

## **ERIC R. VARNER**

Departments of Art History and Classics  
Emory University  
Atlanta, GA 30322  
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### **EDUCATION**

Ph.D., Yale University, Classics (Classical Archaeology), 1993  
M.Phil., Yale University, Classics (Classical Archaeology), 1988  
A.B., Princeton University, Classics (Classical Archaeology), 1985  
(*magna cum laude*)

### **DISSERTATION**

*Damnatio Memoriae and Roman Imperial Portraiture*  
Advisor: Diana E.E. Kleiner

### **AWARDS AND FELLOWSHIPS:**

Woodruff Travel Award 2008  
Emory ICIS Travel Grant 2007  
Emory ICIS Travel Grant 2005  
Emory UTF Grant (Art History Digital Images Teaching Enhancement Proposal) 2004  
Emory URC Grant 2004  
Emory ICIS Travel Grant 2002  
Emory ICIS Curriculum Development Grant  
Emory ICIS Travel Grant 2000  
National Endowment for the Arts, for "From Caligula to Constantine: Tyranny and Transformation in Roman Portraiture" 1999  
Video Teaching Grant, 1998  
University Teaching Fund Committee award to develop "Roman Vision" 1998-2000  
Emory ICIS Travel Grant 1998  
Andrew Mellon Faculty Fellowship in the Humanities for Classical Archaeology, Emory University, 1992-94  
Whiting Fellowship, Yale University, 1991-92  
John F. Enders Research Assistance Grant, Yale University, 1991  
Fulbright Fellowship, Italy, 1989-90  
Berkeley, Biddle, Woolsey Travel Grant, Yale University, 1989  
R. Townsend Fellowship, Yale University, 1988-89  
Berkeley, Biddle, Woolsey Travel Grant, Yale University, 1988

### **AREAS OF SPECIALIZATION**

Roman Sculpture  
Monuments and Topography of Rome

## EMPLOYMENT

### **Emory University:**

Associate Professor, Departments of Art History and Classics, 2004-  
Assistant Professor, Departments of Art History and Classics, 1998-2004  
Visiting Assistant Professor, Departments of Art History and Classics, 1995-98  
Visiting Assistant Professor, Department of Classics, 1994-5  
Mellon Faculty Fellow in Classical Archaeology, Department of Classics, 1992-4

### **John Cabot University**

Visiting Professor 1997-

## PUBLICATIONS

### **Books:**

*Mutilation and Transformation: Damnatio Memoriae and Roman Imperial Portraiture* (Leiden 2004).

*Grotesque Aesthetics. Transgression and Transcendence in the Age of Nero*  
(in progress)

### **Catalogues:**

*From Caligula to Constantine: Tyranny and Transformation in Roman Portraiture*  
(Atlanta 2000)

### **Edited Volumes** (in progress):

*Reimagining Nero*

*Tyranny and Transformation II*

### **Articles:**

“Transcending Gender: Assimilation, Identity and Roman Imperial Portraits,”  
in S. Bell and I Hansen, eds. *Role Models: Identity and Assimilation in the Roman World (Supplement to the Memoirs of the American Academy in Rome 7*, Ann Arbor 2008) 185-205.

“Memory Sanctions, Identity Politics and Altered Imperial Portraits,” in S. Benoist and A. Daguët-Gagey, eds., *Un Discours en Images de la Condamnation de Mémoire (Centre Régional Universitaire Lorrain d’Histoire Site de Metz 34*, Metz 2008) 129-52.

“Reading Replications: Roman Rhetoric and Greek Quotations,” *Art History* 29.2 (2006) 280-303.

“Golden Excess: Nero’s Portraits and the Cult of Luxury,” *Reimagining Nero. Collected Symposium Papers*

“Unstable Images: Shifting Identities and Damnatio Memoriae in Roman Imperial Portraits,” forthcoming in *Tyranny and Transformation 2. Collected Symposium Papers*

“The Art of Condemnation: Sculptors’ Responses to the Mutilation and Reuse of Roman Imperial Portraits” forthcoming in *Marble in the Roman World, Journal of Roman Archaeology Supplement*

“Ideologies of Empathy: Cruelty and Clemency on the Column of Trajan,” forthcoming in *Second Annual Societas Conference: Roman Political Ideology, Journal of Roman Archaeology Supplement*

“Execution in Effigy: Severed Heads and Decapitated Statues in Imperial Rome,”

in A. Hopkins and M. Wyke, eds., *Roman Bodies. Antiquity to the Eighteenth Century* (London 2005) 66-81.

“Portraits, Plots and Politics: *Damnatio Memoriae* and the Images of Imperial Women,” *Memoirs of the American Academy in Rome* (2001) 41-93.

“Punishment after Death: Mutilation of Images and Corpse Abuse in Imperial Rome,” *Mortality*, 6.1 (2001) 45-63.

“Tyranny and the Transformation in Roman Imperial Marble Portraits and Coins,” *Minerva* 11.6 (2000) 45-49.

“Grotesque Vision: Seneca’s Tragedies and Neronian Art,” *Seneca in Performance*, G. Harrison, ed. (Wales Classical Press 2000) 119-36.

“Domitia Longina and the Politics of Portraiture,” *American Journal of Archaeology* 99 (1995) 187-206.

“Two Portrait Stelae at Yale and the Romanization of North Africa,” *Yale University Art Gallery Bulletin* (1990) 11-19.

#### Reviews and Catalogue Entries:

Review, H.I. Flower, *The Art of Forgetting. Disgrace and Oblivion in Roman Political Culture* (Chapel Hill 2006) *Phoenix* (forthcoming)

Review, S. Dillon, *Ancient Greek Portrait Sculpture* (Cambridge 2006) *Art Bulletin* (forthcoming)

Review, C. Hallett, *The Roman Nude* (Oxford 2005) *American Journal of Archaeology* 113 (2008)

Review, P.J. Holliday, *The Origins of Roman Historical Commemoration in the Visual Arts* (Cambridge 2002) *AJA* 111 (2007) 173-74.

Review, E. Perry, *The Aesthetics of Emulation in the Visual Arts of Ancient Rome* (Cambridge 2005) *American Journal of Archaeology* 110 (1996) 678-9

Review, N. Agnoli, ed. *Museo Archeologico Nazionale di Palestrina. Le Sculture* (Rome 2002) *American Journal of Archaeology* 110 (2006) online reviews

Review, J. Meier, *Emperors Don’t Die in Bed* (New York and London 2004) *Mortality* 2005

Review, E. Bartman, *Portraits of Livia* (Cambridge 1999) *Classical Journal* 95 (2000) 412-5.

Review, T. Hölscher, *Monumenti statali e pubblico* (Rome 1994) *Archaeological News* 23 (1998-2000) 74-75.

“Funerary Portrait of Gratidia M.L. Chrite and M. Gratidius Libanus,” *Rings: Five Passions in World Art*, M. Shapiro, ed. (New York 1996) 62.

Portrait of Lucius Caesar, Portrait of Tiberius, Portrait of Caligula, Portrait of Nero, Portraits of Septimius Severus and Julia Domna, Portraits of Caracalla, Portrait of Plautilla, *I Claudia: Women in Ancient Rome* (New Haven 1996) 55, 61-3, 81-6.

Review, O. Dräger, *Religionem Significare: Studien zu reich verzierten römischen Altaren und Basen aus Marmor* (*RM EH* 33, Mainz 1994), *American Journal of Archaeology* 100 (1996) 801-2.

Review, N. Hannestad, *Tradition in Late Antique Sculpture* (Aarhus 1994), *American Journal of Archaeology* 99 (1995) 746-7.

Review, *Grabeskunst der römischen Kaiserzeit*, G. Koch, ed. (Mainz 1993), *Archaeological News* 19 (1995) 49-51.

## EXHIBITIONS:

“*From Caligula to Constantine: Tyranny and Transformation in Roman Portraiture*,” Michael C. Carlos Museum, September 2000-January 2001; Yale University Art Gallery January-March 2001.

“Fragments of the Roman Past: North African Red Slip Ware from the Collection of William Knight Zewadski,” Michael C. Carlos Museum, February- May 1994

## PAPERS AND LECTURES DELIVERED

“Reconfiguring Roman Portraits: Theories and Practices,” *The Good the Bad and the Altered: Reworked Roman Portraits and the Jocelyn Augustus*, Creighton University, April 2008

“Violent Discourses: Visual Cannibalism and the Portraits of Rome’s ‘Bad’ Emperors,” *The Archaeology of Violence: An Integrated Approach to the Study of Violence and Conflict*, Institute for European and Mediterranean Archaeology, State University of New York, Buffalo, April 2008

“Mass Appeal: Crafting Pompey’s Public Persona,” *The Theater of Pompey: Staging the Self through Roman Architecture*, University of Georgia, Athens, October 2007

“Animated Conversations: Roman Portraits, Living Viewers and the Dead,” 8<sup>th</sup> International Conference of the Social Context of Death, Dying and Disposal, Bath, September 2007

“Pushing Portrait Boundaries: Identity and Agency in Altered Roman Images,” *Image As Boundary*, University of Durham, July 2007

“Retracted Memories: Identity and Agency in the Destruction and Alteration of Roman Imperial Portraits,” *Un discours en images de la condamnation de mémoire*, Centers Gernet et Glotz, Université Paul Verlaine, Metz, June 2007

“Eternal Rome and the Semiotics of Death in Roman Funerary Art” Key note address, Athenaze Conference, University of Georgia, Athens, March 2006.

“Encoding Identity: Semantic Systems in Roman Portraiture,” *Reading the Roman Portraits*, Michael C. Carlos Museum, January 2006.

“Art History as Afterlife: Monumentalization and Memorialization in Roman Funerary Art,” **Seventh International Conference on the Social Context of Death, Dying and Disposal**, Bath, September 2005

“Tiberius: Portrait Paradigms and Paradoxes,” College Art Association Annual Meetings, February 2005

“Reading Replications: Roman Rhetoric and Greek Quotations,” Corpus Christi College, Oxford, June 2004

“Transgendered Images: Assimilation and Identity in Roman Imperial Portraits” University of Texas at Austin, October 2003

“Eternal Rome and the Semiotics of Death in Roman Funerary Art,” Hunter College, April, 2003

“Transcending Gender: Assimilation, Identity and Roman Imperial Portraits,” *Role Models: Identity and Assimilation in the Roman World and Early Modern Italy*, American Academy in Rome and the British School at Rome, March 2003

“Golden Excess: Nero’s Portraits and the Cult of Luxury,” *Re-imagining Nero*, Michael C. Carlos Museum, November 2002

“Eternal Rome and the Semiotics of Death on a Season Sarcophagus in the Michael C. Carlos Museum,” Sixth International Conference of the Social Context of Death, Dying and Disposal, York, September 2002  
 “Beyond Greece: Nero’s Artistic Interactions with Egypt and Armenia,” Corpus Christi College, Oxford, May 2002  
 “*Rus in Urbe*: Nero’s Domus Aurea and the Architecture of Transgression,” Association Ancient Historians, Annual Meeting, Savannah, April 2002  
 “Ideologies of Empathy: Cruelty and Clemency on the Column of Trajan,” Second Annual Societas Conference: Roman Political Ideology, Villa Vergiliana, Cumae, Italy, May 2001.  
 “The Art of Condemnation: Sculptors’ Responses to the Mutilation and Reuse of Roman Imperial Portraits” Marble in the Roman World, University of Colorado, Boulder, April 2001  
 “Mutilation of Images and Corpse Abuse in Ancient Rome,” Roman Bodies: Metamorphoses, Mutilation, and Martyrdom, British School in Rome, March 2001  
 “Memory, Condemnation and the Instability of Roman Imperial Images,” Symposium, Tyranny and Transformation in Roman Portraiture, Michael C. Carlos Museum, October 2000  
 “Documenting Death: Dacians and Empathy on the Column of Trajan in Rome,” Fifth International Conference on the Social Context of Death Dying and Disposal, London, September 2000  
 “Punishment After Death: Mutilation of Images and Corpses in Imperial Rome,” Fourth International Conference on the Social Context of Death, Dying, and Disposal, Glasgow, September 1998  
 “Wine and Wine Making in Roman Art,” Michael C. Carlos Museum, March 1998  
 “Memory and Commemoration: Constructing Image and Identity in Roman Portraits,” Michael C. Carlos Museum, March 1998  
 “Mutilation and Transformation in Roman Portraits,” keynote address, “Ars Refecta” Annual Graduate Student Symposium, University of Missouri, March 1998.  
 “Grotesque Vision: Seneca’s Tragedies and Neronian Art,” in “Seneca in Performance,” Xavier University, February 1998  
 “Reflections of the Roman Theater at Sepphoris,” Michael C. Carlos Museum, February 1998  
 “Mutilation and Reuse: Recasting the Image of the Roman Ruler,” in “Negating the Image: Iconoclasm, Vandalism, and Art Censorship,” College Art Association, Annual Meetings, February 1997  
 “Emperors, Popes and Architectural Commemoration in Rome,” Michael C. Carlos Museum, November 1996  
 “Ancient Olive Crowns: Their History and Context,” Michael C. Carlos Museum, September 1996  
 “A Portrait of a Roman Woman as Venus-Hygeia,” Michael C. Carlos Museum, Emory University, November 1995  
 “Image and Response: Roman Women and the Portraits of Ptolemaic Queens,” American Research Center in Egypt, Annual Meetings, April 1995  
 “Outsiders in Roman Art,” Multiculturalism: Ancient and Modern, Emory University, February 1995

- “Nero *Imperator*: Military Imagery and the Portraits of Nero,” Annual Meetings, Archaeological Institute of America and the American Philological Association, December, 1994
- “Artistic Ambiguity in Vergil's *Aeneid* and the Ara Pacis Augustae,” NEH Institute, Reading Vergil's *Aeneid* in the Humanities Curriculum, Christine G. Perkell, director, June-August 1994
- “Images of Saturn in the Art of Ancient North Africa,” Michael C. Carlos Museum, Emory University, April 1994
- “Aspects of Divinity in Roman Imperial Portraiture: A Portrait of Hadrian from Carthage and the Imperial Cult in North Africa,” Michael C. Carlos Museum, Emory University, April 1994
- “Rewriting the Visual Record: *Damnatio Memoriae* and Roman Imperial Portraits,” Archaeological Institute of America, Atlanta Society, November 1993
- “Domitia Longina and the Politics of Portraiture,” Archaeological Institute of America Annual Meeting, December 1992
- “*Damnatio Memoriae* and Imperial Portraits,” Archaeological Institute of America, Athens Georgia Society, November 1992
- “Condemnation in Crisis: Three Portraits of Severus Alexander and *Damnatio Memoriae* in the Late Severan Period,” Archaeological Institute of America Annual Meeting, December, 1991
- “Mithras and Other Mysteries: Near Eastern Religions and the Art of the Roman Provinces,” Yale University Art Gallery, October, 1991
- “Memorials in Stone: Roman Relief Sculpture from Tunisia and Palmyra,” Yale University Art Gallery, January, 1991

## TEACHING EXPERIENCE

### **John Cabot University, Rome**

Monuments and Topography of Ancient Rome, June 2008, June 2007, June 2006, June 2005, June 2004, June 2003, June 2002, June 2001, June 2000, Fall 1999, June 1999, July 1998, July 1997

### **Emory University:**

Column of Marcus Aurelius, Spring 2009  
 Rome: Ancient and Baroque, Spring 2008  
 Defying Death: Art and Afterlife in Ancient Rome, Fall 2007  
 Picturing Artifice: Phantasia and Roman Painting, Fall 2006  
 Views of Rome: Ancient and Baroque, Fall 2006  
 Memorial Afterlife and Roman Funerary Art, Spring 2004  
 Politics, Identity and Gender in Roman Art, Fall 2003  
 Methods in Art History, Fall 2003, Fall 2005  
 Rome: Ancient and Baroque (Art History Summer Abroad Program 2003)  
 The Art of Transgression under Nero, Fall 2002  
 Roman Citiscapes: Pompeii, Herculaneum, and Ostia, Fall 2002  
 Nero: Hero or Anti Hero?, Spring 2002  
 Roman Vision, Fall 2000, Spring 2004  
 Column of Trajan, Spring 2000  
 Roman Imperial Residences: Architecture and Decoration, Fall 1998

Image and Identity in Roman Portraits, Spring 1998, Spring 2005  
 Image and Text: Suetonius, Caesars, and Art, Fall 1997  
 Mutilation and Transformation in Roman Art and Architecture, Fall, 2000, Spring 1997  
 Age of Augustus, Spring 2002, Spring 1997, Spring 1995  
 Politics of Gender: Images of Women in Roman Art, Spring 2000, Fall 1996, Fall 1993  
 Imitation and Rivalry: Alexander the Great and His Artistic Legacy, Fall 1996  
 Tradition and Innovation in Late Antique Art, Spring 1996  
 Survey of Roman Art, Fall 2008, Spring 2006, Spring 2005, Spring 2003, Spring 2001,  
 Spring 2000, Spring 1999, Fall 1997, Spring 1996  
 Classics 101, Fall 2007, Spring Spring 2001, Spring 1999, Spring 1998, Spring 1997,  
 Fall 1995  
 Age of Nero, Fall 1998, Fall 1995, Spring 1993, Fall 2005  
 Art History 101 (Etruscan and Roman), Fall 2008, Fall 2007, Fall 2006, Fall 2005, Fall  
 2003, Fall 2002, Fall 2000, Fall 1998, Fall, 1997, Fall 1996, Fall 1995, (Greek  
 and Etruscan), Fall 1992  
 Pompeii, Herculaneum and Ostia: the Urban Fabric of Roman Daily Life, Spring  
 1998, Spring 1995  
 Latin 102, Fall 1994  
 Latin 101, Fall 1994  
*Urbs Aeterna*: Monuments and Topography of Ancient Rome, Fall 2008, Fall 1994,  
 Fall 1992  
 Ancient North Africa: Art and Society, Spring 1994  
 Emory Summer Program in Italy, Summer 1993

**Yale University:**

Teaching Fellow, Greek Architecture, Spring 1991  
 Teaching Fellow, Age of Augustus, Fall 1990  
 Teaching Fellow, Roman History, Spring 1989  
 Teaching Fellow, Age of Augustus, Fall 1988  
 Teaching Fellow, Cities of the Greco-Roman World, Spring 1988  
 Teaching Fellow, Greek Art, Fall 1988

**UNIVERSITY SERVICE**

**Emory University:**

Ph.D. Exam Committee, major field advisor, Jacquelyn McCollum, 2009  
 Ph.D. Exam Committee, minor field advisor, Clare Fitzgerald, 2008  
 Ph.D. Exam Committee, Catherine Fernandez, 2008  
 Honors Thesis, Co-Advisor, Lauren Paynter, 2008-9  
 Ph.D. Exam Committee, major field advisor, Beth Gardiner Lytle, 2008  
 Ph.D. Exam Committee, major field advisor, Susan Blevins, 2008  
 Ph.D. Exam Committee, minor field advisor, Liz Cummins, 2008  
 Ph.D. Exam Committee, Janelle Peters, Graduate Division of Religion 2008  
 Ph.D. Exam Committee, major field advisor, Rachel Foulk, 2007  
 Honors Thesis, Co-Advisor, Rachel Harrison 2006-7  
 Ph.D. Committee, Jason Cjiekka, Art History 2005-  
 Ph.D. Committee, Anthony Mangieri, Art History, 2005-

Honors Thesis Advisor, Val Prochaka, Classical Studies, 2005-6  
 Honors Thesis Advisor, Susan Weisbrod, Art History, 2005-6  
 Educational Policy Committee, 2005-8  
 JOHN  
 Humanities Committee, SIRE Grants 2003-2004  
 Honors Coordinator, Art History Department 2003-2004  
 Library Representative, Art History Department 2003  
 Honors Thesis Committee, Scott Walker, Art History, 2003-3004  
 Honors Thesis Committee, Lisa Boutin, Art History, 2003-2004  
 Honors Thesis Committee, Ellie Ruth, Political Science, 2002-2003  
 Honors Thesis Committee, Jody Campbell, History Department, 2002-2003  
 Ph.D. Defense Committee, Karen O'Day, December 2002  
 Organizer, "Re-imagining Nero," Symposium, Michael C. Carlos Museum, November 2002  
 Ph.D. Defense Committee, chair, Katrina Dickson, April 2002  
 Curriculum Committee, 2000-2002  
 Search Committee, Curator of Greek and Roman Art, Michael C. Carlos Museum, 2000-1  
 Ph.D. Exam Committee, Erin Black, Spring 2001  
 Ph.D. Exam Committee, Jennifer Palinkas, Spring 2001  
 Curator, "*From Caligula to Constantine: Tyranny and Transformation in Roman Portraiture*," Michael C. Carlos Museum, September 2000-January 2001; Yale University Art Gallery January-March 2001.  
 Ph.D. Exam Committee, John Stephenson, Fall 2000  
 Academic Advisor, Emory Students at John Cabot, Fall 1999  
 Search Committee, Greek Material Culture Position, Classics Department, 1998-99  
 Study Abroad Coordinator, Art History Department, 1998-ongoing  
 Graduate Committee, Art History Department, 2002, 1999, 1998  
 Steering Committee, Program in Classical Studies, 1997-  
 Curator, "Fragments of the Roman Past: North African Red Slip Ware from the Collection of William Knight Zewadski," Michael C. Carlos Museum, February- May 1994  
 Curriculum Reform Committee, Classics Department, 1993-1994  
 Dissertation Advisor, Katrina Dickson, "*Agrippina Minor: Optima Mater or Semper Atrox?*"  
 Dissertation Advisor, Erin Black, Tropaeum Traiani at Adamklisi  
 Dissertation Advisor, John Stephenson, Roman Villas in Gaul, Spain and North Africa  
 Dissertation Committee, Karen O'Day,  
 Ph.D. Exam Committee, Sheramy Bundrick, Fall 1995  
 Honors Thesis Advisor, Saskia Benjamin, Empresses as Goddesses in Julio-Claudian Visual Propaganda, 1994-95  
 Honors Thesis Committee, Nicholas Holmes, Spring 1995  
 Ph.D. Exam Committee, Katrina Dickson, Fall 1994

## **RELATED PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE**

Manuscript Review, *Art Bulletin* 2008

Manuscript Review, Ohio University Press, 2007  
Manuscript Review, *Hesperia*, 2006  
Tenure Reviews, University of Indiana, Bloomington, 2006, University of Delaware, 2005, University of Colorado, Boulder 2005  
Chair, "Inventing the Age of Augustus: Tiberius and the Reification of Empire,"  
College Art Association Annual Meetings, February 2005  
Manuscript Review, *A History of Roman Art* (textbook) 2004  
Manuscript Review, Roman Chapters, Janson's *History of Art* 2004  
Manuscript Reviews, *American Journal of Archaeology*, 2008, 2007, 2006, 2004, 2002, 1995  
Manuscript Reviews, *Memoirs of the American Academy in Rome*, 2006, 2004, 2002  
Sculptural Workshop, Butrint Albania (organized by the British School at Rome and the Butrint Foundation) June 2003  
Organizer, "Re-Imagining Nero," Symposium, Michael C. Carlos Museum, November 2002  
Sculptural Consultant, Columbia Museum of Art, South Carolina, Fall 2002  
President, Archaeological Institute of America, Atlanta Society, 1998-2001  
Manuscript Review, Princeton University Art Museum Catalogue of Roman Sculpture, 2000  
Chair, "Remembering the Dead: Roman Funerary Reliefs," Open Session  
Annual Meeting, Archaeological Institute of America, December 1998  
Publications Review for Susan E. Wood, Promotion to Full Professor, Oakland University, April 1997  
Sculptural Consultant, Columbia Museum of Art, South Carolina, July 1996  
Organizer, "Rethinking Nero's Legacy: New Perspectives on Neronian Art, Literature, and History," Joint Session, Annual Meetings of the Archaeological Institute of America and the American Philological Association, December, 1994  
Member, Local Organizing Committee, Annual Meetings of the Archaeological Institute of America and the American Philological Association, December 1994  
Member, Local Organizing Committee, Annual Meeting of the Classical Association of the Middle West and South, April 1994  
President, Archaeological Institute of America, New Haven Society, 1990-1992  
Librarian, Classical Archaeology Slide Collection, Yale University, 1991

## **FIELD EXPERIENCE**

University of Georgia Excavations of the Roman Circus at Carthage  
(Naomi Norman, Director):  
Summer 1987, Supervisor  
Summer 1985, Student Participant