Gaia Gianni, PhD

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**ACADEMIC POSITIONS**

Assistant Professor, Ohio State University (fall 2022-present)

Visiting Assistant Professor, Tulane University (2021-2022)

Adjunct Professor, University of Alabama (spring 2021)

**EDUCATION**

2014- 2020 **PhD in Classics**, Brown University

Dissertation Title: “Fictive Kinship and Roman Childhood: A Social History” – Dissertation Chair: John Bodel

2011-2013 **MA in Classics and Anthropology of the Ancient World**, Univerisità degli Studi di Siena (Italy) *Summa cum laude*

2008-2011 **BA in Classical Literature**, Univerisità degli Studi di Siena (Italy)

**PUBLICATIONS**

**Books**

*Forthcoming*

* *All in the Family: Childhood and Fictive Kinship in Roman Society* (forthcoming on 08/18/2025 with University of Michigan Press).

**Peer Reviewed Articles**

* “Feronia, votive inscriptions and servile worshippers: an epigraphical and literary analysis”, *Historia* 72, 2023, 3-28.
* “Roosters, cockfighting and performing masculinity in Greek comedy”, in *Illinois Classical Studies* 46.1-2, 2022, 177-198.
* “*Mamma* and *Tata*: Considerations on Social Designations and Family Structure in Rome”, in *Journal of Epigraphic Studies* 4, 2021, 189-207.

*Forthcoming*

* “Playing on Emotions: Enslaved Child Workers and Emotional Labor in the Roman Empire” (revise and resubmit, *Classical Journal.*)

**Chapters in Edited Volumes**

* “*Delicia* of the Imperial Family: Childhood, Labor, and Manumission” in *Brill Studies in Greek and Roman Epigraphy*, eds. J. Edmondson, J. Sickinger, G. Tsolakis (forthcoming 2026).
* “Finding Single Parent Families in the Epigraphic Record of Imperial Rome”, in *Familias monoparentales en la Antigüedad. Construcciones culturales y realidad social*, eds. L. González Estrada and J. Guantes García, 2023, 143-168.

**Book reviews**

* “Anna Borrell Freidin. *Birthing Romans. Childbearing and its Risks in Imperial Rome*. Princeton: Princeton University Press, 2024” in *American Journal of Philology* 145, 631-34. 2025.
* “*Gendering Roman imperialism*. Edited by Hannah Cornwell and Greg Woolf. Leiden, Boston: Brill. 2022” in *Bryn Mawr Classical Review*. 2023. https://bmcr.brynmawr.edu/2023/2023.10.05/
* “*The Single Life in the Roman and Later Roman World*. Edited by Sabine R. Huebner and Christian Laes. Cambridge, UK” on *Classical Journal Online Review*. 2021.

**TEACHING EXPERIENCE**

*Ohio State University*

Fall 2025 **Family, household, and kinship in the Ancient World.** Intermediate level course, cross-listed in History.

 **Professionalization Seminar.** Graduate course.

Fall 2024 **Latin Survey: Republic**. Graduate course, 10 students.

 **Epigraphy Seminar**. Graduate course, 9 students.

Spring 2024 **Family, household, and kinship in the Ancient World.** Intermediate level course, cross-listed in History, 24 students.

Fall 2023 **Roman Lyric.** Upper intermediate course, 8 students.

**Classical Mythology Honors**. Introductory course, 30 students.

Summer 2023 **Independent Study – Research in Epigraphy**. Advanced level course, 1 student.

Spring 2023 **Roman History: from Republic to Empire**. Intermediate level course, cross-listed in History, 44 students.

**Sex and Gender in the Ancient World**. Intermediate level course, cross-listed in History, 34 students.

Fall 2022 **Latin Survey: Prose**. Graduate course, 2 students.

*Tulane University*

Spring 2022 **Gender and Sexuality in the Ancient World.** Seminar for majors and graduate students, 20 students.

**Mythology.** Introductory course, 40 students.

**Readings in Latin Prose: Sallust and Livy.** Fourth semester Latin language course, 12 students.

**Independent Study**. Supervising a research project, 1 student.

Fall 2021 **Mythology.** Introductory course, three sections, 135 students.

*University of Alabama*

Spring 2021 **History of Rome.** Intermediate level course for Classics and History majors, 20 students.

**Greek and Roman Mythology.** Introductory course, three sections, 120 students.

*Brown University*

Summer 2024 **Making of an Eternal City** (on location in Rome). Introductory course, 21 students.

Summer 2023 **Making of an Eternal City** (on location in Rome). Introductory course, 24 students.

Summer 2022 **Making of an Eternal City** (on location in Rome). Introductory course, 23 students.

Summer 2019 **Making of an Eternal City** (on location in Rome). Introductory course, 25 students.

**TEACHING CERTIFICATES**

2024 Drake Institute for Teaching and Learning – Teaching Through Writing Seminar

2022-2023 Drake Institute for Teaching and Learning – New Faculty Foundation, Impact, Transformation (FIT) Program

2018 Sheridan Center for Teaching and Learning – Certificate II: Class and Syllabus Design Seminar

2015-2016Sheridan Center for Teaching and Learning – Certificate I: Reflective Teaching Seminar

**TALKS**

* **From Gaul to Britain and beyond: the sale of Fortunata**, 7/16/2025, *16th Celtic Conference in Classics*, University of Coimbra, Portugal.
* **Desperately seeking Caecilia: the possibilities of critical fabulation**, 1/4/2025, *Society for Classical Studies 156th Annual Meeting*, Philadelphia, PA.
* **Enslaved nursing women in Roman society: oppression and resistance through breastmilk**, *Embodied Histories: Cultural History of, in, and through the Human Body*, 9/4/2024, University of Potsdam, Germany.
* ***Collactanei* and milk-siblings: from ancient Rome to modern Islamic practice**, *Association of Ancient Historians*, 4/22/2024, Cambridge, MA.
* ***Deliciae* of the imperial family: childhood, labor, and manumission**, *North American Congress of Greek and Latin Epigraphy IV*, University of Chicago 1/8/2024.
* **Beyond the stone archive: critical fabulation and stories of emancipation**, *Association of Ancient Historians*, 4/21/2023, Tallahassee, FL.
* **Enslaved nurses and coercive allomaternal feeding in ancient Rome**, *Mother’s Milk: Breastfeeding from Metaphor to Practice*, 10/21/2022, University of New Hampshire, NH.
* **The enslaved female body and nursing: strategies on allomaternal breastfeeding**, *Feminism and Classics*, 5/22/2022, Winston-Salem, NC (virtual).
* **The goddess Feronia and her cult among Italic enslaved communities**, *Association of Ancient Historians*, 4/28/2022, San Diego, CA (virtual).
* ***Labora Aselle*: Donkeys and Slave Labor in Roman Culture,** *Classical Association of the Mid-West and South 118th Meeting*, 3/24/2022, Winston-Salem, NC (virtual).
* **The** **goddess** **Feronia** **and** **her** **worshippers:** **gender** **and** **religious** **practice**, 1/7/2022, *Society for Classical Studies 153rd Annual Meeting*, San Francisco, CA (virtual).
* **Finding Single Parent Families in the Epigraphic Record**, 6/24/2021, *Conference in Classics and Ancient History*, Coimbra, Portugal (virtual).
* **Martial, funerary epigrams and enslaved individuals: how a master defines himself through epitaphs for his *servi*/*ae***, 4/24/ 2021, *Kentucky Foreign Language Conference*, University of Kentucky (virtual).
* ***Conpaedagogita bene merens*: epigraphic evidence on education in the *paedagogium***, 4/9/2021, *Classical Association of the Mid-West and South 117th Meeting* (virtual).
* **Unnamed nursing mothers: anonymous role models of maternity**, 3/12/2021, *Northeast Modern Languages Association 52nd Annual Meeting*, University of Pennsylvania (virtual).
* **A goddess for runaway slaves? Feronia and her worshippers**, 28/5/2020, *Classical Association of the Mid-West and South 116th Meeting*, Birmingham AL (virtual).
* **Martial, masculinity and sexuality in the Erotion cycle** (5.34, 5.37, 10.61), 18/4/2020, *Classical Association Conference 2020*, hosted by Swansea University, UK (canceled).
* ***Mamma* and *Tata*: Considerations on Social Designations and Family Structure in Rome**, 6/1/2020, *3rd North American Congress of Greek and Latin Epigraphy*, hosted by Georgetown University, D.C.
* **“Milk-kinship” and fosterage from ancient Rome to modern Turkey and Cape Verde**, 5/1/2020, *Society for Classical Studies 151st Annual Meeting*, Washington D.C. (presenter and panel organizer).
* ***Ad Infernas Liber Iturus Aquas*: Affection, Manumission and Death in Martial 1.101**, 4/4/2019, *Classical Association of the Mid-West and South 115th Meeting*, Lincoln NE.
* **Persephone and the Rooster: The Figurative Representation of Masculinity in Greek Culture**, 3/24/2019, *Northeast Modern Languages Association 50th Annual Meeting*, hosted by Georgetown University, D.C.
* **Has Strepsidades failed as a comic hero? Violence, masculinity and cockfighting in the ending of Aristophanes’ *Clouds***, 1/26/2019, *Failure and Flaws in Classical Antiquity*, UCLA.
* **Combattimento tra galli e mascolinità nelle commedie di Aristofane**, 12/11/2018, *Giovani Ama II Edizione*, Università degli Studi di Siena.
* **Death and family in Imperial Rome: patterns of commemoration in sepulchral inscriptions**, 4/27/2018, *Grimshaw-Gudewicz Symposium*, Brown University.
* **Cornelius Nepos and cultural relativism: on the representation of ‘self’ and ‘other’**, 3/17/2018, *Classical Association of New England Annual Meeting*, hosted by Rhode Island University.
* ***Patronae* and *liberti*: funerary inscriptions from the city of Rome**, 3/10/2017, Grimshaw-Gudewicz Symposium, Brown University.

**STUDENT THESIS SUPERVISION**

*Undergraduate*

* **Phoebe Henricks**: “The Nature of Chastity: Perceptions and Performances of the Vestal Virgins” – Spring 2024

*Graduate*

* **Colleen Kron**: “How to Build Belief with Blocks: The Religious Affordance of Greco Roman Funerary Inscriptions” – Summer 2024
* **Trevor Lee**: “The Best and Most Serious People: Meritocratic Discourse in Late Antiquity” – (expected Spring 2026)

**DEPARTMENTAL SERVICE**

* Director of Epigraphy for the Center of Epigraphical and Paleographical Studies (2024-present)
* Member of the Graduate Committee (2023-present)
* Member of the Awards Committee (2023-present)
* Member of the Advisory Committee of the Museum of Classical Archaeology (2023-present)
* Co-founder and faculty facilitator of the “Works in Progress” graduate workshop series in (2023-present)
* Director of the Elementary Latin Program in the Classics Department at Ohio State University (2022-2024)

**SERVICE OUTSIDE THE DEPARTMENT**

* Member of the Program Committee for the Center for Historical Research (2024-present)

**SERVICE OUTSIDE THE UNIVERSITY**

* Secretary-Treasurer of the *American Society of Greek and Latin Epigraphy* (2025-present)
* Member of the Grants & Awards Committee of the *Association of Ancient Historians* (2024-present)
* Organizer of the panel “Childhood and Fictive Kinship in the Roman Empire”, at the 2020 SCS Annual Meeting