

PAUL J. KOSMIN
Curriculum Vitae

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

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 Ai 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)

TEACHINGCourses

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" (one semester only)</i> Felipe Soza, <i>"Hellenistic Peloponnese"</i>
2016/17	Alexandra Schultz, <i>"Ancient Libraries" (one semester only)</i>
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 Achaëa 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 Glynnias, "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)