

SULOCHANA R. ASIRVATHAM

1970-

Department of Classics and General Humanities
Montclair State University
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EDUCATION

2000 PhD. in Classics, Columbia University, New York, NY
1992 M.A. in Classics, Columbia University
1991 B.A. in Classics (Hon.), Barnard College, Columbia University

ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

2020- Professor, Montclair State University
2009-2020 Associate Professor, Montclair State University
2002-2009 Assistant Professor, Montclair State University
2000-2001 Visiting Assistant Professor, Bucknell University, Lewisburg, PA

RESEARCH AREAS:

Alexander the Great, history and reception; Greco-Roman history and historiography; Greek imperial literature

TEACHING EXPERIENCE:

All levels of Latin and Greek language; Greek Civilization; Alexander the Great; General Humanities from Mesopotamia to the Present; Honors Great Books and Ideas; Contemporary Issues (National and Global).

GRANTS AND AWARDS

Montclair State University	Sabbatical (competitive)	2015-2016; 2008-2009
	Student Faculty Scholarship	2013-2014
	Global Ed Funds for International Travel	Summer 2010
	Separately Budgeted Research Award	Summer 2010
		Summer 2003
The Independent Research Fund, Denmark	Named contributor: 'Power and Imperialism in Roman Historiography Network'	2024-2028
	Named contributor: 'Cassius Dio Network'	2016-2018
American School of Classical Studies in Athens Athens, Greece	NEH Research Fellow	2001-2002
Columbia University, NYC	President's Fellow	1991-1996

PUBLICATIONS:

BOOKS PUBLISHED

[*Between Magic and Religion: Interdisciplinary Studies in Ancient Mediterranean Religion and Society*](#), eds. S. Asirvatham, C. Pache and J. Watrous. (Rowman and Littlefield 2001).

[*The Courts of Philip II and Alexander the Great: Monarchy and Power in Ancient Macedonia*](#), eds. F. Pownall, S. Asirvatham, and S. Müller. (DeGruyter 2022)

BOOKS IN PROGRESS/IN-CONTRACT

Making Alexander Great: Greek Literature and the Macedonian Past in the Roman Empire (in progress).

Alexander the Great: History and Legend (in contract with Bloomsbury)

BOOK CHAPTERS/ARTICLES:

[‘Alexander and the Roman Emperors’](#), in *The Cambridge Companion to Alexander the Great*, ed. D. Ogden (Cambridge 2024), 438–451.

[‘Cassius Dio’s Greek and Roman Identity’](#), for *The Brill Companion to Cassius Dio*, eds. J. Madsen and A. Scott (Brill 2023).

[‘The Battle of Chaeronea: Nostalgia vs. Idealism in 2nd Century Greek Prose’](#), in *The Province of Achaia in the Second Century CE: The Past Present*, ed. A. Kouremenos (Routledge 2022).

[‘Bilingualism and Authority in Cassius Dio’](#), in *Cassius Dio in his Intellectual Context: Greek and Roman Pasts*, ed. C. Bailey, A. Kemezis, and B. Polletti (Brill 2022).

[‘Alexander, Philosophy, and Rome: A Trajanic Moment’](#), *A History of Alexander the Great in World Culture*, ed. R. Stoneman (Cambridge 2022)

‘Alexander’s Wet-Nurse Lanice and Her Sons’, for *Affective relations and personal bonds in Hellenistic Antiquity*, eds. E. Anson, M. D’Agostini, and F. Pownall (Oxbow 2020).

‘Cassius Dio, Ὀμόνοια, and Civil War’, for *Cassius Dio: the Impact of Violence, War, and Civil War*, eds. C. Lange and A. Scott (Brill 2020).

‘The *Cyropedia* and the Second Sophistic’, for *Ancient Information on Persia Re-assessed: Xenophon’s Cyropaedia*, eds. B. Jacobs and R. Rollinger (*Classica et Orientalia* series, Harrosowitz 2020).

[‘Plutarch, Ἀνδοσία, and Rome’](#), *Illinois Classical Studies 44.1* (Spring 2019), 156-176.

‘The Memory of Alexander in Plutarch’s *Lives* of Demetrios, Pyrrhos and Eumenes’, in *Ancient Macedonians in the Greek And Roman Sources: From History to Historiography*, eds. T. Howe and F. Pownall (Classical Press of Wales, 2018).

‘Plutarch’s Alexander’, in *The Brill Companion to the Reception of Alexander the Great*, ed. K. Moore (Brill, 2018), 355-76.

‘Historiography’, in *Oxford Handbook of the Second Sophistic*, eds. D. Richter and W. Johnson (Oxford University Press, 2017), 476-491.

‘The Argeads and the Second Sophistic’, in *The History of the Argeads: New Perspectives*, eds. S. Müller, T. Howe, H. Bowden, and R. Rollinger with the collaboration of S. Pal (Harrosowitz Verlag, 2017), 281- 296.

‘Flattery, History, and the *Pepaideumenos*’, in *Ancient Historiography on War and Empire*, eds. T. Howe, S. Mueller, and R. Stoneman (Oxbow Books, 2016).

‘Youthful Folly and Intergenerational Violence in Greco-Roman Narratives on Alexander the Great’, in *Folly and Violence in the Court of Alexander the Great and his Successors?*, eds. T. Howe and S Müller (Projekt Verlag, 2016), 11-24.

‘The *Alexander Romance* from Egypt to Ethiopia’, in *Alexander in Africa*. Supp. to *Acta Classica*, ed. P. Bosman (2014), 109-127.

‘Alexander the Philosopher in Greek, Arabic and Persian Traditions’, in *The Alexander Romance in Persia and the East*. Supp. to *Ancient Narrative*, eds. K. Erickson, I. Netton, and R. Stoneman (2012), 311-326.

‘Hints of Local Influence in the *Tragoidoumena* of Asclepiades of Tragilos?’ in *Parva Mythographica*, ed. J. Pamiás (Utopica-Verlag, 2011), 145-151.

‘Perspectives on the Macedonians from Greece, Rome, and Beyond’, in the *Blackwell Companion to Ancient Macedonia*, eds. J. and I. Worthington (Blackwell Publishing, 2010), 99-124.

‘His Son’s Father? Philip II in the Second Sophistic’, in *Philip II and Alexander the Great: Father and Son, Lives and Afterlives*, eds. D. Ogden and E. Carney (Oxford University Press, 2010), 193-204.

- ‘The Roots of Macedonian Ambiguity in Classical Athenian Literature,’ in [Macedonian Legacies: Studies in Macedonian History and Culture in Honor of Eugene N. Borza](#), eds. T. Howe and J. Reames (Regina Books, 2009), 235-255.
- ‘No Patriotic Fervor for Pella: Aelius Aristides and the Presentation of the Macedonians in the Second Sophistic,’ *Mnemosyne* 61.2 (2008), 207-227.
- ‘Ancient Ideas, Postmodern Echoes: American Politics after 9/11 and the Greek Rhetoric of Identity,’ *Theory & Event* 11:1 (2008) [online (Johns Hopkins University Press)]
- ‘The Half-Baked Melting Pot of Oliver Stone’s *Alexander*,’ *Classical Outlook* 84:3 (2007), 104-107.
- ‘Classicism and Romanitas in Plutarch’s *De Alexandri Fortuna aut Virtute*,’ *AJP* 126:1 (2005), 107-125.
- ‘Introduction,’ (co-authored with C. Pache and J. Watrous) in [Between Magic and Religion: Interdisciplinary Studies in Ancient Mediterranean Religion and Society](#), eds. S. Asirvatham, C. Pache and J. Watrous (Rowman and Littlefield, 2001), xi-xxix.
- ‘Olympias’ Snake and Callisthenes’ Stand: Religion and Politics in Plutarch’s Life of Alexander,’ in [Between Magic and Religion](#), eds. S. Asirvatham, C. Pache and J. Watrous, 93-125.

COMMENTARIES FOR BRILL’S NEW JACOBY (FIRST AND SECOND EDITIONS)

Translations, commentaries, and biographical essays on fragmentary Greek historians, with updated critical editions of the Greek texts, in revision of Felix Jacoby’s [Fragmente Die Fragmente der Griechischen Historiker](#) (FGrH), ed. I. Worthington.

- [Anonymous, On Naxos \(De Naxo\)](#), BNJ 501 (8,032 words), published October 1st, 2014
- [Asklepiades of Tragilos](#), BNJ 012 (22,599 words), published April 1st, 2014
- [Alexander of Myndos](#), BNJ 025 (3,314 words), published October 1st, 2012 (BNJ² 025 published April 12th, 2023)
- [Aristeas Judaicus](#), BNJ 725 (1,854 words), published April 1st, 2012 (BNJ² 725 published November 1st, 2023)
- [Kleodemos Malchos](#), BNJ 727 (1,827 words), published April 1st, 2012 (BNJ² 727 published November 1st, 2023)
- [Theophilus](#), BNJ 733 (1,317 words), published April 1st, 2012
- [Pausanias of Antioch](#), BNJ 854 (16,921 words), published April 1st, 2012
- [Anonymous, On Syria \(De Syria\)](#), BNJ 855 (809 words), published April 1st, 2011 (BNJ² 855 published December 1st, 2021)

ENCYCLOPEDIA ENTRIES:

In the *Lexicon of Argead Macedonia*, eds. W. Heckel, J. Heinrichs, S. Müller, F. Pownall (Berlin: Frank & Timme 2020): ‘Amyntas II’; ‘Argeads, Proto-historical’; ‘Opis Speech’; ‘Second Sophistic and the Argeads’

REVIEWS/REVIEW FORTHCOMING:

- Review of *Herodotus and Imperial Greek Literature* (Oxford) by N. Bryant Kirkland for *Syllogos* (forthcoming November 2024).
- Review of [Plutarch’s Unexpected Silences Suppression and Selection in the Lives and Moralia](#) (Brill), eds. Jeffrey Beneker, Craig Cooper, Noreen Humble, and Frances Titchener, in *Classical Review* (published online 2024), 1-3.
- Review of [Alexander the Great: A Life in Legend](#) (Yale University Press, 2008) by Richard Stoneman, *Journal of Historical Biography* 5 (Spring 2009), 99-107.
- Review of [From Alexander to Jesus](#) (University of California Press, 2010) by Ory Amitay, in *Classical Outlook* 88.2 (Winter 2011), 64-66.

BOOK CHAPTERS FORTHCOMING/PENDING REVIEW

- ‘Herodian’s *History* and the Distant Past,’ for *Herodian: Historiography and Literature at the End of the High Empire*, eds. M. Baumann, A. Kemezis, and M.-E. Zacharioudaki (De Gruyter, pending review).
- ‘Alexander the Lynkestian and the Thracians at Thebes: A Note on the Tale of Timokleia,’ for *Know Thy Neighbor - Macedonia and its Environment*, eds. E. Carney and S. Müller (Karanos: Bulletin of Ancient Macedonian Studies Supplement).
- ‘The Macedonians in Military Treatises (And Some Historiography),’ for *Macedon and Its Influences: Narratives of Politics*

- and War* = *Colloquia Antiqua* 44, eds. J. Reames and G. Wrightson (Peeters).
- ‘Allies and Subjects: Non-Macedonian infantry,’ for *A Companion to the Campaigns of Philip II and Alexander the Great*, ed. E. Anson (Brill).
- ‘Receptions 1 – Classical Antiquity,’ for *The Attic Empire: The Athenians and their Allies in the 5th c. CE*, eds. F. Daubner, P. Reinard, and C. Rollinger (De Gruyter).

INVITED PRESENTATIONS:

- ‘Alexander’s Liminal Hellenism in Arrian’s *Anabasis* and the Non-Liminality of the Macedonians,’ *Liminal Alexander International Conference* at the Autonomous University of Barcelona, February 16th, 2024.
- ‘The Paradox of Humane Imperialism: Revisiting Plutarch’s *On the Fortune or Virtue of Alexander the Great*,’ for Columbia’s Center for the Ancient Mediterranean (CAM), November 17th, 2023.
- ‘Herodian’s *History* and the Distant Past,’ presented at the ‘Herodian: Historiography and Literature at the End of the High Empire’ Conference at Technische Universität Dresden, July 15th, 2022.
- ‘Thracian Soldiers in the Macedonian Army,’ presented at the ‘International Online Conference: Macedonian and its Environment,’ November 3, 2021.
- ‘It’s All Greek to Everyone: Appropriations of Rome in the Second Sophistic,’ presented at the New York Classical Club Spring meeting, May 8th, 2021.
- ‘Cassius Dio’s Greek and Roman Identity,’ presented at the ‘A Companion to Cassius Dio’ Conference at the University of Southern Denmark, Odense, Denmark, December 11th-12th, 2018.
- ‘Cassius Dio and Bilingualism in the Second Sophistic,’ presented at the ‘Greek and Roman Pasts in the Long Second Century: The Intellectual Climate of Cassius Dio’ conference in Banff, Alberta, CA, May 25-27, 2018.
- ‘Alexander’s Presence and Absence in Philostratus’s *Apollonius*,’ presented at the ‘The Courts of Philip and Alexander: Monarchy and Power in Ancient Macedonia’ conference in Edmonton, Alberta, CA, May 2-4, 2018.
- ‘Brave Women in Plutarch and Polyaeus,’ presented at the ‘Plutarch and Gender: An Illinois Workshop’ in Urbana, IL, February 23rd-24th, 2018.
- ‘Xenophon’s *Cyropaedeia* in the Second Sophistic,’ presented at the ‘Melammu Workshop on Xenophon’s *Kyroupaideia*’ in Marburg, Germany, December 1st-2nd, 2017.
- ‘*Stasis* in Cassius Dio and other Second Sophistic Writers,’ presented at the ‘Cassius Dio: the Impact of Violence, War, and Civil War’ conference in Aalborg, Denmark, November 8th-10th, 2017.
- ‘Precocious or Immature? Representations of Alexander’s Youthfulness in Plutarch, Curtius, and the Greek Alexander Romance,’ presented at the ‘The Alexander Romance: History and Literature’ conference in Wrocław, Poland, October 15th-16th, 2015.
- ‘The Argeads and the Second Sophistic,’ presented at the ‘The History of the Argeads—New Perspectives’ conference in Innsbruck, Austria, June 10th-12th, 2015.
- ‘The Motif of the Greedy Soldier in Plutarch’s *Life of Alexander* and Other Imperial Texts,’ presented at the ‘Alexander Symposium’ conference (= the Sixth International Symposium on Alexander the Great), University of Utah, October 9th-11th, 2014.
- ‘Alexander, Trajan and the Ruler Cult in the Second Sophistic,’ presented at the ‘Political Religions in the Ancient Mediterranean (6th c. BC-3rd c. AD)’ conference at the University of Ioannina, July 8th, 2014.
- ‘Historiography and Rhetoric in the Second Sophistic,’ presented at the ‘Historiography and History: Greece, the Aegean and the Near East, 600-31 BCE’ conference in Athens, Greece, July 1st, 2013.
- ‘Hellenistic Kings and the Memory of Alexander in the Second Sophistic,’ presented at the ‘Ancient Macedonian History’ conference at the ATINER conference in Athens, Greece, July 30th-August 2nd, 2012.
- ‘Some Second Sophistic Treatments of War,’ presented at the ‘Retirement Celebration of Suzanne Said’, Columbia University, October 15th, 2011.
- ‘The Ruse of Polyaeus’s *Strategika*,’ presented at the ‘Unisa/Addo Classics Seminar’ in Addo Elephant Park, South Africa, July 1st, 2011.
- ‘The *Alexander Romance* Tradition in Egypt and Ethiopia,’ presented at the ‘Alexander in Africa’ conference, Rhodes University (South Africa), June 29th, 2011.
- ‘Alexander the Philosopher in Greek, Arabic and Persian Traditions,’ presented at the ‘Alexander Romance in Persia and

the East' conference, University of Exeter (UK), July 26th-29th, 2010.

'His Son's Father? Philip II in the Second Sophistic,' presented at the 'Philip II and Alexander III: Father, Son and Dunasteia' conference (= the Fourth International Symposium on Alexander the Great), Clemson University, Clemson, SC. April 5th, 2008.

'Greek Culture and Roman Politics? Polyaeus's *Stratagem*s and Martial Values in the Second Sophistic,' presented at Columbia University. April 18th, 2006.

'Self or Other? The Macedonians and Ancient Greek Identity,' presented at the American School of Classical Studies at Athens. May 7th, 2002.

'Civilizing the Macedonians: Greco-Roman Ethnography in Dio and Arrian,' presented at the 'Hellenism, History, and Ethnography' conference, Franke Institute for the Humanities, University of Chicago, Chicago, IL. February 4th, 2000.

'Olympias' Snake: Magic and Superstition in Narratives of Alexander's Divine Conception,' presented at the 'Between Magic and Religion' conference (sponsored by the Ford Foundation), Harvard University, Cambridge, MA. November 7th, 1998.

PEER-REFEREED PAPERS:

'Historical Method and Quasi-Barbaric Historians in Polybius's Histories,' presented at the 'Contemporary History' panel at the Society for Classical Studies Annual Meeting in San Diego, January 3-6, 2019.

'Conqueror or Monument? Unpacking an Alexander-Commonplace in Plutarch and Philostratus' Life of Apollonius of Tyana,' presented at the 'Reframing Alexandrology: The Frameworks of Commonplace in Ancient Discourse on Alexander the Great' panel at the Society for Classical Studies Annual Meeting in Boston, MA, January 4th-7th, 2018. (Guest speaker: Pierre Briant)

'The Genre of Polyaeus's *Stratagem*s,' presented at Association of Ancient Historians in Vancouver, May 16th, 2009.

'*Black Athena* and the Politics of Racial Harmony in the 2008 U.S. Presidential Election,' presented at the 'African Athena: *Black Athena* 20 Years On' Conference, University of Warwick, UK, November 7th, 2008.

'The Half-Baked Melting-Pot of Oliver Stone's *Alexander*,' presented at the American Philological Association meeting, Montreal, Canada. January 2006.

'Teaching Alexander the Great,' presented as part of the 'Different Dimensions of Teaching Mythology' panel presided by Jean Alvares, Montclair State University, at the Classical Association of the Atlantic States Meeting, New York, NY. April 24th, 2004.

'Greek Identity and Evolving Conceptions of Macedon from the Classical to Roman Periods,' presented at the 'Redrawing the Boundaries' conference, Yale University, New Haven, CT. September 19th-22nd, 2002.

'The Macedonians in the Historical Imagination of the Second Sophistic,' presented at the American Philological Association Meeting, Dallas, TX. December 30th, 1999.

'Plutarch's Alexander and *Philosophia*,' presented at the American Philological Association Meeting (in conjunction with the International Plutarch Society), Washington, DC. December 28th, 1998.

'Macedonian Ethnicity and the Concept of the *Hegemon* in Greek Rhetoric,' presented at the American Philological Association Meeting, Chicago, IL. December 28th, 1997.

OTHER TALKS:

'Alexander the Great: Man and Myth,' presented at 'Classics Day,' Montclair State University, Upper Montclair, NJ. October 26th, 2018.

'What I study in Classics, and Why: Greek Historiography and the Brill's New Jacoby,' presented for recruitment event sponsored by the Classical Association of the Atlantic States (grant received by Dr. Vickie Larson, Dept. of Classics and General Humanities). April 9th, 2012.

'What I study in Classics, and Why: the Reception of Alexander the Great,' presented for recruitment event sponsored by the Classical Association of the Atlantic States (grant received by Dr. Vickie Larson, Dept. of Classics and General Humanities). April 10th, 2011.

'The Ancient World on the Big Screen: Hits and Misses,' presented at 'Classics Day,' Montclair State University, Upper Montclair, NJ. October 25th, 2007.

'Race and Ethnicity, Ancient and Modern,' presented at 'Humanities in the Schools Day,' Montclair State University, Upper Montclair, NJ. December 3rd, 2002.

'Macedonians in the Middle: Panhellenism and Ethnic Identity in 4th-Century Rhetoric,' presented at the 'Multiplying Ethnicities' conference, Columbia University, New York, NY. October 10th, 1998.

OTHER PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Departmental Personnel Action Committee (DPAC)	Fall 2017-Spring 2019; Member	
	Fall 2011-Spring 2012	
Classics Day	Fall 2017-Fall 2022	Presenter and Organizer
Ancient Mediterranean Civilizations Minor	Spring 2013 (approved)	Program Proposer
Sabbatical Committee	Fall 2016-Spring 2017	Member
	Fall 2015-Spring 2016	
	Fall 2011-Spring 2012	
5-year Self-Assessment Committee	Spring 2021; Spring 2017; Spring 2015	
Classics and General Humanities Lectures	Fall 2012	David Ratzan (NYU)
	Fall 2004	Joshua Katz (Princeton)
Language/Classics Coordinatorship	Fall 2013-Spring 2014	Coordinator
	Fall 2007-Spring 2008	
'Alexander the Great: The Epic Era of Hellenism,' exhibit at the Onassis Foundation for Classics and Anthropology Clubs	March 5, 2005	Tour leader
Search Committee for joint appointment for Classics/Art History	Fall 2002-Spring 2003	Member

LANGUAGES

Expertise in Ancient Greek and Latin; reading proficiency in French; reading and limited spoken proficiency in Italian and German; limited proficiency in Modern Greek; residue of graduate school Sanskrit.

ASSOCIATION MEMBERSHIPS

Society for Classical Studies, New York Classical Club, Association of Ancient Historians, Classical Association of the Atlantic States