

Jake Nabel | Curriculum Vitae

Department of Classics & Ancient Mediterranean Studies
Pennsylvania State University
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Research Interests

- Roman history of the late Republic and early Principate
- Pre-Islamic Iranian history
- Ancient political thought
- The Hellenistic East

Academic Employment

	<u>Pennsylvania State University</u>
2026—	Associate Professor of Classics & Ancient Mediterranean Studies
2022—	Tombros Early Career Professor of Classical Studies
2019-26	Assistant Professor of Classics & Ancient Mediterranean Studies
	<u>UCLA</u>
2018/9	Lecturer, Department of Near Eastern Languages and Cultures Research Associate, Pourdavoud Center for the Study of the Iranian World
	<u>Getty Research Institute</u>
2017/8	Postdoctoral Fellow, “The Classical World in Context: Persia” Scholar Year

Education

2017	PhD, Classics — Cornell University
2010	Post-Baccalaureate Program in Classical Studies — University of Pennsylvania
2007	BA, Classics and Philosophy — Bard College

Teaching Experience

At Penn State (2019—present)

CAMS 5	Ancient Mediterranean Civilizations
CAMS 83	First Year Seminar: Populism, Democracy, and Empire
CAMS 101	The Roman Republic and Empire
CAMS 150	Roman Archaeology
CAMS 199	Summer Study Tour of Roman History and Archaeology (study abroad program)
CAMS 410	Ancient Epic

CAMS 415	The Roman Empire and Its Frontiers
CAMS 480	Greeks & Persians
CAMS 496	Independent Study: Middle Persian Language Tutorial
CAMS 496	Independent Study: Women in the Ancient Mediterranean
CAMS 560	Roman Social History in Comparative Perspective (graduate level class)
LATIN 101	Introductory Latin I
LATIN 102	Introductory Latin II
LATIN 402	Latin Literature of the Late Republic
LATIN 403	Augustan Age Latin Literature
LATIN 404	Silver Age Latin Literature
LATIN 496	The Vulgate Bible

At UCLA (2018/19)

History of the Sasanian Empire

At Oregon State University (2018)

History of Western Civilization to 1000 CE (online class)

At Cornell University (2011—2017)

Elementary Latin II (3x)

First Year Writing: Greek Myth (2x)

Greek Mythology (online class; Teaching Assistant)

History of Rome I (Teaching Assistant)

Initiation to Greek Culture (Teaching Assistant)

Awards

2025/26	University of Minnesota Future of the Past Lab Fellowship (\$1,500)
2024	Penn State Libraries Open Access Monograph Subvention Grant (\$9,500)
2023	McCourtney Institute Research in Democracy Support Grant (\$1,440)
2022/23	Loeb Classical Library Foundation Fellowship (\$35,000)
2022	Center for Hellenic Studies Short-Term Residency
2021	William C. Mullen Memorial Fund (\$2,300)
2020	Dumbarton Oaks/Hill Museum and Manuscript Library Armenian Summer School Fellowship
2015	Jesse F. and Dora H. Bluestone Peace Studies Fellowship, Cornell University
2014	Summer Fellowship in Digital Scholarship, Cornell University (\$1,000)
2014	Bradley Grant for Research in Ancient History, Cornell University (\$9,100)
2013/14	Director's Fellow, Judith Reppy Institute for Peace and Conflict Studies
2013/14	Lane Cooper Fellowship, Cornell University

Publications: Books

2025	<i>The Arsacids of Rome: Misunderstanding in Roman-Parthian Relations.</i>
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Iran and the Ancient World, vol. 2. Oakland: University of California Press.

Persian summary available in video form [here](#).

Reviews: Edward Dąbrowa, [Sehepunkte 25.10](#) (2025); Sina Kazemirashid, [H-Soz-Kult 11 Aug 2025](#); Antonio Ruiz Sánchez, [Gerión 43.2](#) (2025); Brendan McCarthy, [Mediterranean Studies 34.1](#) (2026), 128–30

In prep. *Handbook for the Parthian Empire*. Co-edited volume with M. Rahim Shayegan and Lara Fabian for the De Gruyter series *Empires through the Ages in Global Perspective* (series editor: Robert Rollinger).

In prep. *Iranian Freedom in Global Antiquity*.

Publications: Peer-Reviewed Articles

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| 2025 | “The Verb <i>empoliteuō</i> and Greek Citizenship under Arsacid Rule.”
<i>Classical Journal</i> 120 (3), 249–76. |
| 2020 | “Exemplary History and Arsacid Genealogy in Tacitus, <i>Annals</i> 6.31.”
<i>Dabir</i> 7, 175–91. |
| 2019 | “Tiridates in the Forum, Peroz on his Knees: Religion and Reputation in Ancient Iranian Diplomacy.”
<i>Anabasis: Studia Classica et Orientalia</i> 10, 214–36. |
| 2019 | “Arsacid Beverages in Lucan.”
<i>Classical Quarterly</i> 69 (2), 776–82. |
| 2019 | “Lucan’s Parthians in Nero’s Rome.”
<i>Classical Philology</i> 114 (4), 604–25. |
| 2019 | “Remembering Intervention: Parthia in Rome’s Civil Wars.”
<i>Historia: Zeitschrift für Alte Geschichte</i> 68 (3), 327–52. |
| 2015 | “Horace and the Tiridates Episode.”
<i>Rheinisches Museum für Philologie</i> 158 (3/4), 304–25. |
| 2015 | “Venus’ Boots and the Shadow of Caesar in Book 1 of Virgil’s <i>Aeneid</i> .”
<i>Classical Quarterly</i> 65 (2), 689–92. |
| Accepted | “Fake Prostration in Late Antique Literature and the Ambiguities of Domination.”
Forthcoming in <i>Studies in Late Antiquity</i> . |
| Accepted | “Ferdowsi’s Ardawan and the Roots of Ardashir’s Rebellion.”
Forthcoming in <i>Sasanian Studies</i> . |

Publications: Book Chapters (* indicates peer-reviewed)

- 2024 * “Parthia, Rome, and the Horizons of Ancient Diplomacy.”
In John Hyland and Khodadad Rezakhani (eds), *Brill’s Companion to War in the Ancient Iranian Empires*, 400–34. Leiden: Brill.
- 2022 * “The Parthian Empire.”
In Jeffrey Spier, Tim Potts, and Sara E. Cole (eds), *Persia: Ancient Iran and the Classical World*, 157–64. Los Angeles: J. Paul Getty Trust.
- 2022 “Hydration, Ancient Persian-Style.”
In Touraj Daryaee and Shervin Farridnejad (eds), *Food for Gods, Food for Mortals: Culinary and Dining Practices in the Greater Iranian World*, 161–8. Irvine, CA: Jordan Center for Persian Studies.
- 2020 * “The Arsacids of Rome and Parthia’s ‘Iranian Revival’ in the First Century CE.”
In Kai Ruffing, Kerstin Droß-Krüpe, Sebastian Fink, and Robert Rollinger (eds), *Societies at War: Proceedings of the 10th Symposium of the Melammu Project held in Kassel September 26-28 2016 and Proceedings of the 8th Symposium of the Melammu Project held in Kiel November 11-15 2014*, 475–94. Vienna: Österreichische Akademie der Wissenschaften.
- 2018 “Alexander between Rome and Persia: Politics, Ideology, and History.”
In K.R. Moore (ed.), *Brill’s Companion to the Reception of Alexander the Great*, 197–232. Leiden: Brill.
- 2017 “The Seleucids Imprisoned: Arsacid-Roman Hostage Submission and its Hellenistic Precedents.”
In Jason Schlude and Benjamin Rubin (eds), *Arsacids, Romans, and Local Elites: Cross Cultural Interactions of the Parthian Empire*, 25–50. Oxford: Oxbow Books.
- Forthcoming “Fish Out of Water: Greek Deportees and Persian Empires in Philostratus’ *Life of Apollonius*.”
In M. Rahim Shayegan (ed), *The Classical World in Context: Persia*. Los Angeles: Getty.
- Forthcoming “Dynasty, Administration, and the Comparative History of Parthia and Rome.”
In Robert Rollinger, Touraj Daryaee, and Matthew Canepa (eds), *Contextualizing Iranian History: The Arsacids (ca. 250 BC – 224 AD)*. Wiesbaden: Harrassowitz.
- Submitted (with Marissa Cruz) “Nurturing Empire: Gendered Rations and Postpartum Mothers in the Persepolis Fortification Tablets.”
In M. Rahim Shayegan and Robert Rollinger (eds), *AchWorks 1: Proceedings of the First Achaemenid Workshop*. Wiesbaden: Harrassowitz.

Reviews

- 2024 Review of *Rome and Persia at War: Imperial Competition and Contact, 193-363 CE* by Peter Edwell.
American Historical Review 129 (2), 841–3.

Digital Projects

- 2015— PI, Parthian Sources Online (www.parthiansources.com).
A digital collection of texts from the Parthian empire in Parthian, Greek, and Latin.

Conference Activity

Conferences/Panels Organized

- Jan. 2026 “Reading New Books: *The Arsacids of Rome* by Jake Nabel.”
Workshop held in the Penn State Humanities Institute’s *Reading New Books* series.
- Jan. 2025 “New Horizons in Hellenistic History.”
Panel presented at the 2025 Annual Meeting of the American Historical Association, New York.
- Aug. 2024 “BarryFest: Presentations in Honor of Barry Strauss on the Occasion of his Retirement.”
Festschrift-style conference organized at Cornell University.
- Oct. 2023 “Classics beyond Boundaries: Reflections from an Interdisciplinary Department.”
Panel presented at the 2023 Fall Annual Meeting of the Classical Association of the Atlantic States, Philadelphia.
- April 2023 “The Arsacids of Rome: Fosterage, Hostageship, and Pragmatic Misunderstanding in Roman-Iranian Relations. A Workshop on the Book-in-Progress.”
Workshop at Pennsylvania State University.

Presentations

- Apr. 2026 “Misunderstanding in Ancient Interstate Relations: The Arsacid Princes of the Roman Empire.”
Talk presented at the Pourdavoud Institute, University of California, Los Angeles.
- Apr. 2026 Workshop on Freedom in Middle Iranian Sources.
Workshop held in the *Exploring Assumptions* series at the Future of the Past Lab, University of Minnesota, Twin Cities.
- Apr. 2026 “Iranian Freedom in Global Antiquity.”
Talk delivered in the *Exploring Assumptions* series at the Future of the Past Lab, University of Minnesota, Twin Cities.
- Feb. 2026 “The Arsacids of Rome: Misunderstanding in Roman-Parthian Relations.”
Talk delivered at the Art & Archaeology of the Mediterranean World Colloquium Series, University of Pennsylvania.

- Jan. 2026 “Peace, War, and Honor in Roman-Sasanian Relations: Ferdowsi as IR Theorist.”
Talk delivered at the *Inaugural Workshop of the Ancient Peace Studies Network*, St Andrews.
- Dec. 2024 “Freedom and Citizenship in Post-Hellenistic Iran.”
Talk delivered at *Between and Beyond Empires: From the Seleucids to the Sasanians*, University of Wrocław.
- Dec. 2024 “Misunderstanding in Ancient Interstate Relations: The Case of the Arsacids of Rome.”
Talk delivered at the University of Wrocław.
- Aug. 2024 “Fake Prostration in Ancient Literature and the Ambiguities of Domination.”
Talk delivered at *BarryFest: Presentations in Honor of Barry Strauss on his Retirement*, Cornell University.
- Oct. 2023 “Ancient History and Political Science beyond the Mediterranean.”
Talk delivered at the 2023 Annual Meeting of the Classical Association of Atlantic States.
- April 2023 “Fake Bowing from the Achaemenids to the Sasanians.”
Talk delivered at *Identity, Alterity, and the Imperial Impress in the Achaemenid World* (Achaemenid Workshop 1), UCLA.
- June 2022 “Diaspora or Shadow Empire? Paradigms for Palmyrene History in a Syro-Mesopotamian Borderland.”
Talk delivered at *Contextualizing Imperial Borderlands*, Vorarlberg Museum, Bregenz.
- May 2022 “Parthia, Rome, and the Horizons of Ancient Diplomacy.”
Talk delivered at *The World of Ancient Iran and the West*, UCLA/J. Paul Getty Museum.
- Mar. 2022 “The Arsacid Empire and Its Western Neighbors.”
Talk delivered at the *Payravi Conference on Ancient Iranian History IV: Contextualizing Iranian History: The Arsacids*, UC Irvine.
- Feb. 2020 “On Dynasties and Fosterage: Kinship as a Feature of Interstate Relations between Imperial Rome and Pre-Islamic Iran.”
Talk delivered at *Forging Kinships*, Wolf Humanities Center, University of Pennsylvania.
- June 2019 “Fictive Kinship and Elite Networking in Parthian and Sasanian Iran.”
Talk delivered at *Persianate Cultures of Power and Global Elite Networks*, UC Irvine.
- May 2019 “Did the Parthian Kings Hate Democracy?”
Talk delivered at *Ancient Iran and the Classical World*, UCLA/J. Paul Getty Museum.
- May 2019 “The Arsacids of Rome: Royal Fosterage and Interdynastic Kinship in the First Century CE.”
Talk delivered in the Ancient Mediterranean Studies Program, UC Santa Barbara.
- May 2019 “From Captivity to Family: Iranian Perspectives on the Arsacids of Rome.”
Paper workshopped at *The Mediterranean Seminar: Captivity & Ransom*, Brown University.
- July 2018 “From Anarchy to Family: Roman-Persian Relations and their Near-Eastern Foundations.”

Presented at the 64th Rencontre Assyriologique Internationale (Innsbruck, Austria).

- April 2018 “Fish out of Water: Greek Deportees, Persian Empires, and the Classical Mediterranean.”
Presented at *Ancient Persia and the West*, UCLA/J. Paul Getty Museum.
- April 2018 “Fish out of Water: Greek Deportees, Persian Empires, and the Classical Mediterranean.”
Presented at *Xenophobia and Difference in the Pre- and Early Modern World*, UC Berkeley.
- Feb. 2018 “The Greeks between Rome and Parthia: Iranian Revival and Hellenistic Eclipse in the First Century CE.”
Presented at *Iran after Alexander: Hellenism in the East*, UC Irvine.
- Feb. 2018 “Freed from Hostageship: Iranian Perspectives on the Arsacids of Rome.”
Presented at the Pourdavoud Center for the Study of the Iranian World, UCLA.
- April 2017 “Lucan’s Parthians in Nero’s Rome.”
Presented at *Lucan in his Contemporary Contexts*, Brigham Young University (Provo).
- Jan. 2017 “Lucan’s Parthians in Nero’s Rome.”
Presented at the 148th Annual Meeting of the Society for Classical Studies (Toronto).
- April 2016 “Parthian Sources Online: Digital Editing as Dissertation Reading.”
Presented at *The Humanities and Technology Camp*, Cornell University.
- Jan. 2015 “A Bridge to Nowhere: Caligula’s Baiae Procession and Its Models.”
Presented at the 146th Annual Meeting of the Society for Classical Studies (New Orleans).
- Nov. 2014 “The Seleucids Imprisoned: Roman-Parthian Hostage Exchange and Its Hellenistic Precedents.”
Presented at the Annual Meeting of the American Schools for Oriental Research (San Diego).
- Nov. 2014 “The Arsacids of Rome and Parthia’s ‘Iranian Revival’ in the First Century CE.”
Presented at the Eighth Symposium of the Melammu Project (Kiel, Germany).
- Jan. 2014 “The Mercenary, the Polis, and an Athenian Inscription from the 4th Century BCE.”
Presented at the 145th Annual Meeting of the Society for Classical Studies (Chicago).
- Nov. 2013 “Greek Mercenaries and the Achaemenid West.”
Presented at the Annual Meeting of the American Schools for Oriental Research (Baltimore).
- Sept. 2013 “Alexander’s Exiles: The Greeks in the Eastern Cities.”
Presented at *Alexander the Great in the East: History, Art, Tradition*, University of Wrocław.
- Jan. 2013 “The Origins of Alexander’s Eastern Cities: Deportation and Resettlement in the Persian and Macedonian Empires.”
Presented at the 144th Annual Meeting of the American Philological Association (Seattle).

Public-Facing Work

- Apr. 2026 Podcast appearance on “The Future of the Past Lab Podcast” ([link](#)).
- March 2026 Podcast appearance on “New Books in Late Antiquity” ([link](#)).
- Dec. 2025 YouTube appearance on “Symposium Historikon” ([Episode 2](#)).
- Oct. 2024 Podcast appearance on “Ferdowsi and Company” (Episode 7).
- Apr. 2024 Podcast appearance on “Ancient Office Hours” (Episode 90).
- Nov. 2023 Podcast appearance on “The Legacies of Ancient Persia” (Episode 4).

Archaeological Fieldwork

- 2013 Excavator, Hassloch Excavations Project.
Excavated at a Bronze Age tumulus (Götzenbühl) and at a Roman villa (Katzenbach) under the direction of Philip Kiernan (University at Buffalo).
- 2012 Excavator, Gournia Excavation Project.
Excavated at the Minoan palatial complex at Gournia under the direction of Vance Watrous (University at Buffalo).
- 2011 Trench Supervisor, Project ArAGATS (American-Armenian Project for the Archaeology and Geography of Ancient Trans-Caucasian Societies).
Ran the excavation of a trench at Tsaghkahovit, an Iron Age site in Armenia, under the direction of Lori Khatchadourian (Cornell University).
- 2010 Surveyor and Excavator, Mount Lykaion Excavation and Survey Project.
Surveyed and excavated at the mountaintop sanctuary of Lykaion in Arcadia under the direction of David Romano (University of Arizona) and Mary Voyatzis (University of Arizona).

Service

At Penn State

- 2025/26 CAMS Curricular Review Committee
- 2025— Chair, CAMS Website and Social Media Committee
- 2025/26 Schreyer Honors Thesis Supervisor, Nicholas Groene (CAMS undergraduate)
- 2025/26 CAMS Strategic Plan Committee
- 2025 CAMS Assistant Teaching Professor Hiring Committee (Classics generalist)
- 2025 CAMS Teaching Faculty Promotion Committee
- 2024— CAMS Director of Undergraduate Studies
- 2024/25 Organizer, CAMS Talk Series (with Rebecca Wang)
- 2024/25 CAMS Visiting Assistant/Associate Professor in Egyptology Hiring Committee
- 2024 Temporary Chair, CAMS Website and Social Media Committee
- 2023/24 CAMS Assistant Teaching Professor Hiring Committee (Classics generalist)

2023-26	Chair, Religious Studies Outreach Committee
2023/24	MA Thesis advisor, Jay Falcone (CAMS-Anthropology IUG program)
2023/24	CAMS Assistant/Associate Teaching Professor Hiring Committee (Egyptologist)
2022/23	CAMS Assistant Teaching Professor Hiring Committee (Classics generalist)
2022/23	Schreyer Honors Thesis Supervisor, Peter Lehmann (CAMS undergraduate)
2022/23	Schreyer Honors Thesis Supervisor, Corey White (CAMS undergraduate)
2022/23	Schreyer Honors Thesis Supervisor, Seth Hamel (CAMS undergraduate)
2021-24	Dissertation Committee Member, Sterling Wright (Anthropology graduate)
2021/22	CAMS Department Head Search Committee
2021/22	Organizer, CAMS Talk Series “New Approaches to the Ancient Mediterranean” (with Mathias Hanses)
2021	Faculty Supervisor for Jacob Glenister, recipient of a CAMS undergraduate research grant for work on parthiansources.com (\$700)
2020/21	Organizer, CAMS In-House Talk Series
2020	Faculty Champion for CAMS/RLST 197, “Church and State in Pre-Islamic Iran,” course taught by undergraduate Jacob Glenister through the Schreyer Honors College Program <i>Students Teaching Students</i> (Fall)
2020-23	Religious Studies Outreach Committee
2019—	Digital Liberal Arts Advisory Board
2019-23	CAMS Graduate Program Committee
2019-25	Member, CAMS Website and Social Media Committee
2019	Taught Middle Persian Study Group (Fall)

To the Field

Peer reviewer	<i>American Journal of Philology</i> <i>Diplomatica: A Journal of Diplomacy and Society</i> <i>Orbis Terrarum</i> <i>Journal of Eastern Mediterranean Archaeology and Heritage Studies</i> <i>History & Memory</i> Routledge Harrassowitz Böhlau Verlag / Brill Oxford University Press Bloomsbury Wiley Blackwell
2024—	Advisory Board Member, <i>Encyclopedia Iranica</i>
2024—	Website and Social Media Committee Member, Association of Ancient Historians (AAH)
2023	Mentor, Association of Ancient Historians (AAH) Mentorship Program
2020	Reinforcing Women in Research (REWIRE) Fellowship Program, University of Vienna
2018/19	Application Review Committee Member, Getty Scholars Program (Villa)

Languages

Ancient Greek	Advanced
Latin	Advanced
German (reading and speaking)	Advanced
Parthian / Middle Persian (reading)	Proficient
Modern Persian (reading and speaking)	Intermediate
French (reading)	Proficient
Italian (reading)	Proficient
Classical Armenian (reading)	Proficient
Aramaic (reading)	Basic

Other Work Experience

- 2012 Editorial Assistant, *The Mind of Thucydides*.
Prepared indexes for editors Hunter R. Rawlings III and Jeffrey Rusten for an English translation of Jacqueline de Romilly's *Histoire et raison chez Thucydide*.
- 2009/10 Cataloger, University of Pennsylvania Rare Books Department.
Cataloged and noted marginalia in the Lee Library Collection.
- 2008/9 Assistant to Miriam Altshuler, Miriam Altshuler Literary Agency.
Reviewed and edited manuscripts; proofread contracts; administered daily operations.
- 2007 Assistant to the Project Manager, International Centre for Democratic Transition (Budapest, Hungary).
Worked on grant applications; proofread organization literature; assisted with project proposals.

References

Barry Strauss
Bryce and Edith M. Bowmar Professor in Humanistic Studies
Departments of History and Classics | Cornell University
bss4@cornell.edu

Eric Rebillard
Avalon Foundation Professor in the Humanities
Departments of History and Classics | Cornell University
er97@cornell.edu

Sturt Manning
Goldwin Smith Professor of Classical Archaeology
Department of Classics | Cornell University
sm456@cornell.edu

Lori Khatchadourian
Associate Professor
Department of Near Eastern Studies | Cornell University
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M. Rahim Shayegan
Jahangir and Eleanor Amuzegar Professor of Iranian
Department of Near Eastern Languages & Cultures | University of California, Los Angeles
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