

Anne Duncan

Department of Classics and Religious Studies
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Education

- 2000: Ph.D., Classical Studies, University of Pennsylvania
Dissertation: *The Hypocritical Self: Actors, Acting, and Identity in Greek and Roman Culture*
Dissertation Director: Dr. Sheila Murnaghan
- 1997: M.A., Classical Studies, University of Pennsylvania
- 1993: B.A., English Literature, Swarthmore College

Interests

Greek and Roman dramatic performance and reception; social and cultural history; gender

Positions Held

- 2021-: Chair, Department of Classics and Religious Studies, University of Nebraska-Lincoln
- 2025-: Professor, Department of Classics and Religious Studies, UNL
- 2009-25: Associate Professor, Department of Classics and Religious Studies, UNL
- 2007-09: Assistant Professor, Department of Classics and Religious Studies, UNL
- 2004-06: Assistant Professor, Department of Languages & Literatures, Arizona State University
- 2001-04: Assistant Professor, Interdisciplinary Humanities Program, ASU
- 2000-01: Lecturer, Department of Classics, University of Texas-Austin
- 1995-98: Teaching Assistant, Department of Classical Studies, University of Pennsylvania

1994-96, 1998-99 (summers): Master Teacher, St. Paul's School Advanced Studies Program, Concord, NH

1993 (summer): Teaching Intern, St. Paul's School Advanced Studies Program, Concord, NH

Fellowships

2013-14: Solmsen Fellowship, Institute for Research in the Humanities, University of Wisconsin, Madison, WI

2006-07: Junior Fellow, Center for Hellenic Studies, Washington, DC

Grants

2018: International Travel Grant, College of Arts & Sciences, UNL

2011-13: Program Scholar, "Ancient Greeks/Modern Lives" NEH sub-grant from Aquila Theatre Company

2010: Global Gateway Faculty Associate, UNL

2002: Women's Studies Summer Research Award, Arizona State University

Honors and Awards

2017: Education Abroad Rookies of the Year (with Matthew Loar), UNL

2014-15: Certificate of Recognition for Contributions to Students, UNL

2000: Dean's Scholar, University of Pennsylvania

Books

In progress: *Theatrical License: Mime Actresses in the Ancient World*

Roman Spectacle (textbook, under contract to Cambridge University Press)

2025: *Tyranny and Theater in the Ancient World: Command Performances*, Bloomsbury Academic

2006: *Performance and Identity in the Classical World*, Cambridge University Press (paperback edition 2011)

Refereed Articles

- 2026: article on the poetry of Dionysius I of Syracuse for *Autocrats as Authors*, eds. Matthias Haake and Andreas Pecar, Franz Steiner Verlag (in progress)
- 2021: "Mime and Metatheatre," in *Theatre and Metatheatre: Definitions, Problems, Limits*, eds. Silvia Milanezi and Elodie Paillard. De Gruyter (pp.235-51) (open access at <https://www.degruyter.com/document/doi/10.1515/9783110716559/html>; hardcover published December 2021)
- 2020: "Female Performers in the Greco-Roman World: An Introduction," in *The Palgrave Handbook of the History of Women on Stage*, eds. Jan Sewell and Abigail Rokison. Palgrave Macmillan (pp.9-20)
- "The Roman *Mimae*: Female Performers in Ancient Rome," in *The Palgrave Handbook of the History of Women on Stage*, eds. Jan Sewell and Abigail Rokison. Palgrave Macmillan (pp.21-49)
- 2018: Duncan and Liapis, "Theatre Performance after the Fifth Century," in *A Twilight World? Greek Tragedy after the Fifth Century*, eds. Vayos Liapis and Antonis Petrides. Cambridge University Press, 2018 (pp.180-203)
- 2017: "Euripides in the fourth century BCE," in *Companion to Euripides*, ed. Laura McClure. Wiley-Blackwell, 2017 (pp.533-45)
- 2015: "Political re-performances of tragedies in the fifth and fourth centuries BCE," in *Reperformances of Drama in the Fifth and Fourth Centuries BC: Authors and Contexts*, ed. A. A. Lamari, Special Issue of *Trends in Classics* 7.2 (2015) 297-31
- 2012: "A Theseus Outside Athens: Dionysius I of Syracuse and Tragic Self-Presentation," in *Theatre Outside Athens*, ed. Kathryn Bosher, Cambridge University Press, 2012 (pp.137-55)
- 2011: "Nothing to do with Athens? Tragedians at the courts of tyrants," in *Why Athens? A Reappraisal of Tragic Politics*, ed. David Carter, Oxford University Press, 2011 (pp.69-84)
- 2006: "Infamous Performers: Female Prostitutes and Actors at Rome" in *Prostitutes & Courtesans in the Ancient World*, eds. Cristopher A. Faraone and Laura K. McClure, University of Wisconsin Press: Madison, 2006 (pp.252-73)
- 2011-12: reprinted in *Classical and Medieval Literary Criticism*, 2011-12, Layman Poupard Publishing for Gale/Cengage Learning

- 2005: “Gendered Interpretations: Two Fourth-Century Performances of Sophocles’ *Electra*.” *Helios* 32.1 (2005) 55-79
- 2001: “Spellbinding Performance: Poet as Witch in Theocritus’ Second *Idyll* and Apollonius’ *Argonautica*.” *Helios* 28.1 (2001) 43-56
- 2000-01: “Agathon, Essentialism, and Gender Subversion in Aristophanes’ *Thesmophoriazusae*.” *European Studies Journal* 17 & 18 (2000-01) 25-40 (special double issue: “Performing the Politics of European Comic Drama”)
- 2000: “It Takes a Woman to Play a Real Man: Clara as Hero(ine) of Beaumont & Fletcher’s *Love’s Cure*.” *English Literary Renaissance* 30.3 (2000) 396-407

Other Publications

- 2016: “The Return of the King: Nero and Elvis,” *Eidolon* 8.29.16 (<https://eidolon.pub/the-return-of-the-king-60872b233a2d#.4ixm07za1>)
- 2005: “Helen of Troy Reloaded” (with Lisa Rengo George). *Diotima* 2005 (<http://www.stoa.org/diotima/essays/helenReloaded.pdf>)

Reviews

- 2017: “(V.) Vahtikari Tragedy Performances Outside Athens in the Late Fifth and the Fourth Centuries BC (Papers and Monographs of the Finnish Institute at Athens 20). Helsinki: Foundation of the Finnish Institute at Athens, 2014. Pp. 334. €30. 9789526721187,” *Journal of Hellenic Studies* 137 (2017) 230-31
- 2008: “Duckworth Companions to Greek and Roman Tragedy,” *Journal of Hellenic Studies* 128 (2008) 192-93
- 2003: “*Greek and Roman Actors: Aspects of an Ancient Profession*, eds. Pat Easterling and Edith Hall, Cambridge University Press: Cambridge, 2002,” *Bryn Mawr Classical Review* 2003.09.36

Papers Presented (* denotes invited talk)

- 2025: * “Autocrat as Author: Dionysius I of Syracuse,” Indiana University
- 2024: “Whips, goads, fetters, yokes: torture in Greek tragedy,” at the Classical Association of the Middle West and South, St. Louis, MO
- 2022: * Keynote address: “Tyranny, madness, wellbeing, and Greek tragedy,” at the University

- of Liverpool Classics and Ancient History MA Colloquium (Zoom)
- “The *Ekkyklema* as Tyrannical Device,” at the Classical Association of the Middle West and South Annual Meeting, Winston-Salem, NC
- 2021: “The ‘Hidden Transcript’ of the Laureolus-Mime” at the Society for Classical Studies Annual Meeting (Zoom)
- 2020: “The Laureolus Mime” at the Classical Association of the Middle West and South, held via Zoom due to COVID-19
- *“Dying Well and Dying Badly in Ancient Rome,” Lincoln/Omaha Society of the Archaeological Institute of America, UNL
- 2018: * “Mime Actresses in Ancient Rome” at “Performance and the Body,” Cambridge Interdisciplinary Performance Network, Cambridge University, United Kingdom
- “Mime and Metatheater” at “Theatre and Metatheatre: definitions, problems, limits,” the University of Basel, Basel, Switzerland
- *“Alexander and Theatre” at “Greek Theatre and Autocracy,” the University of Sydney, Sydney, Australia
- “‘It Wasn’t Rape-Rape’: Roman Attitudes Toward the Sexual Availability of *Mimae*” at the Classical Association of the Middle West and South, Albuquerque, NM
- 2017: “Atreus and Thyestes: Icons of Misrule” at the Classical Association of the Middle West and South, Kitchener, Ontario, Canada
- 2016: “Nero Impersonators and Elvis Impersonators” at the Classical Association of the Middle West and South, Williamsburg, VA
- 2015: *Keynote address: “Commanding Performances” at “Looking at the Stage: New Perspectives on Greek and Roman Performance,” the 8th Annual Graduate Student Conference of the PhD/MA Program in Classics at The Graduate Center of The City University of New York (CUNY)
- 2014: * “Creon and Other Stock Tyrants in Greek Tragedy,” University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee
- 2013: “Atreus and Thyestes in Greek and Roman Tragedy,” Institute for Research in the Humanities, University of Wisconsin-Madison
- 2012: * “Alexander the Great as Theater Impresario,” Creighton University

- *Paideia Hellenic Endowment Distinguished Lecture: "Ancient Greek Theater and the Modern Imagination: The Case of Electra's Empty Urn," University of South Alabama
- *"Alexander the Great as Theater Impresario," Humanities and Sciences Colloquium, University of South Alabama
- "Alexander the Great's Travelling Roadshow" at the American Philological Association Annual Meeting, Philadelphia, PA
- 2011: *"'Wearing a mask of his own face': Nero in ps.-Seneca's *Octavia*," University of Pennsylvania
- *"'Wearing a mask of his own face': Nero in ps.-Seneca's *Octavia*," University of Kansas
- 2010: "Playing the Tyrant: Nero in ps.-Seneca's *Octavia*" at the Classical Association of the Middle West and South, Oklahoma City, OK
- 2008: *"'A Theseus Outside Athens: Dionysius I of Syracuse and Tragic Self-Presentation," at "Theatre Outside Athens," Northwestern University
- 2007: "Nothing to Do with Democracy? Aeschylus and Euripides at the Courts of Tyrants" read by conference organizer at "Why Athens? Tragedy and Politics," Reading, England
- "Dionysius I of Syracuse: Tragic Tyrant" at the American Philological Association Annual Meeting, San Diego, CA
- 2006: *"'Nothing to Do with Democracy? Athenian Playwrights at the Courts of Tyrants," Columbia University
- *"'Inspired' Acting: Mad Scenes in Greek Tragedy" at the American Philological Association Annual Meeting, Montreal, Canada
- 2004: *"'Barbarian Kings in Greek Tragedy," University of Texas-Austin
- "Actor-Kings and King-Actors: Staging Absolute Power in Early Imperial Rome" at the Pacific Rim Roman Literature Seminar on Performance and Roman Literature, Sydney, Australia
- "Helen of Troy Reloaded: The Unauthorized Authorized Story" (with Lisa Rengo George) at the Classical Association of the Middle West and South, St. Louis, MO
- "Helen of Troy Reloaded: The Unauthorized Authorized Story" (with Lisa Rengo George) at Arizona State University

- 2003: **“The Worst Actor Plays the King: An Imperial-Era Consolation,”* University of California-Los Angeles
- “Euripides’ Orestes: Staging the Most Popular Tragedy in Antiquity”* at the American Philological Association Annual Meeting, New Orleans, LA
- 2002: *“Euripides’ Orestes: Staging the Most Popular Tragedy in Antiquity”* at the 26th Comparative Drama Conference, The Ohio State University, Columbus, OH
- “Infamous Performers: Female Prostitutes and Actors at Rome”* at *“Prostitution in the Ancient World,”* University of Wisconsin-Madison
- 2001: *“Gendered Choices: A Consideration of Two Ancient Performances of Sophocles’ Electra”* at the 25th Comparative Drama Conference, The Ohio State University, Columbus, OH
- 1999: *“‘Whatever You Want, That’s What I Say’: Parasites as Bad Actors in Roman Comedy”* at the American Philological Association Annual Meeting, Dallas, TX
- 1998: *“Poet as Witch: Magic, Performance, and Seduction in Theocritus’ Second Idyll and Apollonius’ Argonautica”* at the American Philological Association Annual Meeting, Washington, D.C.
- “It Takes a Woman to Play a Real Man: Clara as Hero(ine) of Love’s Cure”* at *“Unmasking the Carnival: The Politics and Poetics of Identity,”* Louisiana State University
- 1997: *“The Sow’s Belly and the Vulture: Women and Food in the Satyricon”* at the Classical Association of the Atlantic States Fall Meeting, University of Pennsylvania
- “The Marriage of Iphis & Ianthe and Gender Ambiguity in the Metamorphoses”* at *“Ambiguous Bodies: A Graduate Student Conference on Ovid, Sex and Gender,”* University of Chicago

Other Presentations

- 2025: *“Gladiators – in Roman History and in the Movies,”* at Renaissance Weekend, Banff, Canada
- “Stoicism: Its Appeal to Romans and Many Today,”* at Renaissance Weekend, Banff, Canada
- “The Romans, Their Spectacles & Their Exotic Animals,”* at Renaissance Weekend, Banff, Canada

*Invited member of panel discussion for “Classicisms” exhibition, Marxhausen Gallery of Art, Concordia University, Seward, NE

2024: “Reconciliation and Homer’s *Iliad*,” CAS Inquire lecture, UNL

“What can ‘Great Books’ do? Trauma, reconciliation, and Homer’s *Iliad*,” at Renaissance Weekend, Monterey, CA

Summary of *Tyranny and Theater in the Ancient World: Command Performances*, at Renaissance Weekend, Monterey, CA

“Romans and Elephants,” at Renaissance Weekend, Monterey, CA

2023: *Invited lecture on Aeschylus’ *Libation-Bearers* given to undergraduate “Great Books” course at Trinity University, San Antonio, Texas

2017: “Using Greek Tragedy to Reach Out to Veterans,” Future of the Humanities Symposium, UNL

2015: “The Hunger Games: Our Classical Future,” UNL

2011: “‘Wearing a mask of his own face’: Nero in ps.-Seneca’s *Octavia*” at Pre-Modern Faculty Colloquium, UNL

Conference Organizing Experience

2019: Chair, Local Organizing Committee, Classical Association of the Middle West and South 115th Annual Meeting, Lincoln, Nebraska

2010: Moderator, “Death & Beyond: Religious Perspectives East and West” at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln

2004: Moderator and Abstracts Referee, “Feminism & Classics IV: Gender in Place” at the University of Arizona

Respondent, “Ethics in Place: Memory, Architecture, and Environmental Poetics” at Arizona State University

2000: Co-organizer, “Other Worlds: A Graduate Student Conference on Alternate Realities in Classical Antiquity” at the University of Pennsylvania

National Service

2019-25: Vice President for Nebraska, Classical Association of the Middle West and South

2017-20: Legate for the state of Nebraska, Society for Classical Studies

2017-20: Committee on Women and Gender in the Profession, Society for Classical Studies

2017: Referee for *Helios*

Referee for *Didaskalia*

2014-15: Jury member for John J. Winkler Prize for Scholarship in Classics, American Philological Association/Society for Classical Studies

2013: Mentor for junior female Classicist, Women's Classical Caucus

Referee for Palgrave Macmillan Press

2004: Referee for Cambridge University Press

2003: Referee for *Classical World*

2002: Referee for *Helios*

University of Nebraska-Lincoln Service

2024-25: College of Arts & Sciences Faculty Hiring Advisory Committee

2024: Academic Performance Review Team, Judaic Studies Program

2019-20: College of Arts & Sciences Inquire Advisory Board

2019: Take a Parent to Lunch, New Student Enrollment, College of Arts & Sciences

Internal Member, Academic Performance Review Team, Department of Modern Languages and Literatures

College of Arts & Sciences Awards Committee

2018-19: College of Arts & Sciences Inquire Committee

2018: College of Arts & Sciences Instructional Development Committee

2017-19: College of Arts & Sciences Executive Committee

2016: Conversation Guide, Husker Dialogues

Chair, Academic Performance Review Team, Medieval & Renaissance Studies Program

2015: ENHANCE College of Arts & Sciences Grant Review Committee

2012-13: Digital Humanities Search Committee

2011-15: Women's and Gender Studies Personnel Committee

2010-13: Chancellor's Commission on the Status of Women

Chair (2011-13)

Child Development Advisory Committee (2012-13) (*ex officio*)

Chair of Faculty Council (2010-11)

2009-10: College of Arts & Sciences Promotion and Tenure Committee

2008: College of Arts & Sciences Committee on Academic Distinction and Awards for Students

UNL Departmental Service

2021-: Department Chair

2024-2025: Academic Program Review

2020: Curriculum Guidance Committee

2019-20: Ad Hoc Curriculum Guidance Committee

2016-20: Faculty Advisor, Eta Sigma Phi (Classics undergraduate honor society)

2008-: Love Library Liaison for Classics (with Bob Gorman)

2018-19: Classics Assistant Professor of Practice Search Committee

2010-13, 2016-18: Vice Chair

2009, 2012, 2013 (summers): Acting Chair

2015-16: Chair, Classics Assistant Professor Search Committee

2015: Classics Lecturer Search Committee

2014: CRS Administrative Assistant Search Committee

2013-14: Classics Assistant Professor of Practice Search Committee

2013: Classics Lecturer Search Committee

2009-15: CRS Lecture Committee

2009: CRS Academic Program Review
Classics and Religious Studies Major committee
Classical Languages Major committee
Graduate Program committee

2008-10: course scheduler for Classics courses

2007-08: CRS Graduate Program Committee

UNL Thesis Committees

2025: Supervisor, UCARE project
Jacey Kent, *Women as Scapegoats in Classical Mythology*

2023: Director, undergraduate thesis
Kelly Zach, *What More? A Translation and Digital Annotation of Selected Letters from Cicero to Atticus*, Classics (Distinction)

Reader, M.A. thesis
Reeves Smith, *Spectacle in the Roman Imperial Funeral Procession*, Art & Art History

2019-20: Co-Director (with Vanessa Gorman, History), undergraduate thesis
Whitney Rittscher, *Proving the Legitimacy of an Athenian Woman*, History (Distinction)

2017-18: Co-Director (with Matthew Loar, CRS), undergraduate thesis
Dylan Severino, *Honoring the Dead: The Aeneid as a Mirror of Zeitgeist*, Classical Languages (High Distinction)

2013: Reader, Ph.D. thesis
Ashley Barnett, *"We Shall Meet Beyond the River": An Analysis of the Deathscape of Brownville, Nebraska*, Geography

2012-13: Co-Director (with Roland Végső, English), Honors undergraduate thesis
Tim Lundy, *Mille animos excipe mille modis: Towards an Ovidian Theory of Translation*, English and Classical Languages

2011: Reader, Ph.D. thesis
Maura Giles-Watson, *Performing Arguments in Early English Poetry and Drama*, English

Reader, M.A. thesis

Bailey Barnard, *Euergetism and Gift-Giving at Eleusis: A Case Study of Ancient Patronage Structures*, Art History

UNL Affiliations

Affiliate of Women's and Gender Studies faculty

Affiliate of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, and Queer Studies faculty

UNL Courses Taught

GREK 101: Elementary Ancient Greek (5 credits)
GREK 102: Elementary Ancient Greek (5 credits)
GREK 301: Intermediate Ancient Greek
GREK 302: Intermediate Ancient Greek
GREK 361: Homer
GREK 491/891: Topics in Greek Prose
GREK 492: Topics in Greek Poetry
LATN 101: Elementary Latin (5 credits)
LATN 102: Elementary Latin (5 credits)
LATN 301: Intermediate Latin Prose
LATN 303: Intermediate Latin Prose
LATN 304: Intermediate Latin Poetry
LATN 492: Topics in Latin Poetry
CLAS/AHIS 121: Classical Antiquity in Popular Culture (team-taught with Dr. Michael Hoff)
CLAS 141: Spectacle & Entertainment in Ancient Rome
CLAS/RELG 401: ACE 10 Capstone
CLAS/WMNS 440/840: Gender and Sexuality in the Ancient World
CLAS/ENGL 483/883: Classical Drama

References

Dr. Stephen Lahey
Cotner Professor of Religious Studies
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Dr. Sidnie Crawford
Visiting Scholar, Department of Bible

Princeton Theological Seminary
Willa Cather Professor Emerita
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Dr. Sheila Murnaghan
Alfred Reginald Allen Memorial Professor of Greek
Department of Classical Studies
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University of Pennsylvania
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Dr. Ralph Rosen (emeritus)
Vartan Gregorian Professor of the Humanities
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Dr. J. Kent Wright
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Dr. Cynthia Shelmerdine (emerita)
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