

# Charles Joseph McNamara

University of Minnesota  
Department of Classical and Near Eastern  
Religions and Cultures  
245 Nicholson Hall  
216 Pillsbury Drive SE  
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55455

Phone: (612) 625-5353  
Fax: (612) 624-4894  
Email: [cm@charlesmcnamara.com](mailto:cm@charlesmcnamara.com)  
Homepage: <https://charlesmcnamara.com>

## Academic Employment

- 2021–Present:  
Lecturer, Director of Greek and Latin  
Department of Classical and Near Eastern Religions and Cultures  
University of Minnesota (Twin Cities)
- 2019–2021:  
Robert Belknap Core Faculty Fellow, Department of Classics, Columbia University
- 2017–2019:  
Core Lecturer, Department of Classics, Columbia University
- 2016–2017:  
National Endowment for the Humanities / Society for Classical Studies Fellow  
*Thesaurus Linguae Latinae*, Bayerische Akademie der Wissenschaften

## Education

- Ph.D. with Distinction in Classics, Columbia University, 2016  
*Dissertation Title: Quintilian's Theory of Certainty and Its Afterlife in Early Modern Italy*  
*Supervisor: Kathy Eden, Chavkin Family Professor of English Literature and Professor of Classics*
- A.B. in Classics, Harvard University, 2007

## Publications

### Books

- *Humanist Certainty* (Under Revision for Cambridge University Press)
- *Learning to Be Fair: Equity from Ancient Philosophy to Contemporary Politics* (Fortress, 2024)
- Co-Editor and Co-Author of Introduction: Fontaine, McNamara, and Short (eds.), *Quasi Labor Intus: Ambiguity in the Latin Language* (Paideia, 2018)

### Peer-Reviewed Articles

- “The Common Consent of Words: An Aristotelian Element of Hobbesian Legal Rhetoric.” (Forthcoming in *Knowing Judgments: Literature and the Legal Imaginary*, Palgrave)
- “Fourth-Century Fakes.” *Classical World* 115.2 (2022): 179–204
- “*Certum atque Confessum*: Lorenzo Valla on the Forensics of Certainty.” *Rhetorica* 36.3 (2018): 244–268

- “The Ethics of Ambiguity in Quintilian.” In Fontaine, McNamara, Short (eds.), *Quasi Labor Intus: Ambiguity in the Latin Language* (Paideia, 2018): 205-223
- “Stoic Caricature in Lucian’s *De Astrologia*: Verisimilitude as Comedy.” *Peitho* 1.4 (2013): 235–253

### Articles in the *Thesaurus Linguae Latinae*

- *Thesaurus Linguae Latinae*, Vol. IX. Leipzig: De Gruyter, 1900-: *nervosus* [*nervositas*]
- *Thesaurus Linguae Latinae*, Vol. XI. Leipzig: De Gruyter, 1900-: *reminiscor*, *remisceo*, *remollio*, *remoror*, *remunerator* [*remuneratrix*], *ren*, *renideo* [*renidesco*], *repudiatio*
- Forthcoming in *Thesaurus Linguae Latinae*, Vol. IX. Leipzig: De Gruyter, 1900-: *nidus*

### Academic Book Reviews and Review Essays

- *The Oxford Handbook of Quintilian* ed. Marc Van Der Poel et al. (Oxford). *The Journal for the History of Rhetoric* 26:3 (2023), 392–396
- *Stories of Daily Life from the Roman World* by Eleanor Dickey (Cambridge). *Gnomon* 92:7 (2020), 603–606

### Outreach and Public-Facing Writing (Selected)

- “What’s Wrong with Weird?” *Commonweal*, September 24, 2024
- Review of *Long Live Latin* by Nicola Gardini (FSG). *Commonweal*, January 20, 2021: 53–55
- Review of *Lost in Thought* by Zena Hitz (Princeton). *Commonweal*, July 23, 2020: 50–52
- “Gone Viral.” *Commonweal*, May 6, 2020
- Review of *Ancient Wisdom for Modern Readers* Series (Princeton), including *How to be Free* (ed. and trans., A. A. Long), *How to Win an Argument* (ed. and trans., James M. May), *How to Be a Friend* (ed. and trans., Philip Freeman), *How to Die* (ed. and trans., James S. Romm). *Commonweal*, March 8, 2019: 22–24
- “The Cross-Examined Life: Socrates Debates the Laws.” *Lapham’s Quarterly*, March 19, 2018
- “Lead Us Not into Mistranslation.” *Commonweal*, January 26, 2018
- “If Trump Cares about Western Civilization, He Needs to Fund the Arts.” *Washington Post*, July 10, 2017
- Review of *Aeneid Book VI* by Seamus Heaney (FSG). *Commonweal*, January 6, 2017: 32–34

## Teaching

### University of Minnesota, Department of Classical and Near Eastern Religions and Cultures

- Language Courses:  
Advanced Latin Poetry (Roman Naturalism, Reception of the Aeneid), Advanced Latin Prose (Decline and Decadence), Advanced Greek Prose (Sophists), Intermediate Latin, Elementary Latin
- Courses in Translation:  
Ancient Greek Ethics from Plato to Stoicism, Greek and Roman Mythology, The World of Greece, The World of Rome

### Columbia University, Center for the Core Curriculum and Department of Classics

- Contemporary Civilization, Elementary Latin, Intermediate Latin, Intermediate Greek (Teaching Assistant), History of Literary Criticism from Plato to Kant (Teaching Assistant)

*Helena-West Helena School District (AmeriCorps / Teach for America)*

- English 9, English 11, English 12

**Presentations and Lectures***Selected Conference Presentations*

- Cambridge University, CRASSH, *Law and Poetics in Early Modern England and Beyond*: “Alternative Facts against the ‘Common Consent of Words’: The Controversy of Hobbesian Legal Rhetoric.” Cambridge, UK, July 2018
- Society for Classical Studies: “Neither Nasty Nor Brutish, But Short: Hobbes’ Abbreviated Translation of Aristotle’s *Rhetoric*.” Boston, Massachusetts, January 2018
- Renaissance Society of America: “Lorenzo Valla and Quintilian on the Forensics of Certainty.” Chicago, Illinois, April 2017
- Classical Association of the Middle West and South 111<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting: “The Far-Reaching Skepticism of Quintilian’s *Institutio Oratoria*, Book II.” Williamsburg, Virginia, March 2016
- Society for Classical Studies: “Water as Pastoral Danger in Sannazaro’s Ovidian *Salices*.” San Francisco, California, January 2016

*Selected Workshops and Invited Talks*

- University of Minnesota, Center for Premodern Studies, “Quintilian and Augustine on the Status of Knowledge.” Minneapolis, Minnesota, April 2024
- University of Minnesota, Hubbard School of Journalism, Guest Lecturer in *Digital Media and Culture*: “Aristotle’s ChatGPT: AI Bias and the Impersonation of Style.” Minneapolis, Minnesota, March 2023
- Washington and Lee University, The Class of 1963 Scholar-In-Residence Lecture: “The Fairness Doctrine: A History of Equity.” Lexington, Virginia, January 2023
- University of Minnesota, Department of Classical and Near Eastern Religions and Cultures: “Imagined Philologies: Lexicography, Community, and the Reign of *Latinitas*.” Minneapolis, Minnesota, November 2021
- Riverside Church, Morningside Institute: “Hannah Arendt: Space Conquest and the End of *Humanitas*.” New York, New York, April 2021
- Riverside Church, Morningside Institute: “Deep Humanities: Artificial Intelligence and the Ethics of Persuasion.” New York, New York, November 2019
- Joint Humanities Workshop with Columbia University, Freie Universität Berlin, and Universität Zürich: “The Genre of the Letter.” Sion, Switzerland, June 2019
- Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität, Munich School of Ancient Philosophy: “The Skepticism of Certainty in Quintilian.” Munich, Germany, January 2017
- Classical Dialogues, Workshop on Tobias Reinhardt and Cicero’s *Academica*: Commentator. New York, New York, February 2016
- Columbia University, Joint Humanities Workshop with Columbia University and Freie Universität Berlin: “Tragedy from Sophocles to Hofmannsthal.” New York, New York, May 2014

*Selected Conferences and Events Organized and Moderated*

- “The Future of the Past: Secondary Classical Language Education.” Moderator. Department of Classical and Near Eastern Religions and Cultures, University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, Minnesota, April 2022

- “Voice of the People: Reflections and Conversation after the 2020 Elections.” Contemporary Civilization Roundtable with Richard John (Columbia). Center for the Core Curriculum, Columbia College, New York, New York, November 2020
- “Athens and Its Others: Have Ancient Ways of Classifying Human Beings Shaped Modern Racism and Colonialism?” Contemporary Civilization Roundtable with John Ma (Columbia). Center for the Core Curriculum, Columbia College, New York, New York, September 2020
- The Long Reach of Antiquity: Organizer, Panel Moderator, and Respondent. Columbia University, New York, New York, April 2012

## Honors, Awards, & Fellowships

- The Class of 1963 Scholar In Residence, Washington and Lee University, 2023
- Robert Belknap Core Faculty Fellowship, Columbia University, 2019
- NEH/SCS *Thesaurus Linguae Latinae* Fellowship, 2016–2017
- Louis A. Parks Graduate Fellowship in Classics, Columbia University, 2016–2017
- Presidential Award for Outstanding Teaching, Columbia University, 2016
- The Lynde and Harry Bradley Foundation Fellowship, 2009–2016
- Fulbright U.S. Student ETA Award (declined), 2009
- AmeriCorps / Teach for America Mississippi Delta Corps, 2007–2009
- Latin Salutatorian, Harvard University, 2007
- B.J. Whiting Prize, Harvard University, 2007
- Charles Segal Fellowship, Harvard University, 2006
- Franklin Ford Award, Harvard University, 2006

## Professional Activities

### *Editorial*

- *Erasmus of Rotterdam Society Yearbook*. Assistant Editor, 2011–2012

### *Institutional Committees and Departmental Service*

- Director of Undergraduate Studies, University of Minnesota, 2024–Present
- College in the Schools Faculty Coordinator, University of Minnesota, 2021–Present
- Contemporary Civilization Syllabus Review Committee, Columbia University, 2021
- Laidlaw Scholars Faculty Evaluation Committee, Columbia University, 2020–2021
- Rhodes Scholarship Mock Interview Committee, Columbia University, 2019–2020

### *Research Supervision and Examination Committees*

- Ph.D. Supervision Committee Member, Gregory Membrez, University of Minnesota (In Progress)
- Senior Thesis Supervision, Tate Schloesser, University of Minnesota, 2024
- Senior Thesis Supervision, Thomas Thurlow, University of Minnesota, 2022–2023
- Ph.D. Preliminary Examination Supervision in Religions in Antiquity, Gregory Membrez, University of Minnesota, Fall 2022
- M.A. Oral Examination in Classics, Caroline Herman. University of Minnesota, May 2022
- Humanities Research Scholars Program, “The Battle of Little Rock: The Politics of Childhood and Child-Reading in “Reflections on Little Rock”” by Edie Conekin-Tooze, Columbia University, Spring 2021 (Co-Supervised with Michele Moody-Adams)

- Columbia Undergraduate Scholars Program, Summer Research Mentorship: “Religion, State, and Impiety in Ancient Athens” by Matthew Nola, Columbia University, Summer 2019

## References

- Kathy Eden, Chavkin Family Professor of English Literature and Professor of Classics  
Columbia University, New York, New York  
khe1@columbia.edu, (212) 854 6432
- Gareth Williams, Anthon Professor of Latin Language and Literature  
Columbia University, New York, New York  
gdw5@columbia.edu, (212) 854 2850
- Emmanuelle Saada, Professor of French and of History  
Columbia University, New York, New York  
es2593@columbia.edu, (212) 854-3691
- Stephen Ahearne-Kroll, Associate Professor and Sundet Family Chair  
University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, Minnesota  
sahearne@umn.edu, (612) 624-6339

Last updated: December 3, 2024