

Randolph B. Ford

University of Maryland, Baltimore County
Department of Ancient Studies, PAHB 448
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Current Position:

- Assistant Professor, Department of Ancient Studies, UMBC (August 2024-present); Affiliate Faculty, Asian Studies Program, UMBC

Previous Positions:

- Visiting Assistant Professor, Classics Department, Skidmore College (2021-2024)
- Adjunct Instructor, Department of History, State University of New York, Albany (2019-2021)
- Visiting Assistant Professor, Department of Classics, University of Notre Dame (2018-2019)
- Affiliated Faculty, Medieval Institute, University of Notre Dame (2018-2019)
- Visiting Fellow, Liu Institute for Asia and Asian Studies, University of Notre Dame (2018-2019)
- Moreau Postdoctoral Fellow, University of Notre Dame (2016-2018)

Research and Teaching Interests:

- Late Antique Historiography and Literature
- Greece-Rome / China Comparative Studies
- Ancient China and Inner Asia
- Ethnicity and Identity
- Geography and Ethnography
- Greek and Roman Historiography

Education:

New York University/Institute for the Study of the Ancient World

Ph.D., May 2016.

Dissertation Title:

“Ethnographic Identities and the Politics of Empire in Late Roman and Early Medieval Chinese Historiography” – recipient of the 2016-2017 Dean’s Outstanding Dissertation in the Humanities Award, NYU

Examination Fields:

- Greco-Roman Historiography, Geography, and Ethnography
- Greco-Roman Late Antique History and Literature
- Ancient to Early Medieval Chinese History, 770 B.C.-A.D. 581

University of Wisconsin-Madison, September 2007-July 2010

M.A. in Scandinavian Studies (Philology), May 2009

Certificate in Medieval Studies, December 2009

University of Oslo, January 2001-December 2001

Coursework in Latin Language, Chinese Language, Chinese History

University of Wisconsin-Madison, September 1997-December 2000

B.A. in Scandinavian Studies, December 2000

Final semester abroad in Oslo, Norway on “Oslo Year” program

Trinity College, September 1996-May 1997

Part-time coursework in Classics

University of Saint Andrews, September 1995-May 1996

Coursework in Medieval Studies

Honors and Fellowships:

Skidmore College

2023 Tang Mellon Faculty Seminar

University of Notre Dame

2016-2018 Moreau Fellowship Postdoctoral Research Associate

New York University

2016-2017 Dean’s Outstanding Dissertation Award in the Humanities

2010-2016 ISAW Fellowship

University of Wisconsin-Madison

2007-2008 University of Wisconsin University Fellowship

2000 Ygdrasil Fund Travel Grant awarded by The Ygdrasil Literary Society

1999 Phi Beta Kappa

1998 Chou Kuo-P’ing Book Award for Chinese Studies awarded by University of Wisconsin-Madison Department of East Asian Languages and Literature

Monographs:

(Under review with Cambridge University Press) *China, Rome, and the First Great Divergence: The Decline, Fall, and Survival of Empires.*

Rome, China, and the Barbarians: Ethnographic Traditions and the Transformation of Empires.

Cambridge University Press, 2020 (<https://www.cambridge.org/core/books/rome-china-and-the-barbarians/EBA2D042D65AA734747A88A785A1C651#fndtn-information>).

Articles/Book Chapters:

(In progress, data collection on-going) “Learning Categorical Associations Embedded in the Chinese Writing System.” In collaboration with Dr. Tianlin Wang (SUNY-Albany) and Dr. Liquan Liu (Western Sydney University).

“Barbarians in Byzantium.” *Dialogues d’histoire ancienne*. Presses Univ. De Franche-Comté, 2024.

“Anger as an Ethnographic Trope: Changing Views from Aristotle to Seneca.” *Emotions across Cultures: Classical Greece and China*. Ed. by David Konstan. De Gruyter, 2022.

“The *Wars* of Procopius and the *Jinshu* of Fang Xuanling: Historiographical Representations of Barbarian Political Identity under Reconstituted Empires.” *Historiography and Identity IV: Writing History Across Medieval Eurasia*. Ed. by Walter Pohl. Brepols, 2021.

- “From Scythian, to Getan, to Goth: The *Getica* of Jordanes and the Classical Ethnographic Tradition.” *Historiography and Identity II: Post-Roman Multiplicity and New Political Identities*. Ed. by Helmut Reimitz and Gerda Heydemann. Brepols, 2020.
- “The Gaxian Cave 嘎仙洞 Inscription: The Perpetuation of Steppe Tradition under the Northern Wei Dynasty.” *Archivum Eurasiae Medii Aevi*, Vol. 20 (2013), pp. 23-66.
- “*Barbaricum Depictum*: Images of the Germani and Xiongnu in the Works of Tacitus and Sima Qian.” *Sino-Platonic Papers*, No. 207 (December 2010).

Book Reviews:

Emerging Powers in Eurasian Comparison, 200-1100., ed. by Walter Pohl and Veronika Wieser. Brill, 2022. H-Soz-Kult, <https://www.hsozkult.de/>.

Conference/Workshop Papers:

- “*Splendida suscipiant alium te rostra Camillum*: republican *exempla* in Claudian’s panegyric works.” Presented at the *International Medieval Congress*, held at the University of Leeds, July 1-4, 2024.
- “Imperial Order Restored from the Periphery: Fu Jian and Theoderic.” Presented at the *Seventeenth International Conference of the Taiwan Association of Classical, Medieval, and Renaissance Studies – Harmony and Chaos: The Dialectics of Order and Disorder*, held at Chinese Culture University, Taipei, Taiwan, October 20-21, 2023.
- “Anger as an Ethnographic Topos from Aristotle to Seneca.” Presented at the *Emotions between China and Greece Workshop*, held at Fudan University and New York University, Shanghai, October 17-18, 2019.
- “Enemies of Order or Noble Savages?: Steppe Nomads in the Greco-Roman and Chinese Imagination.” Presented at the *Exercise of Power in Ancient Empires: A Comparative Perspective* workshop, held at the University of Notre Dame, October 26-28, 2018.
- “Barbarians at the Gates of a Still Triumphant Empire: Imperial Epic and Ethnographic Discourse in the *Bellum Geticum* of Claudian.” Presented at the *Joint Annual Meeting of the SCS and ALA*, San Francisco, January 6-9, 2016.
- “The Ancient Pedigrees of the Goths and Xianbei: A Trans-Cultural Study in Greco-Roman and Chinese Ethnographic Historiography.” Presented at the *International Medieval Congress*, held at the University of Leeds, July 6-9, 2015.
- “The *Wars* of Procopius and the *Jinshu* of Fang Xuanling: Historiographical Representations of Barbarian Political Identity under Reconstituted Empires.” Presented at *Historiography and Identity around 1000 AD: China and the West Workshop*, held at Institut für Mittelalterforschung, Österreichische Akademie der Wissenschaften, Vienna, June 25, 2014.
- “By Right of Conquest, Blood, or Law: The Barbarian’s Rhetorical Case for Political Legitimacy in Late Antiquity and Early Medieval China.” Presented at the *Princeton Vienna Graduate Exchange in Late Antique, Early Medieval and Byzantine History*, held at Princeton University, May 10-11, 2014.
- “Historical Representations of the Sārbi Past: The Wandering Origins of a Steppe People in Early Medieval China.” Presented at the *Penn Center for Ancient Studies Graduate Symposium*, held at the University of Pennsylvania Museum of Archaeology and Anthropology, Philadelphia, March 8, 2014.
- “A Reconsideration of Northern Wei Frontier Policy.” Presented at the workshop *Sedentary Answers to Nomadic Policies in Central Asia 1st Millennium A.D.*, held at the Institute for

the Study of the Ancient World, New York University, New York, December 16, 2011.

“‘Þagalt og hugalt skyli þjóðans barn’: Character Profiles and the Traits of Nobility in *Heimskringla*.” Presented at the Forty-Fifth International Congress on Medieval Studies, held at Western Michigan University, Kalamazoo, May 13-16, 2010.

Organized Workshops/Panels:

“Religious, political, and cosmic crisis in the poetry of Claudian.” Co-organized with Amy Oh for *International Medieval Congress*, University of Leeds, July 1-4, 2024.

The Exercise of Power in Ancient Empires: A Comparative Perspective. Workshop held at the University of Notre Dame, October 26-28, 2018. Co-organized with Liang Cai, Department of History, University of Notre Dame.

“Nomads and Imperial Frontiers.” Panel chaired with Alexander Beihammer, Department of History, University of Notre Dame, at the *Exercise of Power in Ancient Empires: A Comparative Perspective* workshop.

“Traditions of Antiquity in the Post-Classical World: Religious, Ethnographic, and Political Representation in the Poetic Works of Paulinus of Nola, Damasus, Claudian, and George of Pisidia.” Held at the *Joint Annual Meeting of the SCS and ALA*, San Francisco, January 6-9, 2016.

Invited Talks/Guest Lectures:

“Regional Security Architecture of the Asia Pacific: Past, Present and Future—*Past: Empires*.” Invitation from Rorry Daniels, National Committee on American Foreign Policy, April 23, 2020.

“Nomads of Central Asia and Rome-China Comparative Study.” Invitation from Griet Vankeerberghen, Global Antiquities, McGill University, April 26, 2019.

“Goths and Vandals, Sārbi 鮮卑 and Xiongnu 匈奴: The Politics of Ethnographic Historiography in Roman Late Antiquity and Early Medieval China.” Invitation from Sherri Olson, Department of History, University of Connecticut, April 13, 2017.

“Imperial Ethnographies: Chang’an and Constantinople.” Invitation from Nino Luraghi, Department of Classics, Princeton University, March 3, 2016.

“Ethnic Identities and Barbarian Antitheses in Late Antique and Early Medieval Chinese Historiography.” Invitation from Naomi Rood, Department of Classics, Colgate University, February 19, 2015.

Student Advising:

Max Chelso, 2022-present (Skidmore College)

Amelia DeDominicas, 2022-present (Skidmore College)

Devon Chenelle, 2016-2018 (Notre Dame) Undergraduate Honors Thesis, “Investigating Conditions of the 418 Visigothic Settlement in Aquitaine”

Funding Awards for Undergraduate Students:

Devon Chenelle, 2017 (Notre Dame): Glynn Family Honors Program Undergraduate Research Grant (\$1,900)

Kylie Van Arsdale, 2017 (Notre Dame): Balfour-Hesburgh Summer Scholarship (\$8,388)

Teaching Experience:

Skidmore College

- Instructor for *Medieval Saga and Epic* (2023)
- Instructor for *Latin Prose Seminar: Caesar in Gaul* (2023)
- Instructor for *Perilous Frontiers of China and Rome* (2023)
- Instructor for *Latin Prose Seminar: Livy* (2022)
- Instructor for *Ethnicity and Identity in the Ancient Mediterranean and Beyond* (2022)
- Instructor for *Athens, Alexander, and Cleopatra* (2022)
- Instructor for *Greek Prose Seminar: Herodotus* (2022)
- Instructor for *Latin Prose Seminar: Cornelius Nepos, Tacitus* (2021)
- Instructor for *The Rise of Athens* (2021)
- Instructor for *The Fall of Rome* (2021)
- Instructor for *Greek Prose Seminar: Lucian* (2021)
- Instructor for *The Rise of Rome* (2020)

State University of New York, Albany

- Instructor for *The Early Middle Ages* (2020, 2021)
- Instructor for *History of the Roman Empire* (2021)
- Instructor for *Barbarians, the Church, and the Fall of Rome* (2020)
- Instructor for *History of European Civilization I* (2019, 2020)
- Instructor for *History of Ancient Rome* (2019)

University of Notre Dame

- Instructor for *Roman Imperialism, c. 200 BC-AD 200* (2018)
- Instructor for *Directed Reading in Classical Chinese Sources on Inner Asia* (2018)
- Instructor for *Barbarians, the Church, and the Fall of Rome* (2017, 2018)
- Instructor for *Perilous Frontiers of Rome and China* (2017, 2019)
- Instructor for *Elementary Latin II* (2016, 2018, 2019)

New York University

- Adjunct Instructor for *Intermediate Latin I: Reading Prose* (2015)
- Adjunct Instructor for *Elementary Latin I* (2014)

Fu Jen Catholic University, Taipei, Taiwan

- Instructor for *Latin I and Latin II* intensive courses (2012)

Languages:

- Speaking/Reading Fluency: English, Mandarin Chinese, Norwegian
Advanced Reading Proficiency: Classical Chinese, Danish, French, German, Greek, Latin, Old English, Old Norse, Old Saxon, Swedish