

Michael Fontaine

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Michael Fontaine C.V.

Research Interests

Latin literature of all time periods (antiquity through Renaissance and the Enlightenment) and classical Roman, Greek, and Renaissance society. My latest work is a book about breakups and another on addiction and bullying, both for Princeton University Press. Previous [books](#) covered wine, swine, grief, mind, and a good laugh. Next up, free speech through the ages, with projects on Plato, Plutarch, Lucian, and the Enlightenment. Oh, and I was also recently parodied on *Saturday Night Live* (really! see it [here](#).)

At Cornell, I teach courses on Ancient Rome, Greek Mythology, Wine Culture, and Latin literature of all time periods. For business executives worldwide, I teach eCornell courses on [leadership from Ancient Rome](#) and the effective use of humor in the workplace (see [here](#) for more).

Appointments

Academic

- [Professor of Classics, Cornell University](#) (Assistant 2004/Associate 2010/Full 2017)
- [Paideia Professor for Living Latin in Rome](#) (2016, 2014)
- Visiting Assistant Professor of Classics, [Amherst College](#) (2003-4, three semesters)

Administrative

- Associate [Vice Provost of Undergraduate Education](#), Cornell University (2018-2020)
- [Acting Dean of the University Faculty, Cornell University](#) (spring 2016)
- [Associate Dean of the University Faculty](#), Cornell University (2012-6)

Advisory

- [The Paideia Institute](#) (New York and Rome) (since 2015)
- [The Polis Institute](#) (Jerusalem) (since 2018)
- [Anales de Filología Clásica](#) (Buenos Aires) (since 2015)
- [Electryone](#) (Rhodes and Alexandria) (since 2016)
- [Opera Camerarii](#) (Würzburg) (since 2017)

[Lagniappe](#) (recent past)

- Chair of the [Society for Classical Studies Committee on Public Information and Media Relations](#) (2016-8)
- [Classical World](#), Associate Editor for Latin literature (2015-7)
- Recipient of the 2016 [Thomas S. Szasz Award for Outstanding Contributions to the Cause of Civil Liberties](#) (see [here](#))

Education

Ph.D. 2003, [Brown University, Classics](#). Dissertation: “The Sophisticated [παρὰ προσδοκίαν](#) [*para prosdokian*] in [Plautus](#),” directed by [Adele Scafuro](#)

I took 1999-2000 off to study Latin in Rome with [Reginald Foster](#) as a lay student at the [Pontifical Gregorian University](#), courtesy of a [Rotary Club Ambassadorial scholarship](#). I spent summer 2001 at the [American School of Classical Studies](#) in Athens.

B.A. 1998, [Millsaps College](#), Classics, summa cum laude and Phi Beta Kappa

I spent spring 1997 in Rome at the [Intercollegiate Center for Classical Studies](#), summer 1997 in Rome at [Reginald Foster](#)'s Latin school, and summer 1996 at the [U.C. Berkeley Latin workshop](#).

Books