

PAUL J. KOSMIN
Curriculum Vitae

The Department of the Classics
215 Boylston Hall
Harvard University
MA, 02138

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Cambridge, MA 02138
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857 225 3896

EMPLOYMENT

Harvard University, Department of the Classics

John L. Loeb Associate Professor of the Humanities. 2016-
Assistant Professor. 2012-2016
Convertible instructor. 2011-2012

EDUCATION

Harvard University, Department of the Classics. 2005-2012

Ph.D. Candidate in Ancient History

Dissertation: *Seleucid Space: The Ideology and Practice of Territory
in the Seleucid Empire*

Committee: Paul-Alain Beaulieu, Emma Dench, Christopher Jones,
Nino Luraghi (chair)

American School of Classical Studies at Athens. 2009-2010

Thomas Day Seymour Fellow
Regular Member

Oxford University, Balliol College. 2002-2005

B.A. in Ancient and Modern History

Double First Class Degree

Thesis: *The Personification of the Dēmos in Classical Athens*

Advisers: Oswyn Murray, Rosalind Thomas

PUBLICATIONS

Books:

1) *The Land of the Elephant Kings: Space, Territory, and Ideology in the Seleucid Empire* (Harvard University Press: Cambridge, MA. 2014; paperback 2018)

(A CHOICE Outstanding Academic Title of 2014)

Reviews:

- Samuel Burstein, *CHOICE: Current Reviews for Academic Libraries* 2014: #52-0994
- Laurent Capdetrey, *Bryn Mawr Classical Review* 2015.09.09
(<http://bmcr.brynmawr.edu/2015/2015-09-09.html>)
- Laurent Capdetrey, *Topoi* 20 (2015): 557-565
- Altay Coşkun, *Levant* 47 (2015): 355-357
- Edward Dąbrowa, *Electrum* 22 (2015): 251-254
- Christian Djurslev, *H-War*
(<https://networks.h-net.org/node/12840/reviews/111356/djurslev-kosmin-land-elephant-kings-space-territory-and-ideology>)
- Kay Ehling, *Historische Zeitschrift* 303 (2016): 820-822
- André Heller, *H-Net (Clio-Online)*
(<http://www.hsozkult.de/publicationreview/id/rezbuecher-23286>)
- Álvaro Leoni, "Poder e ideología en el Mediterráneo oriental: Nuevas aproximaciones a los reinos helenísticos", *Anuario de la Escuela de Historia Virtual* 7 (2015): 74-94
- Jeffrey Lerner, *American Historical Review* 120 (2015): 1949-1950
- Laurianne Martinez-Sève, *Revue des études anciennes* 118 (2016): 318-325
- Brian McGing, *Acta Classica* 59 (2016): 222-226
- Thomas Nelson, *Classical Review* 66 (2016): 180-182
- Gillian Ramsey, *Classical World* 109 (2016): 275-277
- Nathan Schumer, *Ancient Jew Review*
(<http://www.ancientjewreview.com/articles/2015/6/10/kosmin-land-of-the-elephant-kings>)
- Svyatoslav Smirnov, *Вестник древней истории*, 2015.2: 221-229 (translation attached)
- Michael Sommer, *Gnomon* 90 (2018): 372-375
- R. J. van der Spek, *Mnemosyne* 68 (2015): 715-718
- Jan Stronk, *American Journal of Archaeology Online* 120.1 (2016)
(<https://www.ajaonline.org/book-review/2557>)
- Christopher Tuplin, *Ancient History Bulletin Online Reviews* 5 (2015): 32-38
(<http://ancienthistorybulletin.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/02/AHBReviews2015.09.TuplinOnKosmin1.pdf>)
- Harold Vedeler, *The Historian* 78 (2016)

- Marijn Visscher, *Near Eastern Archaeology* 79 (2016): 316-317
- Richard Wenghofer, *Phoenix* 68 (2014): 361-363

2) *Time and Its Adversaries in the Seleucid Empire* (Harvard University Press: Cambridge, MA. 2018)

Articles and book chapters:

3) "The Politics of Science: Eratosthenes' Geography and Ptolemaic Imperialism", *Orbis Terrarum* 15 (2017): 100-111. (Peer-reviewed)

4) "Indigenous Revolts in 2 Maccabees: The Persian Version", *Classical Philology* 111 (2016): 32-53. (Peer-reviewed)

5) "A Phenomenology of Democracy: Ostracism as Political Ritual", *Classical Antiquity* 34 (2015): 121-162. (Peer-reviewed)

6) "Seeing Double in Seleucid Babylonia: Rereading the Borsippa Cylinder of Antiochus I", in Alfonso Moreno and Rosalind Thomas (eds.), *Patterns of the Past* (2014): 173-198. Oxford.

7) "Rethinking the Hellenistic Gulf: The New Greek Inscription from Bahrain", *Journal of Hellenic Studies* 133 (2013): 61-79. (Peer-reviewed)

8) "Seleucid Ethnography and Indigenous Kingship: The Babylonian Education of Antiochus I", in Johannes Haubold, Giovanni Lanfranchi, Robert Rollinger, and John Steele (eds.), *The World of Berossos (Classica et Orientalia 5)* (2013): 193-206. Wiesbaden. (Peer-reviewed)

9) "Alexander and the Seleucids in Iran", in Daniel Potts (ed.), *The Oxford Handbook of Ancient Iran* (2013): 671-689. Oxford.

10) "Apologetic Ethnography: Megasthenes' *Indica* and the Seleucid Elephant", in Eran Almagor and Joseph Skinner (eds.), *New Approaches to Ancient Ethnography* (2013): 97-115. London.

11) "The Foundation and Early Life of Dura-Europos", in Gail Hoffman and Lisa Brody (eds.), *Dura-Europos: Crossroads of Antiquity* (2011): 150-176. New Haven.

In press and forthcoming articles and book chapters:

12) "A New Hypothesis: The Behistun Inscription as Imperial Calendar", *Iran* 57 (2019). In press. (Peer-reviewed)

- 13) "Damascus – From the Fall of Persia to the Roman Conquest", *Dead Sea Discoveries* 25 (2018). In press. (Peer-reviewed)
- 14) "In Focus: Banqueting on the Move", in Susanne Ebbinghaus (ed.), *Animal-Shaped Vessels from the Ancient World: Feasting with Gods, Heroes, and Kings* (2018): 310-311. Cambridge, MA. In press.
- 15) "Introduction" (co-authored with Andrea Berlin), in Andrea Berlin and Paul Kosmin (eds.), *Spear-Won Land: Sardis from the King's Peace to the Peace of Apamea*. Wisconsin. Forthcoming. (Peer-reviewed)
- 16) "Remaking a City: Sardis in the Long Third Century", in Andrea Berlin and Paul Kosmin (eds.), *Spear-Won Land: Sardis from the King's Peace to the Peace of Apamea*. Wisconsin. Forthcoming. (Peer-reviewed)
- 17) "A New View of Sardis" (co-authored with Andrea Berlin), in Andrea Berlin and Paul Kosmin (eds.), *Spear-Won Land: Sardis from the King's Peace to the Peace of Apamea*. Wisconsin. Forthcoming. (Peer-reviewed)
- 18) "The Hellenistic Period: History and Culture", in Jonathan Klawans and Larry Wills (eds.), *The Jewish Annotated Apocrypha*. Oxford. Forthcoming.
- 19) "No Island is a Man: The Marriage of Antiochus III to 'Euboea' ", in Roland Oetjen and Francis Ryan (eds.), *Seleukeia: Studies in Seleucid History, Archaeology and Numismatics in Honor of Getzel M. Cohen*. Stuttgart. Forthcoming.
- 20) "A Comparison of Times" (co-authored with Ian Moyer), in Christelle Fischer-Bovet and Sitta von Reden (eds.), *Comparing the Ptolemaic and Seleucid Empires: Centers of Power, Local Elites, and Populations*. Cambridge. Forthcoming. (Peer-reviewed)

Co-edited volumes (in press and forthcoming):

- 21) *Spear-Won Land: Sardis from the King's Peace to the Peace of Apamea* (co-edited with Andrea Berlin, Boston University). University of Wisconsin Press. In press.
- 22) *The Middle Maccabees: From the Death of Judas through the Reign of John Hyrcanus (ca. 160-105 BCE). New Archaeological and Historical Perspectives* (co-edited with Andrea Berlin). Society of Biblical Literature Press. Forthcoming.
- 23) *The Maccabean Moment* (co-edited with Ian Moyer, University of Michigan). Provisional agreement with University of California Press. Forthcoming.

Reviews:

- Ryan Boehm, *City and Empire in the Age of the Successors: Urbanization and Social Response in the Making of the Hellenistic Kingdoms*. Reviewed in *BMCR*. Forthcoming.
- Rachel Mairs, *The Hellenistic Far East: Archaeology, Language, and Identity in Greek Central Asia*. Reviewed in *Journal of the American Oriental Society* 138 (2018): 48-49.
- Sonja Plischke, *Die Seleukiden und Iran*. Reviewed in *Klio* 97 (2017): 351-354.
- David Jacobson, *Antioch and Jerusalem: The Seleucids and Maccabees in Coins*. Reviewed in *Biblical Archaeology Review* 43 (2016): 57-59.
- Kostas Vlassopoulos, *Greeks and Barbarians*. Reviewed in *Classical Review* 65 (2015): 169-170.
- Wolfram Grajetzki, *Greeks & Parthians in Mesopotamia and Beyond 331 BC – 224 AD*. Reviewed in *Sehepunkte* 12 (2012): #6.
- Andrea Primo, *La Storiografia sui Seleucidi da Megastene a Eusebio di Cesarea*. Reviewed in *Storia della Storiografia* 56 (2009): 131-135.

PRESENTATIONS

Invited lectures:

- "Understanding Hellenistic Sardis", Yale University (April, 2018)
- "Is there Seleucid History?", Princeton University (February, 2017)
- "History, Local and Universal", Columbia University (April, 2016)
- "New Thoughts on Eschatology", *Philadelphia Seminar on Christian Origins*, University of Pennsylvania (January, 2016)
- "Time and Resistance in the Seleucid Empire", *Edinburgh Classics Research Seminar*, Edinburgh (December, 2015)
- "The Seleucid Era", *Dublin Classics Seminar* (January, 2015)
- "The *Fratarakā* and Jewish Revolts", Cincinnati University (March, 2014)
- "Josephus and Civic Display", *Philadelphia Seminar on Christian Origins*, University of Pennsylvania (February, 2014)
- "The Greeks and Babylon", *Annual Guest Lecture of the Canadian Mesopotamian Society*, University of Toronto (February, 2013)
- "The Fabrication of Hellenistic Syria", Cincinnati University (September, 2012)

- "Macedonians without Macedonia: Diasporic Identities in the Hellenistic World", University of Wisconsin at Madison (March, 2012)
- "The Circulatory System: Itinerant Kingship and Imperial Space in the Seleucid Empire", *New England Ancient History Colloquium* (March, 2012)

Invited conference papers:

- Response, "A Small State in a Great Power World", *The Period of the Middle Maccabees* (which I co-organized), Gazzada (June, 2018)
- "Introduction" and discussant, *New Directions in Seleucid Archaeology*, Archaeological Institute of America Annual Meeting, Boston (January, 2018)
- Response to panel discussion of my second book manuscript, *Time and Its Adversaries in the Seleucid Empire*, Society for Biblical Literature Annual Meeting, Boston (November, 2017)
- "Outreach Lecture: From the Seleucid Empire to the End of the World", *Seleucid Study Day VI: Reception, Response, and Resistance: Reactions to Seleucid Claims to Territorial Rule or Hegemony*, Nipissing University (September, 2017)
- "Introduction" and "Sardis and the Seleucid Empire: Questions and Hypotheses", *City and Empire in Seleucid Asia Minor* (which I co-organized), Harvard University (February, 2017)
- "The Seleucid Horizon", *Comparing the Ptolemaic and Seleucid Empires: The Role of the Local Elites and Local Populations*, Freiburg-im-Breisgau (July, 2016)
- "The Temple of Day One", *Keeping Watch in Babylon – From Evidence to Text in the Babylonian Astronomical Diaries*, Durham University (June, 2016)
- "Hellenistic Anachronism", *Anachronism and Antiquity*, Radcliffe Institute for Advanced Study (September, 2015)
- "Eratosthenes' Continents: Scientific Geography and the Ptolemaic Paradigm", *Rome – An Empire of Many Nations*, Tel Aviv University (May, 2015)
- "The Seleucid Era Epoch", *Hellenistic Monarchies in the Mediterranean World: Building a New World Order?* Penn State University (April, 2015)
- "Legitimacy and Time", *The Legitimation of Autocracy*, NYU Abu Dhabi (November, 2014)
- Response, *In the Crucible of Empire: Resistance, Revolt, and Revolution in the Greco-Roman World*, Yale University (October, 2014)
- General response, *Writing and Textuality in Jewish and Christian Antiquity*, Humboldt-Universität (August, 2014)
- "Resistance and the Greek Polis: First Thoughts", Universität Konstanz (June, 2014)
- "Integration in the Seleucid Empire", *Pre-Industrial Technologies of Knowledge*, Berkeley (August, 2013)
- "The Persian Version", Tel Aviv University (June, 2013)
- "Berossus and Seleucid Court Historiography," *The World of Berossos*, Durham University (July, 2010)

- "Gods and Kings in the Borsippa Cylinder," *The Sinking of the Anchor: Seleucid Dissolution*, Exeter University (July, 2008)
- "The Persian Verse Account of the Reign of Nabonidus," *Anti-monarchic Discourse*, Universität Konstanz (July, 2008)

Conference papers:

- "A Monopoly of Legitimate Time? The Seleucid Era", *Association of Ancient Historians*, Santa Barbara (May, 2015)
- "Another Corrupting Sea?", *Literature and Culture in the Ancient Mediterranean*, Venice International University (September, 2009)
- "Building and Lying: The Fabrication of Seleucia-on-the-Tigris," *From Pella to Gandhara* (Graduate Student Conference), Oxford University (July, 2009)
- "Going Native? Ethnogenesis and Cultural Hybridity at Aï Khanoum," *Ancient Borderlands* (Graduate Student Conference), University of California at Santa Barbara (March, 2008)

Workshop presentations:

- "Temple of Day One", *Memories of Kingship in the Hellenistic World Workshop*, Department of the Classics, Harvard (February, 2015)
- "Indigenous Revolts in 2 Maccabees", *Translating the Sacred Text Workshop*, Harvard Divinity School (May, 2014)
- "Ostracism as Democratic Ritual", *Workshop in the History and Culture of the Ancient Mediterranean*, Harvard University (February 2014)
- "The Urban Development of Dura-Europus", *Archaeology Core Group*, Harvard University (November, 2010)

Public lectures:

- "Total History", Radcliffe Institute for Advanced Study (March, 2018)
- "The Beginning of the End of the World: Some Ideas on the Origins of Apocalypticism", Harvard Hillel (March, 2018)
- "Greek Esther", Harvard Hillel (May, 2013)
- "How to Cheat the Greek Way", *Certamen*, Harvard University (March, 2013)
- "The Origins of Chanukah", Harvard Hillel (November, 2012)

TEACHING

Courses

Spring 2019	CLAS-STDY 112: <i>Regional Study: Sicily</i> CLAS-STDY 135: <i>To the Ends of the Earth: Geography, Ethnography, and Exploration in the Ancient World</i>
Fall 2018	CLAS-STDY 97a: <i>Introduction to the Ancient Greek World</i>
Spring 2017	CLAS-STDY 112: <i>Regional Study: Sicily</i> (co-taught with Professor Emma Dench) CLAS-STDY 242: <i>Pasts and Future Pasts in the Hellenistic World</i> (co-taught with Professor Giovanni Bazzana, Harvard Divinity School)
Spring 2015	CLAS-STDY 112: <i>Regional Study: Sicily</i> (co-taught with Professor Emma Dench) CLAS-STDY 230: <i>Alexander and his Great Legacy</i> (co-taught with Professor Ruth Bielfeldt)
Fall 2014	CLAS-STDY 97a: <i>Greek Culture and Civilization</i>
Spring 2014	CLAS-STDY 158: <i>Alexander to Caesar: The Transformation of the Hellenistic World</i> CLAS-STDY 222: <i>Regional Study: Sicily</i> (co-taught with Professor Emma Dench)
Fall 2013	CLAS-STDY 97a: <i>Greek Culture and Civilization</i> FRSEMR 37w: <i>The Worlds of Alexander the Great</i>
Spring 2013	CLAS-STDY 135: <i>To the Ends of the Earth: Geography, Ethnography, and Exploration in the Ancient World</i> GREEK 127: <i>Xenophon's Two Cyri</i>
Fall 2012	CLAS-STDY 97a: <i>Greek Culture and Civilization</i>
Spring 2012 (as Convertible Instructor)	CLASPHIL 292: <i>Hellenism in the East: Colonialism, Assimilation, and Revolt</i> FRSEMR 37w: <i>The Worlds of Alexander the Great</i>
Fall 2011 (as Convertible Instructor)	CLAS-STDY 97a: <i>Greek Culture and Civilization</i>

Special examinations

2018/19	Supratik Baralay, " <i>The Parthian Empire</i> " Justin Miller, " <i>Ancient Identity</i> " (one semester only) Felipe Soza, " <i>Hellenistic Peloponnese</i> "
2016/17	Alexandra Schultz, " <i>Ancient Libraries</i> " (one semester only)
2014/15	Michael Konieczny, " <i>Herodotus and Greek Historiography</i> "

- 2013/14 Charles Bartlett, "Internationalism and the Mediterranean"
Samantha Blankenship, "The Achaemenid Empire"
Monica Park, "The Historical Geography of Cilicia and Pamphylia"
Anthony Shannon, "Hellenistic Urbanism"
- 2012/13 Tyler Flatt, "Polybius"
Rebecca Katz, "Polybius"
- 2011/12 (as Convertible Instructor)
Emrys Bell-Schlatter, "Ancient Geography"

ADVISING

Dissertation – adviser

- Samantha Blankenship, "Historiography between Greece and Persia"
- Monica Park (co-advised with Professor Leslie Kurke, University of California, Berkeley), "The Mortal Divine: Callimachus and the Making of an Imperial Theology" (April, 2018)
- Alexandra Schultz (co-advising with Professor Richard Thomas), "Imagined Histories: Hellenistic Libraries and the Idea of Greece"

Dissertations – committee member

- Charles Bartlett, "Legal Change, Pluralism, and the Rule of Law in the Eastern Roman Provinces" (April, 2018)
- Tyler Flatt, "Biblical Epic" (April, 2017)
- Eliza Gettel, "Between Federalism and Imperialism: The *koina* of Roman Achaea from the 1st to the 3rd Century CE"
- Michael Konieczny, "The Power of Talk: Discourse, Interpretation, and Ideology in the *Annals* of Tacitus"
- Elizabeth Mitchell, "The Other Classical Body: Cupids as Mediators in Roman Visual Culture" (September, 2018)
- Anthony Shannon, "*Africa romana*: Tradition, Appropriation, and Interaction in the Development of Pre-Existing Urban Landscapes in North Africa"

Senior theses – adviser

- 2018/19 Joseph Valente (Joint Concentrator in Ancient History), *title to be determined*
Classics adviser, co-advising with Professor Emma Dench, History adviser
- 2016/17 David Clifton, "A Tyrannical Democracy: Athens in the Fifth Century"
- Denis Fedin (Joint Concentrator in Ancient History), "Forgive Us Our Debts, As We Have Forgiven Our Debtors: Interpersonal Loans, Conflict, and Accountability in Hellenistic Egypt"
Classics adviser, co-advised with Professor Emma Dench, History adviser
Smyth Greek Thesis Prize winner

- 2014/15 Elliot Wilson, "Constructing Antigonid Kingship: Monarchy, Memory, and Empire in Hellenistic Macedonia"
 Hoopes Prize winner, Smyth Greek Thesis Prize winner
- 2013/14 Joseph Glynias, "Samothrace – A Hellenistic Middle Ground"
 Hoopes Prize winner, Smyth Greek Thesis Prize winner
- 2011/12 (as Convertible Instructor)
 Athena Lao, "The Goddess Roma"
 Smyth Greek Thesis Prize winner

External advising

- Diego Chapinal-Heras, "Dion and Macedonia: Multiple Developments". Real Colegio Complutense Postdoctoral Fellow at Harvard, 2018-2019
- Lara Laviola, "Eisangelia". Harvard-Berlin Exchange, Fall 2018
- Marijn Visscher, "Beyond Alexandria: Seleukid Literature and Empire". Durham-Harvard Exchange, Fall 2014

External PhD examiner

- Evangelia Anagnostou, "In the Garden of the Gods: Models of Kingship from the Sumerians to the Seleucids", PhD Macquarie University (July, 2015)

CONFERENCES AND WORKSHOPS ORGANIZED OR HOSTED

- "The Period of the Middle Maccabees: From the Death of Judas through the Reign of John Hyrcanus (ca. 160-104 BCE)", international conference, with Professor Andrea Berlin (Boston University), Gazzada, (June 2018)
- "The Sense(s) of History: Apocalyptic Literature and Their Temporalities", international conference, with Professor Giovanni Bazzana (Harvard Divinity School), Harvard University (November, 2017)
- "City and Empire in Seleucid Asia Minor: Sardis from the King's Peace to the Peace of Apamea", international conference, with Professor Andrea Berlin (Boston University), Harvard University (February, 2017)
- The Center for Jewish Studies Starr Fellowship in Judaica Seminar, "Jews and the Classical World", with Professor Shaye Cohen, (Spring semester, 2017)
- "The Maccabean Moment", international conference, with Professor Ian Moyer (University of Michigan), Center for Hellenic Studies (January, 2016)
- Founder of "The Hellenistic Sardis Project", working group (meetings at Sardis, July 2014 and July 2015, conference February 2017 (see above))
- Founding member of "The Maccabees Project", working group (based at the Elie Wiesel Center for Jewish Studies, Boston University, 2015-)
- New England Ancient History Colloquium, regional conference (April, 2014)

- “Discovering the Classical World”, departmental workshop, with Adrian Staehli, Harvard University (2011-2014)
- “Memories of Kingship in the Hellenistic World”, departmental workshop, with Yvona Trnka-Amrhein, Harvard University (2014-2015)
- MACTe, regional conference (for junior Classics faculty working in Massachusetts and Connecticut), with Andreas Zanker, Harvard University (December, 2013)

SERVICE

- Journal reader: *Ancient History Bulletin*, *Classical Antiquity*, *Harvard Studies in Classical Philology*, *Harvard Theological Review*, and *Journal of Jewish Studies*
- Manuscript reader: *Brill’s New Jacoby*, *Cambridge University Press*, and *Harvard University Press*
- Ancient History editor for the new “Ancient Cultures of Sciences and Knowledge” Mohr Siebeck (Tübingen) monograph series
- Faculty Oversight Committee for the Sardis Expedition (Harvard University), 2018-
- Advisory Committee of the Center for Jewish Studies (Harvard University), 2016-
- Managing Committee of the American School of Classical Studies at Athens, 2015-
- Frank Knox Memorial Fellowship Selection Committee (Harvard University), 2014-
- Harvard-UK Fellowship Selection Committee (Harvard University), 2013-17
- Graduate Committee (Departmental), 2014-2015, 2018-2019
- Minutes’ secretary (Departmental), 2013-2015
- Placement Committee (Departmental), 2012-2014
- Lectures Committee (Departmental), 2018-2019

AWARDS

- | | |
|---------|---|
| 2017-18 | Joy Foundation Fellow, Radcliffe Institute for Advanced Study |
| 2017 | PAW Long-Term Fellow, Princeton University (February) |
| 2016 | Center for Hellenic Studies Fellowship (Spring) |
| 2015 | Oliver Smithies Lectureship (Balliol College, Oxford) |
| | Lasky-Barajas Dean’s Innovation Fund for Digital Arts and Humanities (Harvard University) |
| | Anne and Jim Rothenberg Fund for Humanities Research (Harvard University) |
| 2013 | Loeb Foundation Grant |
| | Scott R. Jacobs Grant |
| 2010 | Short-term Research Fellowship (American Research Center in Sofia) |
| 2009-10 | Charles Eliot Norton Fellowship in Greek |
| | Thomas Day Seymour Fellowship (American School of Classical Studies at Athens) |
| 2008-09 | Faculty of Arts and Sciences Merit Award (Harvard University) |
| 2005-12 | Frank Knox Memorial Fellowship |
| 2005 | Gibbs History Prize (Oxford University) |
| 2003 | Fletcher Scholarship (Balliol College, Oxford) |