James Benjamin Flynn

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Education

- Stanford University, PhD Candidate in Classics (Ancient History track)
    - Ian Morris, primary dissertation advisor
- Stanford University, MA in Religious Studies, 2026
    - Paul Harrison, master's degree advisor
- Yale University, MA in History, 2022
- Brown University, AB in Classics and AB in Cognitive Neuroscience, 2020

Academic Publications

- 2027. *Travel in the Roman Mind*. With Grant Parker. 1st ed. Routledge Sourcebooks for the Ancient World. Routledge. (Manuscript submitted; publication on March 1, 2027).
- 2026. "Withdrawal in Ancient Indian and Hellenistic Culture: The Ideal Spaces for Cultivating Detachment." *Old World: Journal of Ancient Africa and Eurasia* 6 (1): 1–46. https://doi.org/10.1163/26670755-00601007.
- 2026. "Alexander and Ashoka Compared: Two Distinct Models of Sacred Kingship in Antiquity." *History and Anthropology* 37 (1): 147–64. https://doi.org/10.1080/02757206.2025.2498021.
- 2025. "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 b.c.e.?" *The Journal of Interdisciplinary History* 55 (4): 457–83. https://doi.org/10.1162/jinh_a_02071.
- 2025. "Schol ad *Il* .9.320: An Intratextual Appreciation." *Classical World* 118 (2): 115–25. https://doi.org/10.1353/clw.2025.a952344.

Presentations and Conferences

- 2027: co-host of upcoming conference *Rethinking Comparison: Comparative Methodologies for Ancient History*, April 16-17, 2027, for The Future of Classics Initiative at Stanford.
- 2027: "Schol ad *Il* .9.320: An Intratextual Appreciation," 2027 AIA/SCS Joint Annual Meeting
- 2026: "The Extreme Climate in South Asia after the Eruption of 43 BCE," *Association of Ancient Historians Conference 2026*

- 2026: "Schol ad *Il* .9.320: An Intratextual Appreciation," *Classical Association of the Canadian West Annual Conference 2026*
- 2025: "Ritual Drink and Social Structure: Comparing *Soma* and *Kykeon* in Vedic and Greek Religion," *Stanford Classics Graduate Colloquium Fall 2025*
- 2025: "The Dynamics of Coalitions as a Bulwark against Imperialism: Case Studies in the Levant and Greece," *Stanford Classics Graduate Colloquium Winter 2025*
- 2022: "Climate and Society in 3rd Century Egypt and India," *Yale Graduate Research Symposium in the Environmental Humanities*
- 2022: "Famine, social disorder, and the writing down of Buddhist Scripture: Did the eruption of Alaska's Okmok volcano affect Indian Civilization in the first century BCE?" *First Annual Graduate Student History Conference at Boston College*
- 2022: "Famine, social disorder, and the writing down of Buddhist Scripture: Did the eruption of Alaska's Okmok volcano affect Indian Civilization in the first century BCE?" *Thirteenth Annual Graduate History Conference at Syracuse University*
- 2022: "Famine, social disorder, and the writing down of Buddhist Scripture: Did the eruption of Alaska's Okmok volcano affect Indian Civilization in the first century BCE?" *Archaia Forum at Yale*
- 2021: "Famine, social disorder, and the writing down of Buddhist Scripture: Did the eruption of Alaska's Okmok volcano affect Indian Civilization in the first century BCE?" *Graduate Research Symposium in the Environmental Humanities at Yale*

Book Reviews

- 2021: *The Sacred Band* by James Romm; published for NEH's *Humanities Magazine* as "Lovers and Soldiers"
- 2020: Sparta's First Attic *War* by Paul Rahe; published for *The American Interest* as "In Search of Sparta"

Research Experience

- 2026: CESTA Digital Humanities Research Scholar for the project "Mapping Political Fragmentation in the Ancient World"
- 2024: Seshat: Global History Databank by the Evolution Institute, contributor
- 2023-present: *Travel in the Roman Mind*, co-author of sourcebook with Grant Parker (Routledge)
- 2022-2023: Yale Nile Initiative: Research Assistant to Joseph Manning
- 2022-2023: International (Digital) Dura-Europos Archive, Graduate Assistant in Inscriptional Documentation

- 2021: “Slavery in Late Antiquity,” Research Assistant with Noel Lenski
- 2018: Brown University Undergraduate Teaching Research Award with Graham Oliver

Teaching Experience

- 2026: Tutor for General Exam in Greek History, Classics
- 2026: Instructor for “Intermediate Greek: Homer’s Iliad” (Classics 13G)
- 2025-2026: Greek Language Tutor, Classics
- 2025: Teaching Assistant for Michael Shanks, “Ten Things: An Archaeology of Design” (Archaeology 151)
- 2025: Teaching Assistant for Justin Leidwanger, “Engineering the Roman Empire” (Classics 168)
- 2024: Teaching Assistant for Ian Morris, “Ancient Empires: the Near East” (History 117)

Technical Training

- 2025: “Models and Comparisons for Ancient History,” seminar taught by Walter Scheidel
- 2025: Greek Epigraphy Seminar on Paros hosted by Hellenic Education and Research Center
- 2024: “Papyri and the Society of Graeco-Roman Egypt,” course at Radboud University hosted by Mark de Kreij
- 2024: Gandhari Buddhist manuscript reading group led by Joseph Marino
- 2023: Numismatics seminar at Stanford taught by Walter Scheidel
- 2023: “Intensive Introductory Workshop in the Paleosciences for Pre-Modernists” at Princeton, hosted by John Haldon
- 2022: Papyrology seminar at Yale taught by Joseph Manning
- 2021: Greek Epigraphy Seminar on Paros hosted by Hellenic Education and Research Center
- 2019: Intercollegiate Center for Classical Studies (study abroad)

Awards and Honors

- 2026: CESTA Digital Humanities Research Scholarship
- 2022: ARCHAIA Certificate, Yale University
- 2021: Phi Beta Kappa, Brown University

- 2020: Magna Cum Laude, Brown University
- 2020: Honors in Classics, Brown University
- 2020: Lucius Lyon Thesis Award, Brown University
- 2020: Lucius Lyon Fund for Latin (1st place), Brown University
- 2020: Lafayette Sabine Foster Prize for Greek (2nd place), Brown University
- 2016: President Francis Wayland Prize for Latin (2nd place), Brown University

Languages

- Ancient Greek (advanced)
- Latin (advanced)
- Sanskrit (advanced)
- Pali (intermediate)
- German (passed translation exam)
- French (passed translation exam)

Professional Experience

- 2020: *Humanities Magazin*e, Editorial Intern
- 2019: *The American Interest*, Editorial Intern

Other Publications

- **The American Interest**
  - "Will China's Next Crisis Be in Tibet?" in the November/December 2019 Issue
- **NEH's Humanities Magazine**
  - "Buddha and Mind" in Humanities Summer 2021, Vol. 42, Issue 3
  - "NEH Grants" in Humanities Summer 2020, Vol. 41, Issue 3
  - "Around the Nation" in Humanities Summer 2020, Vol. 41, Issue 3
- **The Brown Classical Journal**
  - "The Alexander Mosaic," BCJ Vol. 32, 2020
  - "Tacitus' Account of 64 CE: The Destructive Theatrics of Nero," *BCJ* Vol. 31, 2019

- “Useful Tradition: The Political Role of the Delphic Oracle in Archaic Greece,” *BCJ* Vol. 30, 2018

- **Annotations and Abstractions at Boston College**
  - “Famine, Social Disorder, and the Writing Down of Buddhist Scripture,” published on Sep. 2, 2022