

# Bess Rachel Halbert Myers

## Curriculum Vitae

Department of Comparative Literature  
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### EDUCATION

Ph.D., Comparative Literature, University of Oregon. 2019 (expected).

- Dissertation: *Speaking After Silence: Presidential Rhetoric in the Wake of Catastrophe*
- Committee: James Crosswhite (chair), Lowell Bowditch, Leah Middlebrook, Sonja Boos

M.A., Classics, University of Oregon. 2015.

M.A., English, The College of New Jersey. 2012.

B.A., English and Classical Studies, The College of New Jersey. 2010.

- Magna cum laude, Phi Beta Kappa

### PEER-REVIEWED ARTICLES

2018 “‘One, Two, Three’: Narrative Circles in Plato’s *Timaeus*.” *Arethusa* 51.1.

2018 Critical essay and curriculum unit, “President Barack Obama: Remarks by the President at a Memorial Service for the Victims of the Shooting in Tucson, Arizona (12 Jan. 2011).” *Voices of Democracy* 13. Available: <http://voicesofdemocracy.umd.edu/vod-journal-volume-13-2018/>

### OTHER PUBLICATIONS

2017 “Interpreting the Constitution.” Co-editor with John Gage, e-casebook for Writing 123: Written Reasoning in the Context of Research, Composition Program, University of Oregon.

### RESEARCH AND TEACHING INTERESTS

Classical rhetoric; history of rhetoric; presidential rhetoric of the United States; funeral oration and eulogy; composition pedagogy

### LANGUAGES

- Ancient: Greek, Latin
- Modern: French (reading knowledge), Spanish (reading knowledge, beginner speaking)

### CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

#### International and National Conferences

2019 “Roman Funeral Proceedings as Historical Performance: Reading the *Laudatio Funebris* in the Context of the *Fabula Praetexta*.” International Society for the History of Rhetoric Biennial Conference, New Orleans, LA (Accepted)

- 2018 “American Sophistry and the Rhetoric of Donald Trump.” Modern Language Association, New York, NY
- 2017 “‘A roadway toward a better world’: Deliberative Rhetoric in Pericles’ Funeral Oration and Obama’s Eulogy for Reverend Pinckney.” International Society for the History of Rhetoric Biennial Conference, London, UK
- 2016 “Poetry as Persuasion: Kenneth Burke’s Poetic and Semantic Language in the Metaphors of Lucretius.” Rhetoric Society of America Biennial Conference, Atlanta, GA

### **Regional and Local Conferences**

- 2016 “Roman Funeral Proceedings as Tragic Performance: *Imagines Maiorum* and the Rhetoric of the *Laudatio Funebris*.” Classical Association of the Pacific Northwest Annual Meeting, Olympia, WA
- 2015 “Narrative Circles in Plato’s *Timaeus*.” Classical Association of the Pacific Northwest Annual Meeting, Portland, OR
- 2014 “Cleopatra’s Polyglottism and the Connotation of Interpreters in Plutarch’s *Life of Antony*.” UMass Amherst Graduate Student Translation Studies Conference, Amherst, MA
- 2013 “Euripides’ and Thucydides’ Tragic Visions in *Hippolytus* and Book I of the *Peloponnesian War*.” Classical Association of the Pacific Northwest Annual Meeting, Eugene, OR
- 2013 “The Pedagogy of Translation in the Classics Classroom.” CUNY Classics Graduate Conference, New York, NY

### **INVITED TALKS**

- 2017 “‘A roadway toward a better world’: Deliberative Rhetoric in Pericles’ Funeral Oration and Obama’s Eulogy for Reverend Pinckney.” University of Oregon Department of Classics, Eugene, OR
- 2016 “The Threshold Between Death and Life: Deliberative Rhetoric in Pericles and Obama.” Nomad Mentorship Program, University of Oregon Department of Comparative Literature, Eugene, OR

### **AWARDS AND HONORS**

#### **University of Oregon**

- 2018-2019 M. Gregg Smith Fellowship, College of Arts and Sciences
- 2018 Summer Writing Fellowship, Department of Comparative Literature
- 2018 Beall Educational Opportunity Award (EOA), Department of Comparative Literature
- 2017 Conference Travel Award, Department of Classics
- 2017 Beall EOA, Department of Comparative Literature
- 2016-2017 Norman Brown Graduate Fellowship, College of Arts and Sciences
- 2015 Conference Travel Award, Department of Classics
- 2014 Beall Fellowship, Department of Comparative Literature
- 2014 Beall EOA for conference travel, Department of Comparative Literature
- 2013 Beall Fellowship, Department of Comparative Literature

## PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

### University of Oregon

#### Administrative Positions

- 2016-2019 Editor, *Nomad* Undergraduate Journal, Department of Comparative Literature
- 2013-2014 Mentorship Coordinator, *Nomad* Mentorship Program, Department of Comparative Literature

#### Instructor of Record: Courses Designed and Taught

- 2014-2017 *Department of Composition*
- Writing 121: College Composition I
  - Writing 122: College Composition II
  - Writing 123: College Composition III, “Interpreting the Constitution”
- 2017-Present *Department of Comparative Literature*
- Comparative Literature 360: Gender and Identity in Literature, “Wartime Heroism”  
Primary texts assigned (incomplete list): Homer, *The Iliad*; Pericles’ funeral oration from Thucydides II; Aristophanes, *Lysistrata*; Euripides, *The Trojan Women*; Vergil, *The Aeneid*; Lucan, *Pharsalia*; Tim O’Brien, *The Things They Carried*; Jonathan Shay, *Achilles in Vietnam*; Martin Luther King, Jr., “Beyond Vietnam”; Coretta Scott King, “Ten Commandments of Vietnam”; Paisley Rekdal, *The Broken Country*; poems by Horace, Sulpicia, Wilfred Owen, and Yusef Komunyakaa
  - Comparative Literature 360: Gender and Identity in Literature, “Monstrous Mothers”  
Primary texts assigned (incomplete list): Hesiod, *Theogony*; Herodotus, *Histories*; Euripides, *Medea*; Aeschylus, *Agamemnon*; Seneca, *Phaedra*; secondary material by Barbara Almond, Barbara Creed, and Adrienne Rich; and the films *Alien*, *Rosemary’s Baby*, *Carrie*, *Mommie Dearest*, *The Others*
- 2016 *Department of Classics*
- Latin 101: Basic Latin I

#### Teaching Assistant/Discussion Leader

- 2018 *Humanities Program*
- Humanities 101
- 2012-2013 *Department of Comparative Literature*
- Comparative Literature 101
  - Comparative Literature 102
  - Comparative Literature 103
- 2012-2013 *Department of German*
- German 221: Film and Literature of Postwar Germany
  - German 223: German Multiculturalism

## PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

- 2018 “The Sublime: Longinus and Beyond,” led by Casper de Jonge. RSA/ISHR Pre-Conference Seminar in Classical Rhetoric, Minneapolis, MN
- 2017 “The ‘Rhetorical Presidency’ in the Post-Cold War Era,” led by John Murphy and Mary Stuckey. Rhetoric Society of America Summer Institute, Bloomington, IN
- 2016 “Quintilian and Declamation,” led by Bé Breij. RSA/ISHR Pre-Conference Seminar in Classical Rhetoric, Atlanta, GA

## SERVICE

### University of Oregon

- 2018 Guest speaker, Humanities 101 Lecture course (150 students), “Thucydides: Pericles’ Funeral Oration and the Mytilenian Debate”
- 2018 Organizer and presenter, hour-long “On Mentoring” session with Comparative Literature graduate students
- 2016 Composition Conference panel participant, “How Do We Thematize Courses?”
- 2015-2016 Secretary, Albert Kitzhaber Rhetoric Society
- 2015 Research Assistant to Leah Middlebrook, Department of Comparative Literature

### Outside Organizations

- 2014 Volunteer, *Recogito* (Greek tradition)

## PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

American Society for the History of Rhetoric  
Rhetoric Society of America  
International Society for the History of Rhetoric  
Modern Language Association  
Classical Association of the Pacific Northwest  
Society for Classical Studies

## REFERENCES

James Crosswhite, Professor (Dissertation Chair)  
Department of English, University of Oregon  
jcross@uoregon.edu  
541-346-3956

Leah Middlebrook, Associate Professor  
Department of Comparative Literature and  
Department of Spanish, University of Oregon  
middlebr@uoregon.edu  
541-346-3103

Lowell Bowditch, Professor  
Department of Classics, University of Oregon  
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541-346-4306

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Department of Classics, University of Oregon  
mwilson@uoregon.edu  
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