

MATTHEW W. WATERS

Professor of Classics and Ancient History
4904 Centennial Hall
UW-Eau Claire
Eau Claire, WI, 54702
watersmw@uwec.edu

EDUCATION

Ph.D. (1997) in Ancient History, University of Pennsylvania

Dissertation: "A Survey of Neo-Elamite History" (advisor: Dr. Erle Leichty[†])

M.A. (1991) in Ancient History, University of Pennsylvania

B.A. (1989) in History (*cum laude*), University of Notre Dame

LANGUAGES

Ancient: Akkadian, Greek, Old Persian, Elamite, Latin
Modern: French and German (reading only)

TEACHING AND RELATED POSITIONS

Chair, Department of Languages, UW-Eau Claire, 2016-2022

Professor of Classics and Ancient History, Departments of Languages and History,
UW-Eau Claire; 2010-

Associate Professor (2004-2010), Assistant Professor (2001-2004), and Lecturer (1999-2001),
Departments of Foreign Languages and History, UW-Eau Claire

Lecturer in Ancient History and Classical Studies, University of Pennsylvania; 1997-99

Adjunct Assistant Professor, History Department, University of Delaware; 1997-99

FELLOWSHIPS AND AWARDS

Institute for Advanced Study Member fellowship, Spring 2017

Loeb Classical Library Foundation fellowship, Harvard University, 2011-12

Center for Hellenic Studies fellowship, Harvard University, 2011-12

Institute for Research in the Humanities, UW-Madison, UW-System fellowship, 2011-12

UW-Eau Claire Max Schoenfeld Distinguished Professorship, 2011-12

UW-Eau Claire Excellence in Scholarship award, 2009

American Council of Learned Societies fellowship, 2005-06

Jonas C. Greenfield Prize from the American Oriental Society, 2006

- Awarded for the best published article in Ancient Near Eastern studies in a three-year period by a scholar under forty years old, for "Cyrus and the Achaemenids," cited below.

Fellow, Louis J. Kolb Foundation of the University of Pennsylvania Museum of Archaeology and Anthropology, elected 1991

PUBLICATIONS

Books in-progress

Implementing the Imperial Mission: The Achaemenid Ideal of Universal Rule, in-preparation

Darius I: The First World-Emperor, Yale University Press, Ancient Lives Series, in-preparation

Books Published

King of the World: The Life of Cyrus the Great, Oxford University Press, 2022 (paperback 2025)

(<https://global.oup.com/academic/product/king-of-the-world-9780190927172?cc=us&lang=en&>)

Ctesias' Persica and Its Near Eastern Context, University of Wisconsin Press, 2017.

(<https://uwpress.wisc.edu/books/5367.htm>)

- paperback version published in January 2020

Ancient Persia: A Concise History of the Achaemenid Empire, 550-330 BCE, Cambridge University

Press, 2014 (<http://www.cambridge.org/us/academic/subjects/classical-studies/ancient-history/ancient-persia-concise-history-achaemenid-empire-550330-bce?format=PB>)

A Survey of Neo-Elamite History, State Archives of Assyria Studies Vol. XII (Helsinki, Finland), 2000

(<http://www.helsinki.fi/science/saa/saas-12.html>)

Edited volume

If a Man Built a Joyful House: Assyriological Studies in Honor of Erle Verdun Leichty, eds. A. Guinan,

M. Ellis, A. J. Ferrara, S. Freedman, M. Rutz, L. Sassmannhausen, S. Tinney, and M. W. Waters (Leiden: Brill), 2006

ARTICLES

Articles In-progress or forthcoming

“Sorting the Mail: The Assyrian Impress on Elam and Parsumaš,” for *Identity, Alterity, and the Imperial Impress in the Achaemenid World*, Proceedings of the First Achaemenid Workshop, ed. R. Rollinger and M. R. Shayegan, Harrassowitz Verlag: *Publications of the Pourdavoud Institute*, Achaemenid Workshops, 2027?

“Dēr: The Linchpin of the Elamite-Babylonian Borderlands,” for *Contextualizing Imperial Borderlands*, ed. J. Degen and R. Rollinger, Austrian Academy of Sciences, series Sitzungsberichte der Philosophisch-Historischen Klasse

Articles Published

“Cyrus (1), "the Great," Persian king, d. 530 bce.” In *Oxford Classical Dictionary*. Oxford University Press, 2025. doi: <https://doi.org/10.1093/acrefore/9780199381135.013.1994>.

“Cambyses II, king of Persia, 530–522 bce.” In *Oxford Classical Dictionary*. Oxford University Press, 2025. doi: <https://doi.org/10.1093/acrefore/9780199381135.013.1320>.

“SAA 21 134 and the Curious Case of Teispes(?) the *šūt rēši*,” in *Deciphering Assyria: A Tribute to Simo Parpola on the Occasion of his 80th Birthday*, ed. R. Mattila, R. Rollinger, and S. Fink, Münster: Zaphon, 2023, 385-394.

“The Persian Empire under the Teispid Dynasty,” for *The Oxford History of the Ancient Near East*, Vol. 5, ed. N. Moeller, D. T. Potts and K. Radner, Oxford University Press, 2023, 376-416.

“Peace in Pieces: Making Peace in Elam,” in *Making Peace in the Ancient World: Proceedings of the Seventh Melammu Workshop*, ed. G. Lanfranchi, S. Ponchetta, and R. Rollinger, Münster: Zaphon, 2022, 249-263.

“Exploring Elam as Empire,” in *Empires to be Remembered. Ancient Worlds through Modern Times*, ed. Michael Gehler and Robert Rollinger, Wiesbaden: Springer, 2022, 205-219.

“Ashurbanipal’s Legacy: Cyrus the Great and The Achaemenid Empire” in *Iran and Its Histories: From the Beginnings through the Achaemenid Empire*, Proceedings of the 1st and 2nd Payravi Lectures on Ancient Iranian History, ed. T. Daryaei and R. Rollinger, Wiesbaden: Harrassowitz, 2021, pp. 149-162.

“The Far Side of the Long Sixth Century: Mesopotamian Political Influences on Early Achaemenid Persia,” in *In the Shadow of Empire: Israel and Judah in the Long Sixth Century BCE*, eds. M. Hamilton and P. Barmash, Atlanta: Society of Biblical Literature Press, 2021, pp. 139-160.

“To Be or Not to Be (Divine): The Achaemenid King and Essential Ambiguity in Image, Text, and Historical Context,” in *Art/ifacts and ArtWorks in the Ancient World*, ed. K. Sonik, Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press, 2021, pp. 159-182.

“The Achaemenid Persian Empire: From the Medes to Alexander,” for *The Oxford History of World Empire*, ed. P. F. Bang, C. F. Bayly, and W. Scheidel, 2020, Oxford: Oxford University Press, pp. 111-136

“Cyrus Rising: Reflections on Word Choice, Ancient and Modern,” in *Cyrus the Great: Life and Lore*, ed. R. Shayegan, 2019, Boston: Harvard University Press, pp. 26-45

“Xerxes and the Oathbreakers: Empire and Rebellion on the Northwestern Front,” in *Revolt and Resistance in the Ancient Classical World and the Near East: In the Crucible of Empire*, ed. J. Collins and J. G. Manning, 2016, Leiden: Brill, 93-102

“Darius the First, the Ninth King,” in *Excavating an Empire: Achaemenid Persia in Longue Durée*, ed. T. Daryaei, A. Mousavi, and K. Rezakhani, Costa Mesa, CA: Mazda Publishers, 2014, pp. 63-70

“Earth, Water, and Friendship with the King: Argos and Persia in the mid-fifth Century,” for *Extraction and Control: Studies in Honor of Matthew W. Stolper*, ed. W. Henkelman, C. Jones, M. Kozuh, and C. Woods (Chicago: Oriental Institute Publications), 2014, 331-336

“Elam, Assyria, and Babylonia in the Early First Millennium BC,” *Oxford Handbook of Ancient Iran*, ed. D. T. Potts, Oxford University Press, 2013, 478-492

“Notes on the Medes and Their ‘Empire’ from Jer. 25.25 to Hdt. 1.134,” in *A Common Cultural Heritage: Studies on Mesopotamia and the Biblical World in Honor of Barry L. Eichler*, ed. G. Frame et al. (CDL Press, 2011), 243-253

“The Oibaras Saga in Ctesias,” in *Ktesias’s Welt/Ctesias’ World*, ed. J. Wiesehöfer, R. Rollinger, and G. Lanfranchi (Wiesbaden: Harrassowitz Verlag), 2011, pp. 489-498

“Parsumash, Anshan, and Cyrus,” in *Elam and Persia*, ed. J. Alvarez-Mon and M. Garrison, Eisenbrauns, 2011, pp. 286-296

“Applied Royal Directive: Pissouthnes and Samos,” in *Der Achämenidenhof/The Achaemenid Court*, ed. B. Jacobs and R. Rollinger (Wiesbaden: Harrassowitz Verlag, 2010), pp. 817-828

“Cyrus and Susa,” *Revue d’Assyriologie* 102 (2008), pp. 115-118 – published in Sept. 2010

“Cyrus and the Medes,” *The World of Achaemenid Persia*, eds. J. Curtis and St. John Simpson (British Museum – I. B. Taurus, 2010), pp. 63-71

“Media and its Discontents,” *Journal of the American Oriental Society* 125:4 (2005), 517-33 – published June, 2007. Review Article of *Continuity of Empire(?) : Assyria, Media, Persia*, ed. Giovanni B. Lanfranchi, Michael Roaf, Robert Rollinger (Padova, 2003)

“A Neo-Elamite Royal Family,” *Iranica Antiqua* 41 (2006), pp. 59-70

“Four Brothers and a Throne,” *If a Man Built a Joyful House: Assyriological Studies in Honor of Erle Verdun. Leichty*, eds. A. Guinan, M. Ellis, A. J. Ferrara, S. Freedman, M. Rutz, L. Sassmannhausen, S. Tinney, and M. W. Waters (Brill, 2006), 499-502

“Cyrus and the Achaemenids,” *Iran* 42 (2004), pp. 91-102

“A Letter from Ashurbanipal to the Elders of Elam (BM 132980),” *Journal of Cuneiform Studies* 54 (2002), pp. 79-86

“Another Huban-nikash,” *Nouvelles assyriologiques brèves et utilitaires* 2002 N°4 (décembre) no. 88, p. 77

“Mesopotamian Sources and Neo-Elamite History,” in *Historiography in the Cuneiform World*, Proceedings of the XLV^e Rencontre Assyriologique Internationale, Volume I, eds. T. Abusch et al., (Bethesda, MD: CDL Press), 2001, pp. 473-82

“The Earliest Persians in Southwestern Iran: The Textual Evidence,” *Iranian Studies* 32 (1999), pp. 99-107

“Te’umman in the Neo-Assyrian Correspondence,” *Journal of the American Oriental Society* 119 (1999), pp. 473-77

“ABL 268 and Tammaritu,” *Archiv orientální* 67 (1999), pp. 72-74

“Darius and the Achaemenid Line,” *Ancient History Bulletin* 10 (1996), pp. 11-18

Encyclopedia, biographical, and magazine publications

Five entries for *The Herodotus Encyclopedia*, ed. C. Baron, Hoboken: Wiley-Blackwell, 2021

“Bisitun,” pp. 225-28

“Darius, son of Hystaspes,” pp. 403-07

“Earth and water,” pp. 477-78

“Eunuchs,” pp. 545-46

“Smerdis,” pp. 1342-43

Thirty-eight entries as sole author and fifteen entries as co-author for *The Prosopography of the Neo-Assyrian Empire* Volumes 1-3, 6 fascicles, ed. K. Radner and H. Baker (Winona Lake: Eisenbrauns), 1998-2011.

Five entries on aspects of the Achaemenid Persian Empire for *The Middle East: The Cradle of Civilization Revealed*, Chief Consultant S. Bourke, Thames and Hudson, 2008

"Making (Up) History," *Archaeology Odyssey*, November/December 2005, pp. 12-20

"Ancient Iran," in *Guide to Historical Literature*, Third Edition, ed. Mary Beth Norton (Oxford-New York, Oxford University Press), 1995, pp. 146-151

Book Reviews

Anne Fitzpatrick-McKinley (ed.), *Assessing Biblical and Classical Sources for the Reconstruction of Persian Influence, History and Culture*, Wiesbaden: Harrasowitz Verlag, for *Journal of the American Oriental Society* 139.3 (2019), 731-32.

M. Chavalas (ed.), *Current Issues and the Study of the Ancient Near East*, Regina Publishing: 2007, in *Ancient History Bulletin* 22 (2008), 182-84

W. Burkert, *Babylon, Memphis, Persepolis: Eastern Contexts of Greek Culture* (Harvard U Press, 2004), in *Journal of Near Eastern Studies* 69 (2010), 107-08.

G. Cawkwell, *The Greek Wars: The Failure of Persia* (Oxford), 2005, *Journal of the American Oriental Society* 127 No. 2 (2007), 226

S. Ruzicka, *Politics of a Persian Dynasty: The Hecatomnids in the Fourth Century B.C.* (U of Oklahoma Press), 1992 for *Name-ye Iran-e Bastan (The International Journal of Ancient Iranian Studies)* 6, No. 1-2 (2006-07), 95-96

Yeki bud, yeki nabud. Essays on the Archaeology of Iran in Honor of William M. Sumner, eds. N. Miller and K. Abdi, 2003, in *Journal of the American Oriental Society* 125/1 (2005), 150-51

P. Briant, *From Cyrus to Alexander: A History of the Persian Empire*, translated by P. Daniels (Winona Lake: Eisenbrauns), 2002 in *Journal of Near Eastern Studies* 65 (2006), 124-25

M. Luukko and G. Van Buylaere, *The Political Correspondence of Esarhaddon*, (Helsinki University Press), 2002, for *Bibliotheca Orientalis* LXI n.1-2, januari-april 2004, 152-53.

J. Wiesehofer, *Ancient Persia from 550 BC to 650 AD*, translated by Azizeh Azodi (London: I. B. Tauris Publishers), 2001, in *Journal of the American Oriental Society* 122 (2002), 908-909

E. Raptou, *Athènes et Chypre à l'époque perse (VIe-IVe s. av. J.-C.): histoire et données archéologiques* (Lyon: Maison de l'Orient), in *Journal of Near Eastern Studies* 62/3 (2003), 206

D. Lewis, *Selected Papers in Greek and Near Eastern History*, edited by P.J. Rhodes (Cambridge: Cambridge U Press), 1997, in *Journal of Near Eastern Studies* 61 (2002), 230-31

P. Briant, *Bulletin d'histoire achéménide II, Persika 1*, (Paris: Collège de France, Thotm éditions), 2001 for *Bryn Mawr Classical Review* 2001.10.40

M. Miller, *Athens and Persia in the Fifth Century BC: A Study in Cultural Receptivity* (Cambridge: Cambridge U Press), 1997 in *Journal of Near Eastern Studies* 60 (2001), 319-20

P. Green, *The Greco-Persian Wars* (Berkeley: University of California Press), 1996, in *Journal of Near Eastern Studies* 60 (2001), 151

J. Marincola, *Authority and Tradition in Ancient Historiography* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press), 1997, in *Journal of Near Eastern Studies* 59 (2000), 320

C. Tuplin, *Achaemenid Studies*, Historia Einzelschriften 99 (Stuttgart: Franz Steiner Verlag), 1996, in *Journal of Near Eastern Studies* 59 (2000), 289-90

P. Briant, *Histoire de l'Empire Perse: De Cyrus à Alexandre* (Paris: Librairie Arthème Fayard), 1996, in *Bryn Mawr Classical Review* 1998.9.10

(<http://ccat.sas.upenn.edu/bmcr/1998/1998-09-10.html>)

LECTURES/CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS (selected, from 2012 only)

Invited Lectures

“Force of God and King: Projection and Reception of Achaemenid Royal Ideology,” Center for Hellenic Studies, Harvard University, March 7, 2023

“One King to Rule Them All: Achaemenid Visions of Universal Empire,” seminar for UW-Madison, History Department, March 4, 2020

“Assyria’s Revenge: The Achaemenid Persian Empire. Assyrian ideological Continuity in Persian Guise,” University of Colorado, February 21, 2019.

“Applied Ambiguity: Achaemenid Royal Ideology and the Divine,” Near Eastern Studies, U Cal-Berkeley, April 24, 2017

“Royal Reachings: Representation of the Achaemenid King and the Divine,” Bryn Mawr Classics Colloquium, April 7, 2017

“From Elam to Persia: Cyrus Rising,” Cyrus the Great – Life and Lore, international conference hosted by UCLA in conjunction with the Cyrus Cylinder exhibition at the J. Paul Getty Museum, October 28, 2013.

“Ctesias’ *Persica* and the Eunuch In-between,” Classics Colloquium, Department of Classical Studies, University of Pennsylvania, October 25, 2012

“Ctesias’ *Persica* in Its Near Eastern Context,” Institute for Research in the Humanities, UW-Madison, April 30, 2012

“History and Historiography of the Early Persian Empire,” Johns Hopkins University, March 9, 2012

“Forays into Ctesias’ *Persica*,” Center for Hellenic Studies/Harvard University, Washington D.C., March 8, 2012

Conference and Workshop Papers

“Still Sorting the Mail: The Assyrian Imperial Impress in Elam and Parsumāš,” international conference *Identity, Alterity, and the Imperial Impress in the Achaemenid World*, The First Achaemenid Workshop, April 13, 2023

“Dare to Hold Dēr: The Linchpin of the Elamite-Babylonian Borderlands,” *Contextualizing Imperial Borderlands*, international conference at the Vorarlberg Museum, Bregenz, Austria, June 21, 2022

“What Could Go Wrong? Marriage Alliances and the Path to Peace in Elam” *Seventh Melammu Workshop* at the University of Padova on Nov. 6, 2018. Held in conjunction with the conference *Making Peace: Transitions after War from Antiquity to the Present*, commemorating the 100th anniversary of the signing of the Armistice of Villa Giusti at the close of World War I.

“*Gloria in excelsis Regi*: Ambiguity in the Representations of Darius I,” conference *Text and Image: Transmedial Inquiries into Ancient Near Eastern Cultures*, Institute for the Study of the Ancient World, New York University, April 27, 2018.

“Achaemenid royal ideological expression,” 2017 Ancient History Seminar, Institute for Advanced Study, February 7, 2017

“Ctesias at the Crossroads: Integrating Greek and Near Eastern Traditions in the *Persica*,” American Philological Association; Chicago, IL; January 5, 2014