

# ALIOSHA PITTAKA BIELENBERG

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## EDUCATION

**PhD Rhetoric, *University of California, Berkeley*** | Berkeley, California | *May 2028 (expected)*

Completing a **Designated Emphasis in the Study of Religion**.

Committee: James I. Porter (Rhetoric & Classics; dissertation chair), Daniel Boyarin (Rhetoric & Near Eastern Studies; QE chair), Charles Hirschkind (Anthropology), Christine Philliou (History), Maria Mavroudi (History, Classics, & Near Eastern Studies).

**Visiting PhD Candidate in Byzantine and Modern Greek Studies, *Institut für Byzantinistik und Neogräzistik, University of Vienna*** | Vienna, Austria | *2025–26*

Member of the Doctoral School of Historical and Cultural Studies. Affiliated Member, Research Cluster of Excellence: Eurasian Transformations. Supervisor: Claudia Rapp.

**MA Rhetoric, *University of California, Berkeley*** | Berkeley, California | *December 2024*

Fields for Qualifying Examinations: Modern European Philosophy; Social and Political Theory; Histories and Societies of the Eastern Mediterranean.

**MA Philosophy, *Institute of Philosophy (HIW), KU Leuven*** | Leuven, Belgium | *July 2023*

Thesis title: *Anthropology, Negative and Positive: Heidegger, Levinas, Lévi-Strauss, Arendt*. Supervisor: Bart Raymaekers. Awarded *magna cum laude*.

**BA Philosophy, *Institute of Philosophy (HIW), KU Leuven*** | Leuven, Belgium | *Sep 2022*

BA paper: *Kant, Hegel, and Arendt on the Philosophy of History*. [Earned *en route* to MA.]

**MSc Digital Cultural Heritage, *Science and Technology in Archaeology and Culture Research Centre (STARC), The Cyprus Institute*** | Nicosia, Cyprus | *October 2021*

Thesis title: *Agios Sozomenos: A Site of Plurality*. Advisor: Nikolas Bakirtzis.

**AB *Brown University*** | Providence, Rhode Island | *May 2020*

Completed concentrations in **Archaeology and the Ancient World** (as part of the Engaged Scholars Program) & **Critical Thought and Global Social Inquiry** (as an Independent Concentration). Awarded *magna cum laude*.

Senior honors thesis title: *How Do We Make a World? Hannah Arendt, the Khoi-San, and the Problems of Alterity and Humanism*. Advisor: Michael P. Steinberg.

**Additional education:** Freie Universität Berlin Winter School (German Philosophy), January 2021; American School of Classical Studies at Athens (Greek Palaeography), 2025–26; Austrian Academy of Sciences, Handwritten Text Recognition (HTR) Winter School 2025.

## PEER-REVIEWED PUBLICATIONS

“The Concept of History in Hannah Arendt’s *Lectures on Kant’s Political Philosophy*.” In *Hannah Arendt’s ‘Lectures on Kant’s Political Philosophy’*, edited by Nicholas Dunn. Works of Philosophy and Their Reception. Berlin, Boston: De Gruyter, 2024.

## OTHER PUBLICATIONS

“Arendt and Objectivity in the Anthropocene.” *Amor Mundi*, the newsletter of the Hannah Arendt Center at Bard College, March 2023.

“Who Remembers Paliomylos? From the Troodos Mountains of Cyprus.” *Taxis Magazine*, December 2021.

“Country Home.” In “Forms of Life: Dispatches from the Present,” *The Point*, February 2021.

“How Do You Read Homer? Ethics, Epistemology, and the Self in Homeric Scholarship.” *Brown Classical Journal* 32 (2020): 69–85.

“How to Write Black Disciplinary History on Its Own Terms: The Complex Life of John Wesley Gilbert,” with Amanda Brynn. *Eidolon* (online classics journal), May 2019.

“Decolonizing the Museum: A Bronze Bust and its Reception.” *Brown Classical Journal* 31 (2019): 117–126.

## PRESENTATIONS

“Mining History: Society, Environment, and Politics in Early-Twentieth Century Cyprus.” Paper read at *Bridging Eurasia: Pathways of Communication, Mobility, and Shared Histories in Eurasia from Antiquity to Today*, the 2026 Annual Conference of the Cluster of Excellence “Eurasian Transformations.” University of Vienna, 19 November 2026: Vienna, Austria.

“Mining History: Society, Environment, and Politics in Early-Twentieth Century Cyprus.” Paper read at the 29<sup>th</sup> Symposium of the Modern Greek Studies Association (MGSA). University of Illinois, Chicago, 16 October 2026: Chicago, IL.

“Saint Sozomenos of Potamia and Galata, Cyprus: The Politics of Plurality and Byzantium Beyond Byzantium.” Paper read at *Byzantium Beyond Byzantium*, the 25<sup>th</sup> International Congress of Byzantine Studies (ICBS 2026). Austrian Association for Byzantine Studies (ÖBG), University of Vienna, 24–29 August 2026: Vienna, Austria.

“Ptolemy’s *Harmonics* in Ottoman Istanbul.” Paper read at *The Mediterranean as Sonic Tourbillon: Interventions of Connection and Disconnection*, the 16<sup>th</sup> Symposium of the International Council for Traditions of Music (ICTM) Mediterranean Music Study Group. State Conservatory of Turkish Music, Ege University, 5 June 2026: Izmir, Turkey.

- “The Benaki Manuscript TA 250 and the Phanariot Nikolaos Karatzas: The Afterlives of Ptolemy’s *Harmonics* in Ottoman Istanbul.” Paper read at a workshop on Greek Textual Transmission. Gennadius Library, 30 January 2026: Athens, Greece.
- “From the *Linovamvakoi* to the *Kromlides*: ‘Crypto-Christianity’ Reappraised.” Paper read at the Fifth International Conference on Byzantine and Medieval Studies (CBMS 2025). Byzantinist Society of Cyprus (BEK), 7 December 2025: Nicosia, Cyprus.
- “‘Crypto-Christianity’ Reconsidered: From the *Kromlides* of the Pontus to the *Linovamvakoi* of Cyprus.” Paper read at the Fifth European Convention on Turkic, Ottoman and Turkish Studies (*Turkologentag* 2025). Johannes Gutenberg University Mainz, 19 September 2025: Mainz, Germany.
- “*Cyprus Insula*: Learning About Cyprus Inside and Outside of the Museum,” with Demetra Ignatiou. Paper read at *Cypro-Centric Approaches to Teaching Ancient Cyprus: Practical, Creative and Experiential Pedagogical Approaches to Landscape and Material Culture*. Department of Classics, Trinity College Dublin, 30 May 2025: Dublin, Ireland.
- “Agios Sozomenos: A Site of Plurality.” Paper read at *East Meets West: Interdisciplinary Perspectives on Greece’s History and Culture*. Angelo K. Tsakopoulos Hellenic Studies Center, California State University, Sacramento, 12 April 2025: Sacramento, CA.
- “The Concept of History in Hannah Arendt’s *Lectures on Kant’s Political Philosophy*.” Paper read at the Berkeley Political Theory Workshop. Department of Political Science, University of California, Berkeley, 31 March 2025: Berkeley, CA.
- Respondent for James Orr’s paper “The Twilight of Liberalism: The Eclipse of Order in An Age of Autonomy.” Kadish Workshop in Law, Philosophy, and Political Theory. University of California, Berkeley, 21 March 2025: Berkeley, CA.
- “Cyprus and Istanbul.” Paper presented at *Where the Built Environment Meets the Social History of Istanbul, 1453–1923*, the second Winter Meeting of the *ἸστανΠόλις* research collaborative. Center for Middle Eastern Studies, University of California, Berkeley, 3 February 2025: Berkeley, CA.
- “Cyprus Mines Corporation (CMC): Society, Environment, and Politics in Early-Twentieth-Century Cyprus.” Paper read at the *Cyprus Insula* exhibition parallel discussion series. Bank of Cyprus Cultural Foundation, 15 January 2025: Nicosia, Cyprus.
- “Thinking about Music and Tradition in Cyprus.” Paper read at the 28<sup>th</sup> Symposium of the Modern Greek Studies Association (MGSA). Stanley J. Seeger Center for Hellenic Studies, Princeton University, 17 October 2024: Princeton, NJ. [Winner, 2024 MGSA S. Victor Papacosma Graduate Student Essay Prize. Prize committee citation: “The members recognized the innovation and creative style of this auto-ethnographic essay. The committee spent a considerable amount of time discussing the essay’s original research-approach, which opens the frontiers of traditional scholarship. As one member

*put it, the paper offers an insightful blend of ‘personal and theoretical reflection’ that is equally stimulating and thought-provoking.’]*

- “How Do You Read Homer? Ethics, Epistemology, and the Self in Homeric Scholarship.” Paper read at *Telling Byzantine History: Current Trends and New Directions*, the second international graduate conference in Late Antique and Byzantine Studies. University of Vienna and Central European University, 26 May 2024: Vienna, Austria.
- “What is the Cypriot Enlightenment?” Paper read at *History & Responsibility: Doing History in Times of Conflicting Political Demands*, the fifth network conference of the International Network for Theory of History (INTH). Institute for Contemporary History, Universidade NOVA de Lisboa, 22 May 2024: Lisbon, Portugal.
- “How does/should Mediterranean Studies invite conversations or cross-fertilizations between disciplines?” Panel participant at *Mediterranean Studies, Present & Future: The ‘California School’ Twenty Years On*, the Mediterranean Seminar Fall 2023 Workshop. University of California, Santa Cruz, 3 November 2023: Santa Cruz, CA.
- “Thinking about Music and Tradition in Cyprus.” Paper read at *Music, Bridges, Passages: Towards a Mediterranean Paradigm?*, the 14<sup>th</sup> symposium of the International Council for Traditional Music (ICTM) Mediterranean Music Studies Group. Musée des Civilisations de l’Europe et de la Méditerranée (MUCEM), 26 June 2023: Marseille, France.
- “The North Atlantic Wool Trade, c. 1000–1400: A Strontium Isotope Approach,” with Charles Steinman, Soumen Mallick, and Michèle Hayeur Smith. Paper read at the *Society for American Archaeology Annual Meeting 2020*. Society for American Archaeology, 23 April 2020: Austin, TX. [Cancelled due to pandemic.]
- “Archaeological Investigations of the Eastern North Atlantic Trade and Globalizing Economic Systems,” with Charles Steinman. Poster presented at the *Summer Research Symposium 2019*. Brown University, 2 August 2019: Providence, RI.
- “Unvisited Museums, Toponyms, and the Ethics of Community Archaeology,” with Kelley Tackett. Paper read at *Annual Meeting on Community Archaeology and Heritage 2019: ‘Conceptualizing Community’ in Heritage*. University of Pennsylvania (Penn Museum) Cultural Heritage Center, 30 March 2019: Philadelphia, PA.
- “Pluralizing Communities in Neo Monastiri: Challenges of Archaeological Ethnography,” with Kelley Tackett. Paper read at *Koutroulou Magoula 2001–2018: A Workshop*. British School of Archaeology, 13 January 2019: Athens, Greece.
- “Koutroulou Magoula Archaeology and Archaeological Ethnography Project,” with Justin Han, Halle Krieger, Rémy Poisson, Brandon Stubbs, and Kelley Tackett. Poster presented at the *Summer Research Symposium 2018*. Brown University, 3 August 2018: Providence, RI.

“Scholar, Activist, or Religious Figure? John Wesley Gilbert’s Reception and Legacy.” Paper read at *State of the Field 2018: Archaeology and Social Justice*. Joukowsky Institute for Archaeology and the Ancient World, 2 March 2018: Providence, RI.

## TEACHING

*As a Graduate Student Instructor (GSI, responsible for grading papers, leading discussion sections, and delivering occasional lectures) at the University of California, Berkeley:*

Rhetoric R1B: Philosophies of History, Decolonizing Historiography | Aliosha Bielenberg | *Spring 2025* (as Primary Instructor)

Rhetoric 113B: Cynics and Cynicism between Ethics, Politics, and Protest | Prof. James I. Porter | *Spring 2025* (as Reader)

Political Science 112C: Modern Political Thought | Prof. Daniela Cammack | *Spring 2024*

History 100U: Comparative History | Prof. Maria Mavroudi | *Spring 2024* (as Guest Lecturer)

History 108: Byzantium | Prof. Maria Mavroudi | *Fall 2023* (as Reader)

Rhetoric 103A: A History of Ancient Rhetorical Theory | Prof. Ramona Naddaff | *Fall 2023*

## FELLOWSHIPS, HONORS, AND AWARDS

Andrew W. Mellon Foundation Conference Grant, *Center for Middle Eastern Studies (CMES), University of California, Berkeley* | *Fall 2025*

Dumbarton Oaks (Harvard University) Scholarship, *Gennadius Library, American School of Classical Studies at Athens (ASCSA)* | *2025–26*

Ernst Mach Grant, *OeAD (Austrian Agency for Education and Internationalization)* | *2025–26*

Marshall Plan Scholarship, *Austrian Marshall Plan Foundation* | *2025–26*

Chancellor’s Fellowship, *University of California, Berkeley* | *2025–26*

New York Life Center for the Study of Hellenism in Asia Minor and Pontos Travel Fellowship, *Centre for Asia Minor Studies, Athens* | *Summer 2025*

U.S. Department of Education Title VI Foreign Language and Area Studies (FLAS) Fellowship, *Institute for European Studies, University of California, Berkeley* | *Summer 2025*

S. Victor Papacosma Graduate Student Essay Prize, *Modern Greek Studies Association (MGSA), Princeton University* | *October 2024*

U.S. Department of Education Title VI Foreign Language and Area Studies (FLAS) Fellowship, *Institute for European Studies, University of California, Berkeley* | *Summer 2024*

Office of Resources for International and Area Studies Speakers Bureau Fellowship (ORIAS), *Institute for European Studies, University of California, Berkeley* | *2023–*

Graduate Student Research Grant, *Institute of Slavic, East European, and Eurasian Studies, University of California, Berkeley* | 2023–24

Arts & Humanities Dean’s Fellowship, *University of California, Berkeley* | 2022–23

William T. and Helen S. Halstead Grant, *University of California, Berkeley* | 2022–23

Undergraduate Fellowship, *Cogut Institute for the Humanities, Brown University* | 2019–20

Phi Beta Kappa, *Brown University* | May 2020

BrownConnect Collaborative Short-term Projects for Research, Internships, and Teaching (SPRINT) Award, *Brown University* | Summer 2020

Karen T. Romer Undergraduate Teaching and Research Award (UTRA), *Brown University* | Summer 2019

Karen T. Romer Interdisciplinary Team Undergraduate Teaching and Research Award (I-Team UTRA), *Brown University* | Summer 2018

## **ACADEMIC SERVICE**

Dean of the College, Brown University — *College Project Specialist* (2024–)

Department of Rhetoric, UC Berkeley — *Graduate Student Representative* (2024–25)

International Programme Permanent Teaching Commission (POC), Institute of Philosophy (HIW), KU Leuven — *Student Representative* (2021–22)

College Curriculum Council (CCC), Brown University — *Undergraduate Rep.* (2018–20)

Engaged Scholars Program, Brown University — *Archaeology Department Rep.* (2018–20)

First Readings Committee, Brown University — *Undergraduate Representative* (2016–18)

## **WORKSHOPS AND CONFERENCE PANELS ORGANIZED, ETC.**

“Extraction and Transformation across Eurasia: Mining, Landscapes, and Connected Histories.”

Panel co-organized with Jeanine Dağyeli at “Bridging EurAsia,” the Cluster of Excellence EurAsian Transformations Annual Conference 2026. Austrian Academy of Sciences (ÖAW), 18 November 2026: Vienna, Austria.

*Byzantium Beyond Byzantium*, 25<sup>th</sup> International Congress of Byzantine Studies, Vienna — *Member of Organizational Committee* (2025–2026)

(Post-)Ottoman Studies Working Group, UC Berkeley — *Co-coordinator, with Hilal Tümer* (2022–2025)

Religions of the Mediterranean Working Group, UC Berkeley Center for the Study of Religion — *Coordinator* (2023–2025)

## RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Science and Technology in Archaeology and Culture Research Centre (STARC), The Cyprus Institute — *Research Assistant at the Cyprus Dendrochronology Lab (September 2020–July 2021)*

Department of History, Brown University — *Student Collaborator with Professor Nancy Jacobs, redeveloping a course syllabus and design for remote instruction (June–August 2020)*

Department of Earth, Environmental, and Planetary Sciences & Haffenreffer Museum of Anthropology, Brown University — *Research Assistant in NSF-funded project on strontium isotope analysis of North Atlantic textiles (June–August 2019)*

Joukowsky Institute for Archaeology and the Ancient World, Brown University — *Excavator and ethnographer at the Koutroulou Magoula Archaeology and Archaeological Ethnography Project, directed by Professor Yannis Hamilakis (Summer 2018)*

Department of Religious Studies, Brown University — *Research Assistant for Professor Susan Harvey on her book Ministries of Song: Women’s Voices in Ancient Syriac Christianity (June–December 2017)*

## COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

European Youth Parliament — *Chairperson (2015–); International Task Force on Anti-Racism (2020–22); Young Ambassadors on the Future of Europe, an initiative in cooperation with the European Parliament and the European Youth Forum (2021–22); Safe Core Team (2022–23); Senior Trainer (2023–24), including at the European Youth Centre Magdeburg*

Swearer Center for Public Service, Brown University — *Student Development Summer Student Staffer (June–August 2017)*

William D’Abate Elementary School, Providence Public School District — *Tutor and Summer Instructor (October 2016–May 2017 and June 2018)*

Women’s Refugee Care (Providence-based NGO serving the Congolese refugee community) — *Volunteer and interviewer (September–December 2017)*

Babel Research Initiative, Sciences Po Menton — *Mentor for undergraduate teams working on research projects on the history and society of Cyprus (2023–24)*

Bahçes Histories of Cyprus — *Member of the editorial team, leading public history workshops and walks and organizing lectures on topics in the history and society of Cyprus (2022–)*

## PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS AND OTHER ACTIVITIES

Association for Historical Dialogue and Research (AHDR; Nicosia, Cyprus) — *Member (2021–)*

Modern Greek Studies Association (MGSA) — *Member (2022–)*

Association of Cypriot Archaeologists (ACA) — *Member (2025–)*

Österreichische Byzantinische Gesellschaft (ÖBG) — *Member (2025–)*

Gesellschaft für Turkologie, Osmanistik und Türkeiforschung (GTOT, European Society for  
Turkic, Ottoman, and Turkish Studies) — *Member (2025–)*

Cyprus Association of Social Anthropologists (CASA) — *Founding Member (2025–)*

TRAIL Prevention & Response Certificate, UC Berkeley PATH to Care Center — *Dec 2022*

Certificate in Teaching and Learning in Higher Education, UC Berkeley Graduate Student  
Instructor Teaching & Resource Center — *in progress*

### **LANGUAGES**

Native speaker of English and Greek; proficient in French (B2), German (B2), and Turkish (B1);  
elementary (to rudimentary) knowledge of Italian, Dutch, Latin, Persian, and Arabic.  
Coursework in Ottoman Turkish, Byzantine Greek, Syriac.

*Last updated 22 September 2025.*