

Kenneth S. Sacks
Professor of History and Classics
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3. Education

Master of Arts, *ad eundem*, Brown University, 1996
Ph.D., University of California, Berkeley, 1976, in History (with highest distinction)
M.A., University of California, Berkeley, 1971, in History
B.A., University of Pittsburgh, 1969, with honors in History, Classics and Political Science

4. Professional Appointments

Professor of History (and now Classics), Brown University, 1995-
Founding Director, The Presidential Seminars (Brown University), 1998-2003
Dean of the College, Brown University, 1995-1998
Professor of History and Classics, University of Wisconsin-Madison, 1986-1995
Chair, Department of History, 1991-1995
Associate Professor: 1981-1986; Assistant Professor: 1976-1981

5. Completed Research

Books

- *Emerson's Civil Wars: Spirit and Society in the Age of Abolition*, Cambridge University Press, November 2024 as an Academic Impact Imprint (with paperback to follow) listed by *Choice* as among "Outstanding Academic Books of 2025."
- *Religions: Transcendentalism and the Religious Experience* (2018) Guest Editor
- *Cultural Contact and Appropriation in the Axial-Age Mediterranean World: A Periplos* Co-edited (with Baruch Halpern), (Leiden: Brill, 2017).
- *The Political Writings of Ralph Waldo Emerson* for *The Cambridge Texts in the History of Political Thought*, edited Cambridge University Press, 2008
- *Understanding Emerson: "The American Scholar" and His Struggle for Self-Reliance* (Princeton University Press, May 2003) Major reviews include the *Times Literary Supplement* 25 July, 2003, pp. 3-4, and *The New Yorker* 4 August, 2003, pp. 77-80 (by John Updike). Second printing ordered in July, 2003.
- *Diodorus Siculus and the First Century* (Princeton University Press, 1990; paperback 2014) Listed among "Outstanding Academic Books of 1991," by *Choice*
- *Polybius on the Writing of History* (University of California Press, 1981)

b. Chapters in Books

"Diodorus Siculus and his Sources: Conformity and Creativity: in *Oxford Papers in Greek Historiography* (Oxford, 1994; paperback 1996), 213-232.
"Response" in E. Gabba's *Greek Knowledge of Jews up to Hecataeus of Abdera; Protocols of the Center for Hermeneutical Studies in Hellenistic and Modern Culture*, xl (1981), 26-32.

“Emerson and Some Jewish Questions,” in *A Power to Translate the World: New Essays on Emerson and International Culture* (Hanover NH: University Press of New England, 2015), Ricardo Miguel Alfonso & David LaRocca eds., 266-300.

“American Stoicism” *The Routledge Handbook to the Stoic Tradition* (Routledge, 2016), ed. John Sellars 331-346.

“Who Markets Ideas? Elite and Non-elite Transmission of Culture and Technology,” *Crossing the Mediterranean: A Scholarly Periplos*, pp. 212-241.

“Introduction” co-authored with Baruch Halpern, *Crossing the Mediterranean: A Scholarly Periplos*, pp. 1-16.

“Diodoros Siculos and the Hellenistic Mind,” in L.I. Hau, A. Meeus & B. Sheridan (eds.) *Diodoros of Sicily: Historiographical Theory and Practice in the Bibliotheke* (Studia Hellenistica 58), Leuven: Peeters 2017. pp.43-63

c. Refereed Journal Articles

“Auguste Comte and Consensus Formation in American Religious Thought, Part 1: The Creation of Consensus” in special issue of *Religions: Transcendentalism and the Religious Experience* 2017 22 pages <http://www.mdpi.com/2077-1444/8/8/147/pdf>

“Auguste Comte and Consensus Formation in American Religious Thought, Part 2: Twilight of New England Comtism” in special issue of *Religions: Transcendentalism and the Religious Experience* 2017 13 pages <http://www.mdpi.com/2077-1444/8/8/151/pdf>

"Dating Diodorus's *Bibliotheke*," *Mediterraneo antico. Economie Societa Culture*, I (1998), 437-442

“Speeches and Rhetoric in Hellenistic Historiography,” *Athenaeum*, lxiv (1986), 838-395.

“The Meaning of Eunapius’ History,” *History and Theory*, xx, v (1986), 41-56.

“The Wreathed Tetradrachms of Aeolian Myrina,” *American Numismatic Society Museum Notes* xxx (1985), 1-43 + plates

“Rhetorical Approaches to Greek History Writing in the Hellenistic Period,” *Society of Biblical Literature Seminar Papers*, xxiii (1984), 123-134.

“Historiography in the Rhetorical Works of Dionysius of Halicarnassus,” *Athenaeum*, xli (1982), 65-87.

“The Lesser Prooemia of Diodorus Siculus,” *Hermes* cx (1981), 434-444.

“Herodotus and the Dating of the Battle of Thermopylae,” *Classical Quarterly*, xxvi (1976), 232-248.

“Polybius’ Other View of Aetolia,” *Journal of Hellenic Studies* lxxxv (1975), 92-106.

e. Book Reviews

Review of B. Gibson and T. Harrison, ed., *Polybius and his World: Essays in Memory of F. W. Walbank*. Cambridge and New York: Cambridge University Press, 2013 in *Histos* 8 (2014), 1-8.

“Review of Ronald A. Bosco and Joel Myerson, *The Emerson Brothers: A Fraternal Bibliography in Letters*, *The New England Quarterly*, 2007, 150-152.

“Review of Dean Grodzins, *American Heretic: Theodore Parker and Transcendentalism*,” *American Historical Review*, June, 2004, 906-907.

“Review of M. Fuhrmann, *Cicero and the Roman Republic*,” *American Historical Review* (April, 1994), 532.

“Review of P. Botteri, *Les Fragments de L’histoire des Grecques dans la Bibliotheke de Diodore de Sicile*.” *Gnomon*, 1994

“Review of M. Poliakoff, *Combat Sports in the Ancient World*,” *Journal of Religion*, lxxviii (1988), 621-622

“Review of *Cambridge Ancient History*, Vol. VII.1,” *American Journal of Archaeology*, xc (1986), 118-120.

“Review of R.E. Allen *The Attalid Kingdom: A Constitutional History*,” *American Journal of Archaeology*, lxxxviii (1984), 614.

“Review of M. Lefkowitz *Women’s Life in Greece and Rome*,” *The History Teacher* xvii (1983/4), 619-620.

i. Encyclopedia Contributions

“Emerson” in *The Encyclopedia of the Philosophy of Law and Social Philosophy*, at Springer Publishers (<http://refworks.springer.com/mrw/index.php?id=6107>)

Advisory Editor, *A Global Encyclopedia of History Writing* (Garland Press, 1998), ed. by D. R. Woolf

“Greek Historiography-Ancient,” *A Global Encyclopedia of History Writing* (Garland Press, 1998), ed. by D. R. Woolf, pp. 375-378.

Contributor to the *Oxford Companion to Classical Civilization* (articles reprinted from the *Oxford Classical Dictionary* [below]) (Oxford, 1998).

Major contributor (40 entries), *Oxford Classical Dictionary* 3rd ed. (Oxford, 1995)

“Ralph Waldo Emerson” entry in *Encyclopedia of the Philosophy of Law and Social Philosophy*, Mortimer Sellers and Stephan Kirste, eds. (Dordrecht: Springer Science, 2023) pp 856–858.

“Ralph Waldo Emerson” entry in *Encyclopedia of Skepticism and the Jewish Tradition* (Brill hardback and on-line forthcoming), Giuseppe Veltri, ed.

g. Invited Papers and Lectures at: Oxford, Cambridge, U.S.C., University of Chicago (4 papers), Princeton, Illinois-Chicago, Wisconsin-Madison, Pittsburgh, University of California, Berkeley, University of Maryland, University College London, NYU, American Philological Association (several), Association of Ancient Historians, Society of Biblical Literature, Archaeological Institute of America, American Historical Association, NEH Conference, the *Studiorum Novi Testamenti Societas*; numerous talks to civic associations.

6. Research in Progress including Active Grants

“‘The Abbot Affair’: Harvard, Freedom of Speech, and the Making of the Modern American University”

“Necropolis by the Bay: Burial Practices and Urban Politics in Colma California, 1880-1950” (co-authored with Elliott Gorn)

7. Significant Recent University Service at Brown University

Michael Vorenberg Promotion Committee 2024-5

Jeremy Mumford Promotion Committee 2021

Amy Russell Promotion Committee 2020-2021

Ethan Pollock Promotion Committee 2019

Internal review of Egyptology and Assyriology, 2019

Tara Nummedal Promotion Committee, 2018

Transfer Credit Advisor, Department of History 2017-present

Rhodes and Marshall Selection Committee 2016-2017, 2019-2020

Advisory Committee on Honorary Degrees 2016-2019 (elected chair 2017)

Chair, Department of History, 2007-2009, 2012-13

Senior Ancient Historian Search Committee, Dept of Classics, 2012-13
Director of Graduate Studies, Ancient History Graduate Program, 2012-15
University Tenure, Promotion, and Appointments Committee, 2011-2012, 2013-2014 (chair 2013-14)
Campus Access Advisory Committee, 2010-2012
Senior Fellow, Wayland Collegium, 2005-08
Member, Board of Administration, Howard Foundation, 2003-2007, 2015-2020
University Graduate Council, 2002-2005
Department of History Director of Undergraduate Studies, 2002-
Department Academic Priorities Committee, 2002-4, 2009-2010
Executive Committee, Program on Ancient Studies, 1998-2006
Mary Gluck promotion to full professor Committee, 2003-4
Mark Swislocki Review Committee, 2003-4, 2005
Search Committee in U.S. history (colonial and early Federal periods), 2003-4
Chair, Phi Beta Kappa Honorary Degree Committee, 2002-4
Chair, Nancy Jacobs Tenure Committee, 2002
Acting director of Modern Greek Studies 2001
Affirmative Action Officer, 2001-2
Kerry Smith Tenure Committee, 2001
Director of Department Honors Program, 2000-2007
Latin American Search Committee, 2000-2002
Advisor (participant in) Roman History/Latin Search Committee for Classics, 2001-2002
Nancy Jacobs's annual review committee: 2000-01
Member of Phi Beta Kappa (Alpha of Rhode Island) committee on graduate and honorary members: 2000
Participant in Modern Greek History Search Committee (Spring 2002)
Founding Director, The Presidential Seminar, 1998-2003
Senior Fellow, The Howard Swearer Center for Public Service, 1998-2000
Senior Fellow, The Royce Scholars Program, 1998-2006, 2016-
Faculty Advisory Committee, Steven Roberts Value Initiative, 1998-2001
Chair, History Department Committee to reassess undergraduate curriculum, 2000
Board of Directors Brown/RISD Hillel, 1995-1999
Kerry Smith Review Committee (1998/99, 1999/00)
Carolyn Dean Promotion to Full Professor Review Committee (1998/99)

Significant service outside University:

Steering Committee of the College Board AP Research Development Committee, 2014-2017
NEACS/ *NECHE* reaccreditation committee for (most recent first): M.I.T., Harvard University;
University of Connecticut; Boston University; and University of Vermont
Editorial Board *Anthem American Receptions*; Reader of manuscripts
Reader for New England Journal of History

8. Significant Honors and Awards (since receiving the Ph.D.)

Cogut Faculty Fellowship 2014
Rabbi Joseph L. Baron Faculty Achievement Award from the Wisconsin Society for Jewish Learning for outstanding academic leadership in the State (1993: \$1000 prize)
Included in Wisconsin Students' Association "Top One Hundred Educators at UW-Madison," 1992

Teaching Excellence Award, 1992
Included in “UW’s 50 Great Teachers of Independent Thought” by the Wisconsin Student Association, 1991
Senior Fellow, National Endowment for the Humanities, 1987-1988
Visiting Fellow, Department of Classics, Princeton University, 1985-1986
Vilas Associate, University of Wisconsin, 1985-1987
Summer Fellow, the American Numismatic Society, 1981
Fellow, University of Wisconsin Institute for Research in the Humanities, 1980-1981
Fellow, The American Council of Learned Societies, 1978-1979

9. Recent Teaching

Ph.D. Dissertation Committee Qizhen Xie, 2024-
Ph.D. Dissertation Committee Luther Karper, 2017-2018
Ph.D. Dissertation Committee Mahmoud Samori, 2017-2018
Ph.D. Dissertation Committee Bryan Brinkman, 2012-2015
Ph.D. Dissertation Committee Joseph McDonald, 2012-2015
Ph.D. Prelim Chair Joseph Kurz 2013
Ph.D. Prelim Chair David Thomas 2013
Ph.D. Prelim Committee of Daniel Williams (James Patterson, chair), 2001
Ph.D. Committee of Kyle Fingerson (Wisconsin-Madison): dissertation completed and defended, August 1998.
Ph.D. Committee of Michael Smith (chair, Ross Holloway), Center for Old World Archaeology, 1998-99