

## Leon Wash

Department of Classics  
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### Education:

2021 (expected) PhD, Classics, University of Chicago  
Dissertation title: "Fruit of the Mind: Metaphor and the Concept of Nature in Pindar and Empedocles." Committee: Elizabeth Asmis (chair), Mark Payne, Boris Maslov (Oslo)

2012 MA, Classics, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

2007 BA, Classics (with a Minor in Philosophy and a completed pre-medical sequence), Rutgers College, Rutgers University

additional training:  
2015 Classical Summer School, American Academy in Rome

**Research Interests:** Greek poetry and philosophy, especially Pindar and Empedocles, and their reception; the history of concepts of nature and craft and the environment in poetry, philosophy, and medicine; the history and theory of metaphors and the relationship between image and concept; the history of philology

**Publications:** Review of L. Iribarren, *Fabriquer le monde: Technique et cosmogonie dans la poésie grecque archaïque*, Paris 2018, *Bryn Mawr Classical Review*, July 2020.  
"Rosée/Dew" and (coauthored with A. Buccheri) "Prairies/Meadows," in Guez, J.-Ph., et al. (eds.), *Dictionnaire des images du poétique dans l'Antiquité*, (in preparation) Classiques Garnier.  
"On Nietzsche's 'Philologie als Ephexis in der Interpretation,'" (accepted pending revision) *Rheinisches Museum für Philologie*.  
"Duals in Empedocles' Painters Simile (fr. 23 D-K)"

### Invited Presentations:

September 2021 "Empedocles on the Language of Nature," in the conference "Reflections on language in early Greece," King's College London

May 2021 "Learning Matter in Empedocles," in the conference "Matter in Ancient Philosophy," at the Collegio Ghislieri, Pavia, Italy

13 May 2019 "Between Demiurgic Love and Random Growth: Image and Concept in Empedocles," University of Oslo, Norway

1 March 2019 "Knowing by Nature in Pindar's *Olympian 2* and Its Readers," Department of Classics, University of Dallas

### Conferences Organized:

2018 – present Co-organizer of *Φύσις και Φυτά: On Nature and Plants in Ancient Greece*, a series of once-monthly online seminars, which began in October 2018, and annual conferences, the first of which took place 18-19 June 2019, in Paris, France

## Teaching experience:

Autumn 2020	Instructor, Introduction to Attic Greek I (online), University of Chicago
Summer 2020	Instructor, Intensive Intro Latin (online), University of Chicago Summer Language Institute
Winter 2020	Instructor, "Imagining Nature among the Greeks," 2019-20 Ephron course, a special course of my own design sponsored by the Department of Classics
June 2019	Seminar on agonistic elements in Empedocles, a two-day pre-conference seminar for the Fifth Interdisciplinary Symposium on the Heritage of Western Greece, with a special emphasis on ἀγών ( <i>agon</i> , contest), Fonte Aretusa, Siracusa, Sicily
Spring 2019	Instructor, Greek: Plato's <i>Meno</i> and Euripides' <i>Bacchae</i> ; Course and Program Assistant, Greek Antiquity and Its Legacy, University of Chicago study abroad program in Athens; led visits to the Archaeological Museum of Thessaloniki and the Amphiareion of Oropos, led classes on Archaic Athens, Plato's <i>Apology</i> , "Athens as a College Town," and Neo-Hellenic Poetry
Summer 2018	Instructor, Intensive Intermediate Latin: Cicero's <i>Pro Archia Poeta Oratio</i> and selections from Ovid's <i>Fasti</i> , University of Chicago Summer Language Institute
Spring 2018	Writing Intern, Undergraduate Core Curriculum, in sequence "Greece and Rome: Texts, Transmissions, and Transformations," University of Chicago
Winter 2018	Instructor, Latin 202: Ovid's <i>Metamorphoses</i> , University of Chicago
Autumn 2017	Instructor, Latin 201: Intermediate Readings in Latin, University of Chicago
2016 – 2017	BA Preceptor, guiding eight Classics majors in their senior thesis research and writing, Department of Classics, University of Chicago
Autumn 2016	Instructor, Accelerated Elementary Greek 111, University of Chicago
Spring 2016	Instructor, Accelerated Elementary Greek 113: <i>Crito</i> , University of Chicago
2015 – 2016	Graduate Teaching Assistant, Accelerated Elementary Greek 111-112, University of Chicago
Spring 2015	Instructor, Latin 103, University of Chicago
2014 – 2015	Graduate Teaching Assistant, Latin 101-102, University of Chicago
2010 – 2012	Instructor, Introductory Latin, and Graduate Teaching Assistant, Classical Myth, UIUC
2007 – 2008	Latin instructor, North Hunterdon-Voorhees High School, NJ
Autumn 2007	Instructor of Greek, Latin and Philosophy, grades K-12, Princeton Latin Academy, NJ

## Conference Presentations (refereed):

7 January 2021	"On Nietzsche's 'Philology as Ephexis in Interpretation,'" SCS Annual Virtual Meeting
26 May 2020	"Three Empedoclean Compounds and Empedocles' Evergreen Authority," CAMWS, Birmingham, Alabama (online presentation due to pandemic)
18 June 2019	"Between Demiurgic Love and Random Growth: Image and Concept in Empedocles," <i>Φύσις και Φυτά I</i> , Paris, France
12 June 2019	"Empedocles and others in the <i>agôn</i> over <i>physis</i> ," at the Fifth Interdisciplinary Symposium on the Heritage of Western Greece, with a special emphasis on ἀγών ( <i>agon</i> , contest), Fonte Aretusa, Siracusa, Sicily
23 February 2019	"Francis Bacon on the Sunken Weights and Philosophical Flotsam of Antiquity," at "The Weight of Antiquity: Early Modern Classicisms," Franke Institute, University of Chicago
6 January 2019	"Empedocles on Language, Nature and Learning: or, Empedocles on <i>Nomos</i> ," in panel "Language and Naming in Early Greek Philosophy" at the SCS, San Diego, CA
28 June 2018	"Φύσις and Θάνατος in Empedocles fragment B8," at the Sixth Biennial Meeting of the International Association for Presocratic Studies, Delphi
28 May 2017	"Pindar and the Imitation of Herakles among Poets and Philosophers" at the Third Interdisciplinary Symposium on the Heritage of Western Greece, with a special emphasis on μίμησις ( <i>mimesis</i> , imitation), Fonte Aretusa, Siracusa
1 April 2017	"One Learned to Grow from Many: Nature, Metaphor and the Mind in Empedocles," at the Dublin Graduate Student Conference in Ancient Philosophy (UCD/TCD), "Physis and Psyché in Ancient Philosophy: Causes, Generation, and Change," Dublin, Ireland
17 June 2016	"Vegetal Metaphors in Empedocles," at the Fifth Biennial Meeting of the International Association for Presocratic Studies, Austin, TX
9 January 2016	"Tragic Self-forgetting as True Culture: On Nietzsche and Aeschylus' <i>Prometheus Bound</i> ," at the SCS, San Francisco, CA

- 16 October 2015 “Become who you are not knowing who you are: On Nietzsche and Pindar’s Second Pythian,” at the meeting of the International “Ja, Mein Herr, Sie sind ein Dichter! Nietzsche und die Lyrik,” Naumburg, Germany
- 17 May 2014 “ΦΡΕΝΩΝ ΚΑΡΠΟΣ: Vegetal Metaphors and the Mind in Early Greek Poetry,” at “Words, Concepts, Metaphors: New Advances in Historical Semantics,” U. of Chicago
- 6 January 2012 “As Homeric as Pindar May Be: Notes on Pythian 2.72,” at the APA, Philadelphia, PA

### Workshop Presentations:

- 2019 “Physis in Empedocles,” for the Ancient Philosophy Workshop, University of Chicago
- 2018 “Nomos and Physis in Empedocles,” for the Literature and Philosophy Workshop and the Rhetoric and Poetics Workshop, University of Chicago
- 2017 “One Learned to Grow from Many: Nature, Teleology and Metaphor in Empedocles,” for the Ancient Philosophy Workshop, University of Chicago
- 2014 “ΦΡΕΝΩΝ ΚΑΡΠΟΣ: On Vegetal Metaphors and the Mind in Early Greek Poetry,” for the Metaphor Workshop and the Rhetoric and Poetics Workshop, University of Chicago

### Research experience:

- 2016 Research assistant for I. Kliger & B. Maslov (eds.), *Persistent Forms: Explorations in Historical Poetics*, Fordham 2016.
- 2015 – 2016 Research assistant for H. Pinkster, *The Oxford Latin Syntax*, Vol. 2, Oxford (forthcoming).
- 2010 Research assistant for J. Fish & K. Sanders (eds.), *Epicurus and the Epicurean Tradition*, Cambridge 2011.
- 2006 – 2007 Research assistant for U. Groetsch, *Hermann Samuel Reimarus (1694–1768): Classicist, Hebraist, Enlightenment Radical in Disguise*, Brill 2015.

### Selected other employment:

- 2005 – present Private Tutor, Greek and Latin (and formerly math and science)
- 2015 – 2018 Acting Manager, University of Chicago Language Center

### Service:

- 2017 – 2018 President, Classical Lecture Society, University of Chicago
- 2017 – 2018 President, Humanities Division Graduate Student Council
- 2016 – 2017 Vice President, Humanities Division Graduate Student Council
- 2015 – 2016 Graduate Student Representative to the Faculty, Classics Department
- 2014 – 2015 Coordinator, Ancient Philosophy Workshop
- 2013 – 2014 Representative to the Graduate Student Council, Classics Department

### Honors and Awards:

- 2020 Ephron Teaching Fellowship, Department of Classics, University of Chicago
- 2017 – 2020 Ephron Research Scholarship, Department of Classics, University of Chicago
- 2015 Daniel Shorey Fellowship, Department of Classics, University of Chicago
- 2006 – 2007 Henry Rutgers Scholarship, Rutgers College

### Professional Memberships:

- Ancient Philosophy Society
- Classical Association of the Midwest and South
- International Association for Presocratic Studies
- Society for Classical Studies