atque hostis simul*: The Poetics of Civil war in Seneca’s *Phoenissae*” *Rethinking Seneca’s Poetics* panel, CAC annual meeting, Winnipeg, Canada.
- 2012 “On the Model of Octavian: Remembering the Triumviral Period in *Octavia*’s Rome” *Ancient Literary and Visual Representations of the Roman Civil Wars of the 40s and 30s BCE*, Margherita di Savoia, Italy.
- 2012 “Great Expectations: Pompey Magnus in Caesar’s *Civil Wars*” CAMWS annual meeting, Baton Rouge, LA.

ADDITIONAL PROFESSIONAL TRAINING

- 2023 NEH Summer Institute on the Performance of Roman Comedy (T.H.M. Gellar-Goad and C. Polt, organizers), Boston, MA.
- 2022 Intensive Seminar in Latin Epigraphy, British School of Rome, Rome Italy.
- 2018 Winter School in Latin Paleography and Codicology, American Academy of Rome/Notre Dame, Rome, Italy.
- 2007 American School of Classical Studies at Athens, Summer Session I.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

DUKE UNIVERSITY, DURHAM, NC

- Spring 2024 The Age of Nero – undergraduate lecture course in translation
Writing Catiline – advanced undergraduate Latin
- Fall 2023 Drama of Ancient Rome – undergraduate course in translation
- Spring 2023 The Romans – undergraduate course in translation
Special Topics: Racism and the History of the Field – graduate seminar
- Fall 2022 Historiography of Nero (Tacitus and Suetonius) – graduate reading course

Roman drama – advanced undergraduate Latin
 Spring 2022 Homer: *Iliad* – intermediate Greek
 Fall 2021 Drama of Ancient Rome – undergraduate course in translation
 Roman tragedy – graduate reading course
 Spring 2021 The Age of Nero – undergraduate lecture course in translation
 Fall 2020 Plato’s *Symposium* – intermediate Greek (x2 sections)
 Caesar’s *Civil War* – graduate seminar.

UNIVERSITY OF CINCINNATI, CINCINNATI, OH

Spring 2019 Roman Civilization – undergraduate lecture course.
 Greek tragedy – advanced undergraduate Greek.
 Fall 2018 Caesar’s *De Bello Civili* – graduate seminar.
 Spring 2017 Roman Civilization – undergraduate lecture course.
 Vergil’s *Aeneid* – intermediate Latin.
 Fall 2016 Roman Imperial Drama – graduate seminar.
 Broadway BC: Greek and Roman Drama – undergraduate seminar.
 Spring 2015 Roman Civilization – undergraduate lecture course.
 Homer: *Iliad* – intermediate Greek.
 Fall 2014 Apuleius’ *Metamorphoses* – graduate reading course.
 Spring 2014 Homer: *Iliad* – intermediate Greek.
 Tacitus’ *Annals* XIII-XVI – graduate reading course.
 Fall 2013 Lucan’s *Bellum Civile* – graduate seminar.
 Latin Love Elegy – advanced undergraduate Latin.
 Fall 2012 Intensive Latin – year sequence.
 Fall 2012 Cicero’s *Catilinarians* – intermediate Latin.

BUCKNELL UNIVERSITY, LEWISBURG, PA

Spring 2012 Roman History – undergraduate lecture course.
 Spring 2012 Classical Mythology – undergraduate lecture course.
 Fall 2011 Civil War in Roman Literature and Culture – undergraduate seminar in translation.
 Fall 2011 Remembering Claudius: Suetonius and Seneca – advanced undergraduate Latin.
 Fall 2011 Elementary Latin – Semester I.

UNDERGRADUATE AND GRADUATE ADVISING (with date of defense)

DISSERTATIONS AND MASTERS THESES:

[in progress] Kate Davenport (dissertation director: Roman Medea, Duke University)
 [in progress] Ben Moon-Black (dissertation committee member: “Julianus Occidentalis: Julian in Latin Christian Historical Texts”, Duke University).
 2024 Melissa Baroff (dissertation director: “Rereading Octavia and Poppaea: Unraveling the Literary Afterlives of Nero’s Wives”, Duke University).
 2023 Andrew Lund (dissertation director: “*Seneca Comicus*: Senecan Tragedy and the Reception of Roman Comedy”, University of Cincinnati).
 2022 Tori Lee (dissertation committee member: “Violent by Nature: Danger and Darkness in the Pastoral World”, Duke University).

- 2022 Maria Gaki (dissertation committee member: “Euphony in Greek and Latin Literature”, University of Cincinnati).
- 2021 Angelica Wisenbarger (dissertation committee member: “Fieldwork as Textwork: Understanding Varro and Vergil’s Literary Agriculture Through Style”, University of Cincinnati).
- 2020 Carina Moss (“dissertation co-director: “Elegy with Epic Consequences: Elegiac Themes in Statius’ *Thebaid*”, University of Cincinnati).
- 2017 Jason Clay (MA thesis project advisor: “Seneca’s *Agamemnon*: a New Translation”, University of Cincinnati).
- 2016 Mitch Brown (dissertation committee member: “Offstage Action in Menander”, University of Cincinnati).
- 2016 Taylor Coughlan (dissertation committee member: “Dialect Usage in Hellenistic Epigram”, University of Cincinnati).
- 2015 Elizabeth Barnes (MA thesis committee: “Emotions in Apollonius’ *Argonautica*”, University of Cincinnati).
- 2014 Charles Campbell (dissertation committee member: “Poets and Poetics in Greek Literary Epigram”, University of Cincinnati).

UNDERGRADUATE THESIS AND CAPSTONE PROJECTS:

- [in progress] Sidney Jordan (thesis advisor: “tragic women in Roman comedy”, Duke University)
- 2019 John Thomas (capstone advisor: “The Character of Talthybius in Euripides’ *Trojan Women*”, University of Cincinnati).
- 2019 Margaret Kammerer (capstone advisor: “The Callousness and Culpability of the Gods: Faithless Allies in Euripides’ *Trojan Women*” University of Cincinnati).
- 2017 Katarina Fierly (capstone advisor: “Clytemnestra’s Stage Presence in Aeschylus’ *Agamemnon*” University of Cincinnati).
- 2015 Meghan Quick (capstone advisor: Cleopatra as Isis in Egypt and Rome”, University of Cincinnati).
- 2015 Michelle Martinez (capstone advisor: “Apuleius’ Cupid and Psyche: A Hellenistic Epyllion?”, University of Cincinnati).
- 2014 Amanda Angelo Hatch (capstone advisor: “Sulpicia: Dual Feminist Readings”, University of Cincinnati).

DEPARTMENTAL, UNIVERSITY AND PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

DEPARTMENTAL SERVICE: DUKE UNIVERSITY

Director of Graduate Studies (2020-2023).

Department Placement Committee: Chair (2021-2023); Member, Placement Committee, (2023-2024)

Founding Member, Inclusion, Diversity, Equity and Anti-Racism (IDEA) Committee

Chair of Subcommittee on Graduate Matters (2020-23).

DEPARTMENTAL SERVICE: UNIVERSITY OF CINCINNATI

Interim Director of Graduate Studies (Spring 2019)

Departmental Outreach Program: Director (2018-19); Committee Member (2016-17)

Graduate Pedagogy Workshop Series Leader (2013-14, 2016-17, 2018-19).

Undergraduate Committee (2014-15, 2016-17).

Enrollment Committee (2016-17).

Latin Coordinator and Language Pedagogy Mentor (2012-13, 2013-14, 2014-15).

Library Committee (2012-12, 2013-14, 2018-19)

UNIVERSITY SERVICE: DUKE UNIVERSITY

Executive Committee of the Graduate Faculty: Member (2022-2024).

Dean's Taskforce for Undergraduate Humanities Study: Member (2023-2024)

SERVICE TO THE PROFESSION

Executive Committee of the Advisory Council, American Academy in Rome (2024-present)

Managing Committee Member, Intercollegiate Center for Classical Studies in Rome (2018-23).

Committee on Classics in the Community/"Ancient Worlds, Modern Communities": member (2020-22), Chair (2021-22), Society of Classical Studies.

THEATER, OPERA, AND PERFORMANCE COLLABORATIONS

- 2023 "Michael Hersch's *Poppaea*: Maternity, Victimhood, Transgression." Co-organizer of public screening of *Poppaea* followed by panel discussion. Rubenstein Arts Center, Durham, NC.
- 2022 "Staging *Poppaea*: Gender, Power, and Violence." Invited panel discussion held at the George Peabody Library in conjunction with the inaugural screening of Michael Hersch's *Poppaea*, Baltimore, MD.
- 2021 "Einführung und Gespräch: *Poppaea*." Invited panel discussion held at the Vienna Odeon Theater in coordination with Wien Modern and the world premiere of Michael Hersch's *Poppaea*, Vienna, Austria.
- 2021 "[Poppaea in History and on the Stage/Poppaea in der Geschichte und auf der Bühne](#)." Commissioned historiographical essay for the world premiere of Michael Hersch's *Poppaea*.
- 2019 "Sunday Salon: Staging *Titus Andronicus* in 2019." Invited panel discussion held at the Cincinnati Shakespeare Company in conjunction with *Titus Andronicus*.
- 2018 "Sunday Salon: *Funny Thing* in the #MeToo Era." Invited panel discussion held at the Cincinnati Shakespeare Company in conjunction with *Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum*.
- 2017 "Theater of War." Primary organizer & fundraiser for Bryan Doerries' *Theater of War* at the University of Cincinnati. Co-sponsored by the Department of Classics, the

CCM Harmony Fund, the Helen Weinberger Center for the Study of Drama, the Taft Center for the Humanities, the A&S Deans Office, the Office of the Provost, the CCM Department of Acting, and the Cincinnati VAMC.

- 2015 “Cleopatra: from Rome to Shakespeare.” Pre-show lecture by invitation of the Cincinnati Shakespeare Company in conjunction with their production of *Cleopatra*.
- 2015 “Poppaea in Ancient Rome and Monteverdi: A Talkback with UC Classics Professor.” Post-show lecture by invitation of the Cincinnati College Conservatory of Music’s Department of Opera in conjunction with their production of Monteverdi’s *Incoronazione di Poppea*.
- 2014 “From Ovid to Mary Zimmerman: A Classicist Introduces the *Metamorphoses*.” Pre-show lecture by invitation of the Cincinnati College Conservatory of Music’s Department of Theater and Acting in conjunction with their production of Mary Zimmerman’s *Metamorphoses*.

OTHER PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT AND OUTREACH

- 2023 “[TechSupport: Rome Support](#).” WiredMagazine Special Feature.
- 2023 “[Conversations: Taking Inspiration from the Furies, Seneca's Medea](#) w/ Dr Lauren Ginsberg, podcast episode with *Let's Talk About Myths, Baby*, Liv Albert.
- 2023 “Business Women of Pompeii.” Outreach lecture at Women’s Halcyon Club, Durham, NC.
- 2021 “[Divorced, Murdered, Survived: Nero’s Wives](#),” podcast episode with *History Hit: the Ancients*.
- 2017 “Ancient Drama & Modern America.” Outreach lecture at the Cincinnati Women’s Club.
- 2016 “Seneca’s Phaedra and the Problem of Female Power” Classics Week Scholar in Residence at Shackouls Honors College at Mississippi State University, MS.
- 2015 “Women & Politics: The Case of Cleopatra.” Outreach lecture at the Cincinnati Women’s Club.

OTHER PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

- 2003-2005 Teacher of Latin and Greek, Oakmont Regional High School, Ashburnham, MA.