Charles Joseph McNamara

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Academic Appointments

- University of Georgia, Department of Classics
  Assistant Professor of Classics (2026–Present)
- University of Minnesota, Department of Classical and Near Eastern Religions and Cultures
  Lecturer (2021–2026)
- Columbia University, Department of Classics
  Robert Belknap Core Faculty Fellow (2019–2021)
  Core Lecturer (2017–2019)
- Bayerische Akademie der Wissenschaften, *Thesaurus Linguae Latinae*
  National Endowment for the Humanities / Society for Classical Studies Fellow (2016–2017)

Education

- Ph.D. with Distinction in Classics, Columbia University, 2016
  Dissertation Title: Quintilian's Theory of Certainty and Its Afterlife in Early Modern Italy
  Supervisor: Kathy Eden, Chavkin Family Professor of English Literature and Professor of Classics
- A.B. in Classics, Harvard University, 2007

Publications

Books

- *Humanist Certainty* (Under Revision)
- *Learning to Be Fair: Equity from Ancient Philosophy to Contemporary Politics* (Fortress, 2024)
- Co-Editor and Co-Author of Introduction: Fontaine, McNamara, and Short (eds.), *Quasi Labor Intus: Ambiguity in the Latin Language* (Paideia, 2018)

Academic Articles in Journals and Collections

- "The Common Consent of Words: An Aristotelian Element of Hobbesian Legal Rhetoric." In Mukherji and Roberts (eds.), *Knowing Judgments: Literature and the Legal Imaginary* (Palgrave, 2025): 143–161
- "Fourth-Century Fakes." *Classical World* 115.2 (2022): 179–204
- "*Certum atque Confessum*: Lorenzo Valla on the Forensics of Certainty." *Rhetorica* 36.3 (2018): 244-268
- "The Ethics of Ambiguity in Quintilian." In Fontaine, McNamara, Short (eds.), *Quasi Labor Intus: Ambiguity in the Latin Language* (Paideia, 2018): 205-223
- "Stoic Caricature in Lucian's *De Astrologia*: Verisimilitude as Comedy." *Peitho* 1.4 (2013): 235–253

Articles in the Thesaurus Linguae Latinae

- *Thesaurus Linguae Latinae*, Vol. IX. Leipzig: De Gruyter, 1900-: *nervosus* [*nervositas*], *nidus*
- *Thesaurus Linguae Latinae*, Vol. XI. Leipzig: De Gruyter, 1900-: *reminiscor*, *remisceo*, *remollio*, *remoror*, *remunerator* [*remuneratrix*], *ren*, *renideo* [*renidesco*], *repudiatio*

Book Reviews and Review Essays

- *American Odyssey* by Patrick Deneen (Creed & Culture). *Commonweal*, September 28, 2026: 52–54
- *The Oxford Handbook of Quintilian* ed. Marc Van Der Poel et al. (Oxford). *The Journal for the History of Rhetoric* 26:3 (2023), 392–396
- *Long Live Latin* by Nicola Gardini (FSG). *Commonweal*, January 20, 2021: 53–55
- *Stories of Daily Life from the Roman World* by Eleanor Dickey (Cambridge). *Gnomon* 92:7 (2020), 603–606
- *Lost in Thought* by Zena Hitz (Princeton). *Commonweal*, July 23, 2020: 50–52
- Review of *The Case for Trump* by Victor Davis Hanson (Basic Books). *Commonweal*, June 1, 2019: 23–24
- *Ancient Wisdom for Modern Readers* Series (Princeton), including *How to be Free* (ed. and trans., A. A. Long), *How to Win an Argument* (ed. and trans., James M. May), *How to Be a Friend* (ed. and trans., Philip Freeman), *How to Die* (ed. and trans., James S. Romm). *Commonweal*, March 8, 2019: 22–24
- *Aeneid Book VI* by Seamus Heaney (FSG). *Commonweal*, January 6, 2017: 32–34

Outreach and Public-Facing Writing

- "The Gladiator & the Gadfly." *Commonweal*, October 28, 2025
- "What's Wrong with Weird?" *Commonweal*, September 24, 2024
- "What is Equity?" *Commonweal*, May 25, 2022
- "Gone Viral." *Commonweal*, May 6, 2020
- "The Cross-Examined Life: Socrates Debates the Laws." *Lapham's Quarterly*, March 19, 2018
- "Lead Us Not into Mistranslation." *Commonweal*, January 26, 2018
- "If Trump Cares about Western Civilization, He Needs to Fund the Arts." *Washington Post*, July 10, 2017

Interviews and Podcast Episodes

- Author and Host of *Original Public Meaning*
- "*proficio*." *Ut Silvae Foliis: The Thesaurus Linguae Latinae Podcast*, September 4, 2025
- "*Learning to Be Fair*: A Conversation about Equity." *Future of the Past Lab*, February 21, 2025

Fellowships & Awards

- Excellence in Undergraduate Teaching Award, College of Liberal Arts, University of Minnesota, 2026
- The Class of 1963 Scholar In Residence, Washington and Lee University, 2023
- Robert Belknap Core Faculty Fellowship, Columbia University, 2019
- NEH/SCS *Thesaurus Linguae Latinae* Fellowship, 2016
- Louis A. Parks Graduate Fellowship in Classics, Columbia University, 2016
- Presidential Award for Outstanding Teaching, Columbia University, 2016
- Fulbright U.S. Student ETA Award (declined), 2009
- David Taggart Clark Prize (Latin Salutatorian), Harvard College, 2007

- B.J. Whiting Prize, Harvard College, 2007
- Charles P. Segal Fellowship, Department of the Classics, Harvard College, 2006
- Franklin Ford Award, Harvard College, 2006

Teaching

University of Georgia, Department of Classics

- Courses in Translation: Introduction to the Humanities
- Graduate Coursework: Rhetoric on Trial

University of Minnesota, Department of Classical and Near Eastern Religions and Cultures

- Courses in Greek and Latin:
  Advanced Latin Poetry (Roman Naturalism; The *Aeneid* and Its Reception), Advanced Latin Prose (Decline and Decadence), Advanced Greek Prose (Sophists; Tyranny), Intermediate Latin, Intermediate Greek, Elementary Latin
- Courses in Translation:
  Ancient Ethics from Plato to Stoicism, Greek and Roman Mythology, The World of Greece, The World of Rome

Columbia University, Center for the Core Curriculum and Department of Classics

- Contemporary Civilization, Elementary Latin, Intermediate Latin

Presentations and Lectures

Conference Presentations (Selected)

- Society for Classical Studies: "Fool Me Once, Fool Me Twice: Quintilian on Learning How to Be Deceived." Boston, Massachusetts, January 2027
- Society for Classical Studies: "Otherwise We Do Not Know the Ocean Exists: Augustine's Rhetorical Epistemology of Testimony." San Francisco, California, January 2026
- Cambridge University, CRASSH, *Law and Poetics in Early Modern England and Beyond*: "Alternative Facts against the 'Common Consent of Words': The Controversy of Hobbesian Legal Rhetoric." Cambridge, UK, July 2018
- Society for Classical Studies: "Neither Nasty Nor Brutish, But Short: Hobbes' Abbreviated Translation of Aristotle's *Rhetoric*." Boston, Massachusetts, January 2018
- Renaissance Society of America: "Lorenzo Valla and Quintilian on the Forensics of Certainty." Chicago, Illinois, April 2017
- Classical Association of the Middle West and South 111th Annual Meeting: "The Far-Reaching Skepticism of Quintilian's *Institutio Oratoria*, Book II." Williamsburg, Virginia, March 2016
- Society for Classical Studies: "Water as Pastoral Danger in Sannazaro's Ovidian *Salices*." San Francisco, California, January 2016
- American Comparative Literature Association Annual Meeting: "Getting a Head Start: Scarcity of Information and Early Childhood Education in Quintilian." New York, New York, March 2014

Workshops and Invited Talks (Selected)

- Bard College, Chang Chavkin Center for Liberal Education and Civic Life, Faculty Institute. Annandale-on-Hudson, New York, June 2026
- University of Minnesota, Center for Premodern Studies, "Quintilian and Augustine on the Status of Knowledge." Minneapolis, Minnesota, April 2024
- University of Minnesota, Hubbard School of Journalism, Guest Lecturer in *Digital Media and Culture*: "Aristotle's ChatGPT: AI Bias and the Impersonation of Style." Minneapolis, Minnesota, March 2023
- Washington and Lee University, The Class of 1963 Scholar-In-Residence Lecture: "The Fairness Doctrine: A History of Equity." Lexington, Virginia, January 2023
- University of Minnesota, Department of Classical and Near Eastern Religions and Cultures: "Imagined Philologies: Lexicography, Community, and the Reign of *Latinitas*." Minneapolis, Minnesota, November 2021
- Riverside Church, Morningside Institute: "Hannah Arendt: Space Conquest and the End of *Humanitas*." New York, New York, April 2021
- Riverside Church, Morningside Institute: "Deep Humanities: Artificial Intelligence and the Ethics of Persuasion." New York, New York, November 2019
- Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität, Munich School of Ancient Philosophy: "The Skepticism of Certainty in Quintilian." Munich, Germany, January 2017

Conferences and Events Organized and Moderated (Selected)

- "The Future of the Past: Secondary Classical Language Education." Moderator. Department of Classical and Near Eastern Religions and Cultures, University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, Minnesota, April 2022
- "Voice of the People: Reflections and Conversation after the 2020 Elections." Contemporary Civilization Roundtable with Richard John (Columbia). Center for the Core Curriculum, Columbia College, New York, New York, November 2020
- The Long Reach of Antiquity: Organizer, Panel Moderator, and Respondent. Columbia University, New York, New York, April 2012

Professional Activities

Journal Refereeing and Editorial Work

- Referee for *Ciceroniana*, *Classical Philology*, *Open Library of Humanities*
- Assistant Editor for *Erasmus of Rotterdam Society Yearbook*, 2011–2012

Institutional Committees and Departmental Service

- Director of Undergraduate Studies, Department of Classical and Near Eastern Religions and Cultures, University of Minnesota, 2024–2026
- College in the Schools Faculty Coordinator, Greek and Latin, University of Minnesota, 2021–2026
- Contemporary Civilization Syllabus Review Committee, Columbia University, 2021
- Laidlaw Scholars Faculty Evaluation Committee, Columbia University, 2020–2021
- Rhodes Scholarship Mock Interview Committee, Columbia University, 2019–2020

Research Supervision and Doctoral Examination Committees

- Honors Senior Thesis Supervisor: Dina Shukhman, "Breaking the Rules: How Generic Conventions Influence Shakespeare's Use of Classical Sources." University of Minnesota, 2026
- Ph.D. Defense Committee Member: Gregory Membrez, "Know Yourself: *Theōria* of the Gods in Aristotle." University of Minnesota, 2025
- Senior Thesis Supervisor: Tate Schloesser, "Morality and the Making of an Ethical *Doctrina* in Cicero's *Pro Murena*." Univerisity of Minnesota, 2024
- Honors Senior Thesis Supervisor: Thomas Thurlow, "Active Citizen or Family Man? Exploring Cicero's Ranking of *Societas* in *De Officiis*." University of Minnesota, 2023
- Humanities Research Scholars Program Supervisor: Edie Conekin-Tooze, "The Battle of Little Rock: The Politics of Childhood and Child-Reading in "Reflections on Little Rock."" Columbia University, 2021 (Co-Supervised with Michele Moody-Adams)
- Columbia Undergraduate Scholars Program, Summer Research Mentorship: Matthew Nola, "Religion, State, and Impiety in Ancient Athens." Columbia University, 2019

References

- Kathy Eden, Chavkin Family Professor of English Literature and Professor of Classics
  Columbia University, New York, New York
  khe1@columbia.edu, (212) 854 6432

- Gareth Williams, Anthon Professor of Latin Language and Literature
  Columbia University, New York, New York
  gdw5@columbia.edu, (212) 854 2850

- Emmanuelle Saada, Professor of French and of History
  Columbia University, New York, New York
  es2593@columbia.edu, (212) 854-3691

- Stephen Ahearne-Kroll, Professor and Sundet Family Chair
  University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, Minnesota
  sahearne@umn.edu, (612) 624-6339

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