

Date: 15 January 2026

KROSTENKO, Brian Alexander
Associate Professor, Department of Classics
University of Notre Dame
243 O'Shaughnessy Hall
Notre Dame, Indiana 46656
bkrosten@nd.edu

EDUCATION:

Ph.D. Classical Philology, Harvard University, 1993
M.A. Classical Philology, Harvard University, 1989
A.B., *summa*, ΦBK, Classics, Princeton University, 1986
Summer Session II: American School of Classical Studies, Athens, 1985

POSITIONS:

Regular

2001–	Associate Professor, Classics, University of Notre Dame
1999–2001	Assistant Professor, Classics, The University of Chicago
1995–1999	Assistant Professor, Classics, University of Notre Dame
1993–1995	Assistant Professor, Classics, University of California, Berkeley

Visiting

2020	Visiting Professor, Department of Classics, University of Chicago
2012–13	<i>Profesor Afiliowany</i> , Zakład Historii Starożytnej, Instytut Historyczny, University of Warsaw, Warsaw, Poland
	Visiting Scholar, Instytut Historii Nauki Polskiej Akademii Nauk im. Ludwika i Aleksandra Birkenmajerów, Warsaw, Poland
2007–8	Visiting Professor, <i>Ośrodek Badań nad Tradycją Antyczną</i> (“Center for Research on the Classical Tradition”), University of Warsaw, Warsaw, Poland
Fall 1991	Instructor, English, Dominican Monastery, Kraków, Poland

Administrative

2006–2007,	Coordinator, Polish-American Research Fellowship (“Garstka”) program
2008–2015	

PUBLICATIONS:

Books:

The Voices of the Consul: the Rhetorics of Cicero's de lege agraria I and II (Oxford University Press, 2023)

Review: Keeline, *Bryn Mawr Classical Review* (2025.1.24)

Cicero, Catullus, and the Language of Social Performance (University of Chicago, 2001)

Reviews: Dyck, *Bryn Mawr Classical Review* 2001.09.16 (response *Bryn Mawr Classical Review* 2001.10.37); Lateiner, *Semiotica* 144–1/4 (2003) 359–375; Katz, *Classical Philology* 98 (2003) 193–199; Theodorakopoulous, *Journal of Roman Studies* 93 (2003) 359–61

Articles:

- [with S. Bothwell, B. DuSell, and D. Chiang] “PILA: A Historical-Linguistic Dataset of Proto-Italic and Latin,” *Proceedings of the 2024 Joint International Conference on Computational Linguistics, Language Resources and Evaluation (LREC-COLING 2024)*, pages 12749–12760, Torino, Italia. ELRA and ICCL (<https://aclanthology.org/2024.lrec-main.1116.pdf>).
- “Pandering for the Greater Good? Senate, People, and Politics in Cicero’s *de lege agraria* I and II,” *Polis: The Journal for Ancient Greek and Roman Political Thought* 38.1 (2021): 108–26 (8,100 words)
- “Dancing, Declamation, and Deipnosophistry in the *Deiotariana*,” *Palamedes* 12 (2017–18): 61–92 (15,900 words).
- “Three Kinds of Ambiguity: Rhetoric and Christian Citizenship in the Martyr Act of Cyprian,” *Wiener Studien, Zeitschrift für klassische Philologie und Patristik* 131 (2018): 149–78 (13,100 words)
- “Etymologizing the *Convivium*: Varro’s *Nescis quis vesper serus vekat*,” *Palamedes* 8 (2013): 113–140 (13,660 words)
- “The Poetics of Naevius’ ‘Epitaph’ and the History of Latin Poetry,” *Journal of Roman Studies* 104 (2013): 1–19 (13,000 words)
- “Neotericism,” entry in *The Vergil Encyclopedia*, edd. R. Thomas and J. Ziolkowski (Wiley-Blackwell, 2013), 901–2 (435 words)
- “Elite Republican Social Discourse,” in *Blackwell Companion to Catullus*, ed. Marilyn Skinner (Blackwell, 2007), 212–232 (10,900 words)
- “Style and Ideology in the *pro Marcello*,” in *Roman Crossings*, eds. T. Hillard and K. Welch (Classical Press of Wales, 2005) 283–316 (14,700 words)
- “Binary Phrases and the Middle Style as Social Code: *Rhetorica ad Herennium* 4.13 and 4.15,” *Harvard Studies in Classical Philology* 102 (2004): 237–274 (10,200 words)
- “Text and Context in the Roman Forum: The Case of Cicero’s *First Catilinarian*,” in Walter Yost and Wendy Olmsted, edd., *A Companion to Rhetoric and Rhetorical Criticism* (in the series *Blackwell Companions to Literature and Culture*, Blackwell, 2004) 38–57 (10,500 words)
- “Latin *Vinnus*, *Vinnulus*,” *Glotta* 76 (2002): 66–73 (2100 words)
- “*Arbitria Elegantiae*: Language, Style, and Characterization in Catullus c. 39 and 37,” *Classical Antiquity* 20.2 (2001): 239–72 (19,000 words)
- “Beyond (Dis)belief: Rhetorical Form and Religious Symbol in Cicero’s *de Divinatione*,” *Transactions of the American Philological Association* 130 (2000): 353–391 (17,200 words)

Reviews:

Review of L. S. Fotheringham, *Persuasive Language in Cicero’s pro Milone: A Close Reading and Commentary*,” *Journal of Roman Studies* 106 (2016): 343–44

In Progress:

It's Our World Now: Rhetorical Form, Legal Theory, and Generational Polemics in the Rhetorica ad Herennium (book; six chapters written; under contract, Oxford University Press)

Poetry, Society, and Ideology in the Middle Republic: The Dedication of the Faliscan Cooks (CIL I² 364) and Other Poems (book; six chapters written)

Speaking Truth to Power: Cicero and Caesar in the Caesarian Speeches (in progress; two relevant articles published)

"The Lawcraft of the Rullan Bill" (article in progress; ca. 24,000 words, penultimate draft done)

"Above, Below, Beside: Three Aspects of the Sociolinguistics of Italic Dialects in Lucilius" (963-4M, 1130M, 1318M)" (preliminary draft completed)

"Speaking of Virtue: Caesar and Divico in Caesar's *Gallic War*" (accepted pending revisions)

"Sex and Economics in Suetonius' *Lives of the Twelve Caesars*" (in progress, one paper delivered)

INVITED LECTURES and PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS (* = 20–30 min. presentation, otherwise 50–60 min.)

"Law and Rhetoric in the *Rhetorica ad Herennium*: The Three Styles," invited lecture at the conference "Oratory and Rhetoric in the Generation before Cicero," sponsored by the Classics Department at The Johns Hopkins University, the Singleton Center for the Study of Premodern Europe, and the Alexander Grass Humanities Institute, September 2025

"The Faliscan Cooks: Poetry, Social Class, and Regional Identity in 2nd c. Italy," keynote address, Indiana Classical Conference, Wabash College, April 2025

Jak mówić prawdę władzy? Cyceiron, Cezar, rozwód i rytualny taniec ("How to speak truth to power? Cicero, Caesar, divorce, and ritual dance"), John Paul II Catholic University of Lublin, Lublin, Poland, October 2023 [guest lecture in a seminar]

Pochlebstwa moralne: mowy Cyceirona o prawie rolnym ("Ethical flattery: Cicero's speeches on the agrarian law"), John Paul II Catholic University of Lublin, Lublin, Poland, October 2023 [guest lecture in a seminar]

Granice metafor i natura władzy: złamane serce (i języki) Rzymian ("The limits of metaphor and the nature of power: the broken hearts (and tongues) of the Romans"), John Paul II Catholic University of Lublin, Lublin, Poland, October 2023

Co się stało z j. angielskim i co się prawdopodobnie stanie z j. polskim? O zmianach pól semantycznych ("What happened to English, and what will probably happen to Polish? On the changes of semantic fields"), John Paul II Catholic University of Lublin, Lublin, Poland, October 2023

Analiza dyskursu Rewolucji Romantycznej Bedoesa i Lanek, czyli jak amerykański naukowiec rozumie polski rap ("Discourse analysis of Bedoes and Lanek's 'Romantic Revolution'; or, how an American academic understands Polish rap"), John Paul II Catholic University of Lublin, Lublin, Poland, October 2023*

"How and Why to Talk to a Dictator about Philosophy, Poetry, and Dancing Naked: Cicero and Caesar in Cicero's Speech *pro rege Deiotaro*," University of Washington, March 2018

- “Pandering for the greater good: Senate, people, and politics in Cicero’s *de lege agraria* I and II,” at the conference “Linguistic Representations of Identity in Rhetoric Ancient and Modern,” sponsored by the Jagiellonian University in Kraków in cooperation with University College London, June 2017*
- “Redefinicja wolności: widownia i polityka w przemówieniach Cicerona *de lege agraria* I i II” (“Redefining liberty: audience and politics in Cicero’s *de lege agraria* I and II”), John Paul II Catholic University of Lublin, Lublin, Poland, October 2017
- “O mowie Cicerona *pro rege Deiotaro*: czyli, jak odezwać się do dyktatora w sprawie nieprzyjacielskiego tancerzenia nago” (“On Cicero’s *pro rege Deiotaro*: or, how to talk to a dictator about hostile naked dancing”), Institute of History, University of Warsaw, October 2017
- “Reconfiguring Liberty: Cicero, Populism, and Democracy,” Wabash College, January 2016
- “The Poetry of Persuasion in Cicero’s Speeches *On the Agrarian Law* I and II,” Institute of History, University of Warsaw, May 2013 (in Polish)
- “The Idea(l) of the *Convivium*: Etymology and Ideology in Varro’s *Nescis quid Vesper serus vekat*,” Institute of History, University of Warsaw, April 2013
- “The Personal, the Political, and the Semiotics of Naked Dancing in Cicero’s *pro rege Deiotaro*,” The University of Chicago, October 2011
- , University of Buffalo, October 2011
- “*Qualis Grex, Talis Rex*: Political Invective in Cicero’s *de lege agraria* I and II,” Vanderbilt University, March 2011
- “How to Win Friends (in the Senate) and Influence (the) People: Rhetoric, Ideology, and Social Class in Cicero’s Speeches *On the Agrarian Law*,” Hillsdale College, March 2009
- Speaking of Virtue and Justice: Speeches in Caesar’s *Gallic War*, Hillsdale College, March 2009
- “The Beast with Three Backs: Patronage and Political Commentary in Suetonius,” University of Texas—Austin, October 2005
- “(Lexical) Variations on a Theme: the Secret Musics of Cicero’s Speeches on the Rullan Bill,” University of Buffalo, February 2005
- “Only He Knows Thy Worth Who Thee Hath Lost: the Secret Anxieties of Cicero’s Consular Orations,” Harvard University, April 2004
- “Style, Stance, and Ideology in Cicero’s *pro rege Deiotaro*,” American Philological Association, January 2004*
- “The Light of Civic Life: Popular Discourse and Social Anxiety in Cicero’s Consular Orations,” University of Tennessee, March 2003
- “Sexual Behavior and Popular Political Commentary in Catullus and Suetonius,” Third Annual Marks Conference, Institute of Classical Studies, Bristol University, July 2003 (40 min.)
- “The Fragility of the Light of Day: the Secret History of Cicero’s Consular Orations,” University of Washington, February 2003
- “*Zmina Kul’turna i Zmina Semantyčna* (‘Cultural Change and Semantic Change’)” (in Ukrainian and Polish), Ukrainian Catholic University, Lviv, Ukraine, July 2002*

- “*Cicero Horatianus*: the Style of the *pro Marcello* and the Dislocation of Roman Ideology,”
Third Annual *Societas* Conference, Cuma, Italy, May 2002
- “Keeping Track of Pleasure in Cicero,” North Carolina Classical Association Annual Meeting,
Davidson College, Apr. 2002*
- “How to Win Friends (in the Senate) and Influence (the) People: Rhetoric, Ideology, and Social
Class in Cicero’s Speeches *On the Agrarian Law*,” University of North Carolina-Greensboro,
Mar. 2002
- “Epideixis and Social Identity: the Middle Style in the *Rhet. Her.*,” University of North Carolina–
Chapel Hill, Nov. 2001
- “*Rhet. Her.* 4.16: Middle Style as Social Code”, American Philological Association, 2001*
- “Semantics and the Study of Roman Elite Culture: Some Test Cases,” Fraenke Humanities
Institute, Univ. of Chicago, Apr. 2000*
- “The ‘Social’ in the Construction of the ‘Linguistic’: Observations from Classical Latin,”
Language and Society Workshop, Univ. of Chicago, Apr. 2000
- “Birthing Mules and Quivering Livers: Omens and Divination in Roman Life and Politics,”
Humanities Open House, The University of Chicago, Oct. 1999
- “*Quo Facetior Videare*: Roman Social Practice and The Translation of Greek Rhetorical Theory
in the 2nd c. BCE,” Rhetoric and Poetics Workshop, Univ. of Chicago, Oct. 1998
- “The Politics of Style: Aesthetic Language and Social Thought in the late Roman Republic,”
Johns Hopkins Univ, Apr. 1997
- , Georgetown Univ., Apr. 1997
- , Univ. of Michigan, March 1997
- “A Stone Reset: Cicero’s Poetry in *de Divinatione*,” American Philological Association, 1996*
- “Scents of *Suavis* in Cicero and Catullus,” American Philological Association, 1995*
- “*Bellus* in Cicero and Catullus: the Place of Self-Reference,” American Philological Association,
1994*

PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS at Notre Dame

“Generational Aesthetics in the *Rhetorica ad Herennium* (Plain Style),” October 2020

“Cicero’s Caesar: Style and Ideology in the Caesarian Speeches,” February 2019

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

External Review Site Visitor, Hanover College, Hanover, Indiana, November 2023

Referee for Warburg Institute Festschrift, *Phoenix*, *Religion and Literature*, *Transactions of the
American Philological Association*, *Classical Journal*, *Classical Philology*, *Classical
Quarterly*, *The American Journal of Philology*, The University of Chicago Press, Oxford
University Press, Princeton University Press, the National Humanities Center, and the Social
Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada

SAT Latin area exam committee, Fall 2020

Society for Classical Studies Annual Meeting, Panel Presider, “Language and Linguistics: Lexical, Syntactical, and Philosophical Aspects,” New Orleans, January 2015

American Philological Association, Selection Committee, *Thesaurus Linguae Latinae* Fellowship, 2010-12

Classical Association of the Midwest and South 2012 Annual Meeting, Baton Rouge, Panel Presider (Section A: Cicero II)

COURSES TAUGHT (* = course with translated materials, ** = Graduate Seminar, # = taught in Polish)

At the University of Notre Dame (2001+):

Caesar (sel. from *de Bello Gallico*)

Cicero, Augustine, and Rhetoric (sel. from *Rhet. Her.*, *Cic. orat.*, *Aug. Doc. Chr.*)

Cicero’s Caesarian speeches (*Marc.*, *Lig.*, *Deiot.*)

Cicero’s Speeches (*Catil. 2*, *Leg. Manil.*, *pro Milone*, etc.).

History of Latin (2009, 2020, **2014)

Intermediate Latin (Summer)

Latin 1, Latin 3

Latin Philosophical Prose (*Cic. Fin.*, *Off.*, *Sen. Epist.*, *Aug. Doc. Chr.*, *Boeth. Consol.* selec.)

**Latin Survey I: the Birth and Growth of Latin Literature (MA level; Pl. *Amph.*, *Capt.*, or *Cas.*; *Lucr. III*; *Cic. Cat. 2*; selections from *Enn.*, *Ter.*, *Sall. et al.*)

Livy (selec. from 1, 21, 39)

#Polish Poetry from the WWII to the Modern Day

Reading and Writing Latin Prose

Roman Historians (selections from Caesar, Livy, Fronto *et al.*).

Roman Oratory, Theory and Practice (*Cic. Orator* selec., *Catil. 1*, *Leg. Manil.*, *Cluent.* selec.)

Roman Tyranny (sel. from Cicero, Lucretius, Vergil, Horace)

St. Augustine’s *Confessions*

*Age of Augustus (an overview of the history, culture, literature, and politics of the time of Octavian/Augustus)

*Age of Caesar/Crisis of the Roman Republic (an overview of the history, culture, literature, and politics of the time of Julius Caesar)

*College Seminar: Classical Rhetoric

*College Seminar, University Seminar: National(ist?) Epics (*Iliad*, *Odyssey*, *Aeneid*, *Pan Tadeusz* et al.)

*University Seminar: “How (and why) to read Greco-Roman classics”

*Warfare in Antiquity

*Words and/of Power (the theory and practice of classical rhetoric from the sophists to Augustine)

*Words in Time (an introduction to historical linguistics and etymology)

At the University of Chicago (2020, 1999–2001):

Accelerated Introductory Latin I and II

Cicero’s Caesarian Speeches

History of Latin

*Greek Thought and Literature I (Homer, Aeschylus)

*Greek Thought and Literature II (Rhetoric)

Latin 205 (Intermediate Prose)

**Seminar: Latin Prose Composition

Livy (Bk. 39)

Roman Satire (Horace, Persius, Juvenal)

At Warsaw University (2007–8)

#Advanced Latin, #*Suavitas/Gravitas*
(advanced Latin course)

*Rhetoric in Action (a study of classical
rhetoric through Cicero)

At the University of Notre Dame (1995–
1999):

Latin 101, 102, 103

Cicero *De Oratore*, *In Pisonem*

Vergil, *Aeneid* and *Georgics*

Intermediate Latin

Roman Selves (Nepos *Atticus*, Cicero
Catil., Sallust *Cat.*)

*Roman Literature in Transition (a survey of
Re-publican and imperial variants of the
“same” genre)

At The University of California, Berkeley:

**Advanced Latin Prose Composition

Cicero *pro Caelio* and selections

Latin 101

**Seminar: Cicero’s *de Divinatione*

**Survey of Latin Literature I

Vergil, *Aeneid*

*Roman Literature in Transition

DISSERTATION COMMITTEES ETC. (select)

Ph. D. Adviser

Robert McFadden (Ph.D. in Lit., UND), topic: Cicero, Augustine, and Philosophical Friendship
(defended, June 2018)

Jonathan Davis-Secord (Medieval Institute, UND), topic: “*Theodcwidas*: Compound Words,
Language, and Social Context in Early English Literature” (the style and function of
compounds in Old English prose and poetry; defended, August 2007)

Ph. D. Orals Committee Examiner or Special Fields Adviser

David Jones (Ph.D. in Lit., UND, Spring 2009), topic: rhetoric in Greco-Roman antiquity

Jieon Kim (Ph.D. in Lit., UND, Spring 2009), topic: Lucan

Georges Montillet (Ph.D. in Lit., UND), topic: rhetoric in the ancient world; Greek tragedy

Jonathan Secord (Medieval Institute UND ‘03–), topic: general linguistics with a focus on
semantic change

Georges Montillet (Ph.D. in Lit., UND, 2004+), topics: rhetoric in Greco-Roman antiquity,
Greek tragedy

M.A. Thesis Adviser or Reader (* = principal adviser; ** = co-principal adviser)

**Valerie Liang (Classics MA, Spring 2025 expected): “School of Love: The Speech of Plautine
Prostitutes in Different Stages of their Working Lifecycle”

Joseph Turco (Classics MA, Spring 2025 expected): “Unless the God Wishes: a Study of Odysseus’ Evolving Understanding of the Gods in the *Apologoi*”

Irene Wu (Classics MA, Spring 2025 expected): “Mapping Madness: Antiochus IV and *Thauma* In Athenaeus”

*Hannah Resnick (Classics MA, Spring 2023): “Plowing the Semantic Field in Book III of Apuleius’s *Golden Ass*” (voice and style in Apuleius’ *Metamorphosis*)

*John Izzo (Classics MA, Spring 2017): “The Logic of Verse in the Lucretian *Kulturgeschichte*”

*James Wismer (Classics MA, Spring 2015): “*Res Novae*: Epicurean Metaphor In *De Rerum Natura*”

Lester Stephens (Classics MA, Spring 2015): “Declamatory Language And Structure in Tacitus’ *Dialogus*”

M.A. Committee Examiner, Early Christian Studies Program

Juliana (Vossenber) Kazemi (Spring 2021): the pragmatics of the diminutive in Latin

Hannah Vansyckel (Spring 2020): linguistic tools and concepts in diachronic stylistic analysis, with a special focus on compounds in the history of Latin

Joshua Benjamins (Spring 2017): rhetorical theory and theology in Augustine

Alexandria Vawter (Spring 2016): rhetoric and the second sophistic

Roberto de la Noval (Spring 2013): structural linguistics and textual analysis in early Christian Latin Texts

Joshua Noble (Spring 2012): style and content in Cicero’s *pro rege Deiotaro*

Undergraduate or Honors Thesis Adviser

Jane Hahn (UND ’25, Classics), “Dark Laughter: Subliminal Communication and Social Criticism in Plautine Comedy”

Margaret Mathis (UND ’25, Classics), “Aemilius Paullus: Strategic Political Messaging and True Roman *Virtus*.”

Brian Joseph (UND ’24, PLS), “Immoderation in Service of Moderation: Daniel Webster and the Restrained ‘Grand Style’ on March 7, 1850”

Nicholas Mungan (UND ’20), topic: *Realpolitik* in Caesar’s treatment of Ariovistus

Becket Salerno (UND ’18, Rome Scholar), topic: style, persona, and the politics of the past in Cicero’s *Verrines*

Josef Hageman (UND ’18), topic: economic discourse and economic reality in Cicero

Brendan Coyne (UND ’17), topic: literary form and the effects of imperialism in Tacitus’ *de Agricola*

Dale Parker (UND ’13), topic: a semantic study of *anomia* in the Septuagint and Hellenistic Jewish Literature (work begun in 2012, completed 2013)

Britton Snyder (UND ’09), topic: *Providentia* in *de Natura Deorum*

Thomas Pappas (UND ’09), topic: The loss of *digamma* and the phonological economy of ancient Greek

Michael Dybicz (UND ’04–’05), topic: military reality and literary presentation in Sallust’s *Bellum Iugurthinum*

Stephen Merjavy (UND ’03–’04), topic: Augustine’s sermons in the light of *de doctrina Christiana*

SERVICE (select):

University (ND)

Select Fellowship Committee, Office of the Provost, Spring 2011 and 2012 (chair)

University Committee on the First Year of Studies, 2005–2008

Academic Council (Undergraduate Studies Subcommittee), 2002–3

College (ND)

Arts and Letters Space Committee, Fall 2015–Spring 2019

College Council, 2003–2006, 2008–09

Foreign Language Advisory Council; Chairman, Mission Subcommittee, Spring 2003–Spring 2004

College Committee to develop a document describing the Rationale and Goals for the Requirement in Literature (Autumn 2003, H. Weinfield, chair)

Department (ND)

Chair, Fall 2016–Spring 2019

Acting Chair, Fall 2014

Graduate Committee, Fall 2013–Spring 2015

Director of Graduate Studies, M.A. program, Fall 2010 (founding semester)–Spring 2012

Chief Author, M.A. Proposal, Fall 2009

Director of Undergraduate Studies, Fall 2003–Spring 2006

Undergraduate Classics Development Committee, Chairman, 2002–2006

Committee on Appointments and Promotions, 2002–2005, 2008–2011, 2013–2015

Department (UChi):

Director of Graduate Studies, Autumn 2000–Spring 2001

Undergraduate Life Committee, Autumn 1999–Spring 2001

Graduate Admissions Committee, Autumn 2000

Department (UCB):

Director of Graduate Student Instructors, 1993–1994

AWARDS AND HONORS:

2025 (June), Franco Family Institute for Liberal Arts and the Public Good, Notre Dame Fellow at the National Humanities Center (for the *It's Our World* project)

2025 (fall semester), Franco Family Institute for Liberal Arts and the Public Good, Humanities Fellow (for the Faliscan Cooks project)

2018, Institute for Scholarship in the Liberal Arts, Small Henkels Mini-Conference Grant Proposal, “How to Lament the Republic: Genre, Power, and Meaning in Latin Literature”

2017, Notre Dame Office of Research Initiation Grant, “Cataloguing the Medieval Latin Manuscripts of Poland” (eventually declined because of COVID-related travel restrictions)

2009, Institute for Scholarship in the Liberal Arts, Initiation Grant (for a course on patristic exegesis)

Krostenko, *c.v.*, 15 January 2026

2001–2, National Endowment for the Humanities Fellow, National Humanities Center