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 | *2025–27*

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 29th 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 25th 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 16th 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 Istanpolis." Paper presented at *Where the Built Environment Meets the Social History of Istanbul, 1453–1923*, the second Winter Meeting of the İstanΠόλις 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 28th 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 14th 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

Paul J. Alexander Memorial Fellowship, *University of California, Berkeley* | *2026–27*

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, 25th 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.