

James Benjamin Flynn

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EDUCATION

- Yale University**, *M.A. in History* New Haven, CT | grad. Dec. 2022
- Brown University**, *A.B. in Classics (Latin and Greek); A.B. in Cognitive Neuroscience* Providence, RI | grad. Dec. 2020
GPA: 3.91; Honors in Classics, Magna Cum Laude, Phi Beta Kappa
- The Branson School**, High School Degree Ross, CA | grad. June 2016

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Yale Nile Initiative

Research Assistant

New Haven, CT | June 2022 - present

- Work under Yale Professor of History and Classics Joseph Manning on an interdisciplinary project on climate change in ancient history funded by the National Science Foundation
- Conduct research on the climate in ancient South Asia c. 600 BCE - 600 CE, using literary, epigraphic, archaeological, numismatic, and paleoclimatic evidence
- Will be listed as co-author in upcoming PNAS article by Joe McConnel *et al.* on a climatic event in East and South Asia and on other future publications

International (Digital) Dura-Europos Archive

Graduate Assistant in Inscriptional Documentation

New Haven, CT | July 2022 - present

- Work on graffiti from the Dura-Europos archaeological site, currently held in the archives of the Yale University Art Gallery, with scholars Scott DiGiulio and Anne Chen
- Published on US Epigraphy Project website ten graffiti from the Palmyrene Gate, and in the process of publishing 88 more
- Published 142 graffiti on [Wikidata](#)

Project on Slavery in Late Antiquity

Research Assistant

New Haven, CT | July - Aug. 2021

- Worked under Yale Professor of History Noel Lenski
- Helped to format, translate, and archive passages from the Greeks sermons of the 4th-century Church Father John Chrysostom

Brown University Classics Department

Undergraduate Teaching and Research Award

Providence, RI | June - Aug. 2018

- Worked under Brown Professor of Classics and History Graham Oliver and was subsidized by the Award
- Project titled "War and Profit in the Hellenistic World" focused on Greek economic and military history, using primary Greek historiographical sources
- Designed and published a website for scholarly use

Latin Manuscript Translation

Palo Alto, CA | 2015 - 2016

- Helped translate into English unedited 13th and 14th century Latin manuscripts for the aid of Mary Sauer, a 2018 MLA candidate at Stanford, for her thesis on the art economy of Renaissance Italy

PROGRAMS AND CONFERENCES

Intensive Introductory Workshop in the Paleosciences for Pre-Modernists at Princeton

Hosted by Princeton's Climate Change and History Research Initiative

Princeton, NJ | Jan. 2023 (upcoming)

- Accepted into an 8-day workshop at Princeton led by historian John Haldon and environmental scientist Warren Eastwood
- Will receive an overview of topics in paleoecology: ice cores, palynology, dendrochronology, speleothems and sedimentary geochemistry, with a special focus on conceptual problems related to proxy evidence

Graduate Research Symposium in the Environmental Humanities at Yale

Hosted by the Yale Environmental Humanities Program

New Haven, CT | Dec. 2022 (upcoming)

- Will present a paper titled "Climate and Society in 3rd-Century Egypt and India"

First Annual Graduate Student History Conference at Boston College

Hosted by the Boston College Department of History

Newton, Mass | May 2022

- Presented paper “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?”
- Published [an excerpt of my research](#) on the Boston College History Forum *Annotations and Abstractions*

Thirteenth Annual Graduate History Conference at Syracuse University

Hosted by the Syracuse Department of History

Syracuse, NY | April 2022

- Presented paper “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

Hosted by graduate students in the Archaia Program

New Haven, CT | March 2022

- Presented paper “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

Hosted by the Yale Environmental Humanities Program

New Haven, CT | Dec. 2021

- Presented paper “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?”

Paros Greek Epigraphy Seminar

Partial Attendance

Paros, Greece | July 2021

- Academic seminar hosted by Adronike Makres of the Hellenic Education and Research Center

Intercollegiate Center for Classical Studies

Study Abroad

Rome, Italy | Jan. - May 2019

- A semester in Rome involving academic trips to archaeological sites and museums in Rome, Campania, and Sicily
- Took courses in archaeology and history, art history, and Greek language

AWARDS

Archaia Certificate

New Haven, CT | Nov. 2022

- Completion of requirements for the program on the premodern world, consisting of the Archaia Seminar, an interdisciplinary range of courses, attendance of public lectures, and a capstone project
- Capstone project titled “Climate and History in Ancient South Asia,” a summary of my research on climate change in India and an essay on a particular climactic event in 43 BCE

Phi Beta Kappa

Providence, RI | April 2021

- Elected to Brown University’s chapter of PBK in 2021 after graduation in December 2020

Magna Cum Laude

Providence, RI | April 2021

- Awarded to the top 20 percent of the graduating class at Brown University, the highest academic distinction at Brown

Lucius Lyon Thesis Award

Providence, RI | May 2020

- Prize awarded for honors thesis by the Brown University Classics Department

Lucious Lyon Fund for Latin

Providence, RI | May 2020

- First place in a language prize awarded by the Brown University Classics Department

Lafayette Sabine Foster Prize for Greek

Providence, RI | May 2020

- Second place in a language prize awarded by the Brown University Classics Department

The President Francis Wayland Prize for Latin

Providence, RI | Nov. 2016

- Second place in a language prize awarded by the Brown University Classics Department

LANGUAGES

Latin

- Over ten years of experience in high school, college, and graduate school; undergraduate Latin track in classics at Brown

Greek

- Over six years of experience in college and graduate school; undergraduate Greek track in classics at Brown

German

- Took an extracurricular course in 2021; reached an intermediate level

Sanskrit

- Three semesters of Sanskrit at Yale

Pali

- A semester introductory course at Yale; also earned the certificate for the Pali Level 1 Online Course from the Oxford Center for Buddhist Studies

WORK EXPERIENCE

Humanities Magazine

Editorial Intern

Washington, D.C. | May - July 2020

- Edited, copy-edited, and fact-checked articles for the Summer 2020 issue of the magazine
- Researched and wrote articles on NEH Grants and on NEH chapters around the nation for the Summer 2020 issue
- Published [an originally researched piece](#) on the modern convergence of Buddhism and science
- Published [a feature](#) on *The Sacred Band* (2021) by historian James Romm

The American Interest

Editorial Intern

Washington, D.C. | June - Aug. 2019

- Wrote and published a [book review](#) of *Sparta's First Attic War* (2019) by historian Paul Rahe
- Wrote and published a [3,000-word piece](#) on the future of Tibet and its geopolitics
 - Interviewed a handful of experts at the State Department and in activist groups
 - Piece was cited in the *New York Times*, and was published in the November/December 2019 of TAI's print magazine
- Undertook editorial work, especially copy-editing
- Conducted research for TAI's projects and events

Envestnet (NYSE: ENV) | Yodlee

Intern, Accounting Department

Redwood City, CA | May - Aug. 2017

- Worked on tasks for the Q2 roll-forward such as consolidations of fixed assets, invoice registers, data metrics for quarterly reporting, and account reconciliations
- Conducted financial research: compared competitors' financial data; made investment recommendations based on 10-Ks and 10-Qs
- Edited and proofread legal memo for Yodlee's acquisition of Wheelhouse

EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

Brown Classical Journal

Member of Editorial Staff

Providence, RI | Sept. 2018 - May 2020

- Helped select pieces for the Journal; edited pieces once selected
- Published three of my own pieces in volumes 30, 31, and 32

The Brown Daily Herald

Opinions Editor

Providence, RI | May 2019 - May 2020

- Managed staff columnists
- Edited all opinions-related content, including columns, op-eds and letters to the editor
- Continued to publish my own writing

Staff Columnist

Feb. 2018 - Dec. 2018

- Wrote 11 opinions pieces for publication in the hard-copy newspaper and online
- Had the column "History and its ugly but important legacy" published in the independent journal *Merion West*

Copy Editor

Jan. 2017 - Dec. 2018

- Fact-checked stories and edited them for style and grammar

Brown Political Review

Section Manager for the Culture Section

Providence, RI | Sept. - Dec. 2018

- Edited articles by the section's staff writers
- Selected and directed the staff writers, led meetings, and organized events for the section

Senior Staff Writer for the Culture Section

Sept. 2017 - May 2018

- Wrote a total of six articles about culture and politics for publication
- One of these articles was cited in the [New York Times](#)

One for the World, chapter at Brown University

Chapter Co-Founder, Marketing Chair

Providence, RI | Sept. - Dec. 2019

- Promoted the activities of an inter-collegiate organization to promote effective altruism

ALL CURRENTLY PUBLISHED WORK

NEH's Humanities Magazine

- ["Buddha and Mind"](#) in Humanities Summer 2021, Vol. 42, Issue 3
- ["Lovers and Soldiers"](#) published online on July 22, 2021
- ["NEH Grants"](#) in Humanities Summer 2020, Vol. 41, Issue 3
- "Around the Nation" in Humanities Summer 2020, Vol. 41, Issue 3

The American Interest

- ["In Search of Sparta"](#) published online on March 6, 2020
- ["Will China's Next Crisis Be in Tibet?"](#) in the November/December 2019 Issue

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

The Brown Political Review

- ["The Creation Museum, the Ark Encounter, and America's Problem of Anti-Science"](#)
- ["On the Laws that Prohibit Holocaust Denial"](#)
- ["Self-Immolation for Tibet: Why the Dalai Lama's Silence is Costing Lives"](#)
- ["Neurolaw: Criminal Justice in a World without Free Will"](#)
- ["Classical Contextomy"](#)
- ["The Elgin Marbles and Brexit: Should the Cultural Meddle in the Political?"](#)

The Brown Daily Herald

- ["No, Brown should not change its motto"](#)
- ["When the stars don't align: The failures of astrology"](#)
- ["We should decriminalize psychedelics"](#)
- ["Brown should ban laptops from the classroom"](#)
- ["Pledge one percent to One for the World"](#)
- ["Save the interdisciplinary appeal of public policy"](#)
- ["An open letter to Sen. Warren before her Brown lecture"](#)
- ["Brown should calculate GPA"](#)
- ["Learn to look beyond the sensational"](#)
- ["Herald, employ the Oxford comma"](#)
- ["The pursuit of happiness"](#)
- ["What would John Stuart Mill say?"](#)
- ["History and its ugly but important legacy"](#)