

# ALEX DRESSLER

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## EMPLOYMENT

Professor, Chair	University of Wisconsin-Madison 2022–present
Associate Professor	University of Wisconsin-Madison 2017–2022
Assistant Professor	University of Wisconsin-Madison 2010–2017
Visiting Assistant Professor	University of Wisconsin-Madison 2009-2010

## EDUCATION

Ph.D.	University of Washington, Classics Dissertation: <i>Matter, Language, and Attachment in Seneca's Moral Epistles</i> Committee: Ruby Blondell (chair), Alain Gowing, and Stephen Hinds	June 2009
M.A.	University of Washington, Classics	June 2005
B.A.	Brown University, Classics (Latin and Greek), With Honors	June 2002

## EXTERNAL ACADEMIC AWARDS AND HONORS

Elizabeth and Carl Blegen Research Fellowship: Vassar College (2015-16) Women's  
Classical Caucus Award: Best Paper Presented at a Major Conference by a prePh.D.  
Scholar (2008)  
The John J. Winkler Memorial Prize (2007)

## BOOKS AND MONOGRAPHS

\*Peer reviewed

*\*Selections from the Poems of Paulinus of Nola, including the Correspondence with Ausonius: Introduction, Translation, and Commentary* (Routledge 2023).

*\*Personification and the Feminine in Roman Philosophy* (Cambridge University Press 2016).

## ACADEMIC ARTICLES

\*Peer reviewed

“The political economy of the *Art of Poetry* as anticipatory illumination of Christian song: Horace’s mad poet and the utopian function of the Latin psalms” (article, in preparation)

\*“Confessing in Communities: The Genealogical Exclusion of Joy from Late Antique Christianity.” In P.A. Miller, ed., *Truth in the Late Foucault: Antiquity, Sexuality, and Psychoanalysis* (Bloomsbury 2024). 103-20.

\*“Vergil’s queer art of personification: gender, pleasure, and aesthetics in *Aeneid* 8.442,” forthcoming in *Vergil and the Feminine*, special issue of *Vergilius*, 67 (2021) 69-96.

\*“Style and the woman: the impossible feminism of Seneca, *On Marriage* (Jerome, *Against Jovinian* 1).” In J. Beneker, and G. Tsouvala, edd., *The Discourse of Marriage in the Hellenistic and Early Imperial Greco-Roman World* (Wisconsin 2020). 142-77.

\*“Post-humanism in Seneca’s *Happy Life*: ‘animalism,’ personification, and private property in Roman Stoicism (*Epistulae morales* 113 and *De vita beata* 5-8).” In G. Chesi, F. Spiegel, edd., *Posthumanism and Classical Literature* (Bloomsbury 2019). 227-235, 384-386.

\*“Seeing (not) seeing: the phenomenology of deviant standpoint as a function of gender and class in Paulinus of Nola (c. 18).” *EuGeSta: The Journal for the European Network on Gender Studies in Antiquity* 8 (2018) 203-42

\*“Plautus and the Poetics of Property: Reification, Recognition, and Utopia,” *Materiali e Discussioni per l’analisi dei testi classici* 77 (2016), 9-57

\*“Nominal Intelligence: Conspiracy, Prosopography, and the Secret of Horace, *Odes* 2.10,” in *Poetry and Power in Imperial Roman Literature: Essays in Honor of Frederick Ahl*, ed. Phillip Mitsis (De Gruyter 2016), 37-68

“Cicero’s Quarrels: Reception and Modernity from Horace to Tacitus,” in *Brill’s Companion to the Reception of Cicero*, ed. W. Altman (Brill 2015), Chapter 6, pp. 144-74

\*“Poetics of Conspiracy and Hermeneutics of Suspicion in Tacitus’s *Dialogus de Oratoribus*,” *Classical Antiquity* 32.1 (2013) 1-34

\*“‘You Must Change Your Life’: Metaphor and *Exemplum*, Theory and Practice, in Seneca’s Prose,” *Helios* 39.2 (2012) 45-92

“Oedipus on Oedipus: Sophocles, Seneca, Politics, and Therapy,” in *Blackwell’s Companion to Sophocles*, ed. Kirk Ormand (Wiley-Blackwell 2012), Chapter 34, pp. 507-521

\*“The Sophist and the Swarm: Feminism, Platonism, and Ancient Philosophy in Achilles Tatius, *Leucippe and Clitophon*,” *Ramus* 40.2 (2011) 33-72

Seneca, *The Trojan Women*: Translation, Introduction, and Notes. In *Seneca: The Complete Tragedies, Vol. 1: Medea, The Phoenician Women, Phaedra, The Trojan Women, Octavia*, ed. E. Asmis, S. Bartch, and M. Nussbaum (University of Chicago Press 2016).

## REVIEWS

“*Seneca’s Agamemnon*. By A.J. Boyle.” *Classical Review* 71.2 (2019) 414-16.

“*Roman Error: Classical Reception and the Problem of Rome’s Flaws*. Edited by B. Dufallo.” *Classical World* 112.4 (2019), 367-8.

“*The Closure of Space in Roman Poetics: Empire’s Inward Turn*. By Victoria Rimell.” *Classical Philology* 112, no. 2 (2017), 293-99.

“*Seneca: Selected Dialogues and Consolations*. By P.J. Anderson (trans.).” *Classical Review* 66.2 (2016), 437-9.

“*Greek Political Imagery*. By R. Brock.” *Classical Review* 64.2 (2014), 345-7.

“*Like Man, Like Woman: Roman Women, Gender Qualities and Conjugal Relationships at the Turn of the First Century*. By Claude-Emmanuelle Centlivres Challet.” *Bryn Mawr Classical Review* 2014.06.10 [online]

## INVITED PAPERS

The Way and Its Poor: Bareness of Life  
in Roman Aesthetic Theory from Horace  
and Seneca to Prudentius and Paulinus

University of California – Los Angeles  
May 2024

Confessing in communities:  
the genealogical exclusion of joy  
from Late Antique Christianity

Foucault and Truth  
University of South  
Carolina February 2022

Roman standpoint for old pros: the  
epistemology of retired sex workers in  
Roman Comedy

Department of Classics  
Johns Hopkins  
University March 2021

“Personhood, Personification, and  
Grammatical Gender in Aeneid, 8.442

Vergil and the Feminine  
Vergilian Society: Symposium Cumanum, June 2019

The impossible feminism of Seneca  
*On Marriage*: Style and the Woman  
in Jerome, *Against Jovinian* 1

Marshall University  
Department of Classics  
March 15, 2019

Gender and Materialism in Ancient  
Philosophy: Lucretius on the Life of the  
Body-Mind

Department of Women’s Studies  
Vassar College, November 2015

The Aesthetic Basis of Conversion  
from Cicero to Paulinus of Nola

Representing self-transformation and  
conversion in the literature of the Roman world  
King’s College, London, June 2015

Art and Life in Latin Literature

Inst. Res. Humanities  
University of Wisconsin-Madison  
September 2014

*Dialogus* and Difference: Abstraction and  
Specificity in Tacitus’ Construction of the  
Classics

*Exemplarity/Singularity*  
The Franke Institute for the  
Humanities at the University of Chicago,  
March 8-10, 2012

Ends of Works and Ends of Days: Horace,  
Seneca, and the Meaning of Life

University of Wisconsin – Madison, February  
2010

Cicero and Seneca on “Politics” and “Art”

University of South Carolina, January 2010

Queen Bees and Plane Trees: Platonism and  
Feminism in Achilles Tatius' *Leucippe and  
Clitophon*

The John J. Winkler Memorial  
Lecture Oberlin College, September 2007

## SELECT CONFERENCE PAPERS

The Political Economy of the Art of Poetry  
as anticipatory illumination of Christian song:  
Horace as laborer, mad poet, as revolutionary

University of California-Los Angeles  
May 2024

God and Money in Horace  
and Paulinus of Nola

Society of Classical Studies  
Toronto, January 2017

“Seeing (Not) Seeing:  
Feminine Standpoint and  
Critical Aesthetics from  
Sappho to Paulinus of Nola

UW-Seattle  
Feminism and Classics 7,  
2016

“*Anima Animae*: Lucretius on  
the Life of the Body-Mind”

Chicago, January 2014  
APA, Annual Meeting

“Senecan Supervenience,”  
*Seneca Philosophus*: An  
International Conference

American University of  
Paris and Gesellschaft für  
Antike Philosophie  
Paris 2011

“Performativity: Metaphor and  
Exemplum in Seneca's *Moral  
Epistles*”

Philadelphia,  
January 2009  
APA, Annual  
Meeting

“*Oikeiôsis* and the Limits  
of the Self in  
Feminist Philosophy”

University of Michigan,  
May 2008  
Feminism and Classics 5

“Subjectivity,  
Contradiction, and the  
Traditions of Feminist  
Platonism”

University of South  
Carolina, March 2008  
Plato and Platonisms: The  
Constitution of a Tradition

“Talking Back to Your  
Mother: Seneca’s *Phaedra*  
and Lygdamus the Elegist

Intertextual Role-Play in  
Latin Literature”  
Gainesville, FL, April 2006  
CAMWS, Annual Meeting

## **PANELS ORGANIZED**

With Tommaso Gazzari

Politics by Other Means?  
Ethics and

Participants: Thomas  
Habinek

Aesthetics in Roman

Hermann Malaspina,  
Gretchen

Reydams-Schils, Matthew  
Roller,

January 5, 2014

Jula Wildberger

*American Philological Association*, Annual Meeting

## **OTHER EDUCATION/ACADEMIC ACTIVITY**

Machiavelli at 500 (Faculty Development Seminar Spring 2014)

Humanitas, Humanism, Humanity (Faculty Development Seminar Spring 2011) Lived Inquiry  
(Study Group 2011-2012)

## **DISSERTATIONS ADVISED**

Mason Johnson

Ph.D. 2021

*Cura, ergo sum: Stoic Philosophy*

*and*

*Latin Myth in Seneca’s Epistulae Morales*

Rebecca Moorman  
*Engrossing the Reader:  
Delight and Disgust in Latin Literature* Ph.D. 2020

MC LaVelle  
*Rhetoric Characterization in Terence* Ph.D. 2020

Kate Rogers, *Finding Time to Write:  
Literary Amicitia and the Economy of Time in  
Flavian Rome* Ph.D. 2015

Colleen Rice, *Carried Away by Bacchus: The Power and  
Politics of Inspiration in Augustan Rome* Ph.D. 2013

Matt Vieron (co-chair), *Roman Friendship in Lucretius' DRN* Ph.D. 2013

## **MASTER'S THESES ADVISED**

Whitney Clarke, "*Alio convertere mentem:*  
Lovesickness in Lucretius, Catullus, and Ovid" Fall 2011

Amanda Gregory, "Rationalizing Deucalion:  
An Evaluation of Lucretian Intertext in Ovid's  
Account of Deucalion and Pyrrha" Fall 2011

## **UNDERGRADUATE THESES ADVISED**

Tye Wilson-Swocoski  
Seneca's tragedies Spring 2019

Emily Ayres (in Philosophy)  
"Supplemental and constitutive myth: The fusion of interpretations  
and the ascent to truth in Plato's *Phaedrus*" Spring 2011

## **SERVICE**

*At University of Wisconsin*

Chair	2022-present
Director of Graduate Study, Classics	2017-present
Graduate Faculty Executive Committee, member	2017-present
Latin Literature Preliminary Examination, Supervisor	2013-2014
Faculty Diversity Liaison	2013-2014
Foreign Language Examination, Supervisor and/or Committee Member	2010-14
Prizes and Awards Committee, Supervisor	2013-14
Latin Program, Supervisor	Spring 2014
Graduate Adviser	2012-13
Faculty Senator	2010-13
Outreach and Diversity Committee	2009-10
Supervisor: Latin 203, 204	2012-13

*At University of Washington*

Graduate Student Liaison, Women's Classical Caucus	2005-2009
Graduate Student Sub-Committee Member, for the Auditing and Review of Graduate Departments at the University of Washington	2008-2009
Steward, Academic Student Employees' Union	2006-2009

## OTHER SERVICE

Article review: *American Journal of Philology*, *Classical Antiquity*, *Classical Philology*, *Classical Journal*, *Epoché*, *Sociological Theory*

Manuscript review: Cambridge University Press, Hackett Press, Lexington Books, Princeton University Press, Routledge, University of Wisconsin Press

## SELECT COURSES TAUGHT

*Graduate seminars*

Classics 970: Death and Exemplarity in Ancient Rome

CANES 900: Approaches to Gender and Sexuality in Pre-Modern Cultures



Classics 950: Ancient Aesthetic Theory

Latin 950: Philosophy – Lucretius

*Intermediate and advanced Latin*

Latin 204: Introduction to Latin Literature (Ovid, *Met.*, Sen, *Apoc.*)

Latin 301: Literature of the Roman Republic (Cic. *Amic.*, *Som. Scip.*, Nep. *Att.*)

Latin 520: Roman Drama – Terence's *Adelphoe*, Seneca's *Thyestes*, Plautus' *Pseudolus*

Latin 549: Roman Philosophy – Roman Moralists (Seneca, Horace, Petronius)

Latin 522: Horace, *Odes and Epodes*

Latin 524: The Roman Novel (Apuleius: *Metamorphoses*, *Apologia*, *De Deo Socratis*)

*Intermediate and advanced Greek*

Greek 226: *Hippias Major*

Greek 305: Plato's *Apology*

Greek 401: Euripides' *Bacchae*

Greek 541: Plato's *Phaedrus*

Greek 699: Biblical Greek

*Classics in translation*

Classics 373: Sex and Power in Greece and Rome

Classics 373: The History of the Self in Greece and Rome

Classics 373: Pagans and Christians in Ancient Rome

Classics 370: Classical Mythology

Classics 322: Roman Civilization/The Romans

Classics/Gender and Women's Studies 351: Gender and Sexuality in Ancient Greece and Rome

Classics 372: Power and Representation from Caesar to Nero

Classics 373: Self and Society in Greece and Rome (*freshman interest group*)

Classics 591: Art and Ethics in Greece and Rome (*undergrad capstone seminar*)

Classics 556: Literature of Ancient Rome