

OLGA LEVANIUK

2026

Department of Classics · University of Washington · Box 353110 · Seattle WA 98195 · olevan@uw.edu

Education

Harvard University, PhD, Classical Philology 2000
University of Colorado, MA Classical Philology 1994
University of Colorado, BA Classics 1992
Lomonosov Moscow State University 1988-1990

Ph.D. Dissertation

Odyssean Usages of Local Traditions (Committee: Gregory Nagy (chair), Calvert Watkins, Gloria Ferrari)

Employment:

2019–present: Professor, University of Washington
2009–2019: Associate Professor of Classics, University of Washington
2001–2009: Assistant Professor of Classics, University of Washington

Areas of Interest

Homer; oral and comparative poetics; archaic Greek poetry; Greek and comparative myth and ritual; Greek linguistics and history of Greek Language.

Books and edited volumes

Eve of the Festival: Making Myth in Odyssey 19. Cambridge, Mass. 2011
Light and Darkness in Ancient Greek Myth and Religion. Lexington Books 2010
(co-edited with M. Christopoulos and E. Karakantza)
Nine Essays on Homer. Rowman and Littlefield (co-edited with M. Carlisle) 1999

Articles

"Book 19" in J. Christensen, ed. *The Oxford Critical Guide to Homer's Odyssey*, 241-254 2026
"Russian Wedding Songs." In: M. Beissinger, ed. *The Oxford Handbook of Slavic and East European Folklore*. Oxford. 2025
"The dreams of Barčín and Penelope." *Harvard Studies in Classical Philology* 112:1-34. 2023
"The Song of the Bed Revisited." 2023
In: A. Papachrysostomou, A. Antonopoulos et al., eds.
Γερα: Studies in Honor of Professor Menelaos Christopoulos, Classics@25
"Mystery Cows: Bovine Subplots in Initiation Narratives" 2022
In: M. Christopoulos, A. Papachrysostomou, M. Meyer, eds.
Unveiling the Hidden Face of Antiquity: Mysteries and Cryptic Cults, Phoibos Verlag c
"Seeking Agariste." 2022
In: M. Christopoulos, A. Papachrysostomou and A. Antonopoulos, eds.
Myth and History: Close Encounters. De Gruyter
"Homer and Indo-European Myth." In C. Pache, ed. *Cambridge Homer Encyclopedia*. 2020
"Did Sappho and Homer Ever Meet? Comparative Perspectives on Homeric Singers." 2018
In J. Ready and C. Tsagalis, eds. *Homer in Performance: Rhapsodes, Characters, and Narrators*. University of Texas Press
"Fun and Punishment: the Iros episode of the *Odyssey* revisited" 2014
In Christopoulos, M. and Paizi, M, eds. *Crime and Punishment in Homeric and Archaic Epic*,
Proceedings of the 12th International Symposium on the *Odyssey*
at the Centre for Odyssean Studies, Ithaca, Greece.
"Sky-Blue Flower: Songs of the Bride in Modern Russia and Ancient Greece." 2012
Online in: Bers, Victor, et al., eds, *Donum natalicium digitaliter confectum*
Gregorio Nagy septuagenario a discipulis collegis familiaribus oblatum.
(<http://chs.harvard.edu/wa/pageR?tn=ArticleWrapper&bdc=12&mn=4843>)
"Οὐ χρώμεθα τοῖς ξενικοῖς ποιήμασιν: Questions about Evolution and Fluidity 2012
of the *Odyssey*." In F. Montanari, A. Rengakos, C. Tsagalis, eds.

- Homeric Contexts: Neanalysis and the Interpretation of Oral poetry.*
Walter de Gruyter. Trends in Classics Supplementary Volume 12.369-409.
- "Penelope and the Pandareids." *Phoenix* 62.1-34 2008
- "Lament and Hymenaios in Erinna's *Distaff*." 2008
In A.Suter, ed., *Lament: Studies in the Eastern Mediterranean and Beyond* (Oxford) 324-380
- "The Toys of Dionysos" *Harvard Studies in Classical Philology* 103.165-202 2007
- "Aithôn, Aithon, and Odysseus." *Harvard Studies in Classical Philology* 100.25-52 2000
- "Penelope and the Pênelops" In Carlisle and Levaniouk, eds. 1999
Nine Essays on Homer (Rowman and Littlefield) 95-136.

Reviews

- Review of M. West, *The Making of the Odyssey*. *Journal of Hellenic Studies*. 2016
- Review of M. Fantuzzi, *Achilles in Love: Intertextual Studies*. *Mnemosyne* 67.6.1028-1031. 2014
- Review of J. Burgess, *The Death and Afterlife of Achilles*. *New England Classical Journal* 37. 2010
- Review of C. Tsagalis, *Epic Grief*. *Classical Review* 56.2.269-271 2006
- Review of J. Helden, M. Jensen, T. Pettit (edd.), *Inclinate Aurem*. 2003
Oral Perspectives on Early European Verbal Culture. *Classical Review* 53.2.483-484.

Selected talks and presentations

- "The Milky Sea: Thetis and Andromache in the Andromache of Euripides." 15th International Symposium on the *Odyssey*, Center for Odyssean Studies, Ithaki, Greece. 2025
- "Megacles the Golden Goose: Herodotus and the Jataka Once Again" AIA/SCS, Philadelphia 2024
- "Dressing like a Girl, Dying like a Bridegroom: Wedding Aesthetics in the Iliad," Celtic Conference in Classics, Cardiff University. 2024
- "Teaching Greek in Uncanny Times." Keynote address at the 5th International Conference of the Regional Directorate of Education of Crete, "New Development Forms for Sustainable Future: New Horizons in Modern Education and School Leadership." 2024
- "Women in Greek and Indic Epics" Brooklyn Institute for Social Research 2023
- "The Sign of the Bed Revisited" International Conference in Honor of Menelaos Christopoulos, University of Patras 2023
- "Mystery Cows." International Conference on Mysteries, Mysticism, Cult, and Cultism in Antiquity University of Patras. 2022
- "Puzzling Penelope." Wellesley College 2021
- "Seeking Agariste: A Herodotean Betrothal Myth Revisited." University of Patras. 2019
- "Homer and Sappho in Ancient Lesbos." University of Vermont. 2019
- "Did Sappho and Homer Ever Meet? Comparative Perspectives on Homeric Singers." Leiden University. 2017
- "The waters of the underworld and Ino in the Odyssey." 13th International Symposium on the *Odyssey*, Center for Odyssean Studies, Ithaki, Greece 2017
- "In one night: Time and Space in Ancient Greek Wedding and Related Myths." University of Patras, Greece. 2015
- "Run for Your Life: Footraces, Chariots and the Myth of Hippodameia," Annual meeting of the Society for Classical Studies, New Orleans. 2015
- "Fun and Punishment: the Iros Episode of the *Odyssey* Revisited." 12th International Symposium on the *Odyssey*, Center for Odyssean Studies, Ithaki, Greece 2014
- "Truly I want to die." Brides in Ancient Greece and Modern Russia. University of Washington. 2013
- "Τιμὰ ποδῶν: Footraces in Myth and Ancient Olympia." Ancient Olympia. 2012
- "Returning to Penelope." Annual Teacher's Conference: Teaching the Odyssey. Classics Department, University of Washington 2010
- "The Dreams of Barchin and Penelope." Harvard University. 2010
- "Οὐ χρώμεθα τοῖς ξενικοῖς ποιήμασιν: questions about evolution and fluidity of the *Odyssey*." Aristotle University, Thessaloniki, Greece. 2010
- "Landing at Amnisos: Diachronic Crete in the Odyssey." Duke University. 2009
- "Bird-Women: Flight, Song, Penelope and Tragic Heroines." *The Woman in Ancient Drama: XIII International Symposium on Greek Drama*, Delphi, Greece . 2007

"Duel and Duets: <i>oaristus</i> , <i>oaros</i> , and related words in Homer" American Philological Association, San Diego.	2007
"The Wedding and the Sea: Some Nuptial Themes in Greek Poetry from Homer to Erinna" University of Victoria, Canada.	2005
"Odysseus meets Penelope." Bowdoin College, Maine	2005
"Homer's Migrating Cities." University of Crete.	2004
"Hesiod and Odysseus." University of Athens.	2004
"Penelope and the Pandareids." Colloquium <i>Penelope's Revenge</i> . University of Calgary.	2004
"Traditional Aesthetics of Erinna's <i>Distaff</i> " American Philological Association, San Francisco.	2004
"Truth, authority, anxiety: Pindar and Zarathustra on songs of praise." University of Calgary.	2003
"A Homeric Locus: Ephyra in the Odyssey" Annual meeting of the American Philological Association, 2003 New Orleans.	
"Interrelations of Local Cults: Ino in South-Eastern Peloponnese" American Philological Association, San Diego.	2001
"The Toys of Dionysos" Colloque "CORALIE" XI, Lausanne, Switzerland.	2000
"Erinna's Dialect" Symposium <i>Displaced Dialects: from local language to panhellenic poetics</i> . University of Washington	2003
"Penelope and Aedon in the <i>Odyssey</i> : two perspectives." University of Washington.	2001
"The Gates of Hymns: <i>Angelía</i> in Pindar's <i>Olympian 6</i> ." Annual meeting of the American Philological Association, Washington, DC	1998

Grants and awards

Faculty Writing Group funding on *Epic Emotion Meets Metaphor*, *Simpson Center for the Humanities*, 2025-2026.
 Faculty Summer Reading Group funding for "Epic Emotions" course (with Heidi Pauwels, Asian Languages and Literatures and Catherine Connors, Classics), *Simpson Center for the Humanities*.
 Loeb Library Foundation Fellowship (2005)
 Royalty Research Fund Fellowship (RRF Scholar, 2003, 2013, 2019)
 The Walter Chapin Center for the Humanities conference grant (2003)
 The American School of Classical Studies at Athens NEH fellowship (2001, declined to accept the Assistant Professor position at the University of Washington)

Professional Offices/Service

New Alexandria Foundation, Advisory Board Member and editor (2023-2024)
 (<https://newalexandria.foundation/about/>)
 Center for Hellenic Studies, Associate in Comparative Poetics (2021-2022)
Concise Inventory of Greek Etymologies, editor (2015-2023)
Ancient Greek Etymologies in Context, editor (2023-2024)
Homer Multitext Project, Center for Hellenic Studies (2012 – 2021)
 Festschrift and ongoing workshop in honor of Gloria Ferrari, editor (s.harvard.edu/event/a-festive-gathering-in-honor-of-gloria-ferrari-pinneys-80th-birthday/) (2021- present)
 Exchange Faculty, Department of Philology, University of Crete, Rethymno (Fall 2004)
 Member of the editorial board, Center for Hellenic Studies (2005-2015)
 Assistant editor, Rowman and Littlefield (2003-2009)
 Symposium *Displaced dialects: from local language to panhellenic poetics* (University of Washington, co-organizer with T. C. Power, 2003)
 Referee for *Classical World*, *TAPA*, *the Classics Journal*, *Religion Compass*, *Mnemosyne*, *American Journal of Philology*.
 Referee for Oxford University Press (2015, 2016, 2017)
 Referee for tenure/promotion cases: University of New Mexico, Brandeis University, University of Oregon, University of Tennessee, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

UW Committees

College of Arts and Sciences:

Search Committee for the Chair of Classics Department (internal member)	2007
University of Washington Faculty Senate	2017-present
University of Washington Royalty Research Fund Committee	2013-2015

Classics Department:

Graduate Program Coordinator	2020-present
Classics Search Committee	2019
Classics 210 course supervisor	2014-present
Supervisor of Classics 205 TAs	2005-2013
Graduate Admissions, Appointments and Awards (member)	2002-2003,2009-2010, 2011-2012,2013-2014, 2020-2024
Greek PhD Exam Committee (member, chair)	2005-2006, 2009-2011, 2013-2018, 2021-2024
Rome Committee	2009-2010
Modern Language Exam Committee (member, chair)	2007- 2008, 2010-2011
Undergraduate Scholarships and Awards Committee (member)	2006-2008, 2010-2012, 2015
Relations with Schools (member)	2023-2024

Courses taught at University of Washington (select):

Epic Tradition, Epic Emotions, Greek and Roman Mythology, Women in Greek and Roman Antiquity, Greek Song Culture, Indo-European Myth, Brides and Grooms in Greece and Rome, Historical Grammar of Greek and Latin; all levels of Greek language, undergraduate courses on Greek tragedy, Greek Lyric, Homer, Plato, Lucretius, Ovid; graduate seminars on Homer, Hesiod, Homeric Hymns, Greek Lyric, Pindar, History of Greek and Latin; Translation Across the Disciplines workshops on the *Odyssey* and the *Iliad*.