

ADA PALMER
Curriculum Vitae

The University of Chicago
Department of History
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ACADEMIC EMPLOYMENT:

- University of Chicago, Department of History, 2014 – Present, Assistant Professor
 - Associate Member of the Department of Classics
 - Member of the Stevanovich Institution on the Formation of Knowledge
- Texas A&M University, Department of History, 2009 – 2014, Assistant Professor

EDUCATION:

- Ph.D., History, 2009, Harvard University, Cambridge, MA
- M.A., History, June 2003, Harvard University, Cambridge, MA
- B.A., History, *cum laude*, 2001, Bryn Mawr College, Bryn Mawr, PA
- A.A., with distinction, 1999, Simon's Rock College of Bard, Great Barrington, MA
- **Non-Degree Programs:**
 - *Seminario di Alta Cultura*, 2010, Istituto Internazionale di Studi Piceni, Sassoferrato, Italy
 - *Aestiva Romae Latinitatis*, 2004, with Fr. Reginald Foster, Rome, Italy

PUBLICATIONS:

- “The Use and Defense of the Classical Canon in Pomponio Leto’s Biography of Lucretius,” in *Vitae Pomponianae*, Biografie di Autori Antichi nell’Umanesimo Romano (Lives of Classical Writers in Fifteenth-Century Roman Humanism), proceedings of a conference hosted by the Danish Academy in Rome and the American Academy in Rome, April 24th 2013, *Renaessancesforum* (Forum for Renaissance Studies, Universities of Aarhus & Copenhagen) 2015 (volume 9), pp. 87-106, http://www.renaessancesforum.dk/rf_9_2015.htm
- *Reading Lucretius in the Renaissance*. I Tatti Renaissance Studies Series. Cambridge MA: Harvard University Press, 2014.
- “T. Lucretius Carus, Addenda et Corrigenda,” in *Catalogus Translationum et Commentariorum*, vol. 10. Washington D.C.: Catholic University of America Press, 2014.
- “Reading Lucretius in the Renaissance.” *Journal of the History of Ideas*. Pennsylvania PA: University of Pennsylvania Press. July 2012 (volume 73, issue 3), pp. 395-416.
- *The Recovery of Classical Philosophy in the Renaissance, a Brief Guide*, Quaderni di Rinascimento 44. Co-author with James Hankins. Istituto Nazionale di Studi sul Rinascimento. [Florence]: Leo S. Olschki, 2008.

- “*Lux Dei: Ficino and Aquinas on the Beatific Vision*,” *Memini, Travaux et Documents* 6, Société des études médiévales du Québec. Montréal: 2002, pp. 129-152.

Forthcoming Publications:

- “The Active and Monastic Life in Humanist Biographies of Pythagoras,” in *Forms and Transfers of Pythagorean Knowledge: Askesis – Religion – Science*, eds. Almut-Barbara Renger & Alessandro Stavru. Forthcoming 2016.
- “The Recovery of Stoicism in the Renaissance,” in *The Routledge Handbook to the Stoic Tradition*, ed. John Sellars. Forthcoming 2015.
- “Epicureanism,” in *Encyclopedia of Renaissance Philosophy*, Springer Reference. Forthcoming 2018.

Book Reviews:

- Review of Eileen Reeves, *Evening News: Optics, Astronomy, and Journalism in Early Modern Europe* (Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press, 2014), *The Journal of Modern History*, forthcoming.
- Review of Marie Thérèse Jones-Davies ed., *Le Plaisir au Temps de la Renaissance* (Turnhout: Brepolis, 2010), *Renaissance Quarterly*, vol. 66 n. 1 (2013) 330-1.
- Review of Stéphanie Lecompte, *La Chaîne d’Or des Poètes: Présence de Macrobie dans l’Europe humaniste* (Geneva, Librairie Droz. S.A., 2009), *Neo-Latin News* 70.1-2 (2012), 102-4.

TEACHING FIELDS:

Renaissance and Early Modern Europe
 Enlightenment Europe
 Long Durée European Intellectual and Cultural History
 Religion, Atheism and Freethought
 History of Science and Technology
 Reception and Transmission of Classical Texts

COURSES:

- Italian Renaissance
- Renaissance Humanism (rare books graduate course)
- Patronage and Culture in Renaissance Italy and Her Neighbors (graduate seminar)
- Renaissance and Reformation Europe
- The Craft of History: Intellectual History
- European Civilization
- European Intellectual History from Ancient Greece to the Early Middle Ages
- European Intellectual History from the High Middle Ages to the 17th Century
- The French Enlightenment and the Encyclopedia Project
- Seminar in Historiography and Historical Writing

FELLOWSHIPS AND RESEARCH GRANTS:

- **While at the University of Chicago:**
 - Franke Institute for the Humanities Residential Faculty Fellowship, University of Chicago, 2015-16.
- **While at Texas A&M University:**
 - National Endowment for the Humanities Summer Institute: Roman Comedy in Performance, August 2012
 - Villa I Tatti, Harvard University Center for Italian Renaissance Studies, Fellowship, 2011-12
 - Texas A&M University Melburn G. Glasscock Center for Humanities Research Co-Sponsorship Grant, Fall 2012
 - Texas A&M College of Liberal Arts Strategic Development Fund, co-developer of “Classical Transformations Center” proposal, 2011
 - Texas A&M College Faculty Research Enhancement Award, 2011
 - Texas A&M Program to Enhance Scholarly and Creative Activities, 2010
 - Texas A&M International Research Travel Assistance Grant, 2010
 - Texas A&M University Melburn G. Glasscock Center for Humanities Research Faculty Stipendiary Fellowship, 2009-10
- **While at Harvard University:**
 - Fulbright Scholar, Italy, 2006-7
 - Frederick Sheldon Traveling Fellowship, Harvard University, 2006-7
 - Villa I Tatti, Harvard University Center for Italian Renaissance Studies, Readership, 2005
 - Harvard University History Department Summer Research Grant, 2002

INVITED LECTURES AND PRESENTATIONS:

- “The Moral Physics of Dante’s Cosmos” and “The Syncretic, Radical and Hybrid Christianities of Renaissance Humanists,” guest lectures for the Figures of Renaissance Reform and Renewal non-credit course, Lumen Christi institute, Chicago, February 24th & March 3rd, 2015.
- “Active and Monastic Life in Humanist Biographies of Pythagoras,” Western Mediterranean Culture Workshop (University of Chicago), March 2nd 2015.
- “How Humanists Read a Famous Atheist: the Evolution of Renaissance Reading Methods Exposed through a Survey of Marginalia in Renaissance Copies of Lucretius, 1417-1600,” Classics Department Colloquium, University of Pennsylvania (Philadelphia), Feb. 12th 2015.
- “Hands-on Rare Books Icebreaker Session, an opportunity to touch and get used to working with antique books and manuscripts.” Early Modern Workshop, University of Chicago, Feb. 9th 2015.
- “Lucretius, Renaissance Reading Culture and the Epicurean Roots of the Scientific Method,” colloquium presentation at the Descartes Centre for the

- History and Philosophy of the Sciences and the Humanities, Utrecht University, Feb. 2nd 2015.
- “How Forgeries and Spuria Still Shape Our Modern Classical Canon, Examined Through the Renaissance Revival and Early Print History of Classical (and not-so-Classical) Stoicism,” Weissbourd Text Seminar, Society of Fellows in the Liberal Arts at the University of Chicago, November 12th, 2014.

CONFERENCE PAPERS:

- “The Influence of Spuria and Forgeries on Renaissance Neoclassicism: The Recovery of the Stoics, 1400–1664,” at the Renaissance Society of America Conference (Berlin), March 28th 2014.
- “The Inversion of Epicureanism in Lorenzo Valla’s *De Voluptate*,” at Beyond Reception: Renaissance Humanism and the Transformation of Classical Antiquity (Berlin), March 23rd 2014.
- “The Transformation of Stoicism in the Renaissance,” at Renaissance and Early Modern Transformations of Antiquity. Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin, December 2nd 2014.
- “The Vernacular Lucretius,” in a panel on The Epicurean Renaissance, presented at the Sixteenth Century Society Conference, New Orleans, October 16th 2014.
- “Weak Empiricism and Provisional Belief: the influence of Lucretius and Epicurean Skepticism on Montaigne, Gassendi, Mersenne, and Scientific Thought,” presented at the Renaissance Society of America Conference, New York, March 27th 2014.
- “The Archetype of Noble Suicide in Early Modern Biographies of Philosophers,” presented at Libraries, Lives and the Organization of Knowledge in the Pre-Modern World, American Academy in Rome, December 12th 2013.
- “Sources as Weapons in the Competition Among Humanist Editors of Lucretius, from Leto to Lambin,” presented at Medieval and Renaissance Transformations of Antiquity, hosted by the Humboldt Universität zu Berlin and Texas A&M University, Villa Vergiliana, Cuma, Italy, Sept. 29th 2013.
- “*Opinio Non Christiana*: Lucretius’ Renaissance Reception, Humanist Reading Practices and Philosophical Skepticism,” presented at the Italian Renaissance Seminar Series, Oxford University Centre for Early Modern Studies, May 6, 2013.
- “The Use and Defense of the Classical Canon in Pomponio Leto’s Biography of Lucretius,” presented at *Vitae Pomponianae*, Biografie di Autori Antichi nell’Umanesimo Romano (Lives of Classical Writers in Fifteenth-Century Roman Humanism), hosted by the Danish Academy in Rome and the American Academy in Rome, April 24th 2013.
- “Humanist Biographies of Lucretius,” presented at the Renaissance Society of America Conference, Washington D.C., March 22nd 2012.

- “Renaissance Biographies of Classical Philosophers,” presented at the Villa I Tatti Harvard University Center for Italian Renaissance Studies Fellows Seminar Series, Dec. 7th 2011.
- “Sustenance of the Soul in Renaissance Reconstructions of Classical Libraries,” presented at Cultured Sustenance: an Interdisciplinary Symposium, Melbern G. Glasscock Center for Humanities Research, Texas A&M University, April 2011.
- “How Humanists Read a Famous Atheist: the Evolution of Renaissance Reading Methods Exposed through a Survey of Marginalia in Renaissance Copies of Lucretius, 1417-1600,” presented at the Renaissance Society of America Conference, Montreal CA, March 2011.
- “Pagan Imagery in Poetry on the Death of Raphael,” presented at TAMU Interdisciplinary Early Modern Studies Working Group, Oct. 6th 2010.
- “*Opinio Non Christiana*: Lucretius’ first Renaissance readers examined through their marginalia.” Presented at From Studiolo to Street: A Harvard/Princeton Graduate Conference in Early Modern History, Cambridge MA, January 18 2008.
- “Lucretius, Epicureanism and Atomism in the Renaissance.” Presented at the American Philological Association Conference, Boston, January 9 2005.
- “Reception of Lucretius, Epicureanism and Atomism in the Renaissance.” Presented at the Early Modern Studies Workshop at Harvard University, Cambridge MA, December 14th 2004.

LANGUAGES:

- English, Italian, French, Latin, Ancient Greek, Gothic, German (reading).

AWARDS AND HONORS:

- I Tatti Prize for Best Essay by a Junior Scholar, for “Reading Lucretius in the Renaissance.” *Journal of the History of Ideas* 73.3 (July 2012), 395-416. 2013
- Texas A&M Student Led Award for Teaching Excellence Fall 2010
- Harvard University Certificate of Distinction in Teaching 2005, 2006, 2007
- Nominated for the Joseph R. Levenson Memorial Teaching Prize, Harvard 2004
- Seymour Adelman Book Collector’s Prize, Bryn Mawr College 2001
- Division of Languages and Literature Prize, Simon’s Rock College 1999
- Leslie Sander Writing Contest Winner, Simon’s Rock College 1999
- National Merit Scholar 1997-99
- Faculty Scholarship Award, Simon’s Rock College 1998-1999

PROFESSIONAL AND SERVICE ACTIVITY:

While at University of Chicago:

Within the University:

- Member of the Steering Committee for the Ph.D. Program in Transformations in the Classical Tradition (Classics Department). 2015-present.
- Faculty Advisor Chi Chi Chi Coed Academic Honors Fraternity. 2015-present.

- Faculty Advisor for the Early Modern Workshop. 2014-present.

Outside the University:

- Co-developer/sponsor of two conferences, “Beyond Reception: Renaissance Humanism and the Transformation of Classical Antiquity” (March 23-24 2015), and “Renaissance and Early Modern Transformations of Antiquity” (December 2-3, 2014), in Berlin, co-organized by the Texas A&M University Classical Transformations Group and the ‘Transformationen der Antike’ (Transformations of Antiquity) group at the Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin.

While at Previous Institutions:

- Co-Developer of the “Transformations of Antiquity Conference, (September 27⁻²⁹, 2013), in Naples Italy, co-organized by the Texas A&M University Classical Transformations Group and the ‘Transformationen der Antike’ (Transformations of Antiquity) group at the Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin.
- Co-Convener and Web Developer for the Texas A&M Interdisciplinary Early Modern Studies Working Group, Glasscock Center. 2010-2014
- Texas A&M History Department Diversity Committee. 2012-2014
- Texas A&M History Department Library Committee. 2009-2010
- Co-Coordinator of the Harvard Early Modern Studies Workshop. 2007-8
- *The Cambridge Companion to Renaissance Philosophy*. Assistant to general editor James Hankins. Cambridge University Press. 2007

Professional Memberships

- Renaissance Society of America
- International Association for Neo-Latin Studies
- American Historical Association
- American Association of University Women

COMMUNITY OUTREACH:

Popular Nonfiction:

- Historical notes for *Hetalia Axis Powers: Paint it White* and *Hetalia World Series* DVD releases. Co-authored with Lila Garrott, Lauren Schiller and Ruth Wejksnora. FUNimation, 2011-12.
- “All Life is Genocide: the Philosophical Pessimism of Osamu Tezuka,” in *Mangatopia: Essays on Manga and Anime in the Modern World*, ed. Timothy Perper and Martha Cornog. Santa Barbara, CA: ABC-Clio Libraries Unlimited, 2011.
- “‘You, God of Manga, are Cruel!’: Karma and Suffering in the Universe of Osamu Tezuka,” in *Manga and Philosophy*, ed. Josef Steiff and Adam Barkman. Chicago: Open Court, 2010.
- “Film is Alive: The Manga Roots of Osamu Tezuka's Animation Obsession,”

invited talk and e-published essay for the event series “Osamu Tezuka: God of Manga, Father of Anime.” Smithsonian Freer and Sackler Galleries, Washington DC, November 13–December 13, 2009.

- “Black Jack: The Excluded Issues and Tezuka's Star System,” in Osamu Tezuka’s *Black Jack* (vol. 3 limited edition hard cover), Vertical Inc., 2008.
- Mythological notes for *Mythical Detective Loki Ragnarok* DVD release. ADV Films, 2005-6.
- “The Cruelty of *The Crater*,” introduction to Osamu Tezuka’s *The Crater*, Kansai Club, forthcoming.

Fiction:

- *Too Like the Lightning* (Book 1 of the four volume science fiction novel series *Terra Ignota*), forthcoming from Tor Books, May 10th 2016.
- *Seven Surrenders* (Book 2 of *Terra Ignota*), forthcoming December 10th 2016.
- *The Will to Battle* (Book 3 of *Terra Ignota*), forthcoming 2017.
- *Perhaps the Stars* (Book 4 of *Terra Ignota*), forthcoming 2017.

Consulting and Blogging:

- Blogger for Tor.com, 2014 to present.
- ExUrbe.com, 2011 to present.
- Historical Consultant for FUNimation, 2010 to present.
- Columnist for Tokyopop.com, 2006 to 2007.
- Mythology and Language Consultant for ADV Films, 2005 to 2008.