

J. MIRA SEO

Yale-NUS College
12 College Avenue West
Singapore 138610
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RESEARCH INTERESTS

Flavian poetry; Roman literary characterization and self-construction; Roman rhetoric; discourses of money in Roman literature; classical tradition and reception.

EDUCATION

Princeton University, Ph.D. September 2004. Dissertation: *Allusive Characterization from Apollonius to Statius*. Committee: Denis C. Feeney (director), R. Elaine Fantham, Robert A. Kaster. M.A., January 2002.

Christ Church, University of Oxford, BA in *Literae Humaniores* (2:1), June 1998.

Swarthmore College, BA with High Honors in External Examination Program, June 1995.

American School of Classical Studies, Athens, Greece, June-August 1994.

Intercollegiate Center for Classical Studies, Rome, Italy, January-May 1993.

FACULTY APPOINTMENTS

Associate Professor, Yale-National University of Singapore, July 2012- present.

Visitor, Department of Classical Studies, University of Pennsylvania, February-June 2016.

Associate Professor, University of Michigan, February-June 2012.

Assistant Professor, University of Michigan, August 2005-February 2012.

Visiting Assistant Professor, Swarthmore College, 2004-2005.

PUBLICATIONS**Digital Humanities**

The Juan Latino Project: collaboration with Stephen Wheeler (Pennsylvania State University).

Books

The Rhetoric of Money in Roman Literature (in progress).

Complete Works of Juan Latino, the First Black Humanist: Translated and Edited with Commentary, with introduction by Henry Louis Gates, Jr.; text, commentary and historical notes by J. Mira Seo (in progress).

Exemplary Traits: Reading Characterization in Roman Poetry. (Oxford University Press, May 2013).

Callida Musa: Papers in Honor of Elaine Fantham (special issue of *Materiali e Discussioni per l'Analisi dei Testi Classici* 61, co-editor with Rolando Ferri and Katharina Volk, 2009).

Articles

"Theorizing Characterization in Ancient Literature" in *Oxford Handbook of Ancient Literary Theory and Criticism*, J. Connolly and N. Worman, eds. (in progress).

"Senecan Tragedy, Neronian Violence," (in progress).

"Aesthetics of Enlightenment: Philosophical Continuity and Rhetorical Innovation in the Poetics of Roman Architecture," in *Old Society, New Belief: Religious Transformation of China and Rome, ca. 1st-6th Centuries*, Poo, M. and Drake, H.A., eds. (OUP 2017: 53-68).

"Identifying Authority: Juan Latino, an African ex-Slave, Poet, and Professor of Latin in 16th Century Granada," in *African Athena: New Agendas*, D. Orrells, G.K. Bhambra, T. Roynon

- and M. Bernal, eds. (OUP 2012: 258-76).
- “What the Cook Knew: the Cocus in Plautus’ *Mercator*” in *Change and Exchange in Plautus’ Mercator*, N.C. Coppolino, ed. (special issue *New England Classical Journal* 37.1, February 2010: 27-38).
- “Plagiarism and Poetic Identity in Martial and Others,” (*American Journal of Philology* 130.4, Winter 2009: 567-93).
- “Statis *Silvae* 4.9 and the Poetics of Saturnalian Exchange,” (*Materiali e Discussioni per l’Analisi dei Testi Classici* 61, 2009: 243-56).
- “The Gender Gap: Religious Spaces in HBO’s *Rome*,” in *Rome Season One: History Makes Television*. M.S. Cyrino, ed. London: 2007.
- “Viewing the Past in *Alias*,” in *Alias Assumed: Sex, Lies and SD-6*, K. Weisman, ed. New York: 2005

Book reviews

- Review of A. Rodgerson, *Vergil’s Ascanius: Imagining the Future in the Aeneid*. Cambridge: 2017. (forthcoming in *Classical Review* 68.1, 2018).
- Review of L. Roman, *Poetic Autonomy in Ancient Rome*. Oxford: 2014. (*Classical World* 110.1, 2016).
- Review of S. McGill, *Plagiarism in Roman Literature*. Cambridge-New York: 2013. ([Bryn Mawr Classical Review](#) 2014.07.02).
- Review of R. Taylor, *The Moral Mirror of Roman Art*. Cambridge: 2008. (*Classical World* 104.2, 2011: 253-4).
- Review of Gibson, R.K. *Excess & Restraint: Propertius, Horace, & Ovid’s Ars Amatoria*. London: 2007. (*Classical World* 102.2, 2009: 191-2).
- Review of Rimell, V. *Ovid’s Lovers: Desire, Difference, and the Poetic Imagination*. Cambridge: 2006. (*Classical World* 101.2, 2008: 255-6).

Encyclopedia articles

- “Food”; “Banqueting”; “Eating and Drinking”; “Hair” in *Virgil Encyclopedia*, R. Thomas, J. Ziolkowski, eds. (Wiley-Blackwell 2011).
- “Latino, Juan” in the *Dictionary of African Biography*, H.L. Gates, E.K. Akyeampong, eds. (OUP 2011).
- “Cooks and Cookbooks”; “Food and Drink, Roman” in *Oxford Encyclopedia of Ancient Greece and Rome*, M. Gagarin, et al., eds. (OUP 2010).

PAPERS AND PRESENTATIONS

- “Cultural Encounters in Global Antiquity,” *Swarthmore Classics Summer Seminar: Pedagogy and Recruitment*, Swarthmore College, July 2017.
- “Cultural Fluency in the ‘Classics’: Comparison and Globalism in Common Curricula,” with Andrew Hui, *World Literature and Global Core Texts*, Singapore University of Technology and Design, June 2017.
- “Meritocratic Apotheosis and *maiestas*: Reading Ovid’s Hercules in post-LKY Singapore,” *Globalizing Ovid*, Shanghai Normal University, May 2017.
- “Global Traditions in Core Curricula,” *Strengthening the Core: The Humanities Curriculum in Liberal Education*, Stanford University, April 2017.
- “World Literature and Comparatism,” *Workshop on World Literature*, NUS-Warwick Working Group, March 2017.
- “Re-Orienting Core Curricula,” *Globalizing the Liberal Arts*, Yale-NUS College and Yale University, June 2016.
- “Roman Strategies in Singapore: Writing the *Pater Patriae*,” *The Legitimation of Autocracy in the Ancient World*, NYU-Abu Dhabi, November 2014; Ancient Worlds colloquium March 2015.

- “Aesthetics of Enlightenment: Philosophical Continuity and Rhetorical Innovation in the Poetics of Roman Architecture,” *Religious Change in Rome and China*, University of Hong Kong, June 2014.
- “Latino’s Library: Classical Scholarship and Poetic Production in 16th Century Granada,” *Classicism in the Black Atlantic*, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, March 2014.
- “Senecan Tragedy and Some Stoic Metaphors of Perception and Cognition,” Greco-Roman Lunch, Yale University, March 2013.
- “Professor Latino goes to Singapore: Race, Classical Reception and Canonicity in 16th Century Granada and 21st Century Singapore,” Penn State Comparative Literature Luncheon, December 2012.
- “Amphiaraus in Hades: a Figure of Philosophical Epos?” *Flavian Epic and the World of Ideas*, Institute of Classical Studies, Warsaw, Poland, May 2012.
- “Editing Juan Latino,” Society for Textual Scholarship meeting, Austin TX, June 2012.
- “Statius’ *Silvae* and the Aesthetics of Enlightenment,” Columbia University, March 2011.
- “What the Cook Knew: the Cocus in Plautus’ *Mercator*,” Classical Association of the Middle West and South meeting, Minneapolis, April 2009.
- “Seneca’s *Oedipus*: the Character of Literary Tradition,” Columbia University, October 2008; King’s College London, November 2008.
- “Identifying Authority: Juan Latino as African Ex-Slave, Professor, and Poet of Latin in 16th Century Granada,” *African Athena* conference, University of Warwick, November 2008.
- “Spectacularity of Violence in HBO’s *Rome* and Lucan’s *De Bello Civili*,” Invited lecture, Brock University Archaeological Symposium, Brock University, March 2008.
- “The Complete Works of Juan Latino, the First Black Poet,” W.E.B. Du Bois Institute Colloquium Series, Harvard University, October 2007.
- “Ecphrasis, Spectacle and Vision: Poetic Reception of the *Satyrica* in Martial and Statius,” Classical Association of the Atlantic States meeting, Washington DC, October 2007.
- “The Case of Juan Latino,” Invited lecture, Second Annual Tribute to William Sanders Scarborough, Wayne State University, March 2007.
- “Light in the Darkness: Statius’ Amphiaraus in Hades,” *Intellectual Pleasure* conference, Department of Comparative Literature, University of Michigan, March 2007.
- “Seneca’s *Oedipus*: Characterization and Literary Tradition,” Australian National University, Canberra, February 2007; McMaster University, Canada, October 2006.
- “Statius *Silvae* 4.9 and the Poetics of Saturnalian Exchange,” American Philological Association Annual Meeting, San Diego, CA, January 2007.
- ““The Gender Gap: Religious Spaces in HBO’s *Rome*,” Classical Association of the Middle West and South meeting, Memphis, TN, October 2006.
- “The Purloined Letter: Plagiarism and Poetic Identity in Martial and Others,” Leeds International Classics Seminar, Leeds, UK, May 2005.
- “*Insons Puer*: Parthenopaeus and *mors immatura* in Statius’ *Thebaid* or Only the Cute Die Young,” University of Michigan, February 2005; conference “Dopo i Grandi, e sotto i Tiranni. Prospettive di Ricerca sull’Epica Flavia,” Udine, Italy, September 2004; Rutgers University, March 2004; Stanford University, February 2003.
- “*Aeneas Ignotus*: (E)facing the Tradition,” University of Colorado, February 2005; Bryn Mawr College, January 2005.
- “The Importance of Being Dido: the Epic of *Heroides* 7,” Trinity College, February 2005; Swarthmore College, February 2004.
- “Must the King Die? Livy I as a Clausal Motif in the *Fasti*,” Classical Association of the Atlantic States meeting, Rutgers University, October 2002.

CONFERENCES

- Co-organizer with Denis Feeney and Nigel Smith, “Politics, Violence and the Republican Imagination: Lucan and his Legacy,” Princeton University, October 3-5, 2003.

GRANTS AND AWARDS

NUS Teaching Enhancement Grant for “The Open Classroom Project: Designing and Implementing a Smart Phone Application to Facilitate Formative Teaching Observations.” (\$15,000), 2017-18 (co-PI).

Yale-NUS Ancient Worlds Research Cluster Grant, 2016-18 (co-PI).

NEH Seminar on Roman Comedy in Performance, July 2012 (declined).

CRLT Investigating Student Learning Grant, March 2012 (declined).

Teagle Foundation National Forum for Liberal Education Grant on Faculty Classroom Assessment, February 2012.

Rackham Faculty Research Grant, University of Michigan, Fall 2009.

Fellow in Residence, W.E.B. Du Bois Institute for African and African American Research, Harvard University, January-May 2009.

Shelia Biddle Ford Foundation fellow, W.E.B. Du Bois Institute for African and African American Research, Harvard University, September-December 2007.

Harold W. Dodds Dissertation Fellowship, Princeton University, May 2002.

Thomas R. Curley III Fellowship, Princeton University, May 2001.

Croft Fellowship, Princeton University, May 2000.

Dundas Prize, Christ Church, June 1997.

Phi Beta Kappa Fellowship, Swarthmore College Chapter, August 1996.

J.L. Field Exhibition in *Literae Humaniores*, Christ Church, May 1996.

Lippincott Fellowship, Swarthmore College, May 1996.

Phi Beta Kappa Society, June 1995.

High Honors, Swarthmore College External Examination Program, June 1995.

Andrew W. Mellon Fellow in Humanistic Studies (declined), April 1995.

TEACHING**Yale-NUS College**

AY 2017-18 *Literature and Humanities* (one section), *Love in Antiquity: Eros in Translation, Roman Love Elegy* Independent Language Module (semester 1).

AY 2016-17 *Literature and Humanities* (one section), *Ancient Epic and Gangster Film* (semester 1); *Food and Ethics in Roman Literature and Culture* (semester 2).

AY 2015-16 *Literature and Humanities* (two sections, course facilitator).

AY 2014-15 *Literature and Humanities* (two sections, course facilitator); *Introduction to Roman Literary Cultures*.

AY 2013-14 *Literature and Humanities* (two sections, course facilitator); *Literature and Humanities 2* (one section).

Capstone advising

Isa Ho (2016-17).

University of Michigan**Graduate**

CL 741 *Readings in Money and Literature from Ancient Rome to Modernity* (W 2012).

LAT 500 *Poetry for Patrons* (F 2009).

LAT 592 *History of Roman Literature* (W 2006; W 2008).

CL 698 *Statius* (W 2006 independent study).

Prelim supervisions:

Characterization in Tacitus (W 2012).
Statius Silvae (W 2012).
Martial (F 2011).
Vergil Georgics (W 2011).
Female Voice in Roman Poetry (W 2010).
Senecan Tragedy (W 2006).

Dissertation committees:

Nicholas Rupert, *Statius' Achilleid and the Poetics of Self Reception* (defended June 2016).
 Harriet Fertik *Publicity, Privacy, and Power in Neronian Rome* (defended March 2014).
 Jonathan Rowland *Footnotes to Sappho: An Examination of the Female Poets of Greece* (defended June 2012).
 Ori Weisberg *The City and the Word: London, "Jerusalem," and the Early Modern English Nation* (Department of English; defended August 2011).
 Karen Acton *Vespasian Augustus: Imperial Power in the First Century CE* (defended January 2011).
 Raji Mittal *Time and History in Vergil's Aeneid* (defended December 2010).

Undergraduate

GB 191 *Great Books* (F 2010, F2011: enrollment 460, GSIs and lecturers 21).
 CL 430 *Epic, Ancient and Mafia* (W 2011; W2010; W2008).
 CL 140 *Criticism of Culture, Culture of Criticism* (W 2007).
 CL 492 *Constructing the Self: Literature, Philosophy and Society Ancient and Modern* (W 2006).

CLCIV 102 *Roman Civilization* (W 2011; W 2007).
 CLCIV 120 *Rome and the Contemporary Imagination* (W 2010).
 CLCIV 350 *Poetics of Civil War* (F 2005).
 CLA 36 *Mythology* (Spring 2005).

LAT 449 *Reading the Female Monologue in Roman Poetry* (W 2010).
 LAT 409 *Archaeology of the Female Monologue* (F 2006; Fall 2004).
 LAT 442 *Didactic Poetry* (F 2006).
Honors seminar: Vergil (Spring 2005).

GRK 101 *Elementary Ancient Greek* (F 2005; Fall 2004).

Senior theses:

Joshua Corriveau (2012).
 Kelly Schultz (2007).

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

Reviewer for Oxford University Press, University of Toronto Press, Cambridge University Press.
 Reviewer for *Classical Antiquity*, *American Journal of Philology*, *Transactions of the American Philological Association*.
 Working group on Disciplinary Assessment, sponsored by National Forum on the Future of Liberal Education, Teagle Foundation (2013- 2015).
 APA/AIA Committee on Minority Scholarships 2010-2013.
 APA Lionel Pearson Fellowship Committee 2011-2014.
 National Forum on the Future of Liberal Education, Teagle Foundation 2009-2012.
 Editorial board for Brill series, *Metaforms: Studies in the Reception of Classical Antiquity*.

Yale-NUS College (founding faculty)

Full Faculty Meeting Moderator (AY 2017-18).
 Literature Major (2017-, head of studies).
 Global Antiquity Minor (2017-18, co-founder, advisor).
 Ancient Worlds Research Cluster (2017-18, lecture series organizer, co-PI).
 Task Force on Peer Observation of Teaching (2017, co-chair).
 Humanities Post Doctoral Fellowship Search Committee (2017).
 Curriculum Committee (2016-18).
 Common Curriculum Self Study Committee (2014-15).
 Committee on Faculty Affairs (2014-16, elected member; elected chair 2014-15).
 CIPE Faculty Advisory Committee (2014-15, chair).
 Literature Search Committee (2014-15).
 Expanded Academic Committee (2012-13, elected member).
 Academic Policy Committee, Chair (2012-14).
 Head of Studies, Great Works (2012-16).
 Literature and Humanities 1 course facilitator (2012-2016).

University of Michigan, *Department of Classical Studies*

Undergraduate Advisor (Classical Languages and Literatures), Job Search Advisor,
 Hellenist Search Committee, 2011-12.
 Chair's Advisory Committee, Job Search Advisor, 2010-2011.
 Job Search Advisor, Senior Thesis Advisor, Hellenist Search Committee, 2009-2010.
 Graduate Affairs Committee, Undergraduate Affairs Committee, Undergraduate
 Advisor for Classical Civilization, Winter 2008.
 Chair's Advisory Committee (Fall term), Job Search Advisor, 2006-2007.
 Undergraduate Affairs Committee, Else Lecture Committee, 2005-2006.

University of Michigan, *Department of Comparative Literature*

Program Committee, Scholarly Activities Committee, 2009-2011.
 Program Committee, Scholarly Activities Committee, Winter 2008.
 Program Committee, Graduate Admissions Committee, CFC Translation Prize
 Committee, 2006-2007.
 Program Committee, Graduate Committee, Visiting Scholars Committee, 2005-6.

University of Michigan, *Rackham Graduate School*

Rackham Fellowships Committee, 2011-13.
 Merit Prize Fellowship Committee, 2005-2006.

Princeton University, *Department of Classics*

Stinnecke Prize Committee, 2005-2010.