

## ALEXANDER HOLLMANN

Associate Professor  
Department of Classics  
University of Washington  
Box 353110  
Seattle, WA 98195  
[hollmann@uw.edu](mailto:hollmann@uw.edu)

### EMPLOYMENT

2011–present Associate Professor, Department of Classics, University of Washington, Seattle  
2005–2011 Assistant Professor, Department of Classics, University of Washington, Seattle  
2003–2004 Visiting Assistant Professor, Department of Classics, University of Puget Sound, Tacoma WA  
2001–2003 Adjunct Faculty, University of Washington, Seattle  
1999–2001 Visiting Assistant Professor, Union College, Schenectady NY  
1998–1999 Instructor, Harvard University

### EDUCATION

1998 Ph.D. in Classical Philology, Harvard University  
1990 M.A. in Classics, University of Colorado.  
Thesis: "Aelius Aristides *Pros Platona* and the Argument against Rhetoric"  
Supervisor: Eckart Schütrumpf  
1987 B.A. in Ancient Greek, second major in Roman-Dutch Private Law, University of Cape Town, South Africa

### DISSERTATION

"The Master of Signs: Signs and the Interpretation of Signs in Herodotos' *Histories*"  
Supervisor: Albert Henrichs. Readers: Gregory Nagy, Christopher Jones

### TEACHING AND RESEARCH INTERESTS

Greek literature, esp. Herodotus and prose; ancient Greek and Roman religion, esp. Greek and Roman magic; issues of continuity and legacy of Ancient Greece in Modern Greece

### PUBLICATIONS

#### BOOKS

*Magica Levantina*, with Robert Daniel (Brill-Schöningh in series *Papyrologica Coloniensia*: publication date 14 April, 2025)  
Edition of and commentary on new curse tablets from Syrian Antioch and Caesarea Maritima.

*The Master of Signs. Signs and the Interpretation of Signs in Herodotus' Histories*. Center for Hellenic Studies in association with Harvard University Press. 2011 (monograph)

*Ritual and Performativity. The Chorus of Old Comedy.* Harvard University Press: Cambridge, Mass. 2010. Translation from original German of Anton Bierl, *Der Chor in der Alten Komödie. Ritual und Performativität unter besonderer Berücksichtigung von Aristophanes' Thesmophoriazusen und der Phalloslieder fr. 851 PMG*  
K. G. Saur Verlag: Munich 2001

## ARTICLES AND CHAPTERS

“Magic in Apollonius’ *Argonautica*” R. Scodel (ed.), *A Companion to Apollonius of Rhodes*, University of Michigan Press, 2025.  
"Signs and Symbols," "Dreams," "Deception," "Likhas," "Salmoxis," C. Baron, *The Herodotus Encyclopedia*, Wiley-Blackwell, 2021.  
"Curse Tablets" A. Futrell and T. Scanlon (eds), *The Oxford Handbook of Sport and Spectacle in the Ancient World*, Oxford University Press, 2021.  
"Holy Sphinxes and the Cry of the Wolf." In: *Albert's Anthology*, Loeb Classical Monographs 17. Harvard University Press: Cambridge MA 2017, 87  
"Solon and Herodotus." G. Nagy and M. Noussia-Fantuzzi (eds), *Solon in the Making: the Early Reception in the Fifth and Fourth Centuries*. De Gruyter: Berlin 2015, 85-109  
"Kleisthenes the Stone-Thrower: Hdt. 5.67.2," *Mnemosyne* 65 (2012) 1-17  
"A Curse Tablet from Antioch against Babylas the Greengrocer," *Zeitschrift für Papyrologie und Epigraphik* 177 (2011) 157-165  
"The Manipulation of Signs in Herodotus' *Histories*," *Transactions of the American Philological Association* 135.2 (2005) 279-327  
"A Curse Tablet from the Circus at Antioch," *Zeitschrift für Papyrologie und Epigraphik* 145 (2003) 67-82  
"Epos as Authoritative Speech in Herodotus’ *Histories*," *Harvard Studies in Classical Philology* 100 (2000) 207-225

## REVIEWS

Review of H.I. Flower (ed.), *Empire and Religion in the Roman World*, Cambridge University Press, Cambridge 2021. *Ancient East and West*, 23 (2024) 356–358  
Review of A. Wilburn, *Materia Magica. The Archaeology of Magic in Roman Egypt, Cyprus, and Spain*. Ann Arbor: University of Michigan Press, 2012. *Journal of Roman Archaeology* 26.2 (2015)  
Review of E. Baragwanath and M. de Bakker (edd.), *Myth, Truth, and Narrative in Herodotus*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2012. *Exemplaria Classica* 18 (2014) 221-231  
Review of Faraone, Christopher A. and F. S. Naiden (edd.), *Greek and Roman animal sacrifice: ancient victims, modern observers*. Cambridge; New York: Cambridge University Press, 2012. <http://bmcr.brynmaur.edu/2013/2013-04-44.html>  
Review of S. Trzcionka, *Magic and the Supernatural in Fourth-Century Syria*, Routledge: London 2006: "Magic' and its varieties in 4th-c. Syria and Palestine," *Journal of Roman Archaeology* 22.2 (2009) 739-744  
Review of *Perseus 2.0: Interactive Sources and Studies on Ancient Greece* (Concise Edition), Gregory Crane, Editor-in-Chief. Yale University Press CD-ROM, 2000

*Journal for MultiMedia History* 3 (2000)  
<http://www.albany.edu/jmmh/vol3/perseus/perseus.html>

## **AWARDS AND FELLOWSHIPS**

- 2022 Second Book Fellowship, Simpson Center for the Humanities, University of Washington
- 2016 National Endowment for Humanities and W.S. Albright Institute of Archaeological Research Fellowship  
Loeb Classical Library Foundation Fellowship
- 2014 Royalty Research Fellowship, University of Washington
- 2004 Junior Fellow, Center for Hellenic Studies, Washington D.C  
Loeb Classical Library Foundation Grant
- 1997 Whiting Fellowship for Dissertation Completion  
Award for Excellence in Teaching, Derek Bok Teaching Center, Harvard University  
Bowdoin Prize for Greek Prose Composition, Harvard University
- 1996 Award for Excellence in Teaching, Derek Bok Teaching Center, Harvard University  
Bowdoin Prize for Greek Prose Composition, Harvard University
- 1987 Class Medal for Greek  
Class Medal for Latin (Legal)
- 1986 Koopmans de Wet Scholarship for Afrikaans-Nederlands, University of Cape Town  
Class Medal for Greek  
Class Medal for Latin

## **INVITED TALKS**

- 2016 "Ancient Greek Magic and Amulets" (University of the Holy Land, Jerusalem)
- 2014 "Now now, quick quick!" Cursing and magic in late-antique Antioch." 15th Annual Faculty Lecture on Classical Culture, Seattle AIA chapter
- 2011 "A Newly Deciphered Greek Silver Amulet" (U. of Washington Classics Colloquium)
- 2009 "Was Kleisthenes a stoner or was he stoned? Hdt. 5.67.2" (U. of Calgary, U. of Victoria)  
"Babylas the Evil Greengrocer and the Antioch Curse Tablets" (U. of Victoria)  
"Circus Magic in Antioch" (U. of Washington Rome Center)
- 2007 "Agon and Magic in Antioch" (Portland State University)
- 2005 "Magic in Antioch" (Bowdoin College, Duke University)  
"Olbia revisited: from Herodotus to Dio Chrysostomus" (U. of Washington, Seattle)
- 2003 "Curse tablets from Antioch" (University of Washington)
- 1999 "Herodotus the Master of Signs" (Harvard University)  
"Scythians on Athenian Vases" (Union College)
- 1998 "A Newly Unrolled and Deciphered Curse Tablet from the Circus at Antioch" ("Between Magic and Religion," Ford Foundation, Harvard University)

## **CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS**

- 2025 "Puzzling Drawings"  
(Classical Association of the Pacific Northwest – Classical Association of the Canadian West, Vancouver B.C)

- 2024 “Curse and Counter-Curse on a Curse Tablet from Antioch (*ML* 28).”  
(Leiden University)
- 2022 “Equine Onomastics on Late-Antique Curse Tablets from Antioch and Caesarea.”  
(Classical Association of the Pacific Northwest)
- 2020 “Kronos/Khronos on curse tablets from Antioch and Caesarea” (Florida State University)
- 2019 “Curse tablets from the well in the Procurator’s Palace in Caesarea” (University of Chicago)
- 2016 “Curse tablets and private wells in Antioch” (American Institute of Archaeology, San Francisco)
- 2014 “Solon, *ainos*, and Herodotus” (American Philological Association, Chicago)
- 2012 “*Agônes* at late-antique Antioch” (“Athletic and Interstate Rivalries at the Olympics and Beyond”, International Olympic Academy, Greece)
- 2011 “‘Whom the Polluted Womb Bore’: A New Version of an Old Formula” (American Philological Association, San Antonio)
- 2010 “Babylas the Evil Greengrocer” (joint meeting of Classical Association of Pacific Northwest and Classical Association of Canadian West, Seattle)
- 2004 “Khronos-Kronos on a newly-deciphered curse tablet from Antioch” (American Philological Association, San Francisco)
- 1999 “Dionysos and Kadmilos on a Curse Tablet from Antioch” (American Philological Association, Dallas)
- 1998 “The Manipulation of Signs in Herodotus’ *Histories*” (American Philological Association, Washington D.C.)
- 1996 “The Psychology of Pity and Grief: Hdt. *Histories* 3.14” (American Philological Association, New York City)

## PRESENTATIONS AND OUTREACH

- 2025 Consultation re Philippiades/Pheidippides and Marathon with Chris Chavez for book *The Marathon*, to be published by Penguin Random House  
Consultation re Greek pronunciation for dramatic production of Lisa Petersen “An Iliad” (NC School of the Arts)
- 2024 Consultation re Greek pronunciation for dramatic production of Thornton Wilder “Skin of our teeth” (Seattle Rep)  
Consultation re teaching materials on magic with John Burke, Classical Association of Ireland – Teachers  
Consultation with Thames and Hudson re text and images for *Compendium of the Occult*
- 2023 Interview (in writing) with middle schooler Diana Zusman (Rosehill Elementary) on death dates of Homer and Virgil
- 2022 Assisted with translation of Modern Greek fragments of *Medea* and coaching of actors in Modern Greek pronunciation for Intiman Theater production of Lorraine Hansberry’s “The Sign in Sidney Brustein’s Window”  
Participated as reader in Herodotus Marathon organized by Herodotus Hotline group  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8tM4N98ljZk>
- 2018 Consultant and narrative voice in Greek for film *The Wrath of Demeter* by Trial and Error Productions

- [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FGKSAiQ3\\_\\_o&t=109s](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FGKSAiQ3__o&t=109s)
- 2017 Consultant for premiere of Moby Pomerance's *Alex and Aris* (ACT Theater)  
Participant in pre- and post-performance discussions
- 2016 Interviewed on Center for Hellenic Studies Open House online discussion on Herodotus  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Pq7gdg9vFZU>  
"Connections between my academic and artistic work." (Talk on artist's book at  
Feminism and Classics VII Conference, University of Washington)
- 2015 "How To Go To Hell: or, There and Back Again" Two talks at 5th Ave Theater,  
Seattle in connection with musical *Jasper in Deadland*.  
Interview and onstage discussion with David Armstrong, producer of *Jasper in Deadland*,  
5th Ave Theatre, Seattle.
- 2014 "Greco-Roman Magic" Annual Teachers' Conference, UW Dept. of Classics
- 2011 Interview with Hank Pollett, 8th grader, Eckstein Middle School, for mythology project.  
Consultation with Maria Headley, author of *Queen of Kings* (Dutton/Penguin 2011)
- 2007 Junior Classical League judge. Roosevelt High School, Seattle

## SERVICE TO FIELD

### CONFERENCE ORGANIZATION

- 2025 Reading committee for proposals, session chair for student conference "East meets  
West", Sacramento State University
- 2021 With Nektaria Klapaki co-organizer of online international conference "Greek  
Independence after 200 Years"

### REFEREE FOR JOURNALS

- Histos* (2024)  
*Syllogos* (2024)  
*Arion* (2023)  
*Classical World* (2022)  
*Classical Journal* (2020, 2015, 2007)  
*Classical Philology* (2015)  
*Classical Antiquity* (2014)

### REFEREE FOR PUBLISHERS

- Bloomsbury Press (2025)  
University of Pennsylvania Press (2018)  
Learning A-Z, Tucson Arizona (2016)  
Oxford University Press (2015)  
Cambridge University Press (2013)

### TENURE REVIEW

- Department of Modern and Classical Languages and Literatures, Virginia Tech (2020)

### CONSULTATION

- 2016 Consultation for Sotheby's (London) on gold amulet  
2014 Consultation for Sotheby's (New York) on Greek inscription

2013 Consultation for Sotheby's (New York) on Roman and Greek funerary inscriptions  
 2011 Consultation for Dumbarton Oaks Byzantine Collection concerning Greek silver amulet  
 2009 Consultation for Sotheby's (New York) on Greek dedicatory inscription

## **COURSES TAUGHT**

### **UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON**

Beginning Greek sequence (Greek 101, 102, 103): several times since 2005, 2021, 2022, 2023–2024  
 Second year Greek sequence: Greek 305 Xenophon (2014, 2015, 2018 2021), 306 Plato (2013), 307 Homer (2008)  
 Upper level Greek courses. Greek 422 Herodotus (2005, 2011), Greek 424 Attic Orators (2008), 461 Herodotus (2019), Homeric Hymns (2017), 463 Daphnis and Chloe (2025)  
 Greek 500 Greek Prose Composition: every other year since 2006  
 Greek 520 seminars: Herodotus (2009, 2018), Greek magic (2015, 2019), Greek curse tablets (2023), Aristophanes (2024)  
 Greek 510, 540 graduate survey course in historians: 2013, 2020  
 Beginning Latin sequence (Latin 101, 102, 103): 2002, 2017  
 Second year Greek sequence: Latin 305 Caesar and Catullus (2005, 2011), Latin 306 Cicero and Ovid (2019), Latin 307 Vergil (2018)  
 Latin 424 Tacitus: 2015  
 Classics 239/JSIS A 239 Greece: From Ancient to Modern. Team-taught with Nektaria Klapaki of Hellenic Studies yearly: 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023, 2024, 2025  
 Classics 430 Greek and Roman mythology: 2002, 2006, 2008, 2012, 2014, 2016, 2020  
 Classics 445 Greek and Roman religion: 2006, 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015 (bis), 2019, 2021, 2023, 2025  
 Greeks, Romans, and Barbarians Histam: 2002  
 Topography of Rome (UW Rome Center): 2009

### **UNIVERSITY OF PUGET SOUND**

Beginning Latin sequence (2003-4)  
 Second Year Latin: Elegy (2004)  
 Second Year Latin: Ovid (2003)  
 Women in Antiquity (2004)  
 Greek and Roman Epic (2003)

### **UNION COLLEGE**

Greek History survey (1999, 2000)  
 Roman History survey (2000, 2001)  
 Beginning Latin sequence (1999, 2000)  
 Upper level Greek (Aeschylus, *Prometheus Bound*) (2001)  
 Greeks, Romans, and Barbarians (1999)

## **HARVARD UNIVERSITY**

Elementary Greek (1994–1997)  
 Greeks, Romans, and Barbarians (1998)  
 Greek H: Prose Composition (1998)  
 Sophomore Tutorial in Greek (Theocritus, Apollonius Rhodes, Herodotus) (1994–1997)  
 Concept of the Hero (1994) (TA)  
 Rome of Augustus (1995–1997) (TA, Head TA)

## **UNIVERSITY SERVICE**

Member, Graduate School Council (2023 —)  
 Chair, Hellenic Studies Program (2017 —)  
 Dr. Nick and Nancy Vidalakis Family Endowed Professor of Culture, Excellence, and Spirituality in Hellenic Studies (2017–2020, 2021–2024, 2024–)  
 Hellenic Studies faculty advisory committee (2005–2015)  
 Faculty, Comparative Religion Program (2009–)  
 Member, Faculty Council on Educational Technology (2009)

## **STUDENT SUPERVISION**

GSR Doctoral Supervisory Committee Joshua Losoya (Communications) (2024)  
 GSR Doctoral Supervisory Committee Tuna Basibek (Near and Middle Eastern Studies) (2022)  
 GSR Doctoral Supervisory Committee Anna Bates (Philosophy) (2022)  
 Member, MA Thesis Committee Morgan Smithson (Comparative Religion) (2022)  
 Member, MA Thesis Committee Kurt Willems (Comparative Religion) (2018)  
 GSR Doctoral Supervisory Committee Katharine Chapman (History) (2016)

## **DEPARTMENTAL SERVICE**

Chair, Search Committee (2023–2024)  
 Interim Chair (Spring, 2022)  
 Chair, Undergraduate Awards Committee (2022)  
 Interim undergraduate advisor (2020)  
 Course coordinator beginning Latin (2012–2022)  
 Graduate Greek language exam committee (chair, member) 2025, 2024, 2023, 2022, 2011  
 Graduate modern language exam committee (chair, member) yearly  
 Graduate admissions committee (member)  
 Committee for relations with schools (chair, member) 2012  
 Rome Program, Spring 2009

## **UNDERGRADUATE SUPERVISION**

Supervisor, Honors Thesis:

Hannah Newland (“Justice from Plato to Thomas Aquinas”) 2024  
R. Allen Snyder (“An analysis of some ancient contes fantastiques”) 2013  
Ella Wallace (“Plants and magic in the magical texts”) 2010

Supervisor, Senior Thesis:

Joseph Bringman (“The subjectivity of divinity: personal and political determinants of the Roman imperial apotheotic apparatus”) 2016

Supervisor, Senior Essay:

Charlotte Gutrich (“Flavius Josephus: the ethics of mass suicide”) 2022  
Andrew Geary (“Pythagoras and Animal Sacrifice”) 2022  
Galane Endale (“Death and Marriage in Greek Tragedy”) 2011  
Leah Jaggars (“The Meaning of Daimon in Homer, Hesiod, Herodotus, Plato, and Pausanias”) 2011

### **GRADUATE SUPERVISION**

Supervisor, Special Author/Field Exam:

Brandon Jones, Hans-Peder Hanson, Colin Shelton

Reader, Special Author/Field Exams:

Lauryn Hanley (2024), Lauryn Hanley (2023), Kaitlyn Boulding (2020), Mary McNulty, Fanaye Yirga, Konnor Clark, Josh Zacks, Megan O’Donald, Eunice Kim (2012), Ed Bertany, Matthew Gorey (2014), Alberto Requejo (2014, 2015), Chad Carver (2015)

Reader, MA paper:

Lexi Smith (2023)  
Sarah Breitenfeld, Nick Maki (2012)

Reader, PhD dissertation:

Joshua Zacks (2022)  
Sarah Breitenfeld (2022)  
Fanaye Yirga (2021)  
Chad Carver (2018)  
Eunice Kim (2017)  
Adrian Vazquez (2017)  
Brandon Jones (2015)  
Allison Das (2015)  
Naomi Campa (2014)  
Richard Buxton (2011)  
Robin Greene (2011)  
Lindsay Morse (2010)  
Hans-Peder Hanson (2009)  
Eric Ross (2007)

Examiner, oral general exams:



Lauryn Hanley, Jonathan Clark (2024); Fanaye Yirga, Sarah Breitenfeld, Joseph Bringman, Edgar Garcia (2019), Alberto Requejo (2015), Xiaoran Luo (2015), Adriana Vazquez (2014), Matthew Gorey (2014), Ed Bertany (2012), Brandon Jones (2012), Richard Buxton, Colin Shelton, Bridget Langley, Robin Greene