

Curriculum vitae

Cosimo Paravano

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Dr. Cosimo Paravano

(cosimo.paravano@univie.ac.at)

Institut für Byzantinistik und Neogräzistik, Universität Wien

Postgasse 9, 1010 Wien, Österreich

Employment

February 2025 – January 2029 | **Postdoctoral Fellow**, ERC Project ‘This *One* There’, Department of Byzantine and Modern Greek Studies, University of Vienna.

September 2024 – January 2025 (Fall Term) | **Postdoctoral Fellow**, ANAMED – Research Center for Anatolian Civilizations, Koç University, Istanbul.

September 2023 – May 2024 | **Junior Fellow**, Dumbarton Oaks Research Library and Collection, Harvard University, Washington, DC.

September 2019 – August 2023 | **Doctoral University Assistant** (Universitätsassistent, ‘prae-doc’), Department of Byzantine and Modern Greek Studies, University of Vienna.

Education

September 2019 – September 2024 | **PhD degree** in Byzantine Studies, Faculty of Historical and Cultural Studies, University of Vienna. Dissertation title: “Rhetoric and Civic Participation in Late Antique Antioch (4th-6th c.)”. Supervisors: Prof. Claudia Rapp (University of Vienna), Prof. Gianfranco Agosti (University of Pisa).

October 2014 – September 2019 (final examination: 08/07/2020) | **Graduation certificate** in Classics and Ancient History. Scuola Normale Superiore, Pisa.

February 2019 – June 2019 (Spring Term) | Exchange Graduate Student. Department of Classics, Princeton University.

October 2017 – February 2018 (Winter Semester) | Erasmus+ Exchange Student. Institut für Griechische und Lateinische Philologie, Freie Universität Berlin.

October 2017 – July 2019 | **MA** in Classics and Ancient History. University of Pisa. Thesis: “Il retore, il governatore e la città. Libanio, *Contro Icario I e II* (27-8 F.). Introduzione, traduzione e commento [Libanius, *Against Icarius I and II* (27-8 F.)]”. Supervisors: Prof. Gianfranco Agosti, Prof. Maria Domitilla Campanile.

October 2014 – July 2017 | **BA** in Classics, University of Pisa. Thesis: “Libanio, *A Icario* (26 F.). Introduzione, traduzione e commento [Libanius, *To Icarius* (26 F.)]”. Supervisors: Prof. Gianfranco Agosti, Prof. Maria Domitilla Campanile.

October 2009 – July 2014 | Secondary degree with focus on Humanities and Classics. Liceo Classico Niccolò Machiavelli, Florence, Italy.

Further education

July 8 – 21, 2024 | Syriac on Site (study trip in the historical region of Tur ‘Abdin, Southeastern Turkey). Beth Mardutho: The Syriac Institute, Piscataway, New Jersey, USA.

July 12 – August 6, 2021 | Intermediate Syriac Summer School. Dumbarton Oaks Research Library and Collection (Harvard University) and Hill Museum and Manuscript Library, Collegeville, MN (online). Tutors: Dr. Salam Rassi, Dr. Alberto Rigolio.

January 25 – February 5, 2021 | Corso di alta formazione sulla tarda antichità. Università degli studi di Roma, La Sapienza. Rome (online). Course directors: Prof. Gianfranco Agosti, Prof. Marco Maiuro.

July 30 – August 4, 2018 | Lincoln College Summer School of Greek Palaeography. Lincoln College, University of Oxford. Tutor: Dr. Christos Simelidis.

July 2 – July 27, 2018 | Byzantine Greek Summer School. Dumbarton Oaks Research Library and Collection (Harvard University), Washington, DC. Tutors: Prof. Stratis Papaioannou, Dr. Alice-Mary Talbot.

Publications

- (with John Kee) *Reading Late Antique and Medieval Greek*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press (ca. 160.000 words; proposal accepted; contract in progress).
- (with Nicole Berlin) ‘Recontextualizing Antioch: Engagements with Space in the Ancient City’. In N. Berlin (ed.), *Excavating Antioch: The Archaeology of an Ancient City*. Los Angeles, CA: UCLA Cotsen Institute of Archaeology Press (ca. 7000 words, draft submitted for peer review, expected publication late 2026).
- ‘Severo di Antiochia’. In: G. Gomiero, M. Pavan, *Introduzione al mondo siriano*. Venice: Venice University Press (ca. 3350 words, draft submitted, expected publication late 2026).
- *‘Poetry, Ceremonial, and Legitimacy under Michael VIII Palaiologos. Manuel Holobolos’ *Prokypsis* Poems and Their Contexts’. In: K. Kubina (ed.), *Poetry in Late Byzantium (12th to 15th Centuries)*. Leiden-Boston: Brill 2024, 123-146.
- ‘Retorica e dinamiche del potere ad Antiochia nel IV secolo. Introduzione, traduzione e commento all’orazione *A Icaro* (26 F.) di Libanio’, *Medioevo Greco* 20 (2020), 165-208.
- Review of A. Conte. Gregorio Nazianzeno. *Tra autobiografia e teologia [carm. II,1,68. II,1,30], introduzione, testo critico, traduzione e commento*. Pisa: Edizioni ETS 2019. *Prometheus* 48 (2022), 302-305.
- Book report of W. Hörandner, A. Rhoby, N. Zagklas (eds.). *A Companion to Byzantine Poetry*. Leiden-Boston: Brill 2019. *Medioevo Greco* 20 (2020), 414-417.
- Review of Raffaella Cribiore, *Between City and School. Selected Orations of Libanius*, Liverpool, Liverpool University Press: 2015, *Medioevo Greco* 18 (2018), 390-396.
- Book report of Andrea Pellizzari, *Maestro di retorica, maestro di vita: le lettere teodosiane di Libanio di Antiochia*, Roma, L’Erma di Bretschneider: 2017, *Medioevo Greco* 18 (2018), 491-2.

Organization of lectures, panels and conferences

1. November 20-21, 2025 | Co-organizer (with Baukje van den Berg and Aglae Pizzone) of the workshop *Workshopping Byzantine Exegesis*. University of Vienna / Central European University, Austria.
2. July 7-10, 2025 | Co-organizer (with John Kee) of the panel 'Worlds of Byzantine Rhetoric: Logic, Society, and Learned Culture'. IMC Leeds 2025, University of Leeds, UK.
3. July 3, 2024 | Co-organizer (with Lewis Read) of the panel 'Narratives of Conversion and Crises of Faith in the 11th c. Eastern Mediterranean'. IMC Leeds 2024, University of Leeds, UK.
4. June 2-3, 2023 | Co-organizer of the international graduate conference 'Translating Byzantium and Byzantium Translating'. Co-funded by the Department of Medieval Studies at Central European University, the Doctoral School of Historical and Cultural Studies and the Department of Byzantine and Modern Greek Studies at the University of Vienna.
5. April 1, 2022. February 24, 2023 | Co-founder and co-organizer of the first and second joint CEU – UniVie Late Antique and Byzantine Studies Graduate Workshop. Co-funded by the Department of Medieval Studies and the Center for Eastern Mediterranean Studies at Central European University and the Doctoral School of Historical and Cultural Studies at the University of Vienna.
6. Summer Term 2021 – Summer Term 2023 | Co-organizer of the lecture series *Forum Antike*. Research Cluster 'Cultures of the Euro-Mediterranean Region and Classical Studies', University of Vienna.
7. Winter Term 2020-21 – Summer Term 2023 | Co-founder and co-organizer of the *PhD Symposium – Workshop and Reading Group*. Doctoral School of Historical and Cultural Studies, Cluster Ancient, Byzantine and Medieval Studies, University of Vienna. Funding: 380 € (2020-21), 970 € (2021-22), 1710 € (2022-23).

Talks

1. *Rhetorical Theory, Self-Representation and Social Order in Ioannes Sikeliotēs*. IMC Leeds 2025, panel 'Worlds of Byzantine Rhetoric I: Logic, Society, and Learned Culture'. University of Leeds, UK, July 7-10, 2025.
2. *From Christianity to Islam and Back Again: the Conversions of Ignatius Bar Qiqi, Syriac Orthodox Metropolitan of the East, in early 11th c. Baghdad*. IMC Leeds 2024, panel 'Narratives of Conversion and Crises of Faith in the 11th c. Eastern Mediterranean'. University of Leeds, UK, July 3, 2024.
3. *Preacher and Audience Through Byzantine Eyes. John Chrysostom as Rhetor in Hagiographical Narratives*. 49th Annual Conference of the Byzantine Studies Association of North America. Simon Fraser University, Vancouver, BC, 26-29 October 2023.
4. *Interpreting Crowd Behavior by Means of Rhetoric in Libanius' Speech To Icarus*. Late Rome, Byzantium and the Early Medieval West. A Graduate Student Conference (Princeton – Oxford – University of Vienna – Free University of Berlin – Mainz). Princeton University, May 19-2020, 2023.
5. *Libanius the Citizen. Platforms for Rhetorical Praise and Criticism in Late Antique Antioch*. Graduate Workshop in Byzantine Literature. Brno – Olomouc – Rome – Vienna. Masaryk University, Brno, March 31, 2023.
6. *Praise speeches to Governors as 'Ritual' in Late Antique Antioch*. 2nd CEU – UniVie Late Antique and Byzantine Studies Graduate Workshop. Central European University / University of Vienna, February 24, 2023.
7. *The Third Sophistic in Late Antique Antioch. Reflection on a Paradigm*. LARes Workshop. University of California, Berkeley, November 15, 2022.
8. *John Chrysostom the Antiochene Sophist-Preacher*. International Congress of Byzantine Studies. Venice-Padua, August 22-27, 2022.

9. *Rhetoric and Citizenship in Early Byzantine Antioch (4th-6th c.). The Case of John Chrysostom*. Late Rome, Byzantium and the Early Medieval West. A Graduate Student Conference (Princeton – Oxford – University of Vienna – Free University of Berlin – Mainz). University of Vienna, June 2-3, 2022.
10. *Rhetoric and Citizenship in Early Byzantine Antioch (4th-6th c.)*. CEU – UniVie Late Antique and Byzantine Studies Graduate Workshop. Central European University / University of Vienna, April 1, 2022.
11. *The Prokypsis Poems of Manuel Holobolos. A Preliminary Study*. International conference *Poetry in Late Byzantium*, organized by Krystina Kubina. Austrian Academy of Sciences, Austria, February 10, 2022.
12. *Political and Religious Warfare through Hagiography: The Case of St Golinduch between Byzantium and Persia in the Reign of Maurice, 582-602*. IMC Leeds 2021, panel 'Between Byzantium and Sasanian Persia'. University of Leeds, UK, July 8, 2021, online.
13. *Libanios on the City Councils, from Source to Agent*. Workshop *The Citizen in Late Antiquity* within the framework of *The Late Antiquity Network*. Utrecht University, Netherlands, November 25, 2019.
14. *Who Speaks for the City? A Speech by Libanios of Antioch against Theater Acclamations*. 23rd Annual Classics Graduate Student Colloquium. *Vox populi: Populism and Popular Culture in Ancient Greece and Rome*. University of Virginia, March 30, 2019.
15. *From Persian Lady to Byzantine Holy Woman and Back Again. The Chalcedonian Appropriation of Saint Golinduch*. 2nd Annual Edinburgh International Graduate Conference. Reception, Appropriation, and Innovation: Byzantium between the Christian and Islamic Worlds. University of Edinburgh, UK, November 30 – December 1, 2018.

Teaching experience

Instructor of record

- Summer 2025. *Byzantine Greek Summer School*, together with John Kee. Intensive summer course. July 14 – 25, 2025. University of Vienna.
- Summer term, 2025. University of Vienna. Seminar course (Übung). *Mittelalterliches Griechisch* [Medieval Greek] (in German and English, instructor of record).
- Winter term, 2021/2. University of Vienna. Seminar course (Übung), *The View from Antioch. Identities, Rhetoric, and Society in a Late Antique City* (in English, instructor of record).

As guest lecturer

- February 24, 2024. Dumbarton Oaks Research Library and Collection (Harvard University). Byzantine Studies Teaching Day (aimed at undergraduates from local colleges). Paper: *Were Greek Myths Just for the Rich? Ordinary Christians and Pagan Myth in Late Antiquity*.
- May 18, 2022. University of Vienna. Guest lecture: *Bildung und Buchkultur in Byzanz* [Education and book culture in Byzantium] (in German) in *Einführung in die Byzantinistik* (Prof. C. Rapp).
- May 12, 2022. Sapienza University of Rome. Guest lecture *Come si legge Libanio? Un esperimento dal piccolo al grande sulle azioni collettive* [How Do We Read Libanius? A Zoom-Out Experiment on Collective Actions] (in Italian) in 'Laboratorio di greco tardoantico' [Reading Course – Late Antique Greek] (Prof. G. Agosti).
- Academic Year 2016/7 | Group tutoring in Latin Language (total amount of hours: 15h). Liceo Classico Galileo Galilei (secondary school), Pisa, Italy.
- Academic Year 2015/6 | Group tutoring in Ancient Greek Language (total amount of hours: 10h30m). Liceo Classico Galileo Galilei (secondary school), Pisa, Italy.

Other activities

- Peer-reviewer for *Journal of Byzantine Studies* / *Jahrbuch der Österreichischen Byzantinistik* and *Incontri di Filologia Classica*.
- 2020 – 2023 | Editorial assistant for *Journal of Byzantine Studies* / *Jahrbuch der Österreichischen Byzantinistik*.
- Contributor (lexical tagger, 1200+ entries) in the project *SEDRA (Syriac Electronic Data Research Archive)*, Beth Mardutho: The Syriac Institute, Piscataway, New Jersey, USA.
- 2016–2019: Students' deputy in the governing board of the Associazione Normalisti (alumni association of the Scuola Normale Superiore).

Memberships and positions

- December 15, 2022 – ongoing: Subject expert (“Cultore della materia”) in Classical and Late Antique Philology, Department of Philology, Literature and Linguistics, University of Pisa.
- 2020 – ongoing: Member of the *Österreichische Byzantinische Gesellschaft*.

Outreach

- C. Paravano, ‘Wie kam es im 5. Jahrhundert zum erfundenen Briefwechsel zwischen einem Heiden und einem Christen? Fälschung als Kompromissversuch in Byzanz’, in “Fake & Irrtum. Falsche Fährten in den kulturhistorischen Fächern – einst und heute” (outreach blog the Faculty of Historical and Cultural Studies, University of Vienna). Uploaded [here](#), May 15, 2023.

Language Skills

Italian: Native | English, German: Fluent | French: Good | Spanish, Modern Greek: Reading knowledge | Turkish: Elementary.

Ancient and Medieval Greek, Latin: Proficient | Classical Syriac: Advanced.

Honors and awards

A.y. 2024-2025 | Junior Postdoctoral Fellowship (3-year position, self-designed project: ‘Rhetoric, Individuality and Selfhood in Middle Byzantium. Ioannes Sikeliotēs on Hermogenēs’), Flemish Research Fund (FWO), Ghent University (*declined*).

A.y. 2023-2024 | Junior Fellowship, Dumbarton Oaks Research Library and Collection (Harvard University), Washington, DC.

A.y. 2023-2024 | PhD Fellowship (PhD Candidate), ANAMED, Koç University, Istanbul, Turkey (*declined*).

2014-2019 | Five-year fellowship covering tuition, room, board and a monthly allowance. Scuola Normale Superiore, Pisa. Rank in the admission process (solely based on written and oral tests): 3rd out of 368.

2019 | Bliss Award (grant to attend the Byzantine Studies Symposium, April 12-13, 2019): 600 \$. Dumbarton Oaks Research Library and Collection (Harvard University), Washington, DC.

2019 | Mobility fellowship awarded by the Scuola Normale Superiore, Pisa for exchange semester at Princeton University: 12.500 €.

2018 | Grant from Lincoln College, Oxford, awarded to 'particularly deserving applicants' to participate in the Greek Palaeography Summer School: 400 £.

2014 | 15th *Certamen Ovidianum Sulmonense*. First prize: 1000 €. International Ovid translation contest for secondary school students (Latin into a modern language).

2014 | 30th *Certamen in Ponticulo Herae* (Greek section). First prize: 500 €. Regional (Tuscany) translation contest for secondary school students (Greek into Italian).

2014 | 12th *Certamen Propertianum*. First prize: 800 €. National Propertius translation contest for secondary school students (Latin into Italian).

2014 | 40th *Certamen Classicum Florentinum*. First prize: 800 €. National translation contest for secondary school students (Greek into Latin).

2013 | 39th *Certamen Classicum Florentinum*. First prize: 800 €. National translation contest for secondary school students (Greek into Latin).

2011 | 27th *Certamen in Ponticulo Herae*. First prize: 500 €. Regional (Tuscany) translation contest for secondary school students (Latin into Italian).