

Jens Fischer

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Academic Appointments

- Principal Investigator of a research project funded by the German Research Foundation (DFG), University of Potsdam (2023–2026)
- Lecturer in Ancient History, University of Potsdam (2019–2023)
- Research Assistant, Martin Luther University Halle-Wittenberg (2014)
- Research Assistant, archaeological excavations at the Sanctuary of Apollo at Didyma (2013)

Education

- PhD in Ancient History (*summa cum laude*), Martin Luther University Halle-Wittenberg (2018–2021)
- Additional graduate studies in Ancient History, Heidelberg University (2016–2017)
- M.A. in Classics and Ancient History (*with Distinction*), University of Exeter (2015–2016)
- B.A. in Classical Studies, Martin Luther University Halle-Wittenberg (2011–2015)
- Abitur, Abendgymnasium Braunschweig (2011)

Funding & Awards

- Grant for the international conference *Divination and Authority in Graeco-Roman Antiquity*, German Research Foundation (DFG) (2025)
- Research Grant for the project *Divine Messages from Mortal Pens: Pseudepigraphic Oracles and their Disseminators in Athens from the Sixth to the Fourth Century BCE*, German Research Foundation (DFG) (2023–2026)
- Travel Grant, German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD) (2022)
- University Award (Luther-Urkunde) for Outstanding Doctoral Research, Martin Luther University Halle-Wittenberg (2022)
- Publication Grants, German Academic Scholarship Foundation (Studienstiftung des dt. Volkes), Dr Papenhoff-Meyenburg Foundation, and Boehringer Ingelheim Foundation for the Humanities (2022)
- Doctoral Scholarship, German Academic Scholarship Foundation (Studienstiftung des dt. Volkes) (2018–2021)
- Doctoral Scholarship, Gerda Henkel Foundation (declined) (2018)
- Scholarship, German Academic Scholarship Foundation (Studienstiftung des dt. Volkes) (including Study Abroad Scholarship, 2015–2016) (2012–2018)

Conference Organisation

- *Divination and Authority in Graeco-Roman Antiquity* (co-organiser with K. Beerden & R. Matuszewski), University of Potsdam (2025)
- *Religion on the Verge of Orality and Literacy* (co-organiser with S. Chiarini), University of Potsdam (2024)
- *Embodied Histories: Cultural History of, in, and through the Human Body*, 16th Annual Conference of the International Society for Cultural History (member of the organising committee), University of Potsdam (2024)

Research Visits

- Department of Classics and Ancient History, University of Sydney (2026)
- Department of Greek, Latin and Classical Studies, Bryn Mawr College (2025)
- Institute for History, Leiden University (2025)
- Department of Civilisations and Forms of Knowledge, University of Pisa (2024)
- Department of Civilisations and Forms of Knowledge, University of Pisa (2019)

Monographs

- *Seherdichtung als religiöses Medium und diskursives Phänomen in der griechischen Archaik und Klassik*. In preparation.
- *Folia ventis turbata: Sibyllinische Orakel und der Gott Apollon zwischen später Republik und augusteischem Principat*. Studien zur Alten Geschichte 33. Göttingen 2022.

Edited Volumes

- *Divination and Authority in Graeco-Roman Antiquity* (co-edited with K. Beerden & R. Matuszewski). In preparation.
- *Orality and Literacy in Ancient Religions: Perspectives, Media, and Transformations* (co-edited with A. Egyed). In preparation.

Articles and Book Chapters

- *Claiming Apollo's Words: Political Authority and the Appropriation of Oracle Texts in Greece and Rome*. In K. Beerden, J. Fischer & R. Matuszewski (eds.), *Divination and Authority in Graeco-Roman Antiquity*. In preparation.
- *When Apollo's Voice Turned into Religious Writings*. In J. Fischer (co-edited with A. Egyed), *Orality and Literacy in Ancient Religions: Perspectives, Media, and Transformations*. In preparation.
- *Ein Orakelfragment der erythraeischen Sibylle: Untersuchungen zur paganen und jüdisch-christlichen Sibyllentradition*. FeRA 49 (2023) 80–101.
- *dira carmina Cumanae vatis: Unheilvolle Sibyllenorakel und ihr (in)direkter Einfluss auf das augusteische Weltbild*. In J. Diemke (ed.), *Forschungen zur Gewalt in der römischen Antike*. Hamburger Studien zu Gesellschaften und Kulturen der Vormoderne 24. Stuttgart 2023, 89–104.
- *Vates Apollinis, vates Augusti: Das Verhältnis des palatinischen Apollonheiligtums zu Orakeln und sein Einfluss auf das Selbstverständnis der zeitgenössischen Dichter*. GLB 26 (2021) 83–98.
- *Q. Fabius Pictor, das Orakel von Delphi und die sibyllinischen Bücher Roms: Zur Rolle von Orakeln in Rom und Griechenland*. Gymnasium 127 (2020) 535–567.
- *Augustus und Apollon. Notizen zu den Hintergründen einer 'göttlichen' Beziehung*. In J. Bartz, M. Müller & R. F. Sporleder (eds.), *Augustus immortalis. Aktuelle Forschungen zum Princeps im interdisziplinären Diskurs*. Berlin 2020, 131–138.
- *The Gallery of the triumphatores: Taking a Closer Look at the Lost Statues of the Augustan Forum*. Pegasus 60 (2018) 25–33.

Reviews

- Köster, I. *Stealing from the Gods. Temple Robbery in the Roman Imagination*. Historische Zeitschrift. In preparation.
- Sauron, G. *Auguste. L'Emprise des Signes*. Historische Zeitschrift 322 (2026) 716–718.
- Weber, G. & C. Schliephake (eds.), *Deutungskämpfe um die antike Divination*. Thersites 21 (2026) 136–142.
- Blank, T. *Religiöse Geheimniskommunikation in der Mittleren und Späten Römischen Republik*. Historische Zeitschrift 321 (2025) 449–451.
- Austen, V. *Analysing the Boundaries of the Ancient Roman Garden*. Thersites 18 (2024) 125–131.
- Bäbler, B. & H.-G. Nesselrath (eds.), *Delphi. Apollons Orakel in der Welt der Antike*. Bryn Mawr Classical Review (2022).
- Harrison, S. & C. Pelling (eds.), *Classical Scholarship and its History*. Thersites 14 (2022) 168–174.
- J. Osgood & C. A. Baron (eds.), *Cassius Dio and the Late Roman Republic*. Bryn Mawr Classical Review 2020.
- Hagen, J. *Die Tränen der Mächtigen und die Macht der Tränen*. Thersites 9 (2019) 147–152.

Other Publications

- *Pseudo-Justin*. Brill Encyclopedia of Early Christianity.
- *Neue Forschungen zur Verbreitung und gesellschaftspolitischen Relevanz religiöser Dichtung in Athen*. Berliner Antike Blog.
- *Die Elgin Marbles: Geraubt oder in Sicherheit gebracht?* Archaeologie-Online.de

Invited Lectures

- *Mediated Authority: Rethinking Ancient Greek Pseudepigraphy as a Discursive Phenomenon*, Classics Colloquium, Bryn Mawr College (2025)
- *About Apollo, Augustus and the Power over Divine Words*, Departmental Seminar, University of Pisa (2025)

- *A Battle with the Voice of the Gods: Oracle Chants as a Medium of Discursive Negotiations during the Peloponnesian War*, UMW Research Seminar, Leiden University (2024)
- *Ein Kampf mit der Stimme der Götter: Orakelgesänge als Medium diskursiver Aushandlungsprozesse während des Peloponnesischen Krieges*, Ancient History Colloquium, University of Bern (2024)
- *Von Pest, Krieg, Populismus und – Orakeln?* Mitteldeutsches Althistorikertreffen, University of Erfurt (2024)
- *Mantische Dichtung: Von den Texten hinter unseren Texten*, Research Colloquium, University of Bonn (2023)
- *Burning Books in the Name of Apollo: The Political Role Played by Sibylline Oracles During the First Century BCE*, Departmental Seminar, University of Pisa (2019)
- *Delphi auf dem Palatin? Der augusteische Apollontempel und sein Verhältnis zur Divination*, Research Colloquium, Free University of Berlin (2019)

Conference Papers

- *A Kaleidoscope of Truth: Anaxagoras, Lampon and Contemporary Battles for Interpretive Authority*, Truth in the Classical City: Local and Universal Renderings, University of Sydney (2026)
- *Claiming the Words of the Gods: Political Authority and the Appropriation of Oracle Texts in Greece and Rome*, Divination and Authority in Graeco-Roman Antiquity, University of Potsdam (2025)
- *When Apollo's Voice Turned into Religious Writings*, Religion on the Verge of Orality and Literacy, University of Potsdam (2024)
- *The Political Influence of Pseudepigraphic Oracle Texts in Antiquity*, Cultures of Belief and Unbelief, University of Verona (2022)
- *Die augusteischen Saecularspiele: Eine verherrlichte Rückkehr zur „Normalität“*, Schrift, Wort und Bild im Dienste staatlicher Propaganda in der Antike II, University of Graz (2021)
- *dira carmina Cumanae. Über die grauenvollen Gesänge der cumaeischen Sibylle*, Vis omnia vincit? Neue Perspektiven zur Gewalt in der griechisch-römischen Antike, University of Hamburg (2021)
- *Vates Apollinis, vates Augusti: About Oracles, Poetry and a Magnificent Temple*, Lactae segetes VII, Masaryk University (2020)
- *Augustus und Apollon – eine Zweckbeziehung?*, Augustus immortalis. Aktuelle Forschungen zum Princeps im interdisziplinären Diskurs, Humboldt University of Berlin (2019)
- *Ein Blick in verlorene Bücher. Die libri Sibyllini – Prophezeiungen oder Ritualvorschriften?* Darmstädter Diskussionen 10, Technical University of Darmstadt (2018)

Teaching at University of Potsdam

- *Orpheus and the So-Called 'Orphism'* (undergraduate seminar, Winter 2024–2025)
- *Augustus and his Age* (graduate seminar, Summer 2023–2024)
- *Greek Mythology* (undergraduate seminar, Winter 2023)
- *The Lives of the Caesars by Suetonius* (introductory course, Winter 2022–2023)
- *Writing and Literacy in Antiquity* (undergraduate seminar, Summer 2022)
- *Greek Historiography* (introductory course, Winter 2021–2022)
- *Aristophanes' Comedies as Sources for Ancient History* (undergraduate seminar, Summer 2021)
- *Sources for Roman Religion* (introductory course, Winter 2020–2021)
- *Ancient Divination: Communication with the Gods in Greece and Rome* (undergraduate seminar, Summer 2020)
- *Archaeological Sources for the History of Augustan Rome* (introductory course, Winter 2019–2020)

Guest Teaching

- Graduate seminar in Classics, Bryn Mawr College (2025)
- Graduate seminar in Protestant Theology, TU Dresden (2025)
- Seminar in Ancient History, University of Pisa (2024)
- Seminar in Ancient History, University of Pisa (2019)

Academic Service

- Peer reviewer for American Journal of Philology (AJP), Melammu Workshops and Monographs, Thersites
- Frequent service on selection committees, German Academic Scholarship Foundation (Studienstiftung des deutschen Volkes)
- Supervisor of Bachelor's theses, University of Potsdam
- Faculty Representative to the University Library, University of Potsdam (2023–2026)

Public Engagement

- Speaker, Pint of Science Berlin (2024)
- Outreach contributions, Potsdam Science Day (2023, 2021)
- Volunteer mentor, ArbeiterKind.de (since 2018)