

# NEH Application Cover Sheet (FT-249372)

## Summer Stipends

### PROJECT DIRECTOR

---

Dr. Brian Marshall Duvick

(b) (6)

**E-mail:** bduvick@uccs.edu

**Phone:** (b) (6)

**Fax:**

**Field of expertise:** Ancient Languages

### INSTITUTION

---

University of Colorado, Colorado Springs  
Colorado Springs, CO 80933-0000

### APPLICATION INFORMATION

---

**Title:** *Manuscript Work in Florence and Rome to Complete my Translation of Proclus' Commentary on the Republic*

**Grant period:** From 2016-06-01 to 2016-08-01

**Project field(s):** Ancient Languages; Ancient History; History of Philosophy

**Description of project:** I am working on the first English translation of Proclus' Commentary on the Republic (In Remp). Originally written in the 5th century C.E., the In Remp survived the closing of the Athenian Academy and the Neoplatonic flight to the Middle East, but only one Medieval manuscript still exists today. Prior to the Renaissance, this was torn in two by an avaricious man, according to the modern editor, and sold to different collectors. Eventually, one half of the manuscript landed in the Laurentian Library in Florence, the other in the Vatican Library. Here they lay unnoticed for 400 years. My translation is based on Kroll's modern Greek edition, which contains nearly 200 lacunae. Kroll simply identifies them as illegible. I intend to travel to Italy, fill in as many of the lacunae as possible and otherwise propose likely reconstructions. My translation of Proclus' Commentary on the Republic will be the standard reference in the field for years to come.

### REFERENCE LETTERS

---

Noel Lenski  
Professor of Classics and History  
Department of Classics  
Yale University  
noel.lenski@yale.edu

Scott Bruce  
Associate Professor  
Department of History  
University of Colorado, Boulder  
scott.bruce@colorado.edu

### NOMINATING OFFICIAL

---

Paul Harvey  
Professor  
University of Colorado, Colorado Springs  
pharvey@uccs.edu

# NEH Supplemental Information for Individuals

This form should be used by applicants to the NEH Fellowships, Fellowships for Advanced Social Science Research on Japan, Awards for Faculty, and Summer Stipends Programs.

Field of Project: Languages: Ancient Languages

Field of Project #2: History: Ancient History

Field of Project #3: Philosophy: History of Philosophy

Project Director Field of Study: Languages: Ancient Languages

The mailing address provided on the SF 424-Individual is for your ☐ work ☒ home

## Institutional Affiliation

Are you affiliated with an institution? (If yes, provide information below.) ☒ Yes ☐ No

Institution Name: University of Colorado, Colorado Springs

Street 1: 1420 Austin Bluffs Pkwy

Street 2:

City: Colorado Springs

County: El Paso

State: CO: Colorado

Province:

Country: USA: UNITED STATES

Zip / Postal Code: 80933-0000

DUNS Number: (b) (4)

Employer/Taxpayer Identification Number (EIN/TIN):

Status: ☒ Senior Scholar ☐ Junior Scholar

# Reference Letters

## Reference 1

First Name:

Last Name:

Email:

Title:

Department Name:

Institution:

## Reference 2

First Name:

Last Name:

Email:

Title:

Department Name:

Institution:

# Nominating Official (Summer Stipends Applicants Only)

Are you exempt from nomination? If not, provide information below. ☐ Yes ☒ No

First Name:

Last Name:

Email:

Title:

Institution:

Project Title : Manuscript Work in Florence and Rome to Complete my Translation of  
Proclus' *Commentary on the Republic*  
Project Director : Brian Duvick  
Institution : University of Colorado at Colorado Springs  
Grant Program : Summer Stipends

### **Description**

I am currently working on the first English annotated translation of Proclus' *Commentary on the Republic* (*In Remp*). Originally written in the 5th century C.E., the *In Remp* managed to survive the closing of the Athenian Academy and the Neoplatonic flight to the Middle East, but only one Medieval manuscript, from the 9th or 10th century, still exists today. At some point prior to the Renaissance, this was torn in two by some avaricious man, as the editor, Wilhelm Kroll, describes it, and sold to different collectors. Eventually, one half of the manuscript ended up in the Laurentian Library in Florence, the other in the Vatican Library in Rome. Here they lay virtually unnoticed for the next 400 years. For most of the translation I have used Kroll's authoritative Greek edition (Teubner, 1899-1901), which is based on the Medieval manuscripts but also notes emendations made by a copyist, revisor, corrector, and the 1534 Grynaeus edition. These texts play an essential role in my translation not only for the various hands at work in the manuscript tradition, but also because of the nearly 200 lacunae, which Kroll simply identifies as illegible passages. If I win an NEH Summer Stipend, I intend to travel to Italy to examine the manuscripts, to fill in as many of the lacunae as possible, and otherwise to propose likely reconstructions. My translation of Proclus' *Commentary on the Republic* will be the standard reference in the field for years to come.

### **Significance**

The *In Remp* is the last major treatise of Proclus yet to be translated into English. The only other complete modern translation of the work is Festugiere's 1970 French version. Students of Proclus and Plato have long recognized the importance of the commentary-- more for political, literary, and educational reasons than because of its metaphysics, which has always been the most popular aspect of Proclus' work.

Tastes are changing, however, and more and more scholars are engaging his empirical work. The recent Cambridge University Press publication of Proclus' lengthy *Commentary on the Timaeus* demonstrates this. The growing number of scholarly monographs on the *In Remp* attests to its cross-disciplinary significance as well. A precise annotated translation will only accelerate the momentum of this research. My translation of the *In Remp* is a timely project that will be well received by students and scholars across several fields, including History, Philosophy, Political Science, Religious Studies, Education, Classical Languages and Literatures, Women's Studies, and Anthropology.

In fact, a cross-disciplinary approach is essential to illustrate the most important features of the *In Remp*. At first glance, for example, the treatise seems to be another abstract commentary on a Platonic dialogue written almost a millenium earlier. After all, like Plato in the *Republic*, Proclus addresses the traditional pedagogical question, how do Homer, the lyric poets, and tragedians fit

into the educational system of the ideal republic? While Plato was criticizing the status quo, that is, the popularity of the poets in contemporary Athenian education, Proclus is attempting to solve an even more complicated problem. In Athens of the 5th century C.E. Homer and Classical paideia is now under attack. Christianity has become the dominant religion and has developed its own canon and curriculum, as Augustine's *On Christian Learning* demonstrates. Proclus' intention is not only to defend Plato's criticism as well as Homer's poetry, but ultimately to reconcile the two in support of Hellenic culture against the Christian status quo.

In fact, the first two books of the *In Remp* serve as a training manual for future graduates of the Academy to promote traditional Hellenic culture in a Christian educational environment that was becoming increasingly hostile to the Academy. After attempting to involve himself in local politics, for example, Proclus' enemies drove him into exile for a year. When he returned, he felt compelled to work behind the scenes through his former students, who were both politically connected and local teachers. These and their successors were the immediate audience of the *In Remp*. Historical contextualization is essential to determine the underlying differences in sense and intent between Plato's *Republic* and Proclus' *Commentary on the Republic*.

Proclus also dedicates two articles to the education of women, virtually unheard of in contemporary Christian schools but a regular, if still relatively uncommon, occurrence in the Academy. Famously, Hypatia, the head of the Alexandrian Academy, had been murdered by a Christian mob some 20 years before the composition of the *In Remp*. More importantly, however, the eastern Roman empress, Eudocia, was the daughter of Leontius, a former student of the Athenian Academy, and a hellenophile. The emperor Theodosius II's sister, Pulcheria, was a devout Christian, and both women were influential in the Constantinople university reforms of 425. Pulcheria's faction won out in the culture war, and Eudocia was eventually exiled to Jerusalem. There she spent the next 20 years composing Homerocentos, stories drawn from the Old and New Testaments and couched in verses drawn exclusively from Homer. This was her attempt to reconcile Hellenic and Christian culture. Revolutionary to Plato's audience, the idea of educating women was no less extraordinary in Proclus' day, though for entirely different reasons. In addition to arguing for equal education based on equality of soul and intellect, Proclus was likely seeking patronage from the empress, the daughter of a former student of the Academy. Only by historical contextualization may the differences between Classical Athenian convention and late Roman Christian ethics be clarified.

### **Methods and Work Plan**

My annotated translation of the *In Remp* involves several distinct phases of development: the translation itself, explanatory notes, introductions, appendices, and bibliography. It is a lengthy work, almost 700 pages in Greek, which will appear in 3 volumes. Volume 1 contains Proclus' Introduction and Books 1-2; Volume 2, Essays 1-7; Volume 3, Essays 8-10. University of Notre Dame Press has examined the first volume of the translation, has made specific recommendations about the organization and format, and intends to pursue publication.

My annotated translation of Proclus' *Commentary on the Cratylus* (2007), which Duckworth published in its prestigious Aristotelian Commentaries Series edited by Richard Sorabji, serves as the model for my translation and reconstruction of the *In Remp* and demonstrates my long experience in translating and

commenting on Proclus. I also contributed many topical translations of Proclus to Richard Sorabji's, *The Ancient Commentators Sourcebook*, 3 vols. (Oxford, 2005).

My intention in the translation is to render Proclus' thought as accurately as possible while also conveying the spirit of his literary style in an appropriate English form. I aim to produce a work that will be as useful to students and scholars as it appeals to more general audiences with interests in Greek mythology, literature, philosophy, education, and political science. This is consistent with the method employed by the translators of Proclus' *Commentary on the Timaeus* (Cambridge, 20), though I do try to remain more faithful than they to both the style and content of Proclus' text. The more accurate the translation, the more students and scholars without Greek may use it for research purposes. Any course dealing with the evolution of Greek political theory from Plato through Cicero to Augustine's *City of God* would benefit from a discussion of Proclus on the *Republic*.

The project is already in an advanced stage of development. The bulk of the translation will be finished prior to summer 2016. To complete the translation fully, however, requires that I examine some 200 passages, which Kroll identifies as lacunae, in the Medieval manuscripts located in the Laurentian Library in Florence and the Vatican Library in Rome. I hope to be able to reconstruct many of these passages and offer alternative readings for the others. I intend to use the NEH Summer Stipend to fund the trip to Italy through June and July, 2016 for this purpose. Both libraries are designed and equipped to welcome visiting international scholars for research on projects of this type. I have submitted requests to both libraries for access to the manuscripts, and they have already granted permission.

### **Manuscript Publication Schedule**

Prior to Summer 2016: finish the translation of all three volumes

Summer 2016: research in the Laurentian Library in Florence and in the Vatican Library in Rome from June 1 to August 1

Fall 2016: incorporate new material from research, complete Notes and Appendices

Feb. 2017: send off completed manuscript to University of Notre Dame Press

Brian Duvick

Associate Professor of History

Colorado Vice-President of the Classical Association of the Middle West and South (CAMWS)

University of Colorado, Colorado Springs

## NEH Summer Stipend Bibliography

### Primary Sources, Manuscripts

Florence, Italy. Biblioteca Medicea Laurenziana. MS Pluteo 80.9.

Vatican City, Italy. Biblioteca Apostolica Vaticana. MS Barb. gr. 65, fols. 4r-141v.

### Editions

Burnet, Iannes, ed. 1989. *Res Publica*. In *Platonis Opera*. Tome 4. Oxford: Clarendon Press.

Kroll, Wilhelm, ed. 1899-1901. *Procli Diadochii in Platonis Rem Publicam Commentarii*. 2 vols. Bibliotheca scriptorum Graecorum et Romanorum Teubneriana. Leipzig: Teubner.

### Translation, Entire

Festugiere, A.J., trans. 1970. *Proclus, Commentaire sur la Republique*. Bibliotheque des textes philosophiques. Paris: Vrin.

### Translations, Partial

Abbate, M., trans., 2004. *Proclo, Commento alla Repubblica di Platone*. Testo greco a fronte. Milano: Bompiani.

Lamberton, Robert, trans. 2012. *Proclus the Successor on Poetics and the Homeric Poems: Essays 5 and 6 of His Commentary on the Republic Plato*. Atlanta: Society of Biblical Literature.

### Translations, Relevant

Duvick, Brian, trans. 2007. *Proclus on Plato Cratylus*. London: Gerald Duckworth & Co.

Tarrant, Harold, trans., 2011. *Proclus, Commentary on Plato's Timaeus*. Volume 1: Book 1: *Proclus on the Socratic State and Atlantis*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

### Select Secondary Sources

K.G. Holum, *Theodosian Emperors: Women and Imperial Dominion in Late Antiquity*, Berkeley, 1982.

Kuisma, O., 1996. *Proclus' defense of Homer*. Helsinki: Societas Scientiarum Fennica.

O'Meara, D.J., 2005. *Platonopolis: Platonic Political Philosophy in Late Antiquity*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.

Tarrant, H., and Baltzly, D., eds., 2006. *Reading Plato in Antiquity*. London: Duckworth.

## **RESUME**

### **BRIAN M. DUVICK**

#### **EDUCATION**

1992 Ph.D. University of Chicago Dissertation : *A Translation and Analysis of Proclus' Commentary on the Cratylus*

#### **TEACHING EXPERIENCE**

Associate Professor, University of Colorado at Colorado Springs, 2011-present  
Assistant Professor, University of Colorado at Colorado Springs, 2006- 2011  
Instructor, University of Colorado at Colorado Springs, 2001- 2006  
Professor, Institut Thomas Philippe, Chiry-Ourscamp, France, 1998-2001  
Professor, Institut National des Sciences Appliquées, Rennes, France, 1997-1998  
Professor, Institut Universitaire de Saint-Melaine, Rennes, France, 1996- 2000  
Visiting Professor, University of Notre Dame, Notre Dame, Indiana, 1996  
Assistant Professor, Concordia College, Moorhead, Minnesota, 1994- 96  
Professional Specialist & Concurrent Lecturer, University of Notre Dame, Notre Dame, Indiana, 1987- 1994

#### **PROFESSIONAL OFFICE**

Vice President of the Classical Association of the Middle West and South (CAMWS), Colorado  
Serve on the editorial board of several journals

#### **GRANTS, AWARDS, HONORS, AND FELLOWSHIPS**

Appointed Colorado Vice President of the Classical Association of the Middle West and South (2013-present)  
Sabbatical, Department of History, University of Colorado (Fall 2012)  
RA and Summit Village Student Choice Teaching Award, University of Colorado (2011-2012)  
Tenure and Promotion to Associate Professor of History, University of Colorado (2011)  
SGA Students' Choice Award : Educator of the Year, University of Colorado (2004-2005)  
University Grant for the Development of Student Research and Creativity, Saint-Melaine, France (1998)  
Technology Development Grant for language studies at Concordia College, Minnesota (1996)  
Paul Shorey Trust Fund Award, University of Chicago (1984-1986)  
Teaching Fellow, University of Minnesota (1983-1984)  
Teaching Assistant, University of Minnesota (1982-1984)

#### **PUBLICATIONS**

Proclus, Commentary on the Republic. Translated, Annotated and Introduced by Brian Duvick. University of Notre Dame Press, 3 vols., 2017, circa 900 pages.  
The Trinitarian Works of Gregory of Nyssa: A Translation with Introduction and Notes. St. Vladimir Seminary Press, 2016.  
The Christological Works of Gregory of Nyssa: A Translation with Introduction and Notes. St. Vladimir Seminary Press, 2016.  
Marije Martijn. *Proclus on Nature: Philosophy of Nature and Its Methods in Proclus' Commentary on Plato's Timaeus*. Philosophia Antiqua, 121. Leiden-Boston: Brill, 2010. Pp. ix + 360. Cloth, \$179.00. Journal of the History of Philosophy, August 2012.  
Proclus : On Plato Cratylus. Ancient Commentators on Aristotle. Gen.Ed. Richar Sorabji. Guest Ed.



- Harold Tarrant. Intro by Brian Duick. Duckworth Press, 2007.
- Ciceronian Controversies. Ed. JoAnn DellaNeve. Trans. Brian Duick. Boston : Harvard Univ. Pr., 2007.
- "Selections from Proclus' Commentary on the Cratylus". In Richard Sorabji, The Ancient Commentators Sourcebook, 3 vols. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2005, passim with the greatest concentration of passages in vol. 3.
- "Parler de l'indicible, le fait nié : le langage apophatique de Damascius". La Metaphysique, son Histoire, sa Critique, ses Enjeux. Tome 2. Actes du XXVIIe Congrès de l'Association des Sociétés de Philosophie de Langue Française, Université Laval, Québec, 2000, pp. 18-25.
- "The Trinitarian Letters of Gregory of Nyssa". Achtes Internationales Gregor von Nyssa-Kolloquium (Acts of the International Colloquium on Gregory of Nyssa), Paderborn, Germany, 2000, pp. 581-592.

## A SELECTION OF COURSES TAUGHT

Senior Thesis : Ancient History, Univ. Colorado, Spring, 2015  
 History of Ancient Greece, Univ. Colorado, Spring, 2014  
 The Greek Historians, Univ. Colorado, Spring, 2014  
 Roman History through Film, Univ. Colorado, Spring, 2014  
 Graduate Research in Ancient History, Univ. Colorado, Fall, 2013  
 Graduate Seminar : Readings in Ancient History, Univ. Colorado, Spring, 2013  
 Greek History through Film, Univ. Colorado, Winterim, 2013  
 Pagans and Christians in the Later Roman Empire, Univ. Colorado, Summer, 2012  
 Independent Study : Gildas and Caesarius of Arles, Univ. Colorado, Summer 2012  
 Myth, Reason and Making History, Univ. Colorado, Spring, 2012  
 The Ends of History : Apocalypse and Utopian in the Western Tradition, Univ. Colorado, Spring 2012  
 Historiography, Univ. Colorado, Fall 2011  
 End of the Ancient World, Univ. Colorado, Summer 2011  
 History of Ancient Rome, Univ. Colorado, Spring 2011  
 History of the Hellenistic World, Univ. Colorado, Summer 2010  
 Readings in Attic Greek : Plato's Apology, Univ. Colorado, Summer 2010

## SELECT INVITED LECTURES

- « Saving Universal Restoration : Apokatastasis in Proclus' Republic », Through A Glass Darkly: First Annual UCCS Symposium on Apocalyptic, UCCS, March 31, 2015.
- « Cultivating Classical Greek Identity in the Late Roman East: Proclus' Republic, » Front Range Invited Speaker Series at CU Boulder's Center for Medieval and Early Modern Studies (CMEMS), September 25, 2014.
- « Blood to the Shade: the Fabrication of Late Roman Identity through the Architecture of the Word in Procopius' *Peri Ktismaton* », Classical Association of the Middle West and South, April 17-20, 2013, Iowa City IA.
- "The Apologetics of Pagan Education in the Later Roman Empire: Proclus' Republic", Southwestern Historical Association Annual Conference, New Orleans, March 27-30, 2013.
- « Rallying Tradition against Barbarian Invasion: Contextualizing Macrobius' *Saturnalia* », Pacific Ancient and Modern Language Association, October 19-21, 2013, Seattle University, Seattle.
- « Obscene Morality: Poetics of the Status Quo in Martial », Southwestern Historical Association Annual Meeting, San Diego, CA, April 6, 2012.
- « Beyond the Language of Being and Non-Being: Scripture, Tradition and the Holy Spirit in the Apophatic Theology of Gregory of Nyssa, *Contra Eunomium*3.5 », International Colloquium on Gregory of Nyssa, Leuven, Belgium, September 2010.
- « War, Politics and the Culture Debates of the Late 4th century: Contextualizing the *Opera Minora* of Gregory of Nyssa », Keynote Address, International Colloquium on Gregory of Nyssa, Tuebingen, Sept. 2008.

(b) (4)


21 October 2015

To the NEH Selection Committee,

(b) (6)

[Redacted content]

(b) (6)

A large section of the document is redacted with black bars. The redaction covers approximately 10 lines of text. The first line of redaction starts with the text "(b) (6)".

Servus,

Scott G. Bruce

Associate Professor of History

Director, Center for Medieval and Early Modern Studies

PO Box 208266  
New Haven CT 06520-8266  
T 203 432-0977  
F 203 432-1079  
www.yale.edu

*courier*  
402 Phelps Hall  
344 College Street  
New Haven CT 06511

Recommendation for Brian DuVick - Manuscript Work in Florence and Rome to Complete my  
Translation of Proclus' *Commentary on the Republic*

October 22, 2015

Dear Members of the Selection Committee:

(b) (6)  
[Redacted text block]

[Redacted text block]

[Redacted text block]

(b) (6) [Redacted]  
[Redacted]  
[Redacted]  
[Redacted]  
[Redacted]  
[Redacted]  
[Redacted]  
[Redacted]

[Redacted]  
[Redacted]  
[Redacted]  
[Redacted]  
[Redacted]

Sincerely,



Noel Lenski  
Professor of Classics and History