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Mary Hamil Gilbert

Senecan Tragedy, Greek Tragedy, Reception & Translation Studies, Women & Gender Studies, Environmental Humanities, Critical Race Theory, Book History, Feminist Theory

# EMPLOYMENT

## Mississippi State University, Starkville Mississippi *— Assistant Professor of Classics*

2023 - PRESENT

## Birmingham-Southern College, Birmingham Alabama *— Associate Lecturer of Greek and Roman Studies*

2017 - PRESENT

# EDUCATION

## University of Virginia *— PhD in Classics*

2010 - 2017, Charlottesville, Virginia

## Washington University in Saint Louis *— MA in Classics*

2006 - 2008, St. Louis, Missouri

## University of Georgia *— BA in Greek, Latin, and English*

2002 - 2006, Athens, Georgia

# NON-DEGREE GRANTING EDUCATION

## Digital Humanities Summer Institute *— DH for Liberal Arts Colleges*

June 2018, University of Victoria

## Rare Books School *— Printed Books to 1800; Book Production & Social Practice in Early Modern Europe; History of the Book in the West*

June 2016 - July 2017, University of Virginia and Harvard University

## American School of Classical Studies at Athens *— Regular Member*

September 2014 - May 2015, Athens, Greece

## Diplôme d'études en langue française *— DALF niveau C1*

November 2009, Paris, France

## Assistante d’Anglais *— Ministère de l'Éducation nationale*

2008 - 2009, Bordeaux, France

# SCHOLARSHIP

# **Books**

*Believing Ancient Women: Feminist Epistemologies for Greece and Rome (forthcoming with Edinburgh University Press)*

I have produced, along with Megan Elena Bowen and E. Gwendolyn Nally, an edited volume on classics and feminist epistemology that provides an urgent re-assessment of what ancient women know and the conditions under which they are believed in order to open new ways of thinking about the relevance of Greek and Roman systems of belief and authority to the aims of contemporary feminism.

*The Shock of Ancient Women: Gendering Intertextuality in Jean Racine’s Classical Tragedies (In preparation for the Bloomsbury Studies in Classical Reception Series)*

This monograph argues that Jean Racine looks to Greek and Roman women (both literary like Phèdre and historical like Sappho and Agrippina the Younger) to authorize his explorations into womanhood, psychology, and structures of power. It combines new archival research on Racine’s personal annotations of his classical library (Euripides, Sophocles, Longus, Homer, and others) with a theoretically informed philological approach to the rich tapestry of classical intertexts that underwrites the more shocking characterizations of gender and womanhood in his plays.

*Transnational Intertextualities: Negotiating Greece and Rome on the Early Modern Stage (In preparation with Susanna Phillippo for the De Gruyter Trends in Classics – Pathways of Reception Series)*

I am in the process of producing with Susanna Phillippo an edited volume that combines intertextuality studies (particularly influential in the fields of Classics and Classical Reception) with new trends in Early Modern Studies that emphasize early modern transgressions of linguistic, national, and cultural borders. The ten chapters treat a variety of early modern playwrights from different cultural centers across Europe. Together they demonstrate that the reception of Greco-Roman antiquity offered the opportunity for productive engagement with, and often challenges to, contemporary authorities (religion, gender norms, culture, literary theory, etc.), and for new insights into cross-cultural, transnational conversations about literature, education, politics, gender, and race, and many other issues.

# **Journal Articles**

[“Engaging Ancient Tragedy: Troy Falls Again in Jean Racine’s *Andromaque*” in *Classical Receptions Journal* 10.2 191–207 (2018).](https://academic.oup.com/crj/article/10/2/191/4904258?guestAccessKey=f490b21d-f072-48cc-8fa5-0162abaa59bc)

Policing Women’s Anger in the Pseudo-Senecan *Octavia*” in *Helios* (forthcoming).

“The Near and Distant Dispossessed:” Anachronism as Intervention in Wole Soyinka’s *The Bacchae of Euripides: A Communion Rite* (in preparation).

“Intelleximus passionem”: The Sensual Epistemology of Vibia Perpetua (in preparation).

# **Edited Volume Chapters**

“‘Je sentis tout mon corps et transir et brûler’: Sublimating Ancient Sexuality in Jean Racine’s *Phèdre et Hippolyte*” in *Companion to the Reception of Ancient Greek and Roman Sexuality and Gender,* Routledge (2022).

“En-gendering knowledge with the Oceanids in *Prometheus Bound*” in *Believing Ancient Women: A Feminist Epistemology for Greece and Rome*, Edinburgh University Press, (forthcoming).

“‘Do you see Hector? Or is it just me?’: Depression, Fear, and Hallucinatory Mourning in Seneca’s *Troades*” in *War, the Violent Teacher: The Experience of Noncombatants in Ancient Conflict,* Brepols (forthcoming).

“‘The apple they could not reach’: Queering Nature in the poetry of Sappho and Anyte of Tegea,” *Sappho Revisited*, University of Oklahoma Press (forthcoming).

# **Reviews**

[Review of Tristan Alonge, *Racine et Euripide: La révolution trahie*” in *French*  *Studies* 72.4 (2018): 598-99.](https://academic.oup.com/fs/article/72/4/598/5098328?guestAccessKey=52168cb1-5d15-44c9-8dfd-a2faad205cf1)

[Review of *Brill’s Companion to the Reception of Senecan Tragedy*, Ed. Eric Dodson-Robinson, in *Religious Studies Review* 42.3 (2016): 206.](https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/rsr.12570)

[Review of Susanna Phillippo, *Hellenic Whispers: Modes of Greek Literary Influence in Seventeenth-Century French Drama*, in *Religious Studies Review* 42.2 (2016): 105.](https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/full/10.1111/rsr.12412)

# **Literary Translations and Public Scholarship**

[Fear of a Black Cleopatra](https://www.nytimes.com/2023/05/10/opinion/black-cleopatra-netflix.html?unlocked_article_code=Qn2MBnMH_BH-jW8hkzg4DTIzG7mZXEN7OgVkUHkwpcTYELUzpojoDZJF7K7h54O9NsgyqMAI2b0Mpwio9G9FW8ghRdlbLD8HS4sr0OzEJNARW5LMhLaGbTv6hMYT11i1AUywbtuUO5ejFHpxrGZykdM5caQRx8FDPu2YOGZP097jW0KH94UD4OiJcxi3SG4xMmqeJR2GNaPWJVJsGviKyGAY7v8X0w0QkOAEYlMTEyTHgcugGRNertIf_hO0wPPUsH8JSVzgaKru6Dpv8qG4T7hPGSOsx5wRJSJwRRJj9pOsIt62CHoaFFGfWhFTdKg2nlvZsexNzh1NkSQAmAZ9a0o&smid=url-share&fbclid=IwAR2XH9C6a0ntUQ3DQrpztVmXr7a4YM5ojFDy9bjtuND6HBGjuVzEN3mlvig) in *The New York Times* (May 2023)

[“Anyte’s Animal Epigrams”](https://exchanges.uiowa.edu/ancient/issues/departures) **in *Ancient Exchanges: Journal of Literary Translations* (October 2020).**

[*Rome and Beyond: A Digital Latin Textbook*](https://romeandbeyondlatin.com/) (2021)

In collaboration with classicists from neighboring institutions, I have developed digital and open access beginning and intermediate Latin curricula that highlight Roman Africa and issues of diversity in the ancient world.

# **Organized Panels**

Feminist Epistemologies for Greece and Rome, Classical Association of the Middle West and South, Provo 2023, Panel Co-organizer with E. Gwendolyn Nally.

This panel employs feminist epistemological frameworks to analyze how concepts like knowledge, belief, rationality, objectivity, testimony, and evidence were constructed in Greece and Rome.

Engaging Greek Antiquity in Early Modern French Drama, Celtic Conference in Classics, Lyon 2022, Panel Co-organizer with Susanna Phillippo.

This panel brings together scholars from France, England, Italy, and the United States to explores the reception of ancient Greece in early modern drama as a productive site for new insights, particularly in the adoption of recent theoretical frameworks that encourage cross-cultural, cross-temporal approaches and a more global perspective on classical reception studies.

Gendered Animals, International Congress on Medieval Studies 2022, Panel Co-organizer with Jessica Hines.

This panel builds on a central claim of ecofeminism that the oppression of women and animals benefit from being considered together and responds to recent analyses of animals in the theorization of violence and suffering. It also considers whether this intersection allows for new modes of understanding gender, power, and the nonhuman by revisiting early feminist critiques of the animalization of women in light of posthuman challenges to distinctions between animals and humans. The papers in the panel addressed Classical and Medieval Texts.

Gendered Animals, Renaissance Society of America, Dublin 2022, Panel Co-organizer with Jessica Hines.

This panel builds on a central claim of ecofeminism that the oppression of women and animals benefit from being considered together and responds to recent analyses of animals in the theorization of violence and suffering. It also considers whether this intersection allows for new modes of understanding gender, power, and the nonhuman by revisiting early feminist critiques of the animalization of women in light of posthuman challenges to distinctions between animals and humans. The papers in the panel addressed Classical and Early Modern Texts.

Believing Ancient Women, Society for Classical Studies, Virtual 2021, Panel Co-organizer with Megan Elena Bowen.

This SCS panel brought together scholars from a broad variety of genres, time periods, and approaches to provides an urgent re-assessment of what ancient women know and the conditions under which they are believed in order to open new ways of thinking about the relevance of Greek and Roman systems of belief and authority to the aims of contemporary feminism.

Women in Rage, Women in Protest: Feminist Approaches to Ancient Anger, Society for Classical Studies, San Diego 2020, Panel Co-organizer with Erika L. Weiberg.

This SCS panel considered instances of women’s rage in ancient Greece and Rome as protest, refusal, or resource for change and explored the relevance of ancient women’s rage, real and imaginary, to discourses on women’s anger in contemporary feminism.

Feminism, Translation, and Society, Birmingham-Southern College, Birmingham 2018, Conference Organizer.

This interdisciplinary symposium brought together scholars of Political Science, Arabic studies, South Asia Studies, Religion, English, Classics, and Women & Gender studies for brief presentations followed by a round table discussion about the intersection of feminism and translation.

Gender in Antiquity: Anxieties, Transgressions, and Legacies, University of Virginia Graduate Student Colloquium Organizer, Charlottesville 2017.

This colloquium brought together graduate student researchers in Classics, Art History, English, and Religion from six different institutions for an all-day series of talks followed by a keynote address by Victoria Wohl.

# **Conference Talks**

““She is my city”: a Care Ethical Interpretation of Euripides’ *Hecuba* and *Trojan Women,*” Society for Classical Studies, Chicago, 2024.

“Intelleximus passionem esse futuram”: The Sensual Epistemology of Vibia Perpetua, Classical Association of the Middle West and South, Provo 2023.

Translating the Ancient Enslaved: Théramène in Jean Racine’s *Phèdre et Hippolyte,* Celtic Conference in Classics, Lyon 2022.

Et in Arcadia Ego: Anyte of Tegea and the Bucolic Tradition, Renaissance Society of America, Dublin 2022.

Believing Ancient Women, Associated Colleges of the South Virtual Convocation Series, Virtual 2021.

“Don’t Take More Care of Me than I want”: Gendering Knowledge and Experience in *Prometheus Bound*, Society for Classical Studies, Virtual 2021.

Working Towards Inclusivity: Creating a Latin Curriculum through Collaboration, Classical Association of the Middle West and South, Birmingham 2020, canceled due to coronavirus.

Reading the Bits and Pieces: Pedagogical Approaches to Fragmentary Texts in Translations, Classical Association of the Middle West and South, Birmingham 2020, canceled due to coronavirus.

Furor Frustrated: Policing Women’s Anger in the Pseudo-Senecan *Octavia*, Society for Classical Studies, San Diego 2020.

Zoe Karelli, Interiority, and Post-War Feminism, Modern Greek Studies Association, Sacramento 2019.

Senecan Heroines and War Trauma, Celtic Conference in Classics, Coimbra 2019.

“The Near and Distant Dispossessed”: Helots, Vestals, and the Specter of Crucifixion in Wole Soyinka’s *The Bacchae of Euripides*, Classical Association of the Middle West and South, Lincoln 2019.

Melancholy Destroys Andromache: Depression and Hallucinatory Mourning in Seneca’s *Troades*, Classical Association of the Middle West and South, Albuquerque 2018.

The Making of a French Heroine: Euripidean Shame and Senecan Shamelessness in Jean Racine’s *Phèdre*, Renaissance Society of America, New Orleans 2018.

Racine’s *Andromaque* and Seneca’s *Troades*, Society for Classical Studies, Toronto 2017.

Reading Tacitus: Haunted by the Future in Racine’s *Britannicus*, Classical Association of the Middle West and South, Southern Section, Atlanta 2016.

# **Invited Talks**

Policing Ancient Women’s Anger, Mississippi State University, April 2023

*Furor* Frustrated in the Roman Tragedy *Octavia*, University of Wisconsin-Madison, February 2023

Queen Cleopatra, University of Wisconsin-Madison, February 2023

Believing Ancient Women, American Colleges of the South Colloquium, February 2021

Anyte's Animal Epigrams, Agnes Scott College, October 2020

Ancient Women Speak, Birmingham-Southern College, March 2020.

Early Humans in Greco-Roman Mythology, Climate Change Group, Birmingham-Southern College, February 2020.

“Some Agonies are Beyond Telling, and Some Must be Told:” Greek Tragedy and the Syrian Refugee Crisis, Birmingham-Southern College, March 2019.

“The Hills that Bacchus Loved:” Bacchus, Liber, and Dionysus in Rome, College of Charleston, February 2019.

Euripides’ *Trojan Women* as Theatre of Witness, Birmingham-Southern College, October 2018.

Feminism, Translation, and Society, Birmingham-Southern College, May 2018.

Cleopatra: Queen of Africa, Birmingham-Southern College, March 2018

Empire Without End: the Price of Power in the Poetry of Vergil, Ovid, and Bob Dylan, Birmingham-Southern College, January 2018.

Jean Racine and the Virgin Suicides of Ancient Drama, University of Alabama, 2017

Gendering Antiquity in the Poetry of Zoe Karelli, Florida State University, 2017.

Roman Readers: Vergil’s Aeneid on the Walls of Pompeii, Colgate University, 2017.

Dionysus: God of Theater, Birmingham-Southern College, 2017.

# **Select Awards**

Latin Beyond Rome: Making Visible the Diversity of Antiquity, Vail Research Fellowship with student Madeleine Grabarczyk, Birmingham-Southern College (2021 - 2022)

Ancient Women Speak, Vail Research Fellowship with student Claire LeSar, Birmingham-Southern College (2019 - 2020)

Studying Cultures of the Ancient Mediterranean, Associated Colleges of the South Grant (2018-2020)

Birmingham-Southern College Summer Research Stipend for archival work at the Bibliothèque de Toulouse (2019)

Renaissance Society of America Digital Humanities Scholarship to participate in the Digital Humanities Summer Institute (2018)

UVa Rare Books School Fellowship to participate in three seminars (2016-2017)

Buckner W. Clay Global Humanities Award to conduct research at the BnF, Paris (2016)

Martin Ostwald Fellow to attend the American School of Classical Studies at Athens (2014-2015)

# TEACHING

## Birmingham-Southern College *— 2017 - Present, Birmingham, Alabama*

**Latin**

Latin I: fall 2023, fall 2022, fall 2021, fall 2020, fall 2019, fall 2018, fall 2017

Latin II: spring 2023, spring 2022, spring 2021, spring 2020, spring 2019, spring 2018

Latin III: Latin for Literacy: A Service Learning Project, fall 2018

Latin IV: Elegiac Latin Poetry, spring 2022

Latin IV: Senecan Tragedy, spring 2023

**History**

Ancient Greece, spring 2023, summer 2022, summer 2021, spring 2021, spring 2020, fall 2018

Roman History: fall 2023, fall 2021, summer 2021, spring 2019

**Literature and Culture (in Translation)**

Ancient and Modern Drama, fall 2022, fall 2020, fall 2019

Environmental Thought in Antiquity, spring 2023, spring 2021

Race in Antiquity and its Legacies, fall 2023, spring 2019

Sex, Gender, and Power in the Ancient World, spring 2022, fall 2019 and spring 2018

**Freshman Seminars**

The Greek Gods, spring 2022, fall 2020, spring 2020

Ancient Rome, fall 2021, fall 2019, spring 2018, fall 2017

**January Terms**

Ancient Magic, January 2020

Ancient Witchcraft, January 2023, January 2022

Greek Drama and Society, January 2018

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## Greek Studies on Site *— 2014 - Present, Athens, Greece*

Greek Mythology, summer 2019 and summer 2014

Greek Tragedy, summer 2017 and summer 2015

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## University of Virginia *— 2010 - 2017, Charlottesville, Va.*

Latin IV: Pliny and Martial, spring 2017

Latin IV: Catullus and Cicero, spring 2016, fall 2013

Latin III: Ovid and Caesar, spring 2012

Latin I-IV (Summer Latin Institute), summer 2012 and summer, 2017

Latin I-II (Intensive Beginning Latin), fall 2015

Latin II, spring 2012 , TA

Latin I, fall 2011, TA

Greek Mythology, summer 2013, spring 2014, TA

# SERVICE

## *Helios — Reviewer*

2021 - Present

## CAMWS Bolchazy Pedagogy Book Award *— Committee Member*

2018 - Present

## Alabama Junior Classical League *— Convention Facilitator and Organizer*

Birmingham Alabama, 2020

In collaboration with several local Latin highschool teachers I organized an event to host 400-500 Alabama Latin highschool students at BSC for a weekend of classically themed games and competitions. This event was canceled in 2020 due to Covid.

## Cultures of the Ancient Mediterranean *— Grant Collaborator*

Birmingham Alabama, 2017 - 2020

In collaboration with Classics faculty at Rhodes University, Millsaps College, Southwestern University, and Spelman College, I have launched a distance learning program that facilitates the sharing of Classics faculty and students among our institutions. As part of the initiative, we are co-writing materials for beginning and intermediate Latin with the aim of offering a more inclusive picture of the ancient world than that portrayed in many introductory textbooks.

## Latin for Literacy: A Service Learning Project *— Faculty Sponsor*

Birmingham Alabama, 2018 - 2019

This project, undertaken by my advanced BSC Latin students, aims to introduce low income primary and secondary school students to Latin. Our community partners include Cornerstone Elementary, DISCO, and the Boys & Girls club.

## UVa Center for the Liberal Arts *— Assistant to the Director*

Charlottesville Virginia, 2015 - 2017

In this role, I organized weekend workshops for Virginia K-12 teachers of Latin, French, and Spanish.

REFERENCES

Jessica Hines | Birmingham-Southern College, English | jnhines@bsc.edu

John Miller | University of Virginia, Classics | jfm4j@virginia.edu

Susanna Phillippo | Newcastle University, Classics | susanna.phillippo@ncl.ac.uk

Erika Weiberg | Duke University, Classics | erika.weiberg@duke.edu