

John McDonald

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Employment

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

Education

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

Teaching and Research Interests

- Indo-European perspectives on Classical 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 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

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: Women's Vocal Agency and Self-Rescue in Greek, Indian, and Irish Epic." 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 66th 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, 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>

Referenced, together with my dissertation, thesis, and 2004 essay by John Leavitt, "The Smith, the Cow, and the Stars," *Nouvelle Mythologie Comparée* 6 (2021): 5-58.

"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.

Referenced by Daniele Maggi, "Su alcune tematiche negli studi recenti relativi all'antico indiano," *AION* 30 (2010): 11-93.

Presentations and Roundtables

National Conferences:

"Telegonos' Stingray and Samba's Grass: Old Age and Death from the Sea at the End of Epic." 12/10/2022
33rd Annual UCLA Indo-European Conference.

"Trans-Eurasian Perspectives on the Mórrígan's Triple Wounds."
42nd 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 6th International Interdisciplinary Conference on Ancient Languages and Cultures: Beliefs and Rituals in Antiquity, University of Wroclaw, 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." 10/22/2011
Erin and Iran Conference, University College Cork.
- "Orpheus and the *Bougonia* in *Georgics* 4: Cow Slaughter as a Source of Poetic Inspiration." 1/6/2007
American Philological Association Annual Meeting, San Diego.
- "Water, Milk, Eviscerated Eyes and Severed Heads: An Iconographic Pattern in Indo-European and Near Eastern Mythology." 11/7/2003
15th Annual UCLA Indo-European Conference.
- "Water-Serpents and Demonic Cows: Some Resonances between *Táin Bó Cúailnge* and *R̥g Veda* I.32." 10/12/2003
23rd 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

- Myths about assaulted goddesses in Greek, Sanskrit, Irish, and Near Eastern literature
- The riddling deaths of Odysseus and Kṛṣṇa
- 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 parent-child separation in Greek, Sanskrit, and Irish literary descriptions of marriage and abduction

Teaching Experience and Awards

University of Missouri:

Summer 2024

- From the Bronze Age to the Byzantine Empire: Study Abroad in Greece (destinations will include Crete, Mycenae, Epidauros, Sparta, Olympia, Delphi, Eleusis, Athens, Sounion, Mykonos, Delos, and Rineia)

Spring 2024

- Cultural Ancestors of the Greeks and Romans: Roots and Branches of Indo-European Myth and Religion
- Gods, Heroes, and Monsters: Greek Myth in the Visual Arts

Fall 2023

- Graduate seminar in Classical mythology: the long Homeric hymns
- Advanced Mythology: comparative and historical hymnology (Homeric, Orphic and Vedic hymns, epinician odes, and the hagiography of Saint Brigit)
- Classical Mythology (Diversity Intensive)

Summer 2023

- From the Bronze Age to the Byzantine Empire: Study Abroad in Greece (destinations included Crete, Santorini, Mykonos, Delos, Corinth, Mycenae, Epidauros, Monemvasia, Sparta, Pylos, Olympia, Meteora, Macedonia, Delphi, Chaeronea, Eretria, Eleusis, Athens, Aegina, and Sounion)

Spring 2023

- Classics in a Cross-Cultural Context (comparative epic: Homer, *Mahabharata*, *Shahnameh*, Ulster Cycle)
- Cultural Ancestors of the Greeks and Romans: Roots and Branches of Indo-European Myth and Religion
- Gods, Heroes, and Monsters: Greek Myth in the Visual Arts

Fall 2022

- Advanced Mythology (comparative and historical hymnology)
- Intermediate Latin: Apuleius and Virgil
- Classical Mythology (Diversity Intensive)

Summer 2022

- From the Bronze Age to the Byzantine Empire: Study Abroad in Greece (destinations included Athens, Sounion, Marathon, Thebes, Delphi, Macedonia, Meteora, Corfu, Olympia, Pylos, Sparta, Mystras, Monemvasia, Mycenae, Epidauros, Corinth, Eleusis, 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 the Provost's Outstanding Junior Faculty Teaching Award

Fall 2021

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

Spring 2021

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

Fall 2020

- Advanced Greek: survey of Greek literature
- Intermediate Latin: Apuleius and Virgil
- Classical Mythology

Spring 2020

- Intermediate Greek II (*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 Excellence Award

Fall 2019

- Intermediate Greek I: Artaxerxes II and Polyphemus
- Greek Culture
- Honors Tutorial: *Odysseys in Translation* (Homer, Margaret Atwood, Madeline Miller, James Joyce)
- 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

Committee member for Bridget Farahay's Master's thesis "Imagining the Future of Classics Pedagogy: An Introductory-Level, Undergraduate Course on Medea, Intersectionality, and *Beloved*" (Spring 2022)

Committee member for Jacob Brakebill's dissertation: "The Divine Spark: A Survey of Fire Imagery in Indo-European Literature" (Spring 2021-)

Committee chair for Katie Allgaier's Master's 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 Chelpanova's Master's thesis: "Penelope in Modern and Contemporary Art" (2020-2021)

Service to the University

University of Missouri:

Summer Study Abroad in Greece faculty leader (2018-)

LaBrunerie Library Committee Chair (2022-)

Search Committee member for Non-Tenure-Track Professor of American religions hire (2022-2023)

Departmental diversity committee member (2020-2022)

Language sequence review committee member (Fall 2021)

Departmental awards committee member (2021-2022)

Departmental social media (Facebook and Instagram) manager (2018-2020) and member (2021-)

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

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*. 2nd edition. Boston: Ilex Foundation, distributed by Harvard University Press, 2013.

Davidson, Olga. *Poet and Hero in the Persian Book of Kings*. 3rd 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

Prof. Signe Cohen
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Prof. Michael Weiss
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Additional References

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