

Michael (“Gus”) Kraus (he/him)

St. John’s College - Santa Fe • Eastern Classics

Memphis, TN • makraus@sjc.edu

RESEARCH INTERESTS

Comparative Philosophy; Philosophy of Religion; Aesthetics; Poetics; Hermeneutics; Ancient Greek Philosophy (esp. Late Platonism); Classical and Medieval Indian Philosophy (esp. Shaiva-Shakta Tantra)

EDUCATION

2023 - May 2025: St. John’s College - Santa Fe, MA in Philosophy & Asian Studies (Language Specialization: Sanskrit)
2017 - 2021: St. John’s College - Annapolis, BA in Philosophy (Classical Studies Minor)
Thesis Title: “The Spleen and the Heart: A Study of the Modern Poet” (Translations and comparative analysis of Charles Baudelaire and Vladimir Mayakovsky)

PUBLICATIONS

Articles

Forthcoming

“Cosmic Terror ‘Crystallised’: A Lovecraftian Episode in an Indian Epic”. *Lovecraftian Proceedings #6*. Ed. Tchougounova-Paulson, Elena. Hippocampus Press.

“‘What Does Athens Have to Do with Uppsala?’: A Prolegomena to Heathen Dialoguing with the Platonic Tradition”. *Heathenry: The International Journal for Heathen Research*. Ed. Rich Blackett, Sif Brooks, Dan Coultas, Ioan McCarthy, Andy Pardy, Denise Vast and Janet Walker-Harris.

Published

“Between Śāstra and Kāvya: The Śrī Yantra as a Key to the Coherence of *Saundaryalaharī*”. *Research Network for the Study of Esoteric Practices*. Rensep.org. Ed. Aaron French. May, 8, 2025.

“Image, Imaginary and Ignorance of Real Being: The Myth of Narcissus in Plotinus’ *Enneads* and Anna Kornbluh’s *Immediacy*”. *Colloquy: The Official Journal of the Graduate Institute*. Ed. Nadine, Bucca. Fall 2024 (Theme: “On Being”).

“Intertextuality and The ‘Elixir’ of Character in the *Bhagavadgītā*”. *Colloquy: The Official Journal of the Graduate Institute*. Ed. Borsum, Stephen. Spring 2024 (Theme: “On Character”).

Translations

(From Russian) “I am Goya”. (“Гойя”). Andrei Voznesensky. *Etcetera* (St. John’s College). Ed. Mitchell, Tamblyn; Smit, Tobias. Spring 2024.

EMPLOYMENT

July 2024 - Today:	Middle School History/Latin Teacher (Grace-St. Luke's Episcopal School; Memphis, TN)
July 2023 - July 2024:	Latin Teacher (Libertas School of Memphis; Memphis, TN)
July 2021 - Feb. 2023:	Latin Teacher, Middle School Team Lead (Great Hearts; Arlington, TX)
Aug 2019 - May 2021:	Ancient Greek Assistant (Graduate / Undergraduate) (St. John's College; Annapolis, MD)
May 2018 - Aug 2018:	Technical Services Assistant (SJC Greenfield Library; Annapolis, MD)

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

The Catherine Project - Ancient Greek Leader (June-July 2025)

Learn to Read Greek - Part 1

Grace-St. Luke's Episcopal School – History/Latin Teacher (2024 – Present)

Introduction to Latin (Lingua Latina Per Se Illustrata / Unus Duo Tres) • 5th/6th

Ancient Civilizations • 5th

Libertas School of Memphis – Latin Teacher (2023-2024)

Introduction to Latin (Latin Through Stories / Unus Duo Tres) • 1st-3rd

Introduction to Latin (Lingua Latina Per Se Illustrata / Unus Duo Tres) • 4th/5th

Great Hearts - Arlington – Latin Teacher (2021-2023)

Latin II (Latin for the New Millennium) • 7th/8th

Latin I (Latin for the New Millennium) • 6th-8th

St. John's College - Annapolis – Ancient Greek Assistant (2019-2021)

Sophomore Language Tutorial (Teacher: Matthew Caswell)

Sophomore Language Tutorial (Teacher: Michael Blaustein)

Ancient Greek Assistance - Open Hours (Freshmen / Sophomores / Graduate Students)

RESEARCH, INDEPENDENT STUDY & RELEVANT EXPERIENCE

Present (Forthcoming) Plotinus Podcast Project (Co-Founded with Dr. Devon Rowell and Oliver Fox) (Selections from: *Enneads*)

2024 - 2025 Editorial Board - *Colloquy: The Official Journal of the Graduate Institute*

Fall 2023, Fall 2024 Abhinavagupta Study Group - Weekly Seminar (Founded, Led) (Selections from *Gītārthasaṅgraha*)

Fall 2020 St. John's College: 'Rise and Decline of the Roman Republic' Preceptorial (Member; Led by Jeffrey Smith) (Selections from: Dionysus of Halicarnassus, Appian, Sallust, Livy, Suetonius, Polybius, Julius Caesar, Caesar Augustus, Cicero)

Fall 2019 St. John's College: *Capital, Vol. 1* Preceptorial (Member; Led by Ronald Haflidson)

Fall 2017 - Spring 2020: 'SJC Marxism Study Group' - Weekly Seminar (Founded, Led)

AWARDS

Fall 2023: Commencement Award: Best Eastern Classics Essay, Honorable Mention (“Who am I? A Study of the Self in *R̥gveda* 10.125”)

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

Forthcoming (July 2025): “Narrative as the ‘Honeycomb’ of Philosophy: (Self-)Reflections on Poetic Inspiration in *Saundaryalaharī* and Proclus’ Hymn to the Muses”. *Society for Asian and Comparative Philosophy*. 57th Annual Conference: “From Human to Humane: Nature, Nurture and Narrative.” Leiden University, Leiden, NL.

17 August 2024: “Cosmic Terror ‘Crystallised’: A Lovecraftian Episode in an Indian Epic”. *The Armitage Symposium* Session 4: “Toward Horror and Weird: Lovecraftiana in Translation / National Literatures (Comparative Discourse)”. Providence, RI. Chair: Fred Lubnow.

LANGUAGES

English (Native)

Latin (Classical) - Fluent Speaker

Ancient Greek (Homeric, Attic) - Reading/Writing

Sanskrit (Vedic, Classical) - Reading/Writing

French - Reading/Writing

Russian - Reading

Modern Greek - Beginner

German - Beginner

Italian - Beginner

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

Society for Classical Studies (SCS)

International Society for Comparative Philosophy toward World Philosophy (CPWP)

Research Network for the Study of Esoteric Practices

Society for Asian and Comparative Philosophy

REFERENCES

Christine Chen • Tutor (Seminar)

St. John’s College - Santa Fe

(christine.chen@sjc.edu)

Nathan Dugan • Tutor (Undergraduate Thesis Committee), Assistant Dean (Greek Assistance Director)

St. John’s College - Annapolis

(nathan.dugan@sjc.edu)