Henry Gruber

Curriculum vitae

Department of History, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill

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**EDUCATION**

**Harvard University:**

PhD, History, Spring 2023

Dissertation: *Wars and Rumors of War: Archaeology, Violence, and the end of Roman Spain*, advised by Michael McCormick.

**Affiliated Institutions:**

University of Alcalá de Henares, Spain, Fall 2019

University of Málaga, Spain, Spring 2020 (briefly…)

**University of California, Los Angeles:**

Post Baccalaureate Certification in Classical Languages, with distinction, Spring 2015

**University of Chicago:**

Bachelor of Arts, 2012

Majors: History, with honors; Philosophy

**Awards and Fellowships:**

2022-2023: Dumbarton Oaks Dissertation Completion Fellowship

2022: Honorable Mention, Women’s Classical Caucus best pre-PhD Paper, for “Armentaria”

2021: Harvard History Prize Instructorship

2019-2020: Frederick Sheldon Traveling Research Fellowship

2019: Harvard History Department Summer Travel Fellowship

2017: Harvard History Department Summer Travel Fellowship

2016: Harvard GSAS Pre-dissertation Research Grant

2012: Emil Karafiol Prize in European and International History, University of Chicago

2011: Phillip E. Montag Summer Research Fellowship, University of Chicago

2011: PRISM Research Grant, University of Chicago

Harvard Office of Undergraduate Education Certificate of Distinction in Teaching: Fall 2018, Spring 2019, Fall 2020, Spring 2021.

**PUBLICATIONS, PRESENTATIONS, TEACHING, SERVICE**

**Publications:**

(Under review): “Plundering and Barbarian Identity in the Late Roman West.”

(Under review): “Food, Philosophy, and the Imperial Subject in Seneca and Petronius.”

(Under review): “Isidore of Seville's composite anecdote about Corinthian bronze and the editing of the classical past.”

(In preparation, with Alfonso Fanjul Peraza): “New radiocarbon dates from the olive factory at

Los Pinos I and the question of fourth-century oil production.”

Forthcoming 2024, in the *Journal of Late Antiquity*: “Eastern Mediterranean Fine Ware Imports

to Iberia, 400-700, and the Economic Impact of the Justinianic Pandemic.”

2023? (In press, proofs received March 2020): “The Vandal Balearics,” in *Las Islas Baleares*

*durante la antigüedad tardía (siglos III-X)*, ed. Miguel Ángel Cau Ontiveros, 48-59. Oxford: Archaeopress.

2018: “Indirect evidence for the social impact of the Justinianic Pandemic: Episcopal burial

and conciliar legislation in Visigothic Hispania.” *Journal of Late Antiquity* 11.1 (Spring 2018), 193-215.

2014: “Review: *A Handbook of Jewish Literature in Late Antiquity*, by Eyal Ben-Eliyahu,

Yehuda Cohn, and Fergus Millar,” with Ra’anan Boustan. *Journal of Late Antiquity* 7.2 (Fall 2014), 360-362.

**Invited Academic Talks and Professional Conference Papers and Presentations:**

2023: “Materiality, Violence, and the end of Roman Spain,” invited talk at the University of

North Carolina, Chapel Hill, January 26, 2023.

2022: “Plundering violence in late Roman Spain,” invited talk at Southern California Friends of

Ancient History, University of California, Santa Barbara, November 12, 2022

2022: “Plundering and Barbarian Identity in the Late Roman West,” at the New England

Historical Association Spring Meeting, Lowell, MA, April 23, 2022

2022: “Recovering Armentaria, Gregory of Tours’ Mother, through her Favorite Miracles,” at

On Outgroups and Muted Groups: A Conference in Honor of Amy Richlin, University of

California, Los Angeles, April 2, 2022. Honorable mention, WCC best pre-PhD paper

2021: “The Justinianic Pandemic in Iberia,” panel participant at The First Pandemic:

Transformative Disaster or Footnote in History?, Hannover, Germany, September 22-24, 2021 (virtual)

2021: “The Justinianic Pandemic,” part of the Joan Palevsky Memorial Panel, University of

California, Los Angeles, April 22, 2021 (virtual)

2021: “Guilds, unions, and ‘neo-feudal’ institutions,” presentation at roundtable discussion

“Graduate Medievalists and the Institutions We Work In,” Medieval Academy of America Annual Meeting, April 16, 2021 (virtual) [Postponed from 2020 meeting due to COVID-19]

2021: “Systems Change without Demographic Collapse? Trans-Mediterranean trade and the

Justinianic Pandemic,” Society for Classical Studies Annual Meeting (virtual), January 10, 2021

\*2020: “La ceramica del mediterraneo orientale nella Penisola Iberica: commercio e connettività

nel quinto e sesto secolo,” Università degli Studi di Bergamo, Bergamo, IT, March 11, 2020

\*[Postponed due to COVID-19]

2019: “From *otium* to *negotium*: the reuse of baths as industrial sites in Spanish late antiquity,”

54th Annual Meeting of the International Congress on Medieval Studies, Kalamazoo, MI, May 8, 2019

2018: “Pandemic Disease: The Biggest Player in Humanity’s Past?” Poster presentation, Harvard

Global Health Initiative’s Outbreak Week at Harvard University, September 24-28, 2018

2016: “Plague in Valencia, 546: A case study in the integration of archaeological and written

evidence,” at the European Association of Archaeologists 2016 Annual Meeting, Vilnius, Lithuania, September 2, 2016

2015: “The Same Lunch Every Day: The Ethics of Eating in Seneca’s Moral Letters,” at Bodies

in Revolt: Erotics, Metaphor and Materiality in the Ancient World, UCLA, February 7, 2015

**Workshop, Seminar, and Graduate Conference Presentations:**

2023: “Destruction by fire in Spain’s fifth century,” invited talk at the Ancient Mediterranean

Working Group, University of California, Riverside, March 15, 2023.

2022: “Archaeology, Ethnicity, and Race,” Harvard Premodern Race Seminar, Harvard

University, February 4, 2022

2019: “Material contexts for religious conflict in sixth-century Iberia: the case of Mérida,”

Harvard Medieval History Workshop, March 12, 2019

2019: “The Hayes 91B Horizon: Ceramics and Trade,” paper at the 2019 Harvard – Yale

Conference in Medieval History, February 15, 2019

2018: “Early Design Decisions in Digital Projects,” talk at Harvard Digital Futures Consortium,

September 25, 2018

2017: “Zonaras, Cassius Dio, and the uses of Roman history in twelfth-century Byzantium,”

paper at the 2017 Harvard-Yale Conference in Medieval History, February 4, 2017

2016: “The sixth-century economy and the ceramic evidence from the site of Sanisera, Menorca

(Spain),” at the Medieval History Workshop at Dumbarton Oaks, March 5, 2016

2013: “Occupy Menorca: The Vandal Dream of a Maritime Empire in the Ruins of Rome,” at

*Uti tabes invaserat*: Decay, Disintegration, and Aftermath, Cornell, March 9, 2013

2011: “Searching for Vandal Spain,” at the PRISM Undergraduate Research Symposium,

University of Chicago, October 7, 2011

2011: “Oh My Goth! They Vandalized the Legion!” at CCIHE Undergraduate Research

Conference, University of Chicago, May 26, 2011

**Conferences, workshops, and panels organized; sessions chaired:**

2023: Organizer and presider, “Slow and Fast Violence in Late Antiquity,” Society for Classical

Studies Annual Meeting, New Orleans, Louisiana, January 2023

2022: Organizer, “Varieties of Violence in the Late Roman West” (I and II), panels at the New

England Historical Association, April 23, 2022

2021-2022: Graduate student coordinator, Harvard Faculty of Arts and Sciences Premodern Race

Seminar

2020: Organizer, “COVID Seminar Series,” weekly online historical discussions about past

pandemics, social movements, and other topics. March - July 2020 on Zoom

2019: Co-organizer, Harvard-Yale Graduate Student Conference in Medieval History

2019: Session Organizer and Chair, “Was there capitalism in the Middle Ages?,” 54th Annual

Meeting of the International Congress on Medieval Studies, Kalamazoo, MI, May 8, 2019

2018-2019: Coordinator, Harvard Medieval History Workshop

2018: Session Chair, “What is Medieval History? Digital History, Archaeological Science, and

Alternative Approaches to Historical Argumentation,” 53rd Annual Meeting of the International Congress on Medieval Studies, Kalamazoo, MI, May 13, 2018

2017: Co-organizer, Harvard-Yale Graduate Student Conference in Medieval History

2016-2017: Co-coordinator, Harvard Medieval History Workshop

**Guest lectures, nonacademic publications, and public engagement:**

2022: “Vineyards of Myth: A pre-concert introduction to the ancient Mediterranean,” Jacaranda

chamber music series, Los Angeles, CA, September 24, 2022

2022: “Don’t be stoic: Roman stoicism’s origins reveal its perniciousness,” *Psyche Magazine,*

June 2022

2020: “Pandemics Past: Thucydides and Procopius on Plague in the Ancient World,” lecture as

part of HGSU-UAW “COVID Night School,” April 22, 2020

2020: “I should have known! Reflections on teaching history to Kobe Bryant,” *N+1 Magazine*,

February 7, 2020

2019: “The Fall of the Roman Empire: How can the natural sciences help us find out what

happened?” Guest lecture (repeat x2), Civil Engineering 1.057: Heritage Material Science, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, November 26, 2019

2019: “A Historian Explains Jon and Daenerys’ Biggest Mistakes in *Game of Thrones’* Battle of

Winterfell,” *TV Guide*, April 29, 2019

2018: “The Fall of the Roman Empire: How can the natural sciences help us find out what

happened?” Guest lecture (repeat), Civil Engineering 1.057: Heritage Material Science, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, November 20, 2018

2018: “Writing History from Material Culture,” guest lecture, 21H.134/14.70: Medieval

Economic History in a Comparative Perspective, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, November 14, 2018

2018: “Athletes, heroes, and civic identity: the view from antiquity,” invited speaker

presentation at Granity Studios, Los Angeles, CA, January 7, 2018

2017: “The Fall of the Roman Empire: How can the natural sciences help us find out what

happened?” Guest lecture, Civil Engineering 1.057: Heritage Material Science, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, November 15, 2017

2017: “What lessons can we learn from the fall of Rome?” Tuesday Tech Talks, Innovative

Labs, Cambridge MA, September 26, 2017

2016: “Erosion of norms, system collapse, and the end of the Roman Republic,” invited lecture

at Harvard’s Kennedy School of Government, November 29, 2016

**Participation in Seminars and Workshops:**

“Winter GIS Institute,” Center for Geographical Analysis, Harvard University, Jan 8-18, 2019

“The Origins of al-Andalus: Conquest, Islamization and Arabization," Casa Árabe - CSIC,

Cordoba (Spain), July 17-22, 2017

**Research Assistant Work**

2022 (Summer): Project overseer for Harvard BLISS Fellowship, “Digitally Mapping the

Creation and Movement of Ancient Wealth,” and project overseer for Harvard SHARP Fellowship, “A Justinianic Pandemic Story Map.”

2021-2022 academic year: editor of Justinianic Pandemic Sourcebook project, Harvard

University; involved overseeing team of graduate and undergraduate researchers

2021 (Fall)—Research Assistant, Sarah Spence

2021 (Summer)—Mentor for Harvard BLISS undergraduate researcher

2020—Summer Research Fellow, Democracy Policy Network

2016—Present: Harvard Initiative for the Science of the Human Past.

This includes ongoing work on the Harvard Historical Ice Core Project, as well as participation in the Reccopolis Revealed Workshop, the Harvard Historical Lead Pollution Summit, and the inaugural meetings of the Max Planck-Harvard Research Center for the Archaeoscience of the Ancient Mediterranean in both Cambridge, MA and Jena, Germany

2016—Present: Harvard’s Digital Atlas of Roman and Medieval Civilization / Mapping Past

Societies

2013—2015: R.A. for Prof. Ra’anan Boustan, Dept. of History, UCLA

**Teaching:**

Instructor of record / course designer, “How Empires Fall” (Spring 2021)

 History Prize Instructorship Seminar, Harvard University

Teaching Fellow for “The Fall of Rome” (Fall 2020)

 Taught by Michael McCormick, Dept. of History, Harvard University

Teaching Fellow for “Elections in a time of democratic stress: the 2020 Election in a Global

Context,” taught by E. J. Dionne, Harvard University (Fall 2020)

Course designer / teacher for “The Materiality of the Ancient Mediterranean,” January@GSAS

Public Mini Course, January 2020

Teaching Fellow for “First Empires: Power & Propaganda in the Ancient World” (Spring 2019)

 Taught by Professor Gabriel Pizzorno, Dept. of History, Harvard

Teaching Assistant for “Medieval Economic History” (Fall 2018), MIT

Taught by Professor Shane Bobrycki, Dept. of History, MIT

Teaching Fellow for “The Ancient Greek Hero” (Fall 2018)

Taught by Professor Gregory Nagy, Dept. of Classics, Harvard

Teaching Fellow for “What is Atlantic History?” (Spring 2018)

 Taught by Professor Mary Lewis, Dept. of History, Harvard

Teaching Fellow for “Racial Capitalism and American Imperialism: The US between the

Revolution and the Civil War” (Spring 2018)

 Taught by Professor Walter Johnson, Dept. of History, Harvard

Head Teaching Fellow for “Medieval Europe” (Fall 2017)

Taught by Professor Michael McCormick, Dept. of History, Harvard

Teaching Fellow for “The Ancient Greek Hero” (Fall 2017)

Taught by Professor Greg Nagy, Dept. of Classics, Harvard

Reader for “History of The Roman Empire 284-641” (Spring 2015)

 Taught by Professor Ra’anan Boustan, Dept. of History, UCLA

Reader for Ancient Lives: “The Art of Biography” (Fall 2014)

 Taught by Professor Robert Gurval, Dept. of Classics, UCLA

Designed and taught “What Can We Ever Know?”, University of Chicago Cascade! (Fall 2011)

I designed a five-week course in the theory and practice of philosophical skepticism and taught it to (some rather skeptical) high school students from Chicago’s South Side

**Organizations:**

Harvard Graduate Student Union – UAW Local 5118

Harvard Initiative for the Science of the Human Past

Max Planck-Harvard Research Center for the Archaeoscience of the Ancient Mediterranean

Medieval Academy of America, Member

Society for Classical Studies, Member

American Institute of Archaeology, Member

European Association of Archaeologists, Member (lapsed)

**Departmental Service:**

Panelist at History Graduate Student Association Panels “What I wish I knew as a G1,” “What I wish I knew before exams,” “How to write a prospectus,” and “Tips for new teachers.”

Given talk on “How to Deliver a Conference Paper” to first-year graduate students, three times

Have graded senior theses in 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022 (3)

**Senior Theses Advised**

2021-2022: Lev Cohen, Social Studies, on 19th century British workers’ solidarity with India

2019-2020: Drake Marshall, History, on tanks in the First World War

2018-2019: Isaac Walker, History, on late antique Byzantine-Arab frontier forts

2018-2019: Leila Hirschfield, History, on Zionism, archaeology, and the siege of Masada

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL FIELD WORK**

**2022, 2023: Falerii Novi Project, Lazio, Italy**

Area 2 co-supervisor.

**2016, 2017, 2018, 2021: Reccopolis, Spain**

Joint project of the University of Alcalá de Henares, University of Frankfurt, and Harvard University led by Lauro Olmo Enciso, Joachim Henning (2016), and Michael McCormick

2016: geomagnetic survey, percussion coring, and wet-sieving as well as surface survey

2017: Excavation of palace, and a sounding trench to check geomagnetic survey; began macrobotanical study of the palace layers using flotation. I also used 3D scanning technology to create stratigraphic models of our sounding trench

2018: Sunk sounding trenches to check results of our geomagnetic surveys; continued flotation

2021: Organized field survey campaign, participated in geomagnetometry, LIDAR scans; led preliminary underwater survey of potential riverine port structures

**2014: Tel Megiddo, Israel.**

Iron Age II site in the Levant, excavation directed by Israel Finkelstein, Tel Aviv University

**2010, 2011, 2013: Ecomuseo Cap de Cavalleria, Menorca, Spain**

2010: I attended the Ecomuseo Field School; invited back to do my own research

2011: Spent six weeks excavating and researching my senior thesis

2013: I assisted the excavations of a 5th/6th c. Roman town and assisted SCUBA survey of the port. Categorized and catalogued the amphora finds from the area around the city’s late antique basilica and taught students basic ceramic identification

**2007: San Vincenzo al Volturno, Molise, Italy**

Volunteer for 5 weeks on the excavation of an 8th/9th century monastery in central Italy

**Applicable archaeological skills:**

Experience with excavation, field survey, percussion coring, geomagnetometry, wet and dry sieving, use of the total station, pXRF analysis. PADI advanced certified SCUBA diver with underwater archaeological survey experience. Knowledge of late Roman ceramic typologies, especially Spanish amphorae and African Red Slip Ware. Excel, QGIS, Filemaker Pro, Tableau.

**LANGUAGES**

Latin: advanced reading proficiency

Ancient (Attic) Greek: reading proficiency

Spanish: excellent speaking and reading; advanced writing

Italian: reading and speaking proficiency, can write if needed

French: reading proficiency

Catalan, Portuguese: self-taught, but major languages of research

German: reading proficiency

Hittite: 2 quarters only as undergrad, but deep love of cuneiform remains