

Gabriela Ryser

Date of birth: 01 May 1980
Nationality: Swiss
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Research interests

- Latin lexicography
- Late Antique Latin literature in its religious and socio-historical context (Ennodius)
- Latin pagan and Christian epics of Late Antiquity (Claudius Claudianus)
- Imperial and late antique Christian apologetics
- Early imperial Latin literature

Education and Academic Career

Since March 2025	Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität München (GER), Thesaurus linguae Latinae (BADW): research assistant
July 2023 – January 2024, March 2024 – February 2025	Bavarian Academy of Sciences and Humanities (GER), Dictionary of Medieval Latin (MLW): research assistant
September 2020 – May 2023	Wölfflin-Müller-Stiftung (CH): postdoctoral fellow at Thesaurus linguae Latinae (GER)
October 2019 – June 2020	University of Göttingen (GER), Collaborative Research Centre 1136 “Education and Religion”: research assistant
January 2016 – June 2019	University of Göttingen (GER), Institute for the Study of Religion: research assistant
September 2018	University of Göttingen (GER), doctoral examination Ph.D. Thesis: Pagan Education, Religion, and Literary Culture in the 4th Century CE: A Study of the Underworld <i>Topos</i> in Claudian’s <i>De raptu Proserpinae</i> . Supervisors: Prof. Dr. Ilinca Tanaseanu-Doebler Prof. Dr. Peter Kuhlmann Prof. Dr. Heinz-Günther Nesselrath
October 2010 – December 2015	University of Göttingen (GER), Courant Research Centre EDRIS: research assistant, Ph.D. student in Latin Philology
September 2007 – June 2009	University of Fribourg (CH): Teaching Diploma (LDS II) (equivalent to High School teaching diploma) Subjects: Latin, English
October 2000 – March 2006	University of Fribourg (CH): Master’s Degree Subjects: Latin Language and Literature English Philology and Linguistics Greek Language and Literature Title: „ <i>aliud amico, aliud omnibus scribere</i> “? Ein sprachlich-stilistischer Vergleich typologisch verwandter Briefe aus den Büchern I-IX und Buch X von Plinius dem Jüngeren Supervisor: Prof. Dr. Margarethe Billerbeck

October 2000 – May 2005 **University of Fribourg (CH): Degree in English Literature**
(equivalent to B.A.)

August 1996 – May 2000 **Gymnasium Burgdorf (CH)** (equivalent to A-levels)
Core Subjects : Latin, English

August 1997 – July 1999 **Gymnasium Burgdorf (CH): Hebraicum** (Classical Hebrew
language diploma)

Professional Experience

• Research Experience

October 2019 – June 2020 **Collaborative Research Centre 1136 “Education and Religion”**,
University of Göttingen (GER). **Research assistant** to sub-
project A 03 “Pagan Religion and Philosophy in ‘Virtual
Libraries’: Late Antique Compendia and Encyclopaedic Works”

October 2010 – December 2015 **Courant Research Centre “Education and Religion from
Early Imperial Roman Times to the Classical Period of
Islam (EDRIS)”**, University of Göttingen (GER).
Research assistant to Junior Research Group 2
“Education at the Crossroads: Pagan, Jewish, and
Christian Discourses in Late Antiquity”

• Teaching Experience

April 2016 – July 2018 **Lecturer in Study of Religion**, seminars open to B.A. and
M.A. students, University of Göttingen (GER)
Summer term 2018 “Mysterien der griechisch-römischen Antike”
Winter term 2017/18 “Rituale in literarischer Repräsentation”
Summer term 2017 “Mythos – zwischen Ammenmärchen und *hieros
logos*”
Winter term 2016/17 “Orphismus - Mythos, Texte, Ritual”
Summer term 2016 “Jenseitsreisen in der graeco-römischen Literatur”

• Administrative Experience

May 2013 – April 2014 &
May 2011 – April 2012 Member of the CRC EDRIS executive committee
representing the Ph.D. students.

April 2011 – October 2011 Co-organisation of the international conference “Reading
the Way to the Netherworld. Education and the
Representations of the Beyond in Later Antiquity”;
Göttingen; 14-16 October (together with Prof. Dr. Ilinca
Tanaseanu-Döbler, Dr. Anna Lefteratou, and
Konstantinos Stamatopoulos (M.A.))

October 2002 – October 2004 **Research Assistant** to the Institute of Classical Philology,
University of Fribourg (CH), prepare student material for
lectures, co-organisation of excursions

• Non-academic Professional Experience

November 2008 – August 2010 **Tutor** (part-time) for Latin and English, at Learning
Institute (CH), partly during teacher training
August 2007 – July 2008 **Teacher** for Latin, High School of Solothurn (CH),
during teacher training

April 2006 – August 2007

Tutor (private) in Cork, Ireland; the stay in an English-speaking country was a prerequisite for the LDS II

Skills

- **Language Skills**

Latin	(very good)
Ancient Greek	(good)
German	(native speaker)
English	(almost native C2)
French	(good knowledge C1)
Spanish	(basic knowledge A1; academic reading)
Italian	(academic reading)

- **Computer Literacy**

Word	(very good)
Outlook	(good)
Power Point	(good)
Excel	(basic)
Visual Studio Code	(basic)

Introductory Course “ChatGPT”, Bavarian Academy of Sciences and Humanities (GER), June / July 2024

- **Communication Skills**

Workshop “Cool, Calm, and Collected: Engaging the Audience in your Scientific Presentation”, University of Göttingen (GER), 28-29 October 2011

Certificate Course in Interpersonal Communication, University College of Cork (IRL), October 2006 – May 2007

Publications

- **Monograph**

Education, Religion, and Literary Culture in the 4th Century CE: A Study of the Underworld Topos in Claudian's De raptu Proserpinae (BERG 7), Göttingen: Vandenhoeck & Ruprecht, 2020 (thesis).

- **Editorial Boards**

Ilinca Tanaseanu-Döbler, Anna Lefteratou, Gabriela Ryser, and Konstantinos Stamatopoulos (eds.), *Reading the Way to the Netherworld. Education and the Representations of the Beyond in Later Antiquity*. Göttingen: Vandenhoeck & Ruprecht, 2017.

- **Articles**

“Hinc prima diabolo fides aedificatur ab initiis eruditionis. Some Remarks on Literary Education and the Non-/Religious in Tertullian's *De idololatria*”. In: Ilinca Tanaseanu-Döbler (ed.): *Libraries, Handbooks, Encyclopedias. Ancient and Early Medieval Repositories of Knowledge and Their Religious Aspects*. Tübingen: Mohr Siebeck, 2024, 71-89.

“Dabitur coniunx”: A Wedding in the Underworld of Claudian's *De raptu Proserpinae*”. In: Ilinca Tanaseanu-Döbler et al. (eds.): *Reading the Way to the Netherworld. Education and the Representations of the Beyond in Later Antiquity*. Göttingen: Vandenhoeck & Ruprecht, 2017, 282-300.

“Bitte gehen Sie rechts!” Jenseitsreisen in spätantiken Bibelgedichten”. In: Reinhard Feldmeier, Monika Winet & Isabel Toral-Niehoff (eds.), *Gottesgedanken. Erkenntnis, Eschatologie und Ethik in Religionen der Spätantike und des frühen Mittelalters*. Tübingen: Mohr Siebeck, 2016, 99-104.

“The Hidden Model? Influences from Oppian in Claudian’s Latin Oeuvre”. *Hermes* 143, 4 (2015), 472-490.

- **Lexicon Entries**

Lemmata “sesaginta – sesquum”, “significus – 1. signo”, and “*sinoce(s) – sinuosus”. In: *Mittelateinisches Wörterbuch*. München: C. H. Beck (under review).

Lemmata “rhinoceros”, “rhinoceroticus”, “rivalis”, “rivalitas”, “rixa”, “rixator”, “rixatorius”, “rix(i)osus”, “rixor”, “rixula”. In: *Thesaurus Linguae Latinae*. Berlin: De Gruyter (under review).

Art. “sepulcralis – sepulturula” and “serps – sertulum”. In: *Mittelateinisches Wörterbuch* (VII 4). München: C. H. Beck, 2025, 571-577; 626-629.

Art. “retempto”, “retento”, “retexo”, “retorridus”, “retrogradus”, “retro(ve)rsum, -us sim.”, “retrotensio”, “retrudo”, “retrusio”, and “revello”. In: *Thesaurus linguae Latinae* (XI 2, 11). Berlin: De Gruyter, 2025, 1645-1646; 1649-1650; 1651-1653; 1687; 1716; 1717-1722; 1732-1735.

Art. “restis” and “restringo”. In: *Thesaurus linguae Latinae* (XI 2, 10). Berlin: De Gruyter, 2023, 1575-1577; 1605-1608.

Art. “Netherworld: Christianity”. In: *Encyclopedia of the Bible and Its Reception XXI*. C. M. Furey et al. (Ed.). Berlin: De Gruyter, 2023, 206-208.

- **Reviews**

Daniel Deerberg, *Der Sturz des Judas. Kommentar (5,1-163) und Studien zur poetischen Erbauung bei Sedulius*. Münster: Aschendorff Verlag 2011, (= *Orbis Antiquus*, 43). *Zeitschrift für antikes Christentum* 18 (2014), 159-162.

Papers (selection)

A Tale of Transformation & Love and A Dysfunctional Family: Claudian’s *De raptu Proserpinae*. (Friedrich-Alexander-Universität Erlangen-Nürnberg: Zehnter Internationaler Mittellatein-kongress „Das Epos im lateinischen Abendland [4. bis 15. Jahrhundert]”; 25-28 September 2024)

Exitio succurre meo! Personal and Cosmological Crisis in Claudian’s *De raptu Proserpinae* (University of Leeds: International Medieval Congress; 1-4 July 2024)

Verbum caro factum: The Incarnation in Latin Poems of Late Antiquity (Georg-August-Universität Göttingen: Guest Lecture; Göttingen; 23 January 2024)

What the Hell! Underworld Depictions in Claudian and Dracontius (Ludwig-Maximilians-University Munich: Latin philology research seminar; Munich; 29 November 2022)

Von Lampen und Liebesleid: Unepisches in Claudians De raptu Proserpinae? (Friedrich-Alexander-University Erlangen-Nürnberg: Workshop „Philologica Erlangenisa Claudiana”; online conferenz; 13 January 2021)

Qua lampade Ditem flexit Amor: The Transformation of the Epic Underworld in Claudian’s *De raptu Proserpinae* (University of Vienna: 2nd CENTRAL-Workshop „Kommunikation mit den Toten”; Vienna; 28-29 November 2019)

Know Thy Gnosis? The Ουποβόρος in Claudian’s Poetry (University of Bremen: Graduate School “Gnosis als praktizierte Religion”; Bremen; 9-12 September 2015)

‘A theologian, a philosopher, and a poet walk into a bar’. Religion and Education in Claudian’s *De raptu Proserpinae*

(University of Bremen: Graduate School “Religious Education in Late Antiquity”; Bremen; 1-4 December 2014)

Impia Tartara: Receptions of *Aeneid* 6 in Late Antique Epic Poems

(Symposium of the Vergilian Society of America: “*Aeneid* Six and its Cultural Reception”; Cumae, Naples; 25-27 June 2013)

Christian teachings, pagan genre: the incarnation in the Latin biblical epics of Late Antiquity

(SBL Annual Meeting: EDRIS-Panel “Exegeses of the Incarnation”; Chicago; 17-20 November 2012)

Pieris pollet studiis: Claudian’s Education between Literary Culture and Religion

(University College London: “Educating the future generation: Teaching, learning, and antiquity”; London; 13-14 September 2012)

Dio: *Chryseis*

(Ratio Religionis / Area 2 CRC EDRIS: Sommerwerkstatt; Thun; 23.-25. August 2012)

Burning the Bridges? The Poet Claudian between East and West

(Universities of Ghent, Göttingen, Groningen, und Uppsala: “U4 Winter School”; Istanbul; 14-17 March 2012)

‘Beim Ursprung der Finsternis und den unberührten Flächen des grausigen Sumpfes’: die Unterwelt beim lateinischen Dichter Claudian

(GSGG: “Tag der GSGG”; Göttingen; October 26, 2011)

‘*Dabitur coniunx*’: A Wedding in the Underworld of Claudian’s *De raptu Proserpinae*

(TU Darmstadt: “Darmstädter Diskussionen”; Darmstadt; 05-08 October 2011, and University of Göttingen, CRC EDRIS, Graduiertenkolleg “Götterbilder – Gottesbilder – Weltbilder”: “Reading the Way to the Netherworld. Education and the Representations of the Beyond in Later Antiquity”; Göttingen; 14-16 October 2011)

Claudian: A Pagan in Sheep's Clothing?

(University of Bremen: Graduate School “Christ in Toga: Boethius. Das Christentum und die römischen Eliten in der Spätantike”; Bremen; 10-13 October 2011)

Memberships

April 2011 – June 2020

member of the Graduate School of Humanities Göttingen
GSGG (Graduiertenschule für Geisteswissenschaften
Göttingen).

April 2011 – June 2020

member of the doctoral colloquium of the Classical
Philology, University of Göttingen.