

Susan Bilynskyj Dunning

Somerville College
University of Oxford
Woodstock Road
Oxford OX1 6HD
United Kingdom

EMAIL susan.dunning@classics.ox.ac.uk
WEB <https://susandunning.net>
NATIONALITY Canadian/US citizen

Degrees

PhD, Classics (completed June 2016; thesis accepted with no corrections)

University of Toronto; Collaborative Program in Ancient Greek and Roman History

Dissertation: 'Roman Ludi Saeculares from the Republic to Empire', <https://hdl.handle.net/1807/89244>.

Supervisor: Andreas Bendlin 2010–16

MA, Classics

University of Toronto 2008–10

BA, Classics (Major) and Linguistics (Major)

Seattle Pacific University 2004–8

Academic Appointments

Maternity leave 2020–21

Postdoctoral Fellow

Faculty of Classics, University of Oxford (Supervisor: Beate Dignas) 2019–23

Fulford Non-Stipendiary Junior Research Fellow

Somerville College, University of Oxford 2019–22

Sessional Lecturer II

University of Toronto, Departments of Classics (St George) 2019

Sessional Lecturer

University of Toronto, Departments of Classics (St George) and Historical Studies (Mississauga) 2018–19

Visiting Fellow

Institute of Classical Studies, School of Advanced Study, University of London 2017

Visiting Assistant Professor

University of Toronto, Department of Classics 2016–17

Research Areas

- Roman religion and history, esp. the development of the *Ludi Saeculares* and the Roman concept of the *saeculum*.
- Human (esp. non-elite) associations with divinity in Plautus, Pompeian graffiti, and funerary monuments
- Latin epigraphy and its use in undergraduate teaching

Publications

Article

‘The Republican *Ludi Saeculares* as a Cult of the Valerian *Gens*.’ (2020) *Historia* 69.2, pp. 208–236.

Entries for the Oxford Classical Dictionary

‘Secular Games.’ In *Oxford Classical Dictionary*, digital edn. Oxford University Press. Article published October 2017. <https://doi.org/10.1093/acrefore/9780199381135.013.5781>.

‘Saeculum.’ In *Oxford Classical Dictionary*, digital edn. Oxford University Press. Article published November 2017. <https://doi.org/10.1093/acrefore/9780199381135.013.8233>.

Reviews

Latham, J.A. (2016) *Performance, Memory, and Processions in Ancient Rome: The Pompa Circensis from the Late Republic to Late Antiquity*. New York: CUP. *Bryn Mawr Classical Review*, Dec. 23, 2017. <http://bmcr.brynmawr.edu/2017/2017-12-23.html>.

Works in Progress

Monograph

The Ludi Saeculares and the Saeculum: Time, Festival, and Authority in the Roman World (under review, OUP)

Humans as Gods from the Roman Republic to Empire

Articles

‘Assessing Emendations to Festus with the Lacunae of the Codex Farnesianus (Naples, Biblioteca Nazionale, MS IV.A.3),’ co-authored with A. Dunning (under review, *Mnemosyne*)

‘Human Association with Divinity in Plautus and in Funerary Monuments of the Imperial Period’

‘Horace’s Rejection of the *Carmen Saeculare* in C. 4.7’

‘Acts of Thanksgiving in the Comedies of Plautus’

Teaching

Tutorial Leader, University of Oxford

Roman History I.5: Republic in Crisis 146–46 BC 2020

Augustan Rome 2020

Primary instructor, University of Toronto

Introduction to Classical Mythology (CLA204) 2014, 2018, 2019

Introduction to Roman Society and Culture (CLA233) 2016, 2018, 2019

Latin Oratory I & II (LAT342/442) 2018

Latin and Greek in Scientific Terminology (CLA201) 2018

Classical Spaces, Sites, and Monuments (CLA389) 2018

Topics in the Study of Roman History: Time, Festival, and Memory (CLA371) 2017

Intermediate Latin II (LAT202) 2017

Augustus and the Julio-Claudians (CLA368) 2017

Topics in Classics: Greek and Roman Drama and Theatre (CLA395) 2016

Religion in the Greek World (CLA308) 2016, 2018

Introduction to Classical Studies (CLA160) 2015

Introductory Latin II (LAT102) 2015

Introductory Ancient Greek II (GRK102) 2014

Religion in the Roman World (CLA310) 2012

Introduction to Roman History (CLA231) 2012, 2016

Introductory Latin I (LAT101) 2011, 2016

Tutorial leader, University of Toronto

Introduction to Roman Society and Culture (CLA233) 2010, 2015

Introduction to Classical Studies (CLA160) 2010

Teaching assistant, University of Toronto

Introduction to Roman History (CLA231) 2015

Ancient Mythology II: Greece and Rome (CLAA06) 2011

Introduction to Classical Mythology (CLA204) 2011

History and Culture of the Greek World (CLAB05) 2009

Introduction to Classical Studies (CLA161) 2009

Invited Lectures

Calling your Girlfriend ‘Venus’ in Plautus’s Comedies and Pompeii’s Graffiti

Oxford University Philological Society, University of Oxford 2019

‘The Most Blessed Age of Our Lords’: Creating Authority over the <i>Saeculum</i> in Coinage, Inscriptions, and Literature of the Imperial Period	
Oxford-Princeton Seminar, Faculty of Classics, University of Oxford	2019
Deifying Your Lover, Deifying the Emperor? Politics of the Gaze in the Roman Imperial Cult	
SCR/MCR Symposium, Somerville College, University of Oxford	2019
The Ludi Saeculares and <i>Saeculum</i>-Rhetoric in the Roman Empire	
Kommission für Alte Geschichte und Epigraphik des Deutschen Archäologischen Instituts, Munich, Germany	2014
Numismatic Evidence for Imperial Performances of the Ludi Saeculares	
Oxford Roman Discussion Forum, University of Oxford, United Kingdom	2013

Peer-reviewed Presentations

The Subversion of the Imperial <i>Saeculum</i> in Christian Apologetics of the Second and Third Centuries CE	
‘Apologists and Empire’, King’s College London, UK	2020
The Transformation of the <i>Saeculum</i> in the Construction and Rejection of Roman Imperial Power	
‘Time in Greek and Roman Antiquity’, Université Côte d’Azur, Nice, France	2020
The Cold Comfort of Cyclical Time in Horace’s Lyric Poetry	
29th Annual Conference, Centre for Comparative Literature, University of Toronto	2019
Statius’s <i>Silu.</i> 5.1 and Private Deification in the Imperial Period	
Classical Association of Canada Annual Conference, St John’s, Newfoundland	2017
Flavian Restoration and Innovation in Domitian’s Ludi Saeculares	
Society for Classical Studies Annual Meeting, Toronto, Ontario	2017
Horace C. 4.7 As a Rebuttal of the <i>Carmen Saeculare</i>	
Classical Association of Canada Annual Conference, Quebec City, Quebec	2016
Imperial Authority and <i>Saeculum</i> Rhetoric from Augustus to Constantine	
Society for Classical Studies Annual Meeting, San Francisco, California	2016
The Tarentum in the Campus Martius as a Commemorative Space for the Ludi Saeculares	
Archaeological Institute of America Annual Meeting, New Orleans, Louisiana	2015
Establishing Dynasty: Officiating the Ludi Saeculares of Augustus and Severus	
Classical Association of Canada Annual Conference, Montreal, Quebec	2014
The Invention of the Ludi Saeculares of Emperor Honorius	
Classical Association of the Middle West and South Annual Meeting, Waco, Texas	2014

Valerian Tradition and the Ludi Saeculares of 17 BCE	
American Philological Association Annual Meeting, Chicago, Illinois	2014
<i>Ego tibi salus sum: Human Identification with Gods in Plautus</i>	
Classical Association of Canada Annual Conference, Winnipeg, Manitoba	2013
(Re)constructing the Republican Ludi Saeculares in Augustan Rome	
Classical Association of Canada Annual Conference, London, Ontario	2012
Fabricating Ritual Tradition: The Relationship of the Republican and Augustan Ludi Saeculares	
13th International Spring School on Ancient Religions, University of Erfurt, Germany	2012
Communicating with Divine Others in Horace's <i>Carmen Saeculare</i>	
11th International Spring School on Ancient Religions, University of Erfurt, Germany	2010

Other Presentations

'Unto Ages of Ages': The Development of Christian Usages of the Terms <i>Saeculum</i> and <i>Αἰών</i> in Late Antiquity	
Metropolitan Andrey Sheptytsky Institute of Eastern Christian Studies, The University of St. Michael's College in the University of Toronto	2018
Epigraphic and Numismatic Evidence for the <i>Saeculum</i> and the Creation of Roman Imperial Identity	
Ancient History Proseminar, Department of Classics, University of Toronto	2015
Women as Goddesses in Plautus's Comedies and Funerary Monuments of the Roman Empire	
Department of Historical Studies Prandium Series, University of Toronto Mississauga	2015
Augustus, the Valerii, and the Ludi Saeculares: The Transformation of a Gentilician Cult	
ColPAH Work in Progress Seminar, York University, Toronto, Ontario	2013
Gentilician Cults in Republican and Augustan Rome	
17th New Frontiers in Graduate History Conference, York University, Toronto, Ontario	2013
Song and Sacrifice in Ancient Greece and Rome	
WIDEN Lecture Series, Massey College, Toronto, Ontario	2011

Popular Outputs

Did the Romans Believe in Their Gods?	
https://lisa.gerda-henkel-stiftung.de/did_the_romeans_believe_in_their_gods?nav_id=9347	
Video produced as schools outreach for Somerville College, University of Oxford, and for the L.I.S.A. Wissenschaftsportal, Gerda Henkel Stiftung	2020

Has Boris Johnson been picking up tips from the Roman emperors?

<https://theconversation.com/has-boris-johnson-been-picking-up-tips-from-the-roman-emperors-131535>

The Conversation, UK

2020

Adapting the male gaze theory in Roman religion

<https://www.some.ox.ac.uk/news/power-in-the-eye-of-the-beholder-the-male-gaze-and-roman-religion/>

Somerville College blog, University of Oxford

2019

Time, Festival, and Authority in the Roman Saecular Games

<https://ics.blogs.sas.ac.uk/2017/12/20/time-festival-and-authority-in-the-roman-saecular-games/>

Institute of Classical Studies blog, School of Advanced Study, University of London

2017

Grants and Recognitions

Humans as Gods in the Roman World (C\$90,000)

Postdoctoral Fellowship, Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada

2019–22

Divine Associations in Roman Societies (€52,645)

Research Scholarship, Gerda Henkel Stiftung, Düsseldorf, Germany

2018–20

Undergraduate Teaching Experience Fund Award (\$900 CAD)

Department of Historical Studies, University of Toronto Mississauga

2019

Doctoral Completion Grant (\$17,500 CAD)

University of Toronto, Department of Classics

2015–16

Jacobi Scholarship (€2,100)

Kommission für Alte Geschichte und Epigraphik at the Deutsches Archäologisches Institut, Munich, Germany

2014

School of Graduate Studies Travel Grant (\$5,280 CAD total)

University of Toronto

2013, 2016

Award for Outstanding Accomplishment in Classical Studies

Classical Association of the Middle West and South

2013

M.B. Wallace Memorial Graduate Award in Classics (\$5,500 CAD total)

University of Toronto, Department of Classics

2011, 2013

School of Graduate Studies Conference Grant (\$470 CAD)

University of Toronto

2012

Rene Efrain Memorial/Ontario Graduate Scholarship in Classics (\$45,000 CAD total)

University of Toronto

2011–12, 2013–14, 2014–15, 2015–16 (*declined*)

Jackman Junior Fellowship in the Humanities (\$15,000 CAD total) University of Toronto	2010–13
Leonard Woodbury Fellowship (\$1,500 CAD) University of Toronto, Department of Classics	2010
Lilly Graduate Fellowship (\$9,000 USD total) Lilly Fellows Program in Humanities and the Arts	2008–11

Professional Development

Advanced University Teaching Preparation Teaching Assistants' Training Program, University of Toronto	2010–14
Postgraduate Summer Course in Epigraphy British School at Rome	2014

Research Assistantships

Editing appendix for monograph Department of Classics, University of Toronto (Seth Bernard)	2016
Editing index for monograph Department of Classics, University of Toronto (Victoria Wohl)	2014
Editing indices for monograph Department of Humanities, York University (Philip Harland)	2014
Assistance with SSRHC application Department of Classics, University of Toronto (Andreas Bendlin)	2012–13
General editing, creation of indices for several books, research on slave names in inscriptions Department of Classics, University of Toronto (Alison Keith)	2008–13

Affiliations, Outreach, Service

Presenter at student information session 'Applying for JRFs and the Pathway to Academic Careers' Somerville College, Oxford	2020
School visit academic taster sessions: Somerville College, Oxford Live presentations: Kingston Academy, Landau Forte Academy Amington, Bourne End Academy	2019–20

Undergraduate admissions interviews

Somerville College, Oxford 2019

Faculty of Classics, University of Oxford

Visiting Associate 2013

Department of Classics, University of Toronto

Library and Resources Committee 2016–17

Voting Representative for Undergraduate Business 2012–13

New Student Orientation Coordinator 2012

Massey College, University of Toronto

Resident Junior Fellow 2009–12

Junior Fellow Lecture Series Committee member 2009–10

Professional Memberships

Society for Classical Studies 2012–present

Classical Association of Canada 2012–present

British School at Rome 2014–2016

Languages

English (native), Latin (advanced reading), Ancient Greek (advanced reading), French (reading, basic speaking and writing), German (reading), Italian (reading)