Esposito, Stephen Joseph

2-7-24

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Associate Professor of Classical Studies Boston, MA 02215 Boston University

Degrees

Ph.D.	1984	Classics	The Johns Hopkins University
M.A.	1976	Classics	Boston College
B.A.	1974	Philosophy	Boston College / Oxford University

Employment

1996-	Associate Professor	Boston University
1987-95	Assistant Professor	Boston University
1986-87, 1983-85	Assistant Professor	Kent State University
1985-86	Assistant Professor	Intercollegiate Center for Classical Studies (Rome)

Teaching Award at Boston University

Winner of the 2009 / 2010 Frank and Lynne Wisneski Award for Teaching Excellence (one of highest teaching prizes awarded in the College of Arts & Sciences, Boston Univ.)

Editorial Boards

1. Senior Editor, *Greek Drama in Translation Series* (Focus Publishing), 2001-2014
2. Senior (& Founding) Editor, *Oxford Greek and Latin College Commentaries* (OUP) 2010-

Responsibilities as Founding Editor for a commentary series with Oxford University Press

I am the founding editor of the new *Oxford Greek and Latin College Commentary Series* (OGLCC) and one of my major responsibilities, besides recruiting authors for the series, is to vet all the manuscripts before they are sent to the OUP readers.

Publications

Online Publication (Spring 2024)

1) **Ted-Ex Animation Movie** on "the Oedipus story" from Sophocles to Freud.

I was invited in June, 2023 to do this project by TED-ed Talks and since then I've written the script which has gone through various drafts with their editors. Their animators are now creating the 'movie' version (probably 5-10 minutes). My TED-Ed editor tells me that on average their videos get some 800,000 views in the first month; pretty quickly thereafter that number goes into the millions. Producer = **TED-Ed, TED Conferences**, **LLC** | 330 Hudson Street Floor 11 | New York, NY 10013

Books in print (Anthologies with translations and commentaries from ancient Greek)

1) *Odysseus at Troy: Ajax, Hecuba, and Trojan Women*
Edited by Stephen Esposito (Focus Publishing, 2010) 280 pp. (Esposito translated Sophocles' *Ajax,* Diskin Clay translated Euripides' *Trojan Women*, and Robin Mitchell-Boyask translated Euripides' *Hecuba*)

2) *Four Plays by Euripides: Medea, Hippolytus, Heracles and Bacchae*
Edited by Stephen Esposito (Focus Publishing, 2002) 303 pp. (Esposito wrote the 34 page introduction and translated *The Bacchae;* A. J. Podlecki translated *Medea,* and Michael Halleran translated *Heracles* and *Hippolytus*)

3) *Euripides' Bacchae: Translation, Introduction, Interpretative Essay, and Notes*
(Focus Publishing, 1998) 126 pp.

Books *under contract* with Oxford Univ. Press, with preliminary manuscripts completed

1) *Sophocles' Oedipus Tyrannos: A Commentary on the Ancient Greek Text* (Oxford University Press, 2025)

2) *Sophocles' Ajax: A Commentary on the Ancient Greek text* (Oxford Univ. Press, 2025)

3) *Thucydides' Peloponnesian War: A Commentary on Selections from the Ancient Greek Text.* Most of the body of the text is philological commentary by Stephen Esposito; short chapter introductions by Loren J. Samons (Oxford University Press, 2025)

4) *Plato's Republic: A Commentary on Selections from the Ancient Greek Text.* Most of the body of the text is philological commentary by Stephen Esposito*;* short chapter introductions by David Roochnik (Oxford University Press, 2025)

Book *under contract* and in progress

4) *Sophocles* in the *Understanding Classics* Series ed. by Richard Stoneman (IB Tauris, 2026)

Articles Published

1) "A Grief Observed: Tecmessa and her Sadness-Work in Sophocles' *Ajax*" in *Looking at Ajax*, ed. David Stuttard (Bloomsbury, 2019) 155-173

2) "Revealing Divinity in Sophocles' *Antigone*" in *Looking at Antigone*, ed. David Stuttard (Bloomsbury, 2017) 107-120

3) "Remembrance of Things Past" in *Take a Teacher, Make a Friend: Students Write for Elie Wiesel* eds. Michael Zank and Leanne Hope (2014) 29-37

4) "A Transposition of the Final Stanzas in the Parodos of *Oedipus Tyrannus*?" *Classical Quarterly* vol. 60.1 (2010) 1-10

5) "Teaching Euripides' *Bacchae*" in *Approaches to Teaching the Dramas of Euripides* ed. Robin Mitchell-Boyask (2002) 188-202. This volume is part of the MLA Series, *Approaches to Teaching World Literature*

6) "Euripides the Interrogator and the Resurrection of his *Andromache*" review article of William Allan's *The Andromache and Euripidean Tragedy* (Oxford, 2000) in *Classical Bulletin* 77.2 (Winter, 2001) 245-252

7) "Euripides and the Dramaturgy of Crisis" by William Arrowsmith, edited by Stephen Esposito *Literary Imagination: The Review of the Association of Literary Scholars and Critics* 1.2 (1999) 201-26

8) "The Third Stasimon of Sophocles' *Trachiniae*" *Classical World* 91 (1997) 21-38

9) "The Changing Roles of the Sophoclean Chorus" *Arion* 3rd ser., 4 (1996) 85-114

Encyclopedia Articles in ***The Encyclopedia of Greek Tragedy*** **(2013)**
ed. Hanna Roisman, Wiley-Blackwell Publishing

1) "Sophocles: Treatment of Myth" (800 words)
2) "Oedipus" (1,400 words)
3) "Sophocles: gods and fate" (2,100 words)
4) "Sophocles: *Oedipus Tyrannus*" (4,100 words)

Reviews

1) Markantonatos, Andreas (ed.) *Brill's Companion to Sophocles* (2012) *Ancient History Bulletin* (online) 2013 (2,200 words)
2) Carter, D.M. (ed.) *Why Athens? A Reappraisal of Tragic Politics* (2011) *Polis* 30.1 (2013), 383-88
3) Vickers, Michael *Sophocles and Alcibiades: Athenian Politics in Ancient Greek Literature* (2008), *Polis* 28.1 (2011) 5-9
4) Ahrensdorf, Peter *Greek Tragedy and Political Philosophy: Rationalism and Religion in Sophocles' Theban Plays* (2009), *Polis* 28.1 (2011) 9-13
5) Wallace, J. *The Cambridge Introduction to Tragedy* (2007) in *New England Classical Journal* 35.4 (2008) 291-3
6) Gumpert, M. *Grafting Helen: The Abduction of the Classical Past* (2002) in *Classical Review* 54 (2004) 453-5
7) Blondell, Gamel, et al. *Euripides, Women on the Edge: Four Plays by Euripides* (1999) and J. Morwood (trans.) *Euripides, Iphigeneia among the Taurians, Bacchae, Iphigeneia at Aulis, Rhesus* (1999) in *New England Classical Journal* 27.2 (2000) 96-98
8) Morwood, James (trans.) *Euripides, Medea, Hippolytus, Electra, Helen* (1997) Slavitt & Bovie (eds.) *Euripides 1: Medea, Hecuba, Andromache, Bacchae* (1998) Slavitt & Bovie (eds.) *Euripides 2: Hippolytus, Suppliant Women, Helen, Electra, Cyclops* (1998) in *New England Classical Journal* 26.2 (1998) 51-55
9) Edmunds, L. *Theatrical Space and Historical Place in Sophocles' Oedipus at Colonus* in *New England Classical Journal* 25 (August 1997) 21-22
10) Barlow, S. *Euripides: Trojan Women* (1986) and West, M.L *Euripides: Orestes* (1987) in *New England Classical Journal* (1988) 32-34
11) Easterling, P. E. *Sophocles: Trachiniae* (1982) in *American Journal of Philology* 109 (1987) 135-9

<u>Recent External Teaching</u> **<u>Seminars for Middle and High School Teachers (2013-2015)</u>**

1. Homer's *Odyssey* and the Heroic Role of Penelope
   A one-hour presentation to The Senior Summer School (based in Madison, Wisconsin; www.seniorsummerschool.com); a group of 30 senior citizens from around the country; 7-14-15 at 10 Buick St., Boston University
2. Elie Wiesel's *Night* A two-day seminar at Harvard for Boston-area high school teachers under the auspices of the "Teachers as Scholars" Program; May 9 & 16, 2014**.**
3. Homer's *Odyssey* A two-day seminar at Harvard for Boston-area high school teachers under the auspices of the "Teachers as Scholars" Program; March 7 & 14, 2014.
4. Sophocles' *Oedipus* and *Antigone* A two-day seminar at Harvard for Boston-area high

school teachers under the auspices of the "Teachers as Scholars" Program; March 15 & 22, 2013.

5. Homer and Greek Drama — A two-day seminar at Glendale Prep, Phoenix, Arizona, March 11-13, 2013 (lectures were given to the entire school)
6. Sophocles' Theban Cycle — A one-day seminar at Concord-Carlisle High School, Concord, Ma. I taught the English faculty; November 1, 2013.

Lectures at annual meetings

APA = American Philological Society
ACTC = Association for Core Texts and Courses
CAMWS = Classical Association of the Middle, West + South
CAAS = Classical Association of the Atlantic States

1) 2010 APA "*Oedipus Tyrannus* 164-6, the great plague, and Bernard Knox on the date of the play" Anaheim
2) 2009 ACTC "Thucydides and Sophocles on the Limits of the Human City" Memphis
3) 2008 APA "An unnoticed *mirror scene* in Sophocles' *Oedipus Tyrannos*" Chicago
4) 2007 APA "The Date of *Oedipus Rex*" San Diego
5) 2005 ACTC "Odysseus and Sexual Temptation in Homer's *Odyssey*" Vancouver
6) 2004 ACTC " Understanding Greek Tragedy through Martin Heidegger's *Sein und Zeit*" Dallas
7) 2002 ACTC "Why the ancient Greeks wrote tragedies and the ancient Jews and Christians didn't" Atlanta
8) 1996 APA "The Wheel of Fortune in Sophocles' *Women of Trachis*" New York City
9) 1992 APA "Why Sophocles Chose the Choruses He Chose" New Orleans
10) 1992 CAMWS "The Source and Substance of Oedipus' Self-Knowledge" University of Texas, Austin
11) 1990 CAMWS "Competing Visions of Reality in *Oedipus Rex*" University of Missouri, Columbia
12) 1989 APA "Freud, Oedipus, and Working-Through" Boston
13) 1989 CAAS "Sophocles and the Re-evaluation of Greek Women" College Park, Maryland
14) 1987 CAMWS "The Race of the *Sophoi*: Oedipus and Teiresias in the First Stasimon of *Oedipus Tyrannus*" Univ. of Colorado
15) 1985 CAMWS "The Function of the Choral Interludes in Sophocles' *Philoctetes* 391-402 and 507-18" Minneapolis
16) 1984 CAMWS "The Chorus in Sophocles' *Trachiniae*" William and Mary College, Williamsburg
17) 1983 APA "The Chorus in Sophocles' *Philoctetes*" Cincinnati

Lectures at Universities (by invitation)

1) 2018 Mississippi State Univ. "What Can We Learn from Sophocles' *Oedipus the King*" 9-17-18
2) 2012 Tufts University "Performing Sophocles' *Ajax*"
3) 2008 Suffolk University "Thucydides and Sophocles on the limits of the city"
4) 1999 Univ. of Chicago "Freud, Oedipus, & *Working Through*" Oedipus Conference
5) 1995 Boston University "Fate, Chance, and the Gods in *Oedipus Rex*"

B.U. Humanities Foundation, Soc. of Fellows

6) 1992 Boston University "Why did Sophocles choose the choruses he chose?" Harvard/B.U. Conference on the Chorus in Greek Tragedy
7) 1990 Brown University "Freud, Oedipus, and 'Working Through': Why the end of *Oedipus Rex* is so long"
8) 1984 Kent State University "Woman and the City in Ancient Greek Literature"
9) 1984 Middlebury College "The Chorus in *Oedipus Tyrannus*"

Panelist

1) 2013 Panelist in a post-show discussion after a performance of Margaret Atwood's play "The Penelopiad", directed by Elaine Vaan Hogue (Program Head of Theatre Arts at Boston University) at the Calderwood Pavilion at the BCA, Wimberly Theatre, Tremont St, Boston (2-24-13)

Grants

2011 Performance of Sophocles' *Ajax* by "Theater of War." I raised about $12,000 in grant money to get the NYC-based "Theater of War" Drama Company to perform a production of Sophocles' *Ajax* at the Tsai Performance Center on 12-7-11 (Pearl Harbor Day). This was one of the most successful events in the 25 year history of the B.U. Core Curriculum. The show was sold out at Tsai (some 500 in attendance). My idea behind this project was to bring attention to the problem of suicide (1 per day) and PTSD in the U.S. military. I developed this project in coordination with the B.U. Core Curriculum. I was able to get the military brass from almost all the ROTC programs in the greater Boston area as well as many Iraq and Afghanistan vets. I raised the grant money from internal and external sources (at BU, from CAS Academic Enhancement Fund, Dean of Students, Center for the Humanities, Core Curriculum, School of Theology Office of the Dean of Community Life and Lifelong Learning, STH Center for Practical Theology, Dept. of Classical Studies; Red Sox Foundation, and Mass. General Hospital Home Base Program)

2006 Scholarship from the Università degli Studi di Padova and Boston University to study 16th and 17th century editions of Greek drama in Padova (June)

2005 Mass. Dept of Education, $27,400 grant for a 10 day Content Institute entitled "Tragedy and Hope: Investigating Tragic and Anti-Tragic World Views through Drama, Fiction, and Poetry" (June-July 2005) I am the principal academic behind this Institute and I have selected a team of four colleagues to assist me.

2004 Scholarship from the Istituto Universitario Orientale di Napoli and Boston Univ. to study the great fresco at the Villa of the Mysteries in Pompeii for 3 weeks (July-August)

1994-95 Junior Fellowship (Boston University Humanities Foundation)

1994-95 Harvard Widener Library Pass recipient (Boston Univ. Humanities Foundation)

1984 Summer Research Grant (Kent State University)

1979 Fulbright-Hays (American Academy in Rome and Villa Vergiliana in Naples)

Teaching Experience

I. Boston University (1987-2013)

a) Core Curriculum: The Ancient World (many times) CAS CC101
2012-2017: Course Coordinator for CC 101 (in charge of 15 faculty members)

b) Ancient Greek Language

CL 791	Thucydides	GRS
CL 791	Euripides *Bacchae*, *Medea*, and *Hippolytus,*	GRS
CL 791	Sophocles *Philoctetes* and *Trachiniae*	GRS

CL 791	Sophocles *Oedipus Rex* and *Oedipus Coloneus*	GRS
CL 791	Survey of Archaic Greek Literature	GRS
CL 561	Thucydides and Herodotus	CAS
CL 491	Herodotus, Thucydides, Aristophanes, Eurpides, Sophocles	CAS
CL 462	Sophocles' *Trachiniae*	CAS
CL 391	Sophocles *Antigone*	CAS
CL 391	Sophocles *Oedipus Rex*	CAS
CL 391	Sophocles *Ajax*	CAS
CL 391	Sophocles *Trachiniae*	CAS
CL 391	Plato *Apology of Socrates*	CAS
CL 262	Herodotus	CAS
CL 262	Homer *Odyssey*	CAS
CL 262	Homer *Iliad*	CAS
CL 262	Plato *Apology*	CAS
CL 261	Herodotus	CAS
CL 261	Plato	CAS
CL 261	New Testament (numerous times)	CAS
CL 162	Intermeditate	CAS
CL 161	Beginning	CAS

c) Latin

CL111	1. Beginning	CAS
CL115	2. Beginning Intensive	CAS
CL112	3. Intermediate	CAS
CL329	4. Roman Comedy (Plautus)	CAS

d) Translation

CL104	1. Greek/Latin Roots of the English Language	CAS
CL101	2. Greek Civilization	CAS
CL324	3. Greek Drama in Translation	CAS
CL364	4. Studies in Greek Tragedy	CAS
CL213	5. Greek and Roman Mythology	CAS
CL326	6. Ancient Epic (*Iliad*, *Odyssey*, and *Aeneid*)	CAS
CL406	7. Euripides and Aristophanes	CAS
CL 406	8. Thucydides and Euripides	CAS

e) Examiner 1. Devisor / Grader of M.A./ Ph.D. Greek Language and History of Greek Lit exams almost every year

f) First Reader 1. Numerous Independent Work for Distinction Projects (seniors)

II. Intercollegiate Center for Classical Studies (Rome, Italy) Stanford Univ. (1985-86)

III. Kent State University (1983-5; 1986-7)

Teaching Outside Boston University (invited positions)

2014 "Teachers as Scholars" (Harvard University)
A two-day seminar on Homer's *Odyssey* for Boston-area high school teachers (March, 2014)

2014 "Teachers as Scholars" (Harvard University)
A two-day seminar on Elie Wiesel's "Night" for Boston-area high school teachers (May, 2014)

2013 "Teachers as Scholars" (Harvard University)
A two-day seminar on Sophocles' *Antigone and Oedipus the King* for Boston-area high school teachers

2010 "Greek Tragedy's Perspective on the victims of the Trojan War"
A two-day seminar for 15 teachers from Boston area middle and high schools. The site was Bedford H.S. in Bedford, Ma. I was invited to do this seminar by the Superintendent of Schools, and one of her coordinators, Susan Rozen.

2009 "Why and How to teach Homer's Odyssey".
A two-day seminar for 15 teachers from Boston area middle and high schools. The site was Bedford H.S. in Bedford, Ma. I was invited to do this seminar by the Superintendent of Schools, and one of her coordinators, Susan Rozen.

2007 "Penelope and the Power of One". A three-day lecture series for the Center for the
Advancement of Character and Ethics" (CAEC) run by Prof. Bernice Lerner of Boston University's School of Education. I was invited to be an Associate Scholar and give three days of lectures on Homer's *Odyssey* to three of CAEC's Teacher Academies at different sites in South Carolina. The audience at each site was 40 high school teachers from some of the poorest high schools in the state.

2007 "Teachers as Scholars" (Harvard University)
A two-day seminar on Homer's *Odyssey* for Boston-area high school teachers

2005 and 2006:
"Tragedy and Hope: Investigating Tragic and Anti-Tragic World Views through Drama, Fiction, and Poetry" (June-July 2005 and 2006), Mass. Dept of Education, $27,400 grant for a 10 day Content Institute in which I was the lead academic and gave seven lectures in addition to leading ten all-day seminars:
"Homer's *Odyssey*: What is home?"
"Homer's *Odyssey*: Who is Penelope?"
"Sophocles' *Antigone*: female heroism and the destruction of the city"
"Euripides' *Medea*: female heroism and the destruction of the home"
"The *Book of Genesis*: the meaning of beginning"
"Elie Wiesel's *Night*: heroism in darkness"
"Athens and Jerusalem: Tragic and Anti-Tragic World-Views"

2005: "Teachers as Scholars" (Harvard University)
A two day seminar on Homer's *Odyssey* for Boston-area high school teachers
2004: "Teachers as Scholars" (Harvard University)
A two day seminar on Homer's *Odyssey* for Boston-area high school teachers

Service to Boston University

Director of Undergraduate Studies in Classics, 2008-2011

Director, Latin and Classical Humanities M.A.T Program 2002-5

Faculty Lecturer on B.U. Alumni Travel Programs

1. Sicily, 2002 (Nov. 16-25) - five lectures on the history, art, and culture of Sicily
2. Istanbul to Barcelona, 2000 (May 29-June 14) – six lectures on some of the many sites visited in Turkey, Greece, Malta, Italy, France, and Spain

Founder and Director of the B.U. Latin and Greek Scholarship Contests

Creator of the annual Boston University Latin and Greek Contests. From 1994-2005 I ran these contests, collaborating with the Office of the President and the Offices of Admissions, Enrollment Services, and Conference Services to stage this major outreach program between the Department of Classical Studies and over 1500 high schools in all six New England states as well as New York and New Jersey.

Our goal is to attract outstanding high school seniors to Boston University by means of a Latin and a Greek competition that awards roughly seven scholarships with an approximate value of $500,000 each year. The contest results in the matriculation of many of these talented students and fosters undergraduate interest in a classical education. We invite the top 200 scorers and their parents to an on-campus banquet each November. Beyond the scholarship recipients the Contest attracts between 30-60 academically gifted students to the University each year.

Director of the B.U. Greek Scholarship Contest, 2012

Guest Lectures for Elie Wiesel's seminars

2009: Aeschylus' *Prometheus Bound* Seminar on "Biblical Choices"
2008 : Sophocles' *Oedipus at Colonus* Seminar on "Faith and Prophecy"
2007: Euripides' *Medea* Seminar on "Faith and Tragedy"
2006: Sophocles' *Oedipus* and *The Book of Job* Seminar on "Faith and Despair"
2003: Aeschylus' *Prometheus* and *Book of Job* Seminar on "Faith and Heresy in the Ancient and Modern Worlds"
2001: Sophocles' *Antigone* Seminar on "Hope and Despair"

Guest Lectures to the Core Curriculum (Boston University)

Penelope in Homer's *Odyssey* 2000-2013
Sophocles' *Ajax* 2009-2013
Aeschylus' *Eumenides* 2000
Aeschylus' *Agamemnon* 1998
Aeschylus' *Agamemnon*: 1993

Homer's *Iliad*	1993
Homer's *Odyssey*	1992 and 1993
Greek Tragedy	1989 and 1990

Committees at Boston University

Chair	Faculty Council Budget Committee	2004-7
Vice-Chair	University Council Budget Committe	2004- 7
Chair	Faculty Council Nominating Committee	2003-5
Executive Committee Member, Faculty Council		2004-7
Faculty Council	member	2002-7
Dean's Committee on Student Retention + Graduation		2001
Director of Undergraduate Studies, Classics Dept.		2006-
Director of MAT program in Latin and Classical Studies		2004-6
Humanities Curriculum Committee (CAS)		1995-2000; 2012-13
Hellenist Search Committee (Classics Dept)		2004-06
Undergraduate Greek Curriculum Committee		2002-

Advising

Advisor for College of Arts & Sciences students 2002-06
Dissertation Committees: 7 Senior Honors Thesis Committees: 6
Faculty Advisor to Classics House, 1990 -95
Faculty Advisor to the Boston University Zen Society, 1996-2007
Faculty Advisor to the Boston University Games Club, 2004-
Assisted in Core Curriculum production of Aeschylus' *Libation Bearers,* 1993
Recommender to over 150 students for Rhodes Scholarships, Boston University Humanities Foundation Grants, graduate, law, and medical schools, etc.

Miscellaneous Service (House master positions)

Faculty-in-Residence, Sleeper Hall, West Campus 1996-2001
Faculty-in-Residence, Honors House, Carlton St., Brookline 2002-2010

Journal Referee

American Journal of Philology
Arion, A Journal of Humanities and the Classics
New England Classical Journal
Classical World
Classical Bulletin
Classical Review

Conferences

Assisted in creating and planning the Boston University and Harvard University Conference entitled "The Chorus in Greek Tragedy", April 1992
(proceedings published in two volumes of *Arion*, 1995-96)