

Michael “Gus” Kraus (he/him)

Universiteit Leiden - Institute for Philosophy

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RESEARCH INTERESTS

Comparative Philosophy; Ancient Greek Philosophy (esp. Late Platonism); Classical and Medieval Indian Philosophy (esp. Shaiva-Shakta Tantra); Philosophy of Religion; Aesthetics; Poetics; Philosophy in Contemporary Paganism

EDUCATION

Feb 2026 - Present	Leiden University, Graduate School of Humanities PhD in Philosophy (Supervisors: Prof. Dr. F.A.J. de Haas; Dr. Bert van den Berg; Prof. Dr. Peter Bisschop)
2023 - May 2025:	St. John’s College - Santa Fe, MA in Philosophy & Asian Studies (Language Specialization: Sanskrit)
2017 - 2021:	St. John’s College - Annapolis, BA in Philosophy (Classical Studies Minor) <i>Thesis Title:</i> “The Spleen and the Heart: A Study of the Modern Poet” (Translations and comparative analysis of Charles Baudelaire and Vladimir Mayakovsky)

PUBLICATIONS

Articles

Forthcoming

“Cosmic Terror ‘Crystallised’: A Lovecraftian Episode in an Indian Epic”. *Lovecraftian Proceedings #6*. Ed. Tchougounova-Paulson, Elena. Hippocampus Press.

Published

“‘What Does Athens Have to Do with Uppsala?’: A Foreword to Heathen Dialogue with the Platonic Tradition”. *Heathenry: The International Journal for Heathen Research*. Ed. Rich Blackett, Sif Brooks, Dan Coultas, Ioan McCarthy, Andy Pardy, Denise Vast and Janet Walker-Harris. December 11, 2025.

“Between Śāstra and Kāvya: The Śrī Yantra as a Key to the Coherence of *Saundaryalaharī*”. *Research Network for the Study of Esoteric Practices*. Rensep.org. Ed. Aaron French. May 8, 2025.

“Image, Imaginary and Ignorance of Real Being: The Myth of Narcissus in Plotinus’ *Enneads* and Anna Kornbluh’s *Immediacy*”. *Colloquy: The Official Journal of the Graduate Institute*. Ed. Nadine, Bucca. Fall 2024 (Theme: “On Being”).

“Intertextuality and The ‘Elixir’ of Character in the *Bhagavadgītā*”. *Colloquy: The Official Journal of the Graduate Institute*. Ed. Borsum, Stephen. Spring 2024 (Theme: “On Character”).

Translations

(From Russian) “I am Goya”. (“Гойя”). Andrei Voznesensky. *Etcetera* (St. John’s College). Ed. Mitchell, Tamblin; Smit, Tobias. Spring 2024.

EMPLOYMENT

July 2024 - Dec 2025: Middle School History/Latin Teacher (Grace-St. Luke’s Episcopal School; Memphis, TN)
July 2023 - July 2024: Latin Teacher (Libertas School of Memphis; Memphis, TN)
July 2021 - Feb. 2023: Latin Teacher, Middle School Team Lead (Great Hearts; Arlington, TX)
Aug 2019 - May 2021: Ancient Greek Assistant (Graduate / Undergraduate) (St. John’s College; Annapolis, MD)
May 2018 - Aug 2018: Technical Services Assistant (SJC Greenfield Library; Annapolis, MD)

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

The Catherine Project - Ancient Greek Leader (June-July 2025)

Learn to Read Greek - Part 1

Grace-St. Luke’s Episcopal School – History/Latin Teacher (2024 – Present)

Introduction to Latin (Lingua Latina Per Se Illustrata / Unus Duo Tres) • 5th/6th

Ancient Civilizations • 5th

Libertas School of Memphis – Latin Teacher (2023-2024)

Introduction to Latin (Latin Through Stories / Unus Duo Tres) • 1st-3rd

Introduction to Latin (Lingua Latina Per Se Illustrata / Unus Duo Tres) • 4th/5th

Great Hearts - Arlington – Latin Teacher (2021-2023)

Latin II (Latin for the New Millenium) • 7th/8th

Latin I (Latin for the New Millenium) • 6th-8th

St. John’s College - Annapolis – Ancient Greek Assistant (2019-2021)

Sophomore Language Tutorial (Teacher: Matthew Caswell)

Sophomore Language Tutorial (Teacher: Michael Blaustein)

Ancient Greek Assistance - Open Hours (Freshmen / Sophomores / Graduate Students)

RESEARCH, INDEPENDENT STUDY & RELEVANT EXPERIENCE

2024 - 2025 Editorial Board - *Colloquy: The Official Journal of the Graduate Institute*

Fall 2023, Fall 2024 Abhinavagupta Study Group - Weekly Seminar (Founded, Led) (Selections from *Gītārthasaṅgraha*)

Fall 2020 St. John’s College: ‘Rise and Decline of the Roman Republic’ Preceptorial (Member; Led by Jeffrey Smith) (Selections from: Dionysus of Halicarnassus, Appian, Sallust, Livy, Suetonius, Polybius, Julius Caesar, Caesar Augustus, Cicero)

Fall 2019 St. John’s College: *Capital, Vol. 1* Preceptorial (Member; Led by Ronald Hafliedson)

Fall 2017 - Spring 2020: ‘Theory Study Group’ - Weekly Seminar (Founded, Led)

AWARDS

Fall 2023: Commencement Award: Best Eastern Classics Essay, Honorable Mention (“Who am I? A Study of the Self in *Ṛgveda* 10.125”)

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

5 June 2026: “Platonic Polytheism Persisting: Surveying the Living Platonisms of Contemporary Pagan Thought”. *International Society for Neoplatonic Studies*. 23rd Annual Conference. KU Leuven, Leuven, BE.

(Forthcoming)

19-22 May 2026: “Recovering a Theology: A Śākta Exploration of Plotinus on Aphrodite and the Soul”. *Society for Asian and Comparative Philosophy*. 58th Annual Conference: “Healing in Times of Precarity: Asian and Comparative Approaches”. Manipal Academy of Higher Education, Manipal, Karnataka, IN. **(Forthcoming)**

9 July 2025: “Narrative as the ‘Honeycomb’ of Philosophy: (Self-)Reflections on Poetic Inspiration in *Saundaryalaharī* and Proclus’ Hymn to the Muses”. *Society for Asian and Comparative Philosophy*. 57th Annual Conference: “From Human to Humane: Nature, Nurture and Narrative.” Leiden University, Leiden, NL.

17 August 2024: “Cosmic Terror ‘Crystallised’: A Lovecraftian Episode in an Indian Epic”. *The Armitage Symposium* Session 4: “Toward Horror and Weird: Lovecraftiana in Translation / National Literatures (Comparative Discourse)”. Providence, RI. Chair: Fred Lubnow.

LANGUAGES

English - Native

Latin (Classical) - Reading/Writing/Speaking

Ancient Greek (Homeric, Attic) - Reading/Writing

Sanskrit (Vedic, Classical) - Reading/Writing

French - Reading/Writing

Russian - Reading

Dutch - Beginner

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

Society for Classical Studies (SCS)

International Society for Comparative Philosophy toward World Philosophy (CPWP)

Nederlandse Onderzoeksschool Wijsbegeerte (Dutch Research School for Philosophy)

Society for Asian and Comparative Philosophy

International Society for Neoplatonic Studies