

## Rebecca Ann Sears

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Department of Classics  
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St. Louis, MO 63132  
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### Research Interests

Greek and Roman music, papyrology, Latin epic (Ovid), reception studies, ancient magic

### Education

University of Michigan: Ph.D., August 2012

Dissertation: "The Practical Muse: Reconstructing the Contexts of a Greek Musical Papyrus" (Arthur M. Verhoogt, Chair)

Classical Summer School at the American Academy in Rome, Summer 2010

Bowdoin College: B.A. Summa cum Laude, May 2002, Classics and Music Double Major

Honors Thesis: "Investigations into the Dating and Provenance of Bowdoin's Notated Liturgical Manuscript" (Mary K. Hunter and Robert K. Greenlee, Advisors)

### Professional and Research Appointments

Washington University in St. Louis, Lecturer, 2018-2020

Tulane University, Visiting Assistant Professor, 2015-2018

Wake Forest University, Visiting Assistant Professor, 2014-2015

University of Michigan, Lecturer, 2012-2013

University of Michigan, Assistant Collection Manager, Papyrology Collection, 2010-2011

### Publications

"*Sucis Hecateidos Herbae: A Magical Curiosity in Ovid's Metamorphoses*," in L. Pratt and C. M. Sampson, eds., *Engaging Classical Texts in the Contemporary World: From Narratology to Reception*. Ann Arbor: University of Michigan Press, 2018.

"A Michigan Musical Papyrus Revisited," *Bulletin of the American Society of Papyrologists* (Vol. 52, 2015) 143-179.

"Reconstructing the Contexts of a Greek Musical Papyrus," in T. G. Wilfong and Andrew Ferrara, eds., *Karanis Revealed: Uncovering the Past and Present of a Michigan Excavation in Egypt*, Kelsey Museum Publication 7 (Ann Arbor: Kelsey Museum Publications, 2014).

### Reviews

John C. Franklin, *Kinyras: The Divine Lyre*. In *New England Classical Journal*, Vol. 44, Issue 2: 114-117.

Andrew Barker, *Ancient Greek Writers on their Musical Past: Studies in Greek Musical Historiography*. In *Bryn Mawr Classical Review* 2016.01.39

## Works in Progress

*An Introduction to Greek and Roman Music*, in preparation for University of Michigan Press.

*Musical Cultures of the Roman Empire*

“Singing the New Music in Egypt: Melody and Style in the Karanis Musical Papyrus” in preparation for *Greek and Roman Musical Studies*

## Presentations

### Conferences

“With Clashing Bronze and Shrieking Pipes: Ovid’s Representation of the Sound of (Mystery Cult) Music,” SCS, San Diego 2019

“Inscribing Musical Epitaphs in Virgil’s Eclogue V and the Roman Empire,” CAMWS, Albuquerque 2018

“Translating Ovid into Musical Pictures: The *Metamorphosen* Symphonies of Karl Ditters von Dittersdorf,” SCS, Toronto 2017

“Old Women, Wands, and Potions: The Witchcraft of Ovid’s Minerva,” CAMWS, Boulder 2015

“*Sucis Hecateidos Herbae*: A Magical Curiosity in Ovid’s Arachne episode,” CAC, Montreal 2014

“The Musical Culture of Roman Egypt,” APA, Seattle 2013

“‘The Beginning in the End’: Frames, Gutters and Resolution in Ovid’s *Metamorphoses* 15,” CAMWS, Grand Rapids 2011

“Violent Passions? *Nekudaimones* in Greek Erotic Magic,” CAMWS, Minneapolis 2009

“Old Latin Stress in the Scipio Epitaphs: An Alternate Accentual Scansion,” Panel of the Society for the Study of Greek and Latin Linguistics, APA, Philadelphia 2009

“P. Mich. inv. 2958: A Michigan Musical Papyrus Reconsidered” XXV International Congress of Papyrology, Ann Arbor 2007

### Invited Presentations

Language Teaching Fair, co-facilitator for “What to Do with the Elephants in the Classroom: Inclusive Language Teaching,” Washington University, August 2019

“Translating Ovid into Musical Pictures: The *Metamorphosen* Symphonies of Karl Ditters von Dittersdorf,” Washington University, November 2018

“Musical Communities in Roman Egypt,” Tulane University, October 2016

“Musicians, Instruments, and Musical Documents in Roman Egypt,” North Carolina Classical Association, Spring Meeting, March 2015

“P. Mich. inv. 2958: La Notation Vocale” presentation to a seminar on Ancient Greek Papyrology directed by Annie Bélis at the Institut de Papyrologie de la Sorbonne, Paris 2008

## Honors and Fellowships

ProQuest Distinguished Dissertation Award, 2012 (nominated for the 2013 National Council of Graduate Schools' Dissertation Award in the Humanities)  
Departmental Dissertation Fellowship, Spring 2011  
Rackham One-Term Dissertation Grant, Spring 2010  
Rackham Humanities Research Candidacy Fellowship, University of Michigan, Fall 2008  
Rackham Graduate Student Research Grant (for research travel to Paris), Spring 2008

## Teaching

### Washington University

- Introduction to Latin Literature II: Elementary Prose and Poetry (anticipated Spring 2020)
- The Women of Greek Tragedy (Writing Intensive Course, cross-listed with Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies and Comparative Literature, anticipated Spring 2020)
- Latin Elegiac Poetry (anticipated Spring 2020)
- First Year Seminar: Engaging the Classical Past in Modern Fiction (Fall 2019)
- Survey of Latin Literature: The Republic (Fall 2018, two sections; Fall 2019, two sections)
- Beginning Greek I (Fall 2018)
- Beginning Greek II (Spring 2019)
- Ovid's *Metamorphoses* (Spring 2019)
- Ancient Greek and Roman Music (cross-listed with the Department of Music; Spring 2019)

### Tulane University

- Ancient Greek Music (Spring 2017)
- Introduction to Latin Literature (Fall 2016)
- Ancient Rome in Film (Spring 2016)
- Intermediate Latin (Spring 2016; Spring 2018)
- Elementary Latin (Fall 2015; Fall 2017)
- Mythology (Fall 2015, two sections; Spring 2016; Fall 2016, two sections; Spring 2017, two sections; Fall 2017, two sections; Spring 2018, two sections)

### Wake Forest University

- Elementary Latin 2 (Spring 2015)
- Intermediate Greek (Spring 2015)
- Greek Myth (Spring 2015)
- Elementary Latin 1 (Fall 2014)
- Intermediate Greek: Hesiod's *Theogony* (Fall 2014)
- Greek Comedy: Aristophanes' *Frogs* (Fall 2014)

### University of Michigan, Primary Instructor

- Classics and Cinema (Spring 2013)
- Roman Elegy (Fall 2012)
- Intermediate Latin: Virgil's *Aeneid* (Fall 2012 and Spring 2005)
- Ovid's *Metamorphoses* mini-course (Fall 2008)
- Intermediate Latin: Introduction to Prose (Fall 2007)

- Elementary Latin 2 (Fall 2006)
- Elementary Latin 1 (Spring 2006)

#### University of Michigan, Teaching Assistant

- War in Greek and Roman Civilization (Spring 2013)
- The Ancient Greek World (First-year Writing Requirement Course; Fall 2011)
- Great Books (First-year Writing Requirement Course; Fall 2009)
- War in Greek and Roman Civilization (Upper-level Writing Requirement Course; Spring 2009)
- Greek Mythology (Spring 2008)
- The Ancient Roman World (Spring 2007)

#### **Service**

##### Washington University

First-Year Orientation, Department of Classics co-organizer, August 2019

Graduate Proseminar, guest presentation on Classical Reception, October 2018

##### Tulane University

Tulane University PossePlus Retreat 2017, "Us Vs. Them," faculty participant invited by Posse Scholar Jenny Ly, March 2017

##### Wake Forest University

Conor Stark, 2015, "The City, The Man, The Comic Resolution?: Aristophanes' Defense of the City and Incorporation of the Socratic Individual in *Clouds*." Senior Honors Thesis second reader

Department of Classical Languages organizer, World Cultural Festival

#### **Outreach**

Presentation, "Translating Ovid into Musical Pictures: The *Metamorphosen* Symphonies of Karl Dittersdorf," for the Classical Club of St. Louis; March 9, 2019

Presentation, "Musical Technologies," for the Latin V class at the Episcopal School of Baton Rouge, LA; October 19, 2017

Presentation, "Biblical Papyrology," for the Lyceum Series at the First Congregational Church of Milford, NH; June 7, 2016

#### **Musical Education and Experience**

Violin Education: Susan Gottschalk (1984-1995), Allison Bailey (1995-1996), Michael Rosenbloom (1996-1998), Stephen Kecskemethy (1998-2002)

Orchestral Experience: Lowell Philharmonic Orchestra (c. 1993-1998), Nashua Symphony Orchestra (1997-1998), Midcoast Symphony Orchestra (1998-2002), Arlington Philharmonic Orchestra (2002-2014), Wake Forest University Orchestra (2014-2015), New Orleans Civic Symphony (2015-2017), Washington University Symphony Orchestra (2018-2020)

## **Professional Memberships**

Society for Classical Studies  
Classical Association of the Middle West and South

## **References**

*All letters of reference are available from Michelle Biggs, mbiggs@umich.edu*

Prof. Arthur M. Verhoogt (Associate Dean for Academic Programs and Initiatives and  
Arthur F. Thurnau Professor of Papyrology and Greek, University of Michigan)

Prof. Catherine Keane (Chair of the Department of Classics, Washington University in St.  
Louis)

Prof. Timothy Moore (John and Penelope Biggs Distinguished Professor of Classics,  
Washington University in St. Louis)