

8 January 2020

D. Gregory MacIsaac

Associate Professor of Humanities, Carleton University
1125 Colonel By Drive, Ottawa, ON, K1S 5B6, CANADA
(613) 520-2809, x.1803
gregory.macisaac@carleton.ca

Academic Field

Main area: Ancient, Late Antique, and Early Medieval Philosophy, with a specialisation in Proclus and Neoplatonism, Plato, and the general history of Platonism.

Secondary Area: Late Medieval Philosophy, German Idealism, Phenomenology.

Additional Teaching Competency: Ancient Greek Literature, Ancient Greek Language.

Education

- 2001. Ph.D. Philosophy. University of Notre Dame, Indiana. Area: Neoplatonism. Doctoral Dissertation: "The Soul and Discursive Reason in the Philosophy of Proclus." Advisor: Stephen Gersh.
- 1996. M.A. Philosophy. University of Notre Dame, Indiana.
- 1994/95. Visiting Graduate Student. Higher Institute for Philosophy, Katholieke Universiteit Leuven, Belgium.
- 1992. B.A. (hons.) Classics. Specialisation in Ancient and Medieval Philosophy. Dalhousie University/University of King's College, Halifax, Nova Scotia.

Employment

Current Position

1998- Associate Professor of Humanities, Carleton University, Ottawa. One of eight Core-Humanities Seminar faculty in the Bachelor of Humanities Program. (Associate rank as of 2010).

Visiting Professorships/Research Positions

- 2019/20. Chercheur Associé, Laboratoire EA2274 Logiques de l'Agir, Université de Franche-Comté, Besançon, France. (July 2019-May 2020, during sabbatical).
- 2012. Visiting Fellow, Institute of Classical Studies, University of London, UK. (Spring term, during sabbatical).
- 2011. Visiting Researcher, Centre for the Study of the Platonic Tradition, Trinity College, Dublin. (Fall term, during sabbatical).
- 2005/06. Chercheur Étranger, Centre d'Études des Religions du Livre, a joint laboratory of the C.N.R.S. and the École Pratique des Hautes Études, Paris. (During sabbatical).
- 2004. Visiting Professor, University of Ottawa.

Professional Honours

- 2018. Teaching Achievement Award, Carleton University.
- 2017-18. Selected to be an Educational Development Associate in the office of the Associate Vice-President (Teaching and Learning), Carleton University. 2-year term.
- 2016. Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences Teaching Award, Carleton University

2016. Selected as a 'Favourite Faculty Member' by students, through the Department of Housing and Residence Life Services, Carleton University
2011. Provost's Teaching Fellowship, Carleton University
2011. Teaching With Technology Award, Carleton University
2011. Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences Teaching Award, Carleton University.
2010. Teaching Achievement Award, Carleton University.
2010. Nominated for a Capital Educators' Award.

Research

Articles in Refereed Journals

2014. "Non enim ab hiis que sensus est iudicare sensum. Sensation and Thought in *Theaetetus*, Plotinus and Proclus," *International Journal of the Platonic Tradition* 8 (2014) pp.192-230.
2014. "Geometrical first principles in Proclus' *Commentary on the first book of Euclid's Elements*," *Phronesis* 59.1 (2014) pp.44-98.
2011. "The *Nous* of the Partial Soul in Proclus' *Commentary on the First Alcibiades of Plato*," *Dionysius* 29 (2011) pp.29-60.
2009. "The Soul and the Virtues in Proclus' *Commentary on the Republic of Plato*," *Philosophie Antique* 9 (2009) pp.115-143.
2005. "Neoplatonism and the Hegelianism of James Doull," *Animus*, 10 (2005) pp. 30-43. Online philosophy journal, Memorial University of Newfoundland, (www2.swgc.mun.ca/animus/).
2001. "Phantasia between Soul and Body in Proclus," *Dionysius* 19 (2001) pp.125-136.
1997. "The Final Section of Proclus' *Commentary on the Parmenides*: A Greek retroversion of the Latin translation, by Carlos STEEL and Friedrich RUMBACH, with an English translation by D.Gregory MACISAAC," *Documenti e studi sulla tradizione filosofica medievale* (Brepols, 1997) pp. 211-267.

Articles in Refereed Conference Proceedings

2013. "Philosophy as the Exegesis of 'Sacred' Texts," in *Philosophy and the Abrahamic Religions: Scriptural Hermeneutics and Epistemology*, ed. T. Kirby, R. Acar and B. Bas (Cambridge Scholars Publishing, 2012) pp.95-134.
2010. "Νόησις, dialectique et mathématiques dans le *Commentaire aux Éléments d'Euclide* de Proclus," in *Études sur le Commentaire de Proclus au premier livre des Éléments d'Euclide*, ed. A. Lernould (Presses Universitaires du Septentrion, 2009) pp.125-138.
2002. "Projection and Time in Proclus," in *Medieval Philosophy and the Classical Tradition in Islam, Judaism, and Christianity*, ed. John Inglis (London: Curzon Press, 2002) pp.83-105.

Articles in Other Refereed Volumes

2007. "The origin of determination in the Neoplatonism of Proclus," in *Divine Creation in Ancient, Medieval, and Early Modern Thought. Essays presented to the Rev'd Dr. Robert D. Crouse*, ed. Willemien Otten, Walter Hannam, Michael Treschow (Leiden: E.J. Brill, 2007) pp.141-172.

Review Articles

2009. "Platonic Deconstruction: A Review-article of *Neoplatonism after Derrida. Parallelograms*. By Stephen Gersh," *Dionysius*, 27 (2009) pp.199-232.

Book Reviews in Scholarly Journals

2012. Review of Marije Martijn, *Proclus on Nature. Philosophy of Nature and Its Methods in Proclus' Commentary on Plato's Timaeus*. In *Journal of Hellenic Studies*, 132 (2012) pp.285-286.
2009. Review of Stephen Gersh, *Neoplatonism after Derrida. Parallelograms*. In *Ancient Philosophy*, 29 no.1 (2009) pp.238-240.

Work In Progress

- Article. "Plato's Account of Sophistry in *Sophist*." Currently under review at *Les Études Platoniciennes*.
- Article. "Plato's Account of Eleaticism in *Parmenides*." About to send this article out for review.
- Article. "Plato's Account of Presocratic Materialism in *Theaetetus*." About to send this article out for review.
- Book. *The Humanities Writing Guide*. This is a 200+pp. manual on how to write a university essay. Currently under review at Hackett Publishing Company.
- Book. *Plato, Sophistry, and the Mixing of Forms: Theaetetus, Parmenides, Sophist*. This is a long commentary on three dialogues, reading them as an engagement with Presocratic philosophy.

Invited Talks

2013. "Plotinus: Building Neoplatonism out of Plato and Aristotle." St. Vincent College, Latrobe, PA, 15 April 2013.
2012. "The 'Man of the Law Courts' and the Philosopher in Plato's *Theaetetus*." Institute of Classical Studies, London, 26 March 2012.
2012. "The Divine Plato, the Divine Derrida—Philosophy as the exegesis of 'sacred' texts." Cudworth Society Meeting, Clare College, Cambridge, 6 March 2012.
2006. "Sensation and thought in Plotinus and Proclus." Series on philosophy of mind, Department of Philosophy, Memorial University of Newfoundland, 2 March 2006.

Conference Papers

2020. "Parmenides in Plato's *Parmenides*."
—International Society for Neoplatonic Studies (ISNS) meeting, Athens, 10-14 June 2020 (proposal accepted).
—Symposium Platonicum *Parmenides*, meeting of the International Plato Society, Paris, 15-20 July, 2019.
—The Atlantic Region Philosophers Association (ARPA) meeting, St. Francis Xavier University, 19-20 October, 2018.
2019. "The ontology of Plato's *Theaetetus*." International Society for Neoplatonic Studies (ISNS) meeting, Ottawa, 12-15 June 2019.
2017. "The Many-Headed Sophist in Plato's *Sophist*." Wisdom Belongs to God conference, University of King's College/Dalhousie University, 18-21 June 2017.
2013. "Proclus' Commentary on Euclid, and Byzantine Philosophy." Workshop on Proclus in Byzantium, Sponsored by U. Notre Dame, held in London, 31 May-1 June 2013.
2012. "An archaeology of Procline terms in Eriugena's analysis of the trinitarian soul." Arxai: Proclus Diadochus and his Abrahamic Interpreters, Istanbul, 12-16 December 2012.
2011. "Philosophy as Self-Knowledge in Proclus' *Commentary on the Alcibiades I of Plato*."

- Canadian Philosophical Association meeting, Fredericton, 30th May 2011.
 —Classical Association of Canada meeting, Halifax, 10th May, 2011.
2011. “Mathematical *koinai ennoiai* and Proclus’ relation of mathematics to the cosmos.”
 —Canadian Philosophical Association meeting, Fredericton, 30 May 2011.
 —John Cleary Memorial conference on philosophy and mathematics, Dublin, 28th-29th May, 2010.
2010. “The Philosophical Structure of the *Divine Comedy*.” Philosophy and the Abrahamic Religions conference, Marmara University, Istanbul, 9-11 December 2010.
2010. “The Corruption of Aristotle’s Virtuous City in Dante’s *Inferno*.” Northeastern Political Science Association conference, Boston, 11th-13th November, 2010.
2009. “The Divine Plato, the Divine Derrida—Philosophy as the exegesis of ‘sacred’ texts.” Neoplatonism and its Legacy conference, Franciscan University of Steubenville, OH, 24-25 April 2009.
2006. “The Soul and the Virtues in Proclus’ *Commentary on the Republic of Plato*,” at my panel on “Proclus’ Platonic Commentaries.” International Society of Neoplatonic Studies conference, Quebec City, 26-29 June 2006.
2006. “*Noësis*, Dialectic and Mathematics in Proclus’ *Commentary on Euclid’s Elements*.” Journées d’Etudes Proclus, University of Lille 3, Lille, France, 13-14 October 2006.
2005. “Sensation and thought in Plotinus and Proclus.” Colloquium Plotinus, Bucharest, Romania, 12 November 2005.
2003. “Evil as a clue to Procline metaphysics.” Canadian Society for Neoplatonic Studies conference, Quebec City, 9 April 2003.
2003. “James Doull’s relation to Neoplatonism,” presented at a panel to honour the memory of James Doull, Canadian Philosophical Association conference, Halifax, 1-2 June 2003.
2002. “The origin of determination in the Neoplatonism of Proclus.” Canadian Society for Neoplatonic Studies conference, Toronto, 28 May 2002.
2002. “Plotinus as part of the Core.” Association for Core Texts and Courses conference, Montreal, 5 April 2002.
2001. “Discursive projection in Simplicius’ *In Aristotelis De Anima*.” Canadian Society for Neoplatonic Studies conference, Quebec City, 25 May 2001.
2000. “Dialectic and Mathematics in Proclus.” Canadian Society for Neoplatonic Studies conference, Edmonton, 25 May 2000.
1999. “Projection and Time in Proclus.” XXVI annual Richard R. Baker Philosophy Colloquium, on Medieval Philosophy and the Classical Tradition in Islam, Judaism, and Christianity, Dayton, OH, 11 April 1999.
1997. “Following your own perfection: The status of a Pagan Neoplatonic principle in Thomas Aquinas.” 10th International Congress of Medieval Philosophy, Société Internationale pour l’Étude de la Philosophie Médiévale, Erfurt, Germany, 26 August 1997.

Conference Respondent

2012. Response to “Proclus on Gods and Demons,” by Luc Brisson. Proclus—Expanding the Canon of Ancient Philosophy conference, Amsterdam, 1-4 February 2012.

Philosophy Department Colloquia

2011. “The Divine Plato, the Divine Derrida—Philosophy as the exegesis of ‘sacred’ texts.”
 —Philosophy Department Colloquium, Trinity College Dublin, 17 October 2011.

- Philosophy Department Colloquium, Carleton University, Ottawa, ON, 16 October 2009.
 (—Originally presented at the Neoplatonism and its Legacy conference, Franciscan University of Steubenville, OH, 24-25 April 2009.)
2009. “Evil as a clue to Procline metaphysics.”
 —Philosophy Department Colloquium, Carleton University, Ottawa, ON, 16 January 2009.
 —Jockey Club, Department of Philosophy, Memorial University of Newfoundland, 3 March 2006.
 (—Originally presented at the Canadian Society for Neoplatonic Studies conference, Quebec City, 9 April 2003.)
1999. “On Plotinus: Why Discursive Reason isn't enough.” Philosophy Department Distinguished Lecture Series, Carleton University, Ottawa, ON, 12 March 1999.
1997. “Neoplatonic aspects of St. Thomas' doctrine of Creation.” Philosophy Department Colloquium, University of Notre Dame, IN, 7 February 1997.

Research Grants

Carleton (Research Grants)

2011. For the project “An Extended Commentary on Plato’s *Republic* and the Dialogues from *Theaetetus* to *Philebus*.” FASS Junior Faculty Research Award, \$7,000.
2005. For the project “*Commentaria in Platonis Rempublicam*.” Internally funded research: \$500.
2004. For the project “Ethics and Metaphor in Ancient and Medieval Philosophy.” From GR-6: \$5000.
1999. For the project “Platonism in German Idealism.” From GR-6: \$7,000.00.
1998. For the project “Late Neoplatonic Epistemology in the *De Anima* and *Theaetetus* Commentaries.” From GR-6: \$1,441.00.

Teaching

Lecture courses and seminars (present) [On sabbatical]

Lecture courses and seminars (past)

- HUMS 2000. *Reason and Revelation*. The 2nd-Year Core-Humanities Seminar in the Bachelor of Humanities Program. Topic: Ancient and Medieval Philosophy. Normally 4.5 contact hours per week, 1.5 teaching credit. Fall 1998 - Present.
- HUMS 1200. *Humanities and Classical Civilisation*. A required course in the Bachelor of Humanities program, whose content is classical literature, but which is structured as a course on how to write an undergraduate paper. Fall 2013 - Present.
- HUMS 3500 [0.5]. *Ancient and Medieval Intellectual History*. Winter 2019 (Plato’s middle dialogues).
- CLCV 2010. *Greek and Roman Drama*. A required course in the Bachelor of Humanities program, whose content is Ancient Greek and Roman tragedy and comedy. Winter 2016.
- HUMS 1500. *Introduction to the Humanities: Five Books that Changed the World*. A course offering to non B.Hum students a changing sample of texts taught in the B.Hum program, team-taught by five B.Hum professors. I act as co-ordinator, and manage the blended online

- component of the course, which consists of five quizzes, one on each book. Winter 2014 - Winter 2015.
- HUMS 1000. *Myth and Symbol*. The 1st-Year Core-Humanities Seminar in the Bachelor of Humanities Program. Topic: Religious texts of Ancient India and China, Hebrew Bible, Presocratic Greece. Normally 4.5 contact hours per week, 1.5 teaching credit. Fall 2010-Winter 2011.
- HUMS 3205. *Platonism and Idealism*. 2006-07 Fall-Winter (Eriugena's *Periphyseon* and Hegel's *Phenomenology of Spirit*).
- HUMS 4901 [0.5]. *Humanities Research Seminar: Antiquity to the Middle Ages*. Winter 2018 (Plato's dialogues on sophistry); Fall 2012 and Fall 2007 (Plato's *Theaetetus*, *Parmenides*, *Sophist*); Fall 2008 (Aristotle's *Metaphysics*).
- HUMS 4903 [0.5]. *Humanities Research Seminar: Romanticism to the Present*. Winter 2008 (Heidegger's *Being and Time*).
- HUMS 4904 [0.5]. *Humanities Research Seminar: Non-Western Traditions*. Fall 2009 (Plato's *Theaetetus*).
- CLCV 1002 [0.5]. *Greek Civilisation*. Fall 2003 to Fall 2005; Summer 2003 to Summer 2004.
- GREK 1005 [0.5] and GREK 1006 [0.5]. *Introduction to Classical Greek*. Fall 2000 to Winter 2002
- PHIL 1001 [0.5]. *Ethics and Philosophy of Religion*. Summer 2004.
- PHIL 4003 [0.5]. *Seminar in Philosophy Before the Modern Period*. Fall 2002 (Platonism and Neoplatonism).

Directed studies

- 2017 Fall. PHIL 5104 [0.5]. Plato on the philosophic life. One student.
- 2016-17 Fall-Winter. HUMS 4001 [0.5 x 2]. Heidegger's *Being and Time*. One student in each semester.
- 2015-16 Fall-Winter. HUMS 4001 [0.5]. Plato's *Parmenides*. Two students. This Directed Studies was a continuation of the *Sophist* study, with the same two students. It was partly formal and partly informal. Our study of Plato had continued over the summer, reading *Protagoras*, *Gorgias*, and *Euthydemus*.
- 2014-15 Fall-Winter. HUMS 4001 [0.5 x 2]. Plato's *Sophist*. One student in each semester.
- 2010 Winter. HUMS 4001 [0.5]/CLCV 4901 [0.5]. Plato's *Parmenides*, *Euthyphro*, *Sophist*, *Statesman*. Four students.
- 2009 Fall. HUMS 4001 [0.5]. Plato's *Theaetetus*. One student.
- 2009 Fall. HUMS 4001 [0.5]. The *Periphyseon* of John Scotus Eriugena. One student.
- 2008 Fall. CLCV 4901 [0.5]. Proclus' *Alcibiades' I Commentary*. Two students.
- 2004 Summer. HUMS 4001 [0.5] and HUMS 4002 [0.5]. Existentialist philosophy and literature. One student.
- 2004 Winter. HUMS 4001 [0.5]. Iris Murdoch's ethics. Two students.
- 2004 Winter. HUMS 4001 [0.5] and PHIL 3901 [0.5]. Plotinus. Three students.
- 2003 Summer. HUMS 4001 [0.5] and HUMS 4002 [0.5]. Existentialist philosophy and literature. One student.
- 2003 Winter. PHIL 3901 [0.5]. Virtue Ethics. One student.
- 2002 Summer. PHIL 4901 [0.5]. The Hermetica. One student.
- 2002 Summer. HUMS 4001 [0.5] and HUMS 4002 [0.5]. Dante and the Pseudo Dionysius. One student.
- 2001-02 Fall-Winter. HUMS 4001 [0.5] and HUMS 4002 [0.5]. Plato, Proclus, Hegel. One student in first semester, two students in second semester.

2001 Summer. HUMS 4001 [0.5]. Plato. One student.

2000-01 Fall-Winter. HUMS 4001 [0.5] and HUMS 4002 [0.5]. Plotinus and Proclus. One student.

Thesis Supervisor

2006-07 Fall-Winter. Carleton University, Interdisciplinary Studies. Supervisor of honours thesis for Morgan Peers: “The teachings of the Agora - Socrates, Consumer Society, and the threat of education.”

Thesis Boards

2019 Summer. M.A. Philosophy, Carleton University. Internal examiner. Joey Baker.

2018 Winter. Ph.D., Political Science, Carleton University. Internal examiner. Tyler Chamberlain, “Clarifying the Conflict between Modern Science and Natural Right.” Advisor: Waller R. Newell.

2015 Winter. M.A., Political Science, Carleton University. Internal examiner. Justin Campbell, “Erotic Economics: Metaphysical Foundations in Three Platonic Dialogues.” Advisor: Marc Hanvelt. I recommended against proceeding with this thesis.

2014 Winter. M.A., Political Science, Carleton University. Internal examiner. Connor Steele, “Crippling Occident: Heidegger and being-impaired.” Advisor: Tom Darby.

2014 Winter. Ph.D., Philosophy, Laval University. External referee for preliminary submission. François Lortie, “La Doctrine de l’Intellection dans la Philosophie de Proclus.” Advisor: Jean-Marc Narbonne and Phillippe Hoffman (E.P.H.E., Paris). I recommended against proceeding with this thesis.

2012 Fall. Ph.D., Political Science, Carleton University. Internal examiner. Tiago Lier, “Writing the Eternal: Reason and Rhetoric in Plato’s *Phaedrus*.” Advisor: Waller Newell.

2008 Fall. M.A., Political Science, Carleton University. Internal examiner. Janice Mandryk, “Plato’s *Prescription*. Medicine and Rhetoric in Plato’s *Phaedrus* and the Possibilities for Political Philosophy in an Enchanted Age.” Advisor: Tom Darby.

2005 Winter. Ph.D., Political Science, Carleton University. Internal examiner. Devrim Sezer, “Tradition and dialogue in hermeneutical political philosophy: Three accounts of modernity and political existence in Gadamer, Heidegger and Habermas.” Advisor: Tom Darby.

2003 Winter. Ph.D., Philosophy, Université du Québec à Montréal. Member of examination board. Francois Careau, “Proclus: Une conception de l’être humaine.” Advisor: Georges Leroux.

2001 Winter. M.A., Political Science, Carleton University, Department of Political Science. Member of examination board. Jonathan Weiseman, “Pillars of Salt. Possibility and the Temporal Chain of Understanding.” Advisor: Tom Darby.

Administration

Department (Current) [On Sabbatical 2019-2020]

Department (Past)

Director, BHUM Study Year Abroad program at the Higher Institute of Philosophy, Leuven, Belgium. 1999 to present.

Recruitment Committee. 1998 to 2002, 2004 to 2005, 2007 to present.

Admissions Committee. 1999 to 2002, 2007 to present.
Curriculum Committee. 2000 to present.
B.Hum. Social Media Co-ordinator. 2014 to present.
Tenure and Promotion Committee. 2014 to present.
Undergraduate Advisor. 2002-04, 2007-08, 2012-13, 2016-17.
Designed the joint Bachelor of Journalism and Humanities degree, launched 2015.
College Webmaster. 1999 to 2005, 2007 to 2008, 2010 to 2017.
Wrote the B.Hum. Strategic Integrated Plan Submission, 2013.
B.Hum. Cyclical Review Committee. 2014 to 2015.
Organisation Committee for an M.A. in Humanities. 2000 to 2008.
Hiring Committee. 2000, 2003, 2006-07. (7 positions total, 5 in 2006-07).
Search Committee for a Director for the College of the Humanities. 2003.
BHUM Brochure Committee. 1999, 2010.

Faculty

Committee to design a new Minor in Medieval and Early Modern Studies. 2014.
FASS OGS application reviewer (Psychology). 2006.
FASS Communication and Outreach Committee. 1999.
FASS Computer Users Committee. 1998.

University

Faculty Senate. 2001 to 2005.

Professional Duties

Reviewer

2019. External reviewer for the journal *Epoché*.
2018. External reviewer for a volume from the International Society of Neoplatonic Studies.
2016. External reviewer for the journal *Mnemosyne*.
2013. External reviewer for the journal *International Journal of Platonic Studies*.
2009. External reviewer for the Humanities program at Sir William Grenfell College (Memorial University), Corner Brook, Nfld.
2006. External reviewer for the journal *Ancient Philosophy*.
2001. External reviewer for a Killam Senior Fellowship application.
2001. External reviewer for the *Journal of Neoplatonic Studies*.

Duties in Professional Associations

Advisor for Canadian Society for Neoplatonic Studies (CSNS)

Membership in Professional Associations

Atlantic Region Philosophers Association (ARPA)
International Plato Society (IPS)
Canadian Society for Neoplatonic Studies (CSNS)
International Society for Neoplatonic Studies (ISNS)
Centre for the Study of Late Antiquity (Ottawa University/Carleton)