

## **SARA R. JOHNSON**

Associate Professor of Classics and Ancient Mediterranean Studies  
Department of Literatures, Cultures and Languages  
University of Connecticut  
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### **Areas of Special Interest:**

Hellenistic History  
Second Temple Judaism  
Fiction and History  
Greeks, Jews, and Persians  
Historical Fictions in Heian Japan  
Classical Tradition in Japanese Anime

### **Education:**

1996. Ph.D. in Ancient History and Mediterranean Archaeology. University of California at Berkeley.  
Dissertation: *Mirror, Mirror: Third Maccabees, Historical Fictions and Jewish Self-Fashioning in the Hellenistic Period*. Directed by Erich S. Gruen.  
Examination Fields: Hellenistic History/Hellenistic Judaism (Erich Gruen)  
Late Antiquity (Susanna Elm, Daniel Boyarin)  
Syro-Palestinian Archaeology (Carol Redmount)  
1992. M.A. in Roman History. University of California at Berkeley.  
1990. M.A.(Oxon.) in Ancient and Modern History. Oxford University (Somerville College). First Class.  
1988. B.A. in History. Bryn Mawr College. Magna Cum Laude.  
1984. Washington International School (Washington, DC). International Baccalaureate, full diploma.

### **Employment:**

Associate Professor, University of Connecticut at Storrs, 2004-present  
Assistant Professor, University of Connecticut at Storrs, 1998-2004  
Visiting Assistant Professor, University of Rochester, 1996-1998

### **Publications:**

#### Work in Progress

Book project: *Ministering to Power: The Court of Artaxerxes in Greek, Roman and Jewish Perspective*. Chapters planned on Plutarch's *Life of Artaxerxes*, Xenophon's *Cyropaedia*, Chariton's *Callirhoe*, Esther and Ezra-Nehemiah.

Articles in progress: "An Overlooked Fragment of Ctesias? Zonaras and the Torture of the Boats" and "The Vengeance of Parysatis: Horror at the Court of Artaxerxes II."

#### Monographs

*Historical Fictions and Hellenistic Jewish Identity: Third Maccabees in its Cultural Context*. Berkeley, CA: University of California Press, 2004.

### Edited Volumes

*Reading and Teaching Ancient Fiction: Greco-Roman, Early Jewish, and Christian Narrative.* Edited by Sara R. Johnson (editor in chief), Ruben Dupertuis and Christine Shea. Writings from the Greco-Roman World. Atlanta, GA: SBL Press, 2018.

### Critical Editions

Book Editor of 3 Maccabees for the *New Revised Standard Version Updated Edition Bible*. Washington, DC: National Council of Churches, 2021.

*Thorough revision of the text-critical base, translation and notes of the book of 3 Maccabees, updating the New Revised Standard Version (NRSV) of the Bible to the New Revised Standard Version, Updated Edition (NRSVue). Pagination of volumes including Apocryphal/ Deuterocanonical books varies by edition.*

### Journal Articles & Book Chapters

“Xerxes, Lost City in the Desert: Classical Allusions in *Fullmetal Alchemist*.” In *Son of Classics and Comics*, 95-110. Edited by G. Kovacs and C.W. Marshall. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2016.

“Shining Genji and the Women of the Heian Court in the *Genji Monogatari*.” In *Critical Insights: Gender, Sex, and Sexuality*, 87-105. Edited by Margaret Breen. Amenia, NY: Salem Press/Grey House Publishing, 2014.

“Novelistic Elements in Esther: Persian or Hellenistic, Jewish or Greek?” *Catholic Biblical Quarterly* 67.4 (2005): 571-589.

“Third Maccabees: Historical Fictions and the Shaping of Jewish Identity in the Hellenistic Period.” In *Ancient Fiction: The Matrix of Early Jewish and Christian Narrative*, 185-197. Edited by J. Brant, C.W. Hedrick and C. Shea. SBL Symposium Series 32. Atlanta, GA: Society of Biblical Literature, 2005.

“Antiochus IV’s Procession at Daphne (166 BC): A Roman Triumph? A Case Study in the Relations of Rome and Syria 175-164 BC” *JAGNES* 4.1 (1993): 23-34.

### Translations

Ute E. Eisen. “Narrative Pathology or Strategy for Authorization and Making Present? Metalepsis in Early Christian Literature.” In *Reading and Teaching Ancient Fiction: Greco-Roman, Early Jewish, and Christian Narrative*, 87-103. Translated from German by Sara Johnson. Atlanta, GA: SBL Press, 2018.

### Biblical Commentary (including introduction, notes, and sidebar essays)

“3 Maccabees: Introduction and Notes. Excurses: Focus on - Reversal; Going Deeper - Historical Fiction.” *Westminster Study Bible*. Louisville, KY: Westminster John Knox Press, 2024.

“Third Maccabees.” *Outside the Bible: Ancient Jewish Writings Not Included in Scripture*. Edited by L. Feldman, J. Kugel, and L. Schiffman. Philadelphia, PA: Jewish Publication Society, 2013.

“3 Maccabees.” *Women’s Bible Commentary*. Revised and Updated. Edited by C. A. Newsom, S. H. Ringe, and J. E. Lapsley. Louisville, KY: Westminster John Knox Press, 2012. 450-454.

### Reference Works

“Parody: Second Temple/Hellenistic Judaism.” *Encyclopedia of the Bible and Its Reception* (EBR). Edited by Constance M. Furey et al. Volume 23: Parable, Parables – Peshat. Berlin: De Gruyter, 2024.

“Persecution, Religious.” *T&T Clark Encyclopedia of Second Temple Judaism*. Vols 1-2. Edited by Daniel M. Gurtner and Loren T. Stuckenbruck. London: Bloomsbury/T&T Clark, 2019. 2:574-577.

"3 Maccabees." *Routledge Dictionary of Ancient Mediterranean Religions*. Edited by E. Orlin. New York: Routledge, 2016.

"3 Maccabees." *The T&T Clark Companion to the Septuagint*. Edited by J. Aitken. London: T&T Clark, 2015. 292-305.

"Court Tales." *The Eerdmans Dictionary of Early Judaism*. Edited by J. Collins and D. Harlow. Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans, 2010. 489-491.

"Maccabees, Third Book of." *The Eerdmans Dictionary of Early Judaism*. Edited by J. Collins and D. Harlow. Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans, 2010. 907-909.

"Novels." *The Eerdmans Dictionary of Early Judaism*. Edited by J. Collins and D. Harlow. Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans, 2010. 1001-1004.

### Book Reviews

Review of *Dirty Love: The Genealogy of the Ancient Greek Novel*, by Tim Whitmarsh, *Phoenix*, 3 (2019): 390-393.

Review of *Slandering the Jew: Sexuality and Difference in Early Christian Texts*, by Susanna Drake, *Review of Biblical Literature* 5 (2015).

Review of *Athens from Alexander to Antony*, by C. Habicht, trans. D. Schneider, *New England Classical Journal*, February (2000).

### **Professional Talks:**

"Writing Fictions in the Shadow of Empire: From the Second Sophistic to the Heian Imperial Court." Annual Meeting of the Society for Classical Studies. January 5, 2025. Philadelphia, PA.

"The Horror of Orientalism: Plutarch's Artaxerxes Meets the Internet." University of Connecticut Humanities Institute, 2024-25 Faculty Talks. October 30, 2024. Storrs, CT.

"The Vengeance of Parysatis: Horror at the Court of Artaxerxes II." Classical Association of New England (CANE) Annual Meeting, Mar 23, 2024. Durham, NH.

"Ministering to Power: Fiction in Court Settings, from Halicarnassus to Heian Japan." Literary Universals Workshop, May 24, 2019. Storrs, CT.

"Paideia, Cuckolded - Motherhood and the Lineage of Nations in Chariton's Callihroe." Part of the "Cultivating the Home/Domesticating Culture: Women as Homemakers and Nation-builders" stream presented at the Annual Meeting of the American Comparative Literature Association (ACLA), March 29-April 1, 2018. Los Angeles, CA.

"A Weapon Called Poseidon and a Lost City Called Xerxes: Exotic Worldbuilding with Western Classics in Japanese Manga and Anime." Paper (34 pp in MS) circulated in advance; presentation and discussion on March 25, 2017. UCHI (University of Connecticut Humanities Institute) Workshop, organized by the UConn Graphic Novel Initiative (co-chaired by Cathy Schlund-Vials and Harry van der Hulst): "Re-Reading, Re-Thinking, and Re-Seeing Comics: Language, Cognition, and Culture," March 24-25, 2017. Storrs, CT.

"Writing Fiction in the Shadow of Empire." Presented as part of multi-day, multi-stream seminar "Writing Between Worlds: Multilingualism as a Creative Force." Annual Meeting for the American Comparative Literature Association (ACLA), March 17-20, 2016. Cambridge, MA.

"The Great Mirror: Historical Fictions at Court, From Hellenistic Egypt to Heian Japan." Annual Meeting of the Society for Biblical Literature, November 24, 2014. San Diego, CA.

"Not Lost in Translation: The Greek Bible from Aristeas to the Rabbis." Medieval Studies Outreach, University of Connecticut/Storrs. April 5, 2014.

"Greek Drama and Noh Drama." Annual Greek Day, Paideia, Storrs. November 4, 2013.

"Writing Fictions in the Shadow of Empire: Court Tales from Josephus to Japan." Regional Meeting (NE) of the Society for Biblical Literature, Newton, MA. April 27, 2012.

"Writing Fictions in the Shadow of Empire." UCHI Faculty Luncheon Series, University of Connecticut. April 19, 2011.

"Framing Greek Civic Identity under Roman Empire: Syracuse and Athens in Chariton's *Callirhoe*." Panel: The Humanities and Diachronic Genres: The Open-ended Form of the Novel. Humanities Institute Tenth Anniversary Conference, University of Connecticut. April 7, 2011.

"Writing Fictions in the Shadow of Empire: from the Second Sophistic to the Heian Imperial Court." Annual Meeting of the Classical Association of New England, March 20, 2010.

Chair, Panel Session, "Ancient Fiction and Early Christian & Jewish Narrative: Literary Portraits." Annual Meeting of the Society for Biblical Literature, New Orleans, LA, November 24, 2009.

"The Many Afterlives of Nero." University of Connecticut Classics and Ancient History Club, April 21, 2009.

Panelist, Panel Review of *The Acts of Peter, Gospel Literature, and the Ancient Novel: Rewriting the Past*, by Christine Thomas (Oxford, 2003). Annual Meeting of the Society for Biblical Literature, Philadelphia, PA, November 21, 2005.

Chair, Introductory Remarks, Panel Discussion, "Gruen's Heritage and Hellenism: The Reinvention of Jewish Tradition." Annual Meeting of the Association for Jewish Studies, Boston, MA, December 18, 2000.

"Third Maccabees: A Jewish Novel? Historical Fictions and Jewish Self-Fashioning in the Hellenistic Period." Annual Meeting of the Society for Biblical Literature, Nashville, TN, November 20, 2000.

Panelist, Plenary Discussion, "Ecce Discipuli: Secondary/Post-Secondary Articulation." Annual Meeting of the Classical Association of Connecticut, Storrs, CT, October 14, 2000.

"Vox Populi in Fiction and History: From Thucydides to Chariton's *Callirhoe* (revised)." Wesleyan University, Middletown, CT, May 4, 2000.

Respondent, Ma'yan Jewish Feminist Research Group, New York, NY, April 6, 2000. Responding to paper read by Susan Marks, "Buried in Her Wedding Veil: Death Imagery and Jewish Brides in the Greco-Roman World."

"Novelistic Elements in Esther: Persian or Hellenistic, Jewish or Greek?" Annual Meeting of the Association for Jewish Studies, Chicago, IL, December 20, 1999.

"Vox Populi in Fiction and History: From Thucydides to Chariton's *Callirhoe*." Annual Meeting of the Classical Association of Connecticut, Hartford, CT, October 23, 1999.

"The Politics of Redaction: The Apocalyptic Reframing of the Court Tales in the Book of Daniel." Edson Memorial Lectures, University of Wisconsin-Madison, October 19, 1999.

"Imagining Identities: Hellenistic Jewish Historical Fictions." Judaic Studies Faculty Forum Luncheon Lectures, March 24, 1999.

"Daughter of Noah, Teacher of Homer: The Third Sibylline Oracle." University of Rochester, Rochester, NY, February 18, 1998. Revised for CLCS Colloquium Series, at the University of Connecticut, Storrs, CT, November 2, 1998.

"Inebriated Elephants and Other Historical Curiosities: Third Maccabees, Jewish "Romance" and Hellenistic Jewish Identity." University of Rochester, Rochester, NY, April 23, 1996.

## Teaching Experience:

My regular teaching responsibilities at UConn have included elementary Greek and intermediate Latin (on a rotating basis until 2009), a large lecture course in Roman Civilization offered each spring (until 2009; to resume in AY 2024-25), a variety of small tutorial studies reading advanced Latin and Greek texts, and 3000-level courses in translation (in CAMS: Ancient Fictions; Ancient World in Cinema; cross-listed as CAMS/HIST: The Hellenistic World; Ancient Near East; Early Christian Church). CAMS 3298 Topics were offered primarily as graduate seminars, with some undergraduate enrollment.

## University of Connecticut

CAMS 3246 Ancient World in Cinema, Spring 2009-2024 (alt years)  
CAMS 3335 Early Christian Church, Spring 2023  
CAMS 244 Ancient Fictions, Fall 1999-2019 (alt years), Spring 2022, Fall 2023  
CAMS 3245 Hellenistic World, Fall 2008-2022 (alt years)  
CAMS 3301 Ancient Near East, Fall 2021  
CAMS 3298/CLCS 5306 Alexander the Great in Fact and Fiction, Spring 2015, Spring 2018, Fall 2022  
CAMS 3298/JUDS 5397 Topics in Second Temple Judaism, Spring 2011, Spring 2021  
CAMS 3298/CLCS 5306 The Premodern Novel, Spring 2016  
CAMS 298 Special Topics: Ethnicity and Identity, Fall 2006  
CAMS 3232 Medieval Latin, Spring 2023  
CAMS 3102 Advanced Latin (Latin Lyric: Catullus and Horace), Spring 2024  
CAMS 3102 Advanced Latin (Livy & Tacitus), Fall 2015, Spring 2022  
CAMS 3102 Advanced Latin (Apollonius of Tyre), Spring 2016, Spring 2021  
CAMS 3102 Advanced Latin (Caesar), Spring 2013, Fall 2018  
CAMS 3102 Advanced Latin (Catilinarian Conspiracy), Spring 2017  
CAMS 3102 Advanced Latin (Apuleius), Fall 2013  
CAMS 3102 Advanced Latin (Petronius, Satyricon), Fall 2011  
CAMS 3102 Advanced Latin (Plautus), Spring 2011  
CAMS 3101 Advanced Greek (Plato's Symposium), Fall 2023  
CAMS 3101 Advanced Greek (Herodotus), Fall 2020  
CAMS 3101 Advanced Greek (Josephus), Spring 2020  
CAMS 3101 Advanced Greek (Chariton, *Callirhoe*), Fall 2019  
CAMS 3101 Advanced Greek (Lucian), Fall 2017  
CAMS 3101 Advanced Greek (Callimachus), Spring 2017  
CAMS 3101 Advanced Greek (Attic Tragedy), Spring 2014, Spring 2018  
CAMS 3101 Advanced Greek (Xenophon), Fall 2012  
CAMS 3101 Advanced Greek (Homer, Odyssey), Fall 2010  
CAMS 3101 Advanced Greek (Homer, Iliad), Spring 09, Fall 2014  
CLCS 5318 Advanced Greek (New Testament), Spring 2010  
CAMS 281 Advanced Greek (Koine), Spring 2007  
Classics 299 Latin Lyric (Catullus and Horace), Spring 2001, Spring 2006  
Classics 299 Cicero's Pro Caelio, Fall 2003  
Classics 299 Ovid's Metamorphoses, Spring 2003  
Classics 299 Suetonius' Caligula, Fall 2002  
CAMS 1123 Intermediate Latin I, Fall 2000-2002 (alt years), Fall 2016  
CAMS 1124 Intermediate Latin II, Spring 2007-2009 (annually)  
CAMS 1171 Elementary Greek I, Fall 1998-2008 (alt. years)  
CAMS 1172 Elementary Greek II, Spring 1999-2007 (alt. years)  
CAMS 102 Roman Civilization, Spring 1999-2009 (annually)  
CAMS 103 Classical Mythology, Summer 1999, 2003

### Previous teaching experience

Classics 141 Ancient World, Spring 1998, Rochester  
Greek 110-111, Beginning New Testament Greek, 1997-1998, Rochester  
Latin 104/204 Catullus, Fall 1997, Rochester  
Classics 200, Classical Mythology, Spring 1997, Rochester  
Latin 203, Ovid's Metamorphoses, Spring 1997, Rochester  
Classics 141, The Ancient World, Fall 1996, Rochester  
Latin 103, Intermediate Latin (Virgil), Fall 1996, Rochester

### **Professional Service**

Section Chair of CAMS, Department of Literatures, Cultures and Languages, Fall 2023 only (sabbatical replacement).

Intensive work on Common Curriculum general education transition, 2023-2024 (in my capacity as CLCS section head, temporary CAMS section head, and departmental C&C rep)

LCL Departmental Committee for Promotion, Tenure and Reappointment, member, 2021-present.

CLAS Curriculum and Courses Committee, Departmental Representative for LCL, 2020-present.

Executive Committee for LCL, 2020-2024.

Section Chair of Comparative Literature and Cultural Studies, Department of Literatures, Cultures and Languages (LCL), 2017-2024.

Coordinator for the Religion Minor, 2017-present.

Early College Experience Faculty Coordinator for Classics, 2010-present.

Search committee for HIST Roman History hire, Fall 2023

Search committee for LCL HEJS hire, Spring 2023

Contributor to "Why the Jews?" pop-up course addressing antisemitism, Module: Ancient, Spring 2022.

External Review Committee (to prepare for LCL departmental review in 2022-2023, postponed from 2020-21), member, 2019-20 and again 2021-22.

Faculty consultant, Advanced Placement Latin examination reading, Educational Testing Service, Princeton NJ, June 2002, 2004-2006, 2008-2023 (annually).

Faculty consultant, SAT Latin Development Committee, 2016-2020.

Member, Executive Committee, Comparative Literature and Cultural Studies, 2010-2017.

Member, University Committee for Academic Adjustments, 2007-2022.

Faculty liaison representing LCL/CAMS, transfer credit office, 2007-present.

Steering Committee Member, SBL Ancient Fictions and Early Christian and Jewish Literature Section, 2008-2014. At-Large Member, 2015-present.

Site Coordinator, CANE Annual Meeting 2013 (2012-2013). Storrs, CT, March 15-16, 2013.

Consultant, AP Course Audit, 2007-2009. Educational Policy Improvement Center, Eugene, OR, 2008-2010.

Member, Executive Committee, Judaic Studies, 1998-2014.

Member, Executive Committee, Medieval Studies, 2009-2012.

Committee to reorganize the MCL PhD program, 2010-2011.

Member, Board of Directors, University of Connecticut Humanities Institute, 2008-2010.

Member, Board of Directors, Classical Association of Connecticut, 1998-2007.

President, Classical Association of Connecticut, 2005-2006.

**Fellowships, Scholarships and Academic Honors:**

Junior Faculty Summer Fellowship, Summer 2000

Research Council (Small Grant), 1999-2000

1999 Edson Memorial Lectures, invited junior scholar, October 1999

Mabelle McLeod Lewis Memorial Fellowship, 1995-1996

Newhouse Foundation Fellowship, 1995-1996

**Professional Societies**

Society for Biblical Literature

Society for Classical Studies (previously American Philological Association)

American Comparative Literature Association

Classical Association of New England

Classical Association of Connecticut

**Languages**

In addition to certification in the usual modern (French, German) and ancient (Greek, Latin) languages at the Ph.D. level, I have also studied modern Hebrew, biblical Hebrew, and Aramaic, and have obtained certification of reading proficiency in modern Japanese.

Japanese Language Proficiency Test, Level 3 (low-mid intermediate), passed December 2004

Japanese Language Proficiency Test, Level 2 (high intermediate), passed December 2005

Japanese Language Proficiency Test, Level 1 (adult reading proficiency), passed December 2009

Japanese Language Proficiency Test, N1 (adult proficiency, updated), passed Dec 2014, Dec 2016