

## Alexander Nikolaev

Department of Classical Studies  
Boston University  
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nikol@bu.edu

### ACADEMIC POSITIONS:

#### Boston University, Boston, Mass.

Associate Professor of Classical Studies and Linguistics (with tenure)	2020–present
Assistant Professor of Linguistics	2015–2020
Assistant Professor of Classical Studies	2013–2020

#### Brandeis University, Waltham, Mass.

Lecturer, Language and Linguistics Program	2013
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#### Harvard University, Cambridge, Mass.

Resident Tutor for Linguistics and Classics, Leverett House	2010–2017
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### EDUCATION:

#### Harvard University, Cambridge, Mass.

Ph.D., Dissertation: “Historical Poetics and Language History: Studies in Archaic Greek Poetry” Committee: Jay Jasanoff, Gregory Nagy, Jeremy Rau	2012
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#### Russian Academy of Sciences, St. Petersburg, Russia

<i>Kandidat philologičeskikh nauk</i> (junior doctorate)	2006
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#### University of St. Petersburg, Russia

B.A., Classics and Linguistics, <i>summa cum laude</i>	2003
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Free University, Berlin	2001–2002; 2004
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University of Erlangen	2002
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University of Uppsala	2001
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University of Vienna	2000–2001
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### PUBLICATIONS:

#### Books:

*Issledovanija po praindoevropejskoj imennoj morfologii* (= *Studies in Proto-Indo-European Nominal Morphology*). St. Petersburg: Nauka, 2010. xvii + 437 p. ISBN 978-5-02-025610-1

(Review: P. Widmer, *Kratylos* 58 (2013) 206–208).

#### Journal articles:

1. “Greek ἄρπᾶξ ‘robber; robbery,’” *Indogermanische Forschungen* (forthcoming).
2. “Deep waters: the etymology of Vedic *gabhīrā-*,” *Historische Sprachforschung / Historical Linguistics* (forthcoming).
3. “Greek δρώπτειν ‘to examine’ (Aesch. fr. 278 Radt) and Indo-Iranian \**darp-* ‘to see,’” *Glotta* 96 (2020) 124–30.
4. “Through the thicket: The text of Pindar *Olympian* 6.54 (βατιᾶι τ’ ἐν ἀπειράτωι),” *Harvard Studies in Classical Philology* 110 (2019) 97–115.
5. “*Horror vacui*: Gk. ὠχρός ‘pale, wan’, Hitt. *wakkāri* ‘is lacking’,” *Wek<sup>w</sup>os* 4 (2019) 185–90.

6. "Δάειρα, the lady of the waters," *Indo-European Linguistics and Classical Philology* 23 (2019) 790–795.
7. "Shame and insult in Anatolia: Luvo-Hittite *zammurāi-*," *Journal of American Oriental Society* 139.1 (2019) 187–199.
8. "Latin *farferum* 'coltsfoot': A trace of Indo-European poetic language in Latin plant nomenclature?" *Indo-European Linguistics and Classical Philology* 22 (2018) 961–966.
9. "Sidetic *masara* ↑uef", *Indogermanische Forschungen* 122 (2017) 219–226.
10. "Homeric σθένει βλεμεαίνων," *Glotta* 93 (2017) 117–134.
11. "Hittite *yaya(i)-i-*," *Indogermanische Forschungen* 121 (2016) 63–68.
12. "Hittite *wattaēš* 'birds'," *Münchener Studien zur Sprachwissenschaft* 69 (2015) 257–267.
13. "Ten thousand eyes: The story of Ἄργος Μυριωπός," *Greek, Roman, and Byzantine Studies* 55 (2015) 812–831.
14. "Homeric ἀάατος: etymology and poetics," *Die Sprache* 50 (2012/2013[2015]) 182–239.
15. "The origin of Latin *prōsāpia*," *Glotta* 91 (2015) 225–248.
16. "ἄτερπνος (Ibyc. fr. 328 PMGF)," *Classical Philology* 110 (2015) 66–70.
17. "Greek εἶαμενή, Vedic *yávasa-*," *Münchener Studien zur Sprachwissenschaft* 68 (2014) 127–140.
18. "An epic party? Sober thoughts on νηφέμεν (Archil. 4.9 West)," *Philologus* 58 (2014) 10–25.
19. "Latin *draucus*," *Classical Quarterly* 64 (2014) 316–320.
20. "An etymological miscellany," *Indo-European Linguistics and Classical Philology* 18 (2014) 708–17.
21. "The aorist infinitives in -έειν in early Greek hexameter poetry," *Journal of Hellenic Studies* 133 (2013) 81–92.
22. "Showing praise in Greek choral lyric and beyond," *American Journal of Philology* 133 (2012) 543–572.
23. "Avestan *Haēcat, aspa-*, Rigveda 4.43, and the myth of the Divine Twins," *Journal of American Oriental Society* 132 (2012) 567–575.
24. "Gimn Dioskuram Alkeja" [Alcaeus' Hymn to the Dioscuri], *Aristeus* 5 (2012): 27–51.
25. "τᾶκεσταλίωντ ὀρνίθων (Stesich. PMGF 247)," *Mnemosyne* 64 (2011) 625–628.
26. "Hittite *menahḫanda*," *Journal of American Oriental Society* 130/1 (2010) 63–71.
27. "Indo-European root \*dem(h<sub>2</sub>)- 'to build' and its derivatives," *Historische Sprachforschung / Historical Linguistics* 123 (2010) 56–96.
28. "The Germanic word for 'sword' and delocative derivation in Proto-Indo-European," *Journal of Indo-European Studies* 37 (2009) 461–488.
29. "On the meaning of (ἐ)μήσατο in Pap. Derv. xxiii,4," *Indo-European Linguistics and Classical Philology* 12 (2008) 308–336.
30. "Bessuffiksnyj preterit *ro-ír* i drugie drevneirlandskie preterity s dolgim *-í-* v korne" [*Ro-ír* and other *í*-preterits in Old Irish], *Voprosy Jazykoznanija* Nr. 2 (2007) 18–34.
31. "O suffikse indoevropskikh i tokharskikh prichastij (k probleme zvukovogo razvitija i.-e. \*ě > pratokh.\*'æ)" [The suffix of active present participle in Tocharian and in Proto-Indo-European and the alleged sound change PIE \*ě > Proto-Tocharian\*'æ], *Acta Linguistica Petropolitana* 2/1 (2006) 46–78.
32. "Ἰάονες," *Acta Linguistica Petropolitana* 2/1 (2006) 100–115.
33. "Sootnoshenie slovoobrazovatel'noj i leksicheskoj semantiki v indoevropskom prajazyke: voprosy vnutrennej derivacii" [Derivational and lexical semantics in Proto-Indo-European: Questions of internal derivation], *Indo-European Linguistics and Classical Philology* 5 (2005) 158–169.

34. "Tokh. A *śamantār* i indoeuropejskij preterit s prodlennoj stupenju ablauta v korne" [Toch. A *śamantār* and long-vowel preterits in Indo-European], *Voprosy Jazykoznanija* Nr. 5 (2005) 68–83.
35. "Die Etymologie von altgriechischem ὄβρις," *Glotta* 80 (2004[2005]) 114–125.
36. "Aind. *abda-* und Zubehör," *Acta Linguistica Petropolitana* 1 (2003) 103–117.
37. "Indoeuropejskoe oboznachenie goda i problema Loc. Sg. v akrostatičeskom sklonenii" [The Proto-Indo-European word for 'year' and Loc. Sg. in acrostatic paradigms], *Indo-European Linguistics and Classical Philology* 7 (2003) 167–179.

#### Journal articles under review:

38. "Vedic *rūrā-* 'deliriously hot', Ossetic *arawyn* 'to scorch in fire', Greek ἀλέα 'heat' and some other forms."
39. "YAv. Spitiura- and the compositional form of PIE \**ur̥h₁-en-* 'lamb' in Indo-Iranian."
40. "Addendum lexicis: Hittite *hurišiya-*."
41. "Hittite *ānšaššiwī-* 'corpse'."

#### Book chapters:

42. "Rhotic Degemination in Sanskrit and the Etymology of Vedic *ūrú-* 'thigh', Hittite UZU(u)walla- 'id.'," *forthcoming in a Festschrift*.
43. "Greek *θοός* 'sharp', Hittite *tuhš-* 'to cut'," *Vina Diem Celebrent: Studies in Linguistics and Philology in Honor of Brent Vine*, ed. by Dieter Gunkel, Stephanie W. Jamison, Angelo O. Mercado, and Kazuhiko Yoshida, 267–275. Ann Arbor: Beech Stave, 2018.
44. "Luvian <sup>(SIC)</sup>*šūrīta* 'balls of yarn'," *Usque ad radices: Indo-European Studies in Honour of Birgit Anette Olsen*, ed. by Bjarne Simmelkjær Sandgaard Hansen (et al.), 567–574. (Copenhagen Studies in Indo-European, vol. 8). Copenhagen: Museum Tusulanum Press, 2017.
45. "Greek ἀμυρός and Indo-European \**meh₂-* 'great, large'," *Proceedings of the 25<sup>th</sup> Annual UCLA Indo-European Conference*, ed. by S. W. Jamison, H. C. Melchert and B. Vine, 121–136. Bremen: Hempen, 2014.
46. "Time to gather stones together: Greek *λάας* and its Indo-European background," *Proceedings of the 21<sup>st</sup> Annual UCLA Indo-European Conference*, ed. by S. W. Jamison, H. C. Melchert and B. Vine, 189–206. Bremen: Hempen, 2010.
47. "Ζακλής," *Vyach. Ivanov: Materialy i Issledovanija*, ed. by K. Ju. Lappo-Danilevskij and A. B. Shishkin, 371–376. St. Petersburg: Nauka, 2010.
48. "The name of Achilles," *Cambridge Classical Journal. Proceedings of the Cambridge Philological Society*. Supplementary volume 32 (2007) 162–173.
49. "K dejstviju zakona Riksa v drevnegrecheskom jazyke" [Lex Rix before nasals in Greek], *Hṛdā mānasā: Studies Presented to Professor Leonhard G. Herzenberg on the Occasion of his 70th birthday*, ed. by N.N. Kazansky, et al., 38–72. St. Petersburg: Nauka, 2005.
50. "O vozmozhnom istočnike vyrazhenija "zhivye struny" v Slove o Polku Igoreve" [A possible source of the expression „living chords" in *Slovo o Polku Igoreve*], *Trudy Otdela Drevnerusskoj Literatury* 54 (2003) 565–580.
51. "Rund um att. γραῦς, hom. γρηῦς: zur Deutung einiger altgriechischer Personennamen," *Colloquia Classica et Indogermanica III*, ed. by N.N. Kazansky, 179–198. St. Petersburg: Nauka, 2003.

52. "Proto-Indo-European Ergativity and the Genitive in \*-osyo," *Proceedings of the 9<sup>th</sup> UCLA Indo-European Conference*, ed. by K. Jones-Bley, M. Huld and A. Della Volpe, 293–311. Washington, D.C.: Institute for the Study of Man, 2000 (JIES Monograph Series 35).

#### Reviews:

53. Review of P. Widmer, *Das Korn des weiten Feldes*. Innsbruck, 2004, *Acta Linguistica Petropolitana* 4 (2008) 541–570.
54. Review of *Novalis Indogermanica: Festschrift für Günter Neumann zum 80. Geburtstag*, ed. by M. Fritz und S. Zeilfelder. Graz, 2002, *Acta Linguistica Petropolitana* 2/1 (2006) 388–403.
55. Review of *Compositiones Indogermanicae in Memoriam Jochem Schindler*, ed. by H. Eichner, H. Chr. Luschützky, V. Sadovski, Praha: enigma corporation, 1999, *Jazyk i rechevaja dejatelnost' / Langue et parole* 5 (2003) 171–195.

#### Edited volumes:

*Hṛdā mánasā: Studies Presented to Professor Leonhard G. Herzenberg on the Occasion of his 70th birthday*. St. Petersburg: Nauka, 2005. 525 p. (Edited by N.N. Kazansky, E.R. Kryuchkova, A. S. Nikolaev and A. V. Shatskov).

#### Reviews:

1. A. Bammesberger, *Historische Sprachforschung* 118 (2005) 314–316.
2. B. Vine, *UCLA Indo-European Studies Bulletin* 11/2 (2007) 8–9.
3. R. Matasović, *Kratylos* 52 (2007) 31–38.

#### CONFERENCES, INVITED TALKS (selected)

- "Notes on Akkadian-Hittite vocabulary list KBo 1.51: *šalamtu* : *anšaššiwī-*, *rišitu* : *ḥurišiya* and *uluššu* : *zuppa-*," *39<sup>th</sup> East Coast Indo-European Conference*, Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University, 12 June 2020.
- "Another Homeric Word: *τιθαιβώσσω* 'store up' (Od. 13.106)," *151st Annual Meeting of Society for Classical Studies* (2–5 January 2020, Washington D.C.).
- "Vedic *rūrā-* 'deliriously hot', Ossetic *arawyn* 'to scorch in fire', Greek *ἀλέα* 'heat' and some other forms," *38<sup>th</sup> East Coast Indo-European Conference*, University of Pennsylvania, 22 June 2019.
- "*Hesiodica*: 1. *ἄρπαξ* 'plundering' (Op. 356); 2. *ἐπαλής* 'warm' (Op. 493)," Harvard University, 12 April 2019.
- "Notes on Greek Primary Comparatives," *150th Annual Meeting of Society for Classical Studies*, San Diego, 6 January 2019.
- "Deep Waters: The Etymology of Vedic *gabhīrā-*," *37th East Coast Indo-European Conference*, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, 15 June 2018.
- "Greek Etymology in the 21st Century," *149th Annual Meeting of Society for Classical Studies*, Boston, January 2018.
- "Sidetica," *36th East Coast Indo-European Conference*, Cornell University, Ithaca NY, 2 June 2017.
- "Luvian <sup>(s̄iG)</sup>*šūrīta* 'balls of yarn'," *35th East Coast Indo-European Conference*, University of Georgia, Athens, 5 June 2016.
- "Two Anatolian Verbs," *27th Annual UCLA Indo-European Conference*, 24 October 2015.
- "Studies in Anatolian Etymology," Harvard University, 19 October 2015.
- "Who Killed Helicon? Evidence from a Digamma (Corinna PMG 654)," *MACTe* 13, Columbia University, 2 May 2015.

- “Ten thousand eyes: the story of ἄγος Μυριωπός,” Columbia University, 6 February 2015.
- “Greek εἰαμενή,” *146th American Philological Association Annual Meeting*, New Orleans, 11 January 2015.
- “Homeric σθένει βλεμεαίνων,” *MACTe 10*, Yale University, 3 May 2014; *33rd East Coast Indo-European Conference*, Virginia Tech, 7 June 2014.
- “Greek ἀμανρός and Indo-European \*meh₂- ‘great’, \*meh₂i- ‘to be/become great’,” *25th Annual UCLA Indo-European Conference*, 25 October 2013.
- “Alcaeus’ Hymn to the Dioscuri: Sometimes a Ship is Just a Ship,” *MACTe 9*, Boston College, 4 May 2013.
- “Hittite šapp- and its congeners,” *Etymology and European Lexicon: 14th Fachtagung of the Indogermanische Gesellschaft*, University of Copenhagen, 18 September 2012.
- “The origin of Latin prōsāpia,” *31st East Coast Indo-European Conference*, University of California, Berkeley, 18 May 2012.
- “The story of Latin dīcere,” Oxford University, 23 February 2012.
- “‘Indogermanische Diktēr-sprache’: Showing praise in Greek and Indo-European,” *23rd Annual UCLA Indo-European Conference*, 29 October 2011.
- “An epic party? Sober thoughts on νηφέμεν (Archil. 4.9 West),” Harvard University, 2 April 2011.
- “ἦτε Φοῖβε (O 365, Υ 152, h. Ap. 120) and a new old Greek sound law,” *Workshop for Indo-European Linguistics*, Harvard University, 8 December 2010.
- “Ro-ír and other í-preterits in Old Irish,” *30th Harvard Celtic Colloquium*, 8 October 2010.
- “Homeric ἀάατος: etymology and poetics,” *140th American Philological Association Annual Meeting*, Philadelphia, 8 January 2009; *29th East Coast Indo-European Conference*, Cornell University, 19 June 2010.
- “Greek λᾶας and other Greek and Indo-European words for ‘stone’,” *21st Annual UCLA Indo-European Conference*, 31 October 2009; *Institute for Linguistic Studies*, St. Petersburg, 27 December 2009.
- “Thus spake Zaraθuštra: an Avestan eye on Orphic cosmogonies,” *Greek, Latin, and Indo-European Poetry*, Yale University, 26 April 2009.
- “Hittite menahhanda and PIE directive case,” *Workshop for Indo-European Linguistics*, Harvard University, 19 September 2009.
- “Indo-European \*dem(h₂)- ‘to build’: seṭ or aniṭ?,” *18th Annual UCLA Indo-European Conference*, 4 November 2006.
- “Tocharian A śamantär: evidence for a Narten present from the root \*dem(h₂)-?,” *Workshop for Indo-European Linguistics*, Harvard University, 10 May 2006.
- “The name of Achilles,” *Greek and Latin from an Indo-European Perspective*, University of Cambridge, 8 July 2005; *Institute of Linguistic Research (St. Petersburg)*, 16 November 2004.
- “Derivational and lexical semantics in Proto-Indo-European: a case-study in internal derivation,” *Indo-European Linguistics and Classical Philology – 9*, 21 June 2005.
- “On the suffix of Indo-European and Tocharian present participles,” *Indo-European Linguistics and Classical Philology – 8*, 23 June 2004.
- “Lex Rix before nasals in Greek,” *Institute of Linguistics (Moscow)*, 15 February 2003.
- “Beiträge zur griechischen Wortforschung (1. att. γρᾶνς, hom. γρηῦς. 2. altgr. ὕβρις,” *Freie-Universität Berlin, Seminar für Vergleichende und Indogermanische Sprachwissenschaft*, 18 April 2002; *Indo-European Linguistics and Classical Philology – 6*, 25 June 2002.

- “Living chords in the “Slovo o polku Igoreve”, “*International Conference on the Occasion of 200<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the First Publication of “Slovo o polku Igoreve”*, Institute of Russian Literature (St. Petersburg), 12 November 2000.

#### Webinar:

“Fictional Languages in Game of Thrones and Beyond” (sponsored by BU alumni association, [https://youtu.be/8xWFE9B\\_wJw](https://youtu.be/8xWFE9B_wJw))

#### ACADEMIC HONORS AND FELLOWSHIPS:

- The Neu Family Award for Excellence in Teaching (BU CAS) 2017
- Junior Faculty Fellow, Boston University Center for Humanities 2017
- Certificate of Distinction in Teaching (Harvard University) Fall 2009, Fall 2008, Spring 2008
- Medal from the Government of St. Petersburg and the St. Petersburg Center of the Russian Academy of Sciences 2008
- Award of Excellence from the Friends and Alumni of Indo-European Studies (for the best paper presented at the 18<sup>th</sup> Annual Indo-European Conference, UCLA) 2006
- Academia Europaea Prize and Medal 2006
- Harvard Presidential Scholarship for Graduate Study 2005-2010
- The President of the Russian Federation Fellowship for graduate students 2005
- Fellowship from the Foundation for Promotion of Research in Russia 2004
- Medal of Russian Academy of Sciences 2003

#### PROFESSIONAL SERVICE:

##### Boston University:

- CAS Academic Policy Committee (2015–2018)
- CAS Humanities Curriculum Committee (2014–2015)
- Undergraduate Academic Advising Awards Committee (2019–2020)
- Adviser to *Boston University International Society* (2016–2018)
- Department of Classical Studies, Director of Undergraduate Studies (2019–2020)
- Department of Classical Studies, Arrowsmith Library acquisitions liaison (2016–present)
- Department of Classical Studies, Classics House liaison (2016–present)
- Department of Classical Studies, Classics Teas liaison (2018–present)

#### EXTERNAL REVIEWER FOR:

Journals: *Archiv für Religionsgeschichte*, *Arion*, *Indo-European Linguistics*, *Indogermanische Forschungen*, *International Journal of Diachronic Linguistics*, *Studia Indogermanica Lodziensia*, *Transactions of the Philological Society*.

Publishers: *Cambridge University Press*, *Oxford University Press*, *Routledge*.

Granting Agencies: *Czech Science Foundation*.

#### COURSES TAUGHT:

##### Boston University:

- *The World of Greece* (Spring 2014; Fall 2014, Fall 2015; Fall 2016; Fall 2018; Spring 2018, Fall 2019, Fall 2020)
- *Greek and Latin Elements of English* (Fall 2013; Spring 2015)

- *The Origins of Writing* (Fall 2014, Fall 2015; Summer 2016; Summer 2017; Spring 2019)
- *The Others: Cultural and Linguistic Diversity in Ancient World* (Spring 2020)
- *The Language of our Ancestors: Introduction to Indo-European Languages and Peoples* (Summer 2019, Fall 2020)
- *Beginning Ancient Greek* (Spring 2019)
- *Intermediate Ancient Greek: Prose* (Fall 2013)
- *Intermediate Ancient Greek: Poetry* (Spring 2016)
- *Greek Lyric Poetry* (Spring 2014; Fall 2018)
- *History of Greek Literature* (Graduate Survey), part 1 (Spring 2016; Spring 2020)
- *Historical Grammar of Greek* (Spring 2014 [directed study]; Spring 2018 [graduate seminar])
- *Historical Grammar of Latin: Early Inscriptions from Rome* (Spring 2019 [directed study])
- *Historical Linguistics* (Fall 2016; Summer 2018; Fall 2018)
- *Introduction to Old Irish* (Fall 2019 [directed study])

#### **Brandeis University:**

- *Phonological Theory* (Spring 2013)

#### **Harvard University (Summer School):**

- *Historical Linguistics* (Summer 2010)

#### **Harvard University:**

- *Writing Systems* (course instructor)
- *Morphology across World Languages* (course instructor)
- *Concept of The Hero in Greek Civilization* (section leader)
- *Historical Linguistics* (section leader)
- *Introduction to Linguistics* (section leader)
- *Knowledge of Language* (Head TF; section leader)

#### **UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH SUPERVISED**

(sponsored by the *Undergraduate Research Opportunities Program*):

- “Punic Language in Plautus *Poen.* 930–949” (Spring 2016)
- “Anatolian Lexical Borrowings in Ancient Greek” (Summer 2018)
- “Computer Aided Analysis of Greek Poetic Meter” (Spring 2019)

#### **GRADUATE RESEARCH SUPERVISED (as a committee member):**

- “A Spring of Ambrosial Words: Finding Pindar in Pindar” (Elizabeth Baxter, Dept. of Classical Studies, Ph.D. dissertation defended in 2018).
- “Sappho’s Weddings: A Study in Ritual Poetics” (Julie Levy, Dept. of Classical Studies, Ph.D. dissertation in progress).
- “Bi-consonantal Roots in Proto-Semitic and Proto-Afro-Asiatic?” (Brady Daley, Linguistics, M.A. thesis defended in 2019).

#### **MEMBERSHIP IN PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS:**

- *American Oriental Society*
- *Society for Classical Studies*
- *Society for Indo-European Studies (Indogermanische Gesellschaft)*.

**LANGUAGES:**

Russian (native), German, English (fluent), French (intermediate), Spanish, Italian, Lithuanian (reading knowledge), plus reading knowledge of a number of extinct ancient and medieval Indo-European and Semitic languages.