

# John McDonald

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Department of Classics, Archaeology, and Religion  
University of Missouri  
112 Swallow Hall  
Columbia, MO 65211

(808) 304-6082  
mcdonaldj@missouri.edu

## Employment

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<b>University of Missouri, Columbia</b> Assistant Teaching Professor, Department of Classics, Archaeology, and Religion	<b>2018-</b>
<b>San Diego State University</b> Stepsay Family Postdoctoral Fellow, and Lecturer in Classics and Humanities	2016-2018
<b>University of Hawai'i at Mānoa</b> Lecturer in Classics, Department of Languages and Literatures of Europe and the Americas	2015-2016

## Education

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Ph.D., <b>Cornell University</b> , Classical Philology Dissertation: <i>Orpheus and the Cow: Indo-European Inheritance and Virgilian Variation in Georgics 4</i> Committee: Frederick Ahl (chair), Gregory Nagy, Hayden Pelliccia, Michael Weiss  Dissertation favourably referenced by Peter Jackson, "A Song Worth Fifty Cows: Graeco-Indo-Iranian Variations on the Etiology of Sacrifice," <i>Münchener Studien zur Sprachwissenschaft</i> 68 (2014): 101-117, Daryn Lehoux, <i>Creatures Born of Mud and Slime: The Wonder and Complexity of Spontaneous Generation</i> (Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press, 2017), and Laura Massetti, "Gr. Ὀρφεύς, ved. Ṛbhú- und heth. ḫarp(p)- <sup>mi</sup> ," in <i>Miscellanea Indogermanica</i> , ed. Ivo Hajnal, Daniel Kölligan, and Katharina Zisper (Innsbruck, Innsbrucker Beiträge zur Sprachwissenschaft: 2017): 457-69.	2014
Exchange Scholar, <b>Harvard University</b>	2009-2010
M.A., <b>University of Georgia</b> , Classical Languages Thesis: <i>Inherited Bovine Aspects in Greek Reflexes of the Indo-European Serpent-Slaying Myth</i> Committee: Nancy Felson, Jared Klein (chair), Charles Platter	2006
Special student, <b>University of Toronto</b>	2003-2004
B.A., <b>University of Toronto</b> , Classics and Medieval Studies	2003
Undergraduate student, <b>University of Alberta</b> , Classics and Scandinavian Studies	1999-2001

## Teaching and Research Interests

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- Indo-European perspectives on Greek myth, literature, and culture
- Exchange of mythical, literary, and cultural traditions between the Greco-Roman world and Near East
- Iconography of visual representations of Classical myth
- Reception of the Classics in medieval and modern verbal and visual arts
- Sub/counter-cultural and marginal(ized) groups and figures in the Greco-Roman world
- Roman adaptations and transformations of Greek myth, literature, and culture

## Publications

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### Books:

*Orpheus and the Cow: The Greco-Roman Evolution of an Indo-European Myth*. Under contract with Harvard's Center for Hellenic Studies; to be distributed by Harvard University Press.

*Echoes of Troy East and West: The War at the End of Myth in Greece, India, and Ireland*. Proposal and

sample chapters in development for a university press.

### Articles and Book Chapters:

- "Helen of Troy and Her Indo-European Sisters: Vocal Roles of Abducted Women in Greek, Sanskrit, and Irish Myth." Draft in progress for submission to a peer-reviewed Classics journal.
- "The Oath of Tyndareus and the Nuptials of Nahid: Equine Elements of Marriage by Choice in Greek and Persian Epic Tradition." In *Hollyfest*, the digital Festschrift in celebration of Olga (Holly) Davidson's 66<sup>th</sup> birthday. <http://www.thehollyfest.org/index.php/john-mcdonald/>
- "Building Bulls and Crafting Cows: Narratives of Bovine Fabrication from Iran, Ireland and In-between." In *Erin and Iran: Cultural Encounters between the Irish and the Iranians*. Ed. Houchang Chehabi and Grace Neville. Boston: Ilex Foundation and the Center for Hellenic Studies, distributed by Harvard University Press, 2015: 14-35.
- Book reviewed in French, with positive remarks on my essay in particular, by Guillaume Oudaer, École Pratique des Hautes Études:
- <http://nouvellemythologiecomparee.hautetfort.com/archive/2016/03/10/review-h-e-chenabi-et-grace-neville-ed-erin-and-iran-cultur-5772107.html>
- "The Cow and Her Calf: A Case in Indo-European Poetics and Iconicity." In *Proceedings of the Fifteenth Annual UCLA Indo-European Conference*. Ed. Karlene Jones-Bley, Martin Huld, Angela Della Volpe and Miriam Robbins Dexter. Washington, Institute for the Study of Man, 2004: 74-95.

### Presentations and Roundtables

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#### National Conferences:

- "Trans-Eurasian Perspectives on the Mórrígan's Triple Wounds."  
42<sup>nd</sup> Annual University of California Celtic Studies Conference, UCLA. 3/7/2020
- "Helen of Troy and Her Indo-European Sisters: Women's Vocal Agency and Self-Rescue in Greek, Indian, and Irish Epic."  
Society for Classical Studies Annual Meeting, Washington D.C. 5/1/2020
- "Aphrodite's Blood and Its Cognates East and West: Assaulted Goddesses of the Morning Sky in Greek, Indic, and Irish Narrative."  
Indo-European Religion and Poetics: Myth, Ritual, and Language conference, University of Copenhagen. 12/10/2019
- "How to Sacrifice a Cow in Graeco-Roman and Indian Myth: A Comparative Perspective on Virgil's Ritualized *Bougonia*."  
The 6<sup>th</sup> International Interdisciplinary Conference on Ancient Languages and Cultures: Beliefs and Rituals in Antiquity, University of Wrocław, Poland. 8/6/2018
- "Cattle, Stringed Instruments, and Near Eastern Bull Lyres: Trans-Eurasian Patterns in Bovine Symbolism."  
Israel Society for the Promotion of Classical Studies annual conference, University of Haifa. 6/15/2017
- "Nature in the Ancient World" Roundtable Discussion Chair.  
Society for Classical Studies Annual Meeting, Toronto. 1/7/2017
- "Building Bulls and Crafting Cows: Indo-European Narratives of Bovine Fabrication."  
Erin and Iran Conference, University College Cork. 10/22/2011
- "Orpheus and the *Bougonia* in *Georgics* 4: Cow Slaughter as a Source of Poetic Inspiration."  
American Philological Association Annual Meeting, San Diego. 1/6/2007
- "Water, Milk, Eviscerated Eyes and Severed Heads: An Iconographic Pattern in Indo-European and Near Eastern Mythology."  
15<sup>th</sup> Annual UCLA Indo-European Conference. 11/7/2003
- "Water-Serpents and Demonic Cows: Some Resonances between *Táin Bó Cúailnge* and *Ṛg*" 10/12/2003

*Veda* I.32.”  
23<sup>rd</sup> Harvard Celtic Colloquium.

### Colloquia and Public Lectures:

- “Helen of Troy and Her Indo-European Sisters, or How to Liberate an Abducted Woman in Greek, Sanskrit and Irish Myth.” 5/1/2017  
2017 Burnett Lecture, San Diego State University.
- “Helen of Troy in Medieval Ireland.” 10/23/2015  
Public lecture, University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa.
- “Orpheus and the Cow: Inherited Tradition and Virgilian Innovation in *Georgics* 4.” 12/7/2011  
Colloquium, Cornell University.
- “Comparative Perspectives on Bovine Mythology in Virgil’s *Georgics*.” 2/11/2011  
Comparative Mythology Round Table, Harvard University.

### Guest Lectures:

- “On the Track of the Cow: Investigating the Animal Symbolism of Virgil’s Poetry.” 11/17/2016  
Guest lecture for the Office of the Dean of the College of Arts and Letters and for the Friends of Classics, San Diego State University.
- “From Greece to India and Back Again: the Indo-European Heritage of Homer’s *Iliad*.” 9/9/2015  
Guest lecture in Prof. Daniel Harris-McCoy’s course “Ancient Greek Literature,” University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa.
- “Helen of Troy Between India and Egypt: Methods of Cultural Comparison.” 9/27/2012  
Guest lecture in Prof. Caitlín Barrett’s course “Egyptomania,” Cornell University.
- “The God from Abroad: Comparative Perspectives on Dionysus.” 3/31/2008  
Guest lecture in Prof. Annetta Alexandridis’ course “Iconography of Greek Myth,” Cornell University.

### Works in Progress

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- Myths about assaulted goddesses in Greek, Sanskrit, Irish, and Near Eastern literature
- Transgender hero(in)es in Greek and Sanskrit literature
- Menstruation of mythical women in Greek, Sanskrit, and Irish literature
- Textual genealogy and contextual significance of the geese in Penelope’s dream
- Images of mother-daughter separation in Greek, Sanskrit, and Irish literary descriptions of marriage

### Teaching Experience and Awards

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#### University of Missouri:

Summer 2022

- From the Bronze Age to the Byzantine Empire: Study Abroad in Greece (destinations include Athens, Delphi, Macedonia, Meteora, Corfu, Olympia, Sparta, Monemvasia, Mycenae, Epidauros, Corinth, and Crete)

Spring 2022

- Cultural Ancestors of the Greeks and Romans: Roots and Branches of Indo-European Myth and Religion
- Elementary Latin II
- Gods, Heroes, and Monsters: Greek Myth in the Visual Arts (Diversity Intensive)

Nominated for Provost's Outstanding Junior Faculty Teaching Award (recipients announced in Spring 2022)

Fall 2021

- Praise and Abuse: Greek Hymns, Curses, and Kindred Texts (Advanced Greek)
- Versions of Venus: Philosophy, Epic, Fairy Tale, and Cult (Advanced Latin)
- Classical Mythology (Diversity Intensive)

Spring 2021

- Intermediate Greek Readings (Homeric hymn to Aphrodite, *Odyssey* 5 and 10, and Lucian)
- Reading Latin: Apuleius and Virgil
- Gods, Heroes, and Monsters: Greek Myth in the Visual Arts (Diversity Intensive)

Fall 2020

- Survey of Greek Literature (Advanced Greek)
- Reading Latin: Apuleius and Virgil
- Classical Mythology

Spring 2020

- Intermediate Greek Readings (*Iliad* 3 and 5; *Odyssey* 4 and 19)
- Oral Tradition
- The Ancient Novel (Diversity Intensive)

Nominated for the University of Missouri's Study Abroad Teaching Excellent Award

Fall 2019

- Reading Greek: Artaxerxes II and Polyphemus
- Greek Culture
- Honors Tutorial: Odysseys in Translation
- Elementary Latin I

Summer 2019

- From the Bronze Age to the Byzantine Empire: Study Abroad in Greece (destinations included Athens, Crete, Naxos, Mykonos, Delos, Corinth, Mycenae, Epidauros, Olympia, and Delphi)

Spring 2019

- Greek Stylistics (Advanced Greek prose composition)
- The Age of Pericles
- Elementary Latin I

Fall 2018

- Gods, Heroes, and Monsters: Greek Myth in the Visual Arts
- The Ancient Novel
- Classical Mythology

**San Diego State University:**

- Greek II (Spring 2018)
- World Mythology (Spring 2017, Fall 2017)

- Latin I (Fall 2016)

#### **University of Hawai'i at Mānoa:**

- World Myth (Summer 2016, twice)
- Elementary Latin I (Fall 2015 and Summer 2016) and II (Summer 2016)
- Greek and Latin Elements in English (Spring 2016)
- Greek and Roman Epic (Spring 2016)
- Intermediate Latin I (Fall 2015) and II (Spring 2016)

#### **Cornell University:**

Instructor: Elementary Latin II (Spring 2013)  
Intensive Latin (Summer 2012)  
Freshman Writing Seminar: Greek Myth (Fall 2008)

Teaching Assistant: Egyptomania: Imagining Egypt in the Greco-Roman World (Fall 2012)  
Iconography of Greek Myth (Spring 2008)  
The Greek Experience (Fall 2007)

#### **University of Georgia:**

Elementary Latin I (Fall 2005, Spring 2006)  
Outstanding Graduate Teaching Award (May 2006)

#### **Advising**

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Committee chair for Katie Allgaier's M.A. thesis "Witchcraft and Plants in Greco-Roman Literature" (Fall 2021-)

Committee member for Jordi Alonso's comprehensive exam and dissertation: "The Literary Afterlife of Nymphs and Fauns in the Long Nineteenth Century" (Fall 2019–Spring 2021)

Committee member for Konrad Hughes' Master's thesis: "Dragon of Skyros" (2020-2021)

Committee member for Polina Chepalnova's Master's thesis: "Penelope in Modern and Contemporary Art" (2020-2021)

#### **Service to the University**

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##### **University of Missouri:**

Summer Study Abroad in Greece faculty leader (2018-)

Departmental diversity committee member (2020-)

Language sequence review committee member (Fall 2021)

Departmental awards committee member (2021-)

Departmental social media (Facebook and Instagram) manager (2018-2020)

Undergraduate program review committee member (Fall 2019)

Graduate Program Review Committee member (Fall 2018)

Departmental co-advisor for Eta Sigma Phi and for the Ancient Mediterranean Studies Club (2018-2019)

Departmental co-liaison for the Missouri Classical Association and for outreach (2018-2019)

##### **University of Hawai'i at Mānoa:**

Designed, proposed and succeeded in having added to the catalogue two new Classics courses: LLEA

(Languages and Literatures of Europe and the Americas) 323 "Greek and Roman Drama" and LLEA 326 "The Greek and Roman Novel"

**San Diego State University:**

Faculty Advisor for Umanisti, the Classics and Humanities Student Organization of San Diego State University (2016-2018)

Steward of Classics (mentor for Classics students), San Diego State University (2016-2018)

Gave research presentations at events for donors in order to encourage further philanthropy

**Professional Training**

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UM System Online Teaching Certification Seminar (April 2021)

Association of College and University Educators (ACUE) Effective Teaching Practices Course (2019-2020)

BOLT (Blended and Online Teaching and Learning) Program (San Diego State University, Instructional Technology Services, 2016-2017)

Harvard Center for Hellenic Studies—Ilex Foundation Fellow in Linguistics (June 2011-June 2015)

Editor of:

Davidson, Olga. *Comparative Literature and Classical Persian Poetics*. 2<sup>nd</sup> edition. Boston: Ilex Foundation, distributed by Harvard University Press, 2013.

Davidson, Olga. *Poet and Hero in the Persian Book of Kings*. 3<sup>rd</sup> edition. Boston: Ilex Foundation, distributed by Harvard University Press, 2013.

Writing 7100: Teaching Writing (Cornell University, Knight Institute for Writing in the Disciplines, Summer 2008)

Latin 7770: Latin Teaching Apprenticeship (University of Georgia, Fall 2004)

**Primary References**

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Prof. Frederick Ahl  
Cornell University  
fma2@cornell.edu  
(607) 255-8324

Prof. Robert Littman  
University of Hawai'i at Mānoa  
littman@hawaii.edu  
(808) 956-4173

Prof. Michael Weiss  
Cornell University  
mlw36@cornell.edu  
(607) 592-1490

**Additional References**

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Prof. Annetta Alexandridis  
Cornell University  
aa376@cornell.edu  
(607) 254-7263

Prof. Caitlín Barrett  
Cornell University  
ceb329@cornell.edu

(607) 251-5865

Prof. Gregory Nagy  
Harvard University  
gnagy@fas.harvard.edu  
(617) 495-1941

Prof. Hayden Pelliccia  
Cornell University  
hnp1@cornell.edu  
(607) 255-8330

Prof. Joseph Smith  
San Diego State University  
jasmith@mail.sdsu.edu  
(619) 594-1526