Stanford



# James Flynn

Ph.D. Student in Classics, admitted Autumn 2023

Curriculum Vitae available Online

## Bio

### EDUCATION AND CERTIFICATIONS

- MA, Stanford University , Religious Studies (2026)
- MA, Yale University , History (2022)
- BA, Brown University , Classics and Cognitive Neuroscience (2020)

## Research & Scholarship

### CURRENT RESEARCH AND SCHOLARLY INTERESTS

James Flynn is a PhD student in Ancient History. He focuses on the political, economic, and religious history of ancient Greece, and on connections with other contemporary societies, particularly ancient India. He is interested in the role of religion in legitimizing political institutions from a comparative perspective, and in the subordination of religion to political authority in the Greek poleis. For his undergraduate thesis at Brown, he compared trends among Hellenistic philosophers and Indian ascetics of withdrawal from society. For his Master's capstone project at Yale, he wrote about the historical impact of climate change on 1st century BCE South Asia. He also pursued a second MA in religious studies, with a focus on Indian religions, and he studies the languages Sanskrit and Pali in addition to Latin and Greek. He is interested in using epigraphy and papyrology for historical sources. He is also interested in applying social scientific methods to large, cross-cultural datasets, looking for long-term trends in ancient history.

## Teaching

### COURSES

**2025-26**

- Intermediate Greek: Homer's Iliad: CLASSICS 13G (Spr)

## Publications

### PUBLICATIONS

- **Withdrawal in Ancient Indian and Hellenistic Culture: the Ideal Spaces for Cultivating Detachment** *Old World: Journal of Ancient Africa and Eurasia*
  Flynn, J.
  2026; 6 (1): 1-46
- **Schol ad Il.9.320: An Intratextual Appreciation** *CLASSICAL WORLD*
  Flynn, J.
  2025; 118 (2)

- **Famine, Social Disorder, and the Writing Down of Buddhist Scripture: Did the Eruption of Alaska's Okmok Volcano Affect Sri Lanka in the First Century <sc>b</sc>.<sc>c</sc>.<sc>e</sc>.?** *JOURNAL OF INTERDISCIPLINARY HISTORY*
  Flynn, J.
  2025; 55 (4)
- **Alexander and Ashoka compared: Two distinct models of sacred kingship in antiquity** *HISTORY AND ANTHROPOLOGY*
  Flynn, J.
  2026; 37 (1): 147-164