

Seth L. Schein  
Emeritus Professor of Comparative Literature  
University of California, Davis  
slschein@ucdavis.edu

## EDUCATION

1967            Ph.D.    Columbia University (Greek and Latin Languages and Literatures)  
1964            M.A.    University of California, Berkeley (Greek)  
1963            A.B.    Columbia College (English), *cum laude*, Phi Beta Kappa  
1965            American School of Classical Studies, Athens (Summer School Member)  
1967-68        American School of Classical Studies, Athens (Associate Member)

## EMPLOYMENT

2014            Visiting Professor of Classics, UC Berkeley (spring semester)  
2012-          Professor Emeritus of Comparative Literature, UC Davis,  
1992-2012      Professor of Comparative Literature, UC Davis (Director,  
                  1992-95; Graduate Advisor, 1992-93, 1997-2001; Chair, Graduate Group in  
                  Comparative Literature, 2001-2004)  
1995            Visiting Professor of Classics, UC Berkeley (fall semester)  
1988-1992      Professor of Comparative Literature, Queens College, and of Comparative  
                  Literature and Classics, The Graduate School, City University of New York  
                  (Chair, Queens College, 1990-92)  
1979-1988      Associate to Full Professor of Classical Literature, UC Santa Cruz  
1973-1979      Assistant to Associate Professor of Classics, State University of New York,  
                  College at Purchase  
1968-1973      Instructor to Assistant Professor of Greek and Latin, Columbia University

## HONORS, AWARDS, ETC.

2017-          Honorary Member, Thespis Society (Association for the Study of the Classical  
                  and Early Modern Theatre), Verona, Italy  
2007-8          Visiting Scholar, Scuola Normale Superiore di Pisa  
2006            University of California Humanities Research Institute Conference Grant:  
                  “Sophoclean Drama and its Continuing Cultural Impact”  
2004-5          National Endowment for the Humanities Research Fellowship  
2004-5          Loeb Classical Library Foundation Fellowship  
1983            National Endowment for the Humanities Summer Institute on Women in  
                  Classical Antiquity (Participant)  
1982-3          Visiting Member, Institute for Advanced Study, Princeton  
1979-80          National Endowment for the Humanities Research Fellowship  
1966-7          Woodrow Wilson Foundation Dissertation Fellowship  
1965-6          President’s Fellowship, Columbia University  
1964-5          Henry Drisler Fellowship in Greek and Latin, Columbia University

1963-4 Woodrow Wilson Foundation Fellowship  
 1963 Mortimer Lamson Earle Prize in Classics, Columbia College

## PUBLICATIONS

### *Books*

- 2026 *Homer, Iliad: Book IV*. Cambridge Greek and Latin Classics. Cambridge University Press: Cambridge
- 2022 *Homer, Iliad: Book I*. Cambridge Greek and Latin Classics. (Cambridge University Press: Cambridge)
- 2016 *Homeric Epic and its Reception: Interpretive Essays* (Oxford University Press: Oxford)
- 2013 *Sophocles, Philoctetes*. Cambridge Greek and Latin Classics. (Cambridge University Press: Cambridge)
- 2003 *Sophokles' Philoktetes: Translation with Introduction, Notes, and Interpretive Essay*. Focus Classical Library (Focus Publishing/R. Pullins Company: Newburyport, Mass.)
- 1996 *Reading the Odyssey: Selected Interpretive Essays* (Princeton University Press: Princeton); 2nd printing, 1997 [Edited]
- 1984 *The Mortal Hero: An Introduction to Homer's Iliad* (University of California Press: Berkeley, Los Angeles, London); 3rd printing, 1995; translation into Serbo-Croatian by Z. Dukat, *Smrtni Junak* (Globus Publishing Company: Zagreb, 1989); translation into Modern Greek by G. Philippou, *Ô Thnêtos Irôas* (University Studio Press, Thessaloniki: 2006)
- 1979 *The Iambic Trimeter in Aeschylus and Sophocles: A Study in Metrical Form*, Columbia Studies in the Classical Tradition, 6 (E.J. Brill: Leiden)

### *Articles and Book Chapters*

- 2026(?) "Freeze-framing Homeric epic: Michael Longley's Lyric Transformations of Homer's *Iliad*," in M. Alden and D. Larmour, *Michael Longley and the Classics* (Oxford University Press: Oxford): forthcoming
- 2023 "Generic Expectations and the Interpretation of Attic Tragedy: Some Preliminary Questions and Cognitive Considerations," in *Minds on Stage: Greek Tragedy and Cognition*, ed. F. Budelmann and I. Sluiter (Oxford University Press: Oxford): 196-209
- 2023 "Commenting on Homer," in *Yearbook of Ancient Greek Epic* 6: 117-25

- 2020 "Formulaic Diction and Contextual Relevance: Notes on the Meaning of Formulaic Epithets in *Iliad* 1," in *Text and Intertext in Greek Epic and Drama: Essays in Honor of Margalit Finkelberg*, ed. J. Price and R. Zelnick-Abramovitz (Routledge: London and New York): 21-36
- 2019 "Fathers Cursing Children: Anger and Justice in Sophocles' *Oedipus at Colonus* and Shakespeare's *King Lear*," in *Sophocles' Oedipus at Colonus and Shakespeare's King Lear: Early Modern Intersections*, ed. S. Bigliazzi. Skenè Studies 1.2 (Verona): 247-64
- 2018 "The Second *Kommos* in Sophokles' *Philoktetes* (1081-1217)," in *Συναγωνίζεσθαι. Studies in Honour of Guido Avezzi*, ed. S. Bigliazzi, F. Lupi, G. Ugolini. Skenè Studies 1. 2 vols. (Verona): 1.277-98
- 2018 "Reading Homer in Dark Times: Rachel Bessaloff's *On the Iliad*," *Arion* 26.1 (Spring/Summer): 17-36
- 2018 "Tyranny and Fear in Aeschylus' *Oresteia* and Shakespeare's *Macbeth*," *Comparative Drama* 51: 85-102
- 2016 "The Language of Wisdom in Sophokles' *Philoktetes* and Euripides' *Bacchae*," in P. Kyriakou and A. Rengakos (eds.), *Wisdom and Folly in Euripides*. Trends in Classics, Supplementary Volume 31. (W. de Gruyter: Berlin and New York): 255-71
- 2016 "'War, What is it Good For?' in Homer's *Iliad* and Four Receptions," in V. Caston and S.-M. Weineck (eds.), *Our Ancient Wars: Rethinking War through the Classics* (University of Michigan Press: Ann Arbor): 211-28
- 2015 "The Interpretation of *Iliad* 1.1-2: Language, Meter, Style, and Myth," in *Gaia* 18: Πολυφόρβη Γαίη. *Mélanges de littérature et linguistique offerts à Francoise Létoublon*. Textes réunis par F. Dell'Oro et O. Lagacherie: 301-309
- 2014 "The Scene with the False Merchant in Sophocles' *Philoktetes*," *Dioniso: rivista di studi sul teatro antico*, N.S. 4 (2014): 65-81
- 2012 "Sophocles and Homer," in *A Companion to Sophocles*, ed. K. Ormand (Blackwell: Oxford): 424-39
- 2012 "Divine and Human in the Homeric *Hymn to Aphrodite*," in *Hymnes de la Grèce antique: Approches littéraires et historiques*, ed. R. Bouchon, P. Brillet-Dubois, N. Le Meur-Weissman, (Maison de l'Orient et de la Méditerranée: Lyon): 295-312
- 2011 "The Language of Hatred in Aeschylus and Sophocles," *Mètis* N.S. 9: 69-80
- 2011 "Language and Dramatic Action in the Prologue of Sophocles' *Philoktetes*," *Dioniso: rivista di studi sul teatro antico*, N.S. 1 (2011): 79-96

- 2011 Seven articles ("Achilles," "Hektor," "Lycaon," "Poulydamas," "Sarpedon," "Simoeisios," and "Troilus"), in *The Homer Encyclopedia*, ed. M. Finkelberg, 3 vols. (Blackwell: Oxford): I, 4-7; II, 332-34, 490-91, 689; III, 758-60, 803-804, 889
- 2009 "Narrative Technique in the *Parodos* of Aeschylus' *Agamemnon*," in *Narratology and Interpretation*, ed. J. Grethlein and A. Rengakos (Walter de Gruyter: Berlin and New York): 377-98
- 2009 "Greek Mythology in the Works of Thomas Bulfinch and Gustav Schwab," *The Classical Bulletin* 84: 71-78
- 2008 "Translating Aeschylean Choral Lyric: *Agamemnon* 367-474," in *Translation and the Classic*, ed. A. Lianeri and V. Zajko (Oxford University Press: Oxford): 387-406
- 2007 "O Achilleas kai I Kideia tou Patroklou sti Rapsodia 23 tis Iliadas" ("Achilles and the Funeral Games of Patroklos in Book 23 of the Iliad"), in *Athla kai Epathla sta Omêrika Epê (Contests and Rewards in the Homeric Epics): Proceedings of the 10<sup>th</sup> International Symposium on the Odyssey, Sept 15-19, 2004*, ed. M. Païzi-Apostolopoulou (Center for Odyssey Studies: Ithaca, Greece): 77-86 (in Greek)
- 2007 "'Our Debt to Greece and Rome': Canon, Class, and Ideology," in *A Companion to Classical Receptions*, ed. L. Hardwick and C. Stray (Blackwell: Oxford): 75-85
- 2007 "An American Homer for the Twentieth Century," in *Homer in the Twentieth Century: between World Literature and the Western Canon*, ed. B. Graziosi and E. Greenwood (Oxford University Press: Oxford): 268-85
- 2007 "Introduction" and "A Note on the Translation" in *Homer, The Iliad*, translated by W.H.D. Rouse (Signet, New American Library: New York): vii-xiv
- 2006 "The *Iliad* and *Odyssey* in Sophokles' *Philoktetes*: Generic Complexity and Ethical Ambiguity," in *Greek Drama III*, ed. J. Davidson, F. Muecke, and P. Wilson. *Bulletin of the Institute of Classical Studies*, Suppl. 87 (London): 129-40
- 2005 "Divine and Human in Sophokles' *Philoktetes*," in *The Soul of Tragedy: Essays on Athenian Drama*, ed. S. Oberhelmen and V. Pedrick (University of Chicago Press: Chicago): 26-46
- 2005 "Translating Greek Tragedy for the Classroom," The Open University Electronic Seminar Series: archived at [http://www2.open.ac.uk/ClassicalStudies/GreekPlays/e\\_archive/2005/schein.htm](http://www2.open.ac.uk/ClassicalStudies/GreekPlays/e_archive/2005/schein.htm)
- 2002 "Mythological Allusion in the *Odyssey*," in *Omero: Tremila Anni Dopo*, ed. F. Montanari and P. Ascheri (Edizioni di Storia e Letteratura: Rome): 185-201

- 2002 "The Horses of Achilles in Book 17 of the *Iliad*," in *EPEA PTEROENTA: Beiträge zur Homerforschung. Festschrift für WOLFGANG KULLMANN zum 75. Geburtstag*, edd. M. Reichel and A. Rengakos (Franz Steiner Verlag: Stuttgart): 193-205
- 2002 "Odysseus and the Language of Violence in Sophokles' *Philoktetes*," *Studi italiani di filologia classica*, 3 Ser. 20: 45-49
- 2001 "*Klassika grammata kai politistikes spoudes*," in *NEKRA GRAMMATA; Oi Klassikes Spoudes ston 21o Aiona*, ed. A. Rengakos (EKDOSEIS PATAKI: Athens, Greece): 213-24 (in Greek).
- 2001 "Herakles and Odysseus' Bow: Mythological Allusion in the *Odyssey*," *ERANOS: Proceedings of the Ninth International Symposium on the Odyssey, 2-7 September 2000*, ed. M. Païzi-Apostolopoulou (Center for Odyssey Studies: Ithaca, Greece): 395-407
- 2001 "Herakles and the Ending of Sophokles' *Philoktetes*," *Studi italiani di filologia classica*, 3 Ser. 19 (2001): 38-52
- 1999 "Homeric Intertextuality: Two Examples," in *Euphrosyne: Studies in Ancient Epic and its Legacy in Honor of Demetrios N. Maronitis*, ed. J.N. Kazazis and A. Rengakos (F. Steiner Verlag: Stuttgart): 349-56
- 1999 "Cultural Studies and Classics: Contrasts and Opportunities," in *Contextualizing Classics: Ideology, Performance, Dialogue. Essays in Honor of John J. Peradotto*, ed. T. Falkner, N. Felson, and D. Konstan (Rowman and Littlefield: Lanham, Boulder, New York, Oxford): 297-311
- 1998 "Verbal Adjectives in Sophocles: Necessity and Morality," *Classical Philology* 93 (1998): 293-307
- 1997 "Milman Parry and the Literary Interpretation of Homeric Poetry," in *Hommage à Milman Parry: Le Style formulaire de l'épopée homérique et la théorie de l'oralité poétique* ed. F. Létoublon (J. Gieben: Amsterdam): 275-81
- 1997 "Divinity and Moral Agency in Sophoclean Tragedy," in *What is a God? Studies in the Nature of Greek Divinity*, Ed. A.B. Lloyd (Duckworth: London): 123-38 [reprinted 2009]
- 1997 "The *Iliad*: Structure and Interpretation," in *A New Companion to Homer*, ed. I. Morris and B.B. Powell (E.J. Brill: Leiden): 345-59
- 1996 "Introduction," in *Reading the Odyssey: Selected Interpretive Essays*, ed. S.L. Schein (Princeton University Press: Princeton): 3-32
- 1995 "Female Representations and Interpreting the Odyssey," in *The Distaff Side: Representing the Female in Homer's Odyssey*, ed. B. Cohen (Oxford University Press:

- New York and Oxford): 17-27
- 1995 "I Odusseia kai o Iliadikos Iroismos" ("The *Odyssey* and Iliadic Heroism") in *EUCHEN ODUSSEI: Proceedings of the Seventh International Symposium on the Odyssey, Sept 3-8, 1993*, ed. M. Païzi-Apostolopoulou, Ithaca, Greece (Center for Odyssey Studies: Ithaca, Greece, 1995): 89-98 (in Greek)
- 1994 "Cavafy and *Iliad* 24: A Modern Alexandrian Interprets Homer," in *Homer*, ed. K.C. King (Garland Publishing Co.: New York): 177-89
- 1991 "Narratology and Homeric Studies," *Poetics Today* 12: 577-90 [see Reviews]
- 1990 "Oi gunaikes stin Iliada kai stin Odusseia" ("Women in the *Iliad* and the *Odyssey*"), in *O Omirikos Oikos (The Homeric House)*, ed. M. Païzi-Apostolopoulou (Center for Odyssey Studies: Ithaca, Greece): 93-103 [in Greek]
- 1990 "Philia in Euripides' *Medea*," in *Cabinet of the Muses: Essays in Classical and Comparative Literature in Honor of Thomas G. Rosenmeyer*, ed. M. Griffith and D.J. Mastronarde (Scholars Press; Atlanta): 57-73
- 1988 [1990] "Philia in Euripides' *Alcestis*," *Mètis* 3: 179-206
- 1988 "The Chorus in Sophokles' *Philoktetes*," *Studi italiani di filologia classica*, 3 Ser. 6: 196-204
- 1987 [1988] "Unity and Meaning in Pindar's Sixth Pythian Ode," *Mètis* 2: 235-47
- 1986 "H philia stin Iliada kai stin Odusseia" ("Kinship and Friendship in the *Iliad* and the *Odyssey*"), in *Iliada kai Odusseia: Muthos kai Istoría*, ed. M. Païzi-Apostolopoulou (Center for Odyssean Studies: Ithaca, Greece): 129-40 (in Greek)
- 1986 "Gildersleeve and the Study of Attic Tragedy," in *Basil Lanneau Gildersleeve: An American Classicist*, ed. W.W. Briggs and H. Benario, *American Journal of Philology*, Suppl. Vol. 1 (The Johns Hopkins University Press: Baltimore and London): 50-55
- 1985 "Sun artemeessi philoisin: *Odyssey* 13.43," *Studi italiani di filologia classica* 3 Ser. 3: 27-28
- 1982 "The Cassandra-Scene in Aeschylus' *Agamemnon*," *Greece & Rome* 29: 11-16
- "Electra: A Sophoclean Problem Play," *Antike und Abendland* 28: 69-80
- 1980 "On Achilles' Speech to Odysseus, *Iliad* 9.308-429," *Eranos* 78: 125-31
- 1976 "The Death of Simoeisios: *Iliad* 4.473-489," *Eranos* 74: 1-5

- 1975 "Mythical Illusion and Historical Reality in Euripides' *Orestes*," *Wiener Studien* N.F. 9: 49-66
- 1974 "Alcibiades and the Politics of Misguided Love in Plato's *Symposium*," *Thêta-Pi* 3: 158-67
- 1970 "Odysseus and Polyphemus in the *Odyssey*," *Greek, Roman and Byzantine Studies* 11: 73-83

### *Book Reviews*

20+ reviews, including:

- Review of V. Wohl, *Euripides and the Politics of Form* (Princeton and Oxford, 2015), in *The Classical World* 110 (2016-17): 143-4
- Review of M. Griffith and G.W. Most (eds.), *The Complete Greek Tragedies*, ed. D. Grene and R. Lattimore. 3<sup>rd</sup> edn. (Chicago and London, 2013), in *Classical Philology* 110 (2015): 376-80
- Review of R.B. Rutherford, *Greek tragic style: form, language, and interpretation* (Cambridge 2012), in *Journal of Hellenic Studies* 133 (2013): 173-75
- Review of E. Hall, *The Return of Ulysses: A Cultural History of Homer's Odyssey*. (Baltimore: 2008), in *New England Classical Journal* 36 (2009): 193-95
- Review article, "Narratology and Homeric Studies," *Poetics Today* 12 (1991): 577-90 (on I.J.F. de Jong, *Narrators and Focalizers: The Presentation of the Story in the Iliad*; S. Richardson, *The Homeric Narrator*; J. Peradotto, *Man in the Middle Voice: Name and Narration in the Odyssey*)
- Review of L. Braudy, *The Frenzy of Renown: Fame and its History* (New York and Oxford, 1986)), in *Criticism* 30 (1988): 253-55
- Review of G.S. Kirk, *The Iliad. A Commentary. Vol. 1, Books 1-4* (Cambridge, 1985), in *American Journal of Philology* 108 (1987): 532-34
- Review of O. Mandel, *Philoctetes and the Fall of Troy* (Lincoln, 1981), in *Classical and Modern Literature* 3 (1983): 211-14
- Review of S.C. Humphries, *Anthropology and the Greeks* (London, 1978), in *Journal of the History of the Behavioral Sciences* 17 (1981): 533-34
- Review of R. Carden, *The Papyrus Fragments of Sophocles* (Berlin and New York, 1974), in *The Classical World* 70 (1976-77): 190-91

Review of J.M. Redfield, *Nature and Culture in the Iliad: The Tragedy of Hector* (Chicago and London, 1975), *The Classical World* 70 (1976-77): 272-73

Review of W. Soyinka, *The Bacchae of Euripides: A Communal Rite* (New York, 1974), *The Classical World* 70 (1976-77): 403

Review of C.H. Whitman, *Euripides and the Full Circle of Myth* (Cambridge, MA, 1974), *The Classical World* 69 (1975-76): 464-65

Review of H.A. Mason, *To Homer through Pope: An Introduction to Homer's Iliad and Pope's Translation* (New York, 1972), *American Classical Review* 3 (1973 [1976]): 19

Review of W.S. Wyatt, *Metrical Lengthening in Homer* (Rome, 1969), *The Classical World* 64 (1970-71): 86

## IN PROGRESS

A commentary on Book 1 of Homer's *Odyssey*, under contract to Cambridge University Press

A book-length memoir

## TEACHING INTERESTS

Greek and Roman literature, culture, and thought, especially Greek epic and tragedy; comparative epic and tragedy; classical receptions; translation (history, politics, theory, practice); history of literary theory; gender and interpretation; Shakespeare and the classical world

## MISCELLANEOUS PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES AND SERVICE

- |           |                                                                                                                                                             |
|-----------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 2011-12   | Member of Final Selection Panel, American Council of Learned Societies<br>Dissertation Completion Fellowships                                               |
| 2010      | Co-organized (with Mary English) panel on "The Pedagogy of Homeric Poetry," for Annual Meeting of The American Philological Association, Jan. 2011          |
| 2009      | Panelist, American Conservatory Theater, San Francisco, to discuss Christopher Logue's <i>WAR MUSIC: An Account of Books 1-4 and 16-19 of Homer's Iliad</i> |
| 2007      | Instructor, NITLE Sunoikesis Summer Seminar on Homer's <i>Iliad</i>                                                                                         |
| 2006-7    | Member of Final Selection Panel, American Council of Learned Societies<br>Senior Research Fellowships                                                       |
| 2006      | Organized conference on "Sophoclean Drama and its Continuing Cultural Impact" (UC Davis)                                                                    |
| 1998-2003 | Member, Editorial Committee, University of California Press                                                                                                 |
| 1998      | Organized conference on "The <i>Odyssey</i> and its Continuing Cultural                                                                                     |

- Impact” (UC Davis)
- 1997 Invited Participant, “The Future of the Past: Classics in the Twenty-first Century,” University of California Humanities Research Institute
- 1994 Invited Participant, “Classics as a Discipline in the University of California,” at University of California Humanities Research Institute
- 1990 American Philological Association Ad Hoc Committee on the Program
- 1987-90 American Philological Association Program Committee
- 1987 Organized panel on “*Philia* in Greek Literature and Thought,” Annual Meeting of the American Philological Association
- 1986-88 American Philological Association Committee on the Status of Women and Minority Groups (Chairperson 1988)
- 1986 Organized conference on “Interpreting Plato” (UC Santa Cruz)  
Organized Seminar on Sophocles’ *Philoctetes*, Annual Meeting of The American Philological Association
- 1970 Revised for publication the English translation of J. Th. Kakridis, *Homer Revisited* (Lund, 1971)—see p. x.
- 1967-68 Assisted Prof. M. Dimen in a twelve-month anthropological field study of a transhumant Vlach community in Epirus, Greece

#### EDITORIAL AND ADVISORY BOARDS

- 2019- Advisory Board, Skenè Research Centre: Interdisciplinary Theatre and Drama Studies, University of Verona
- 2009- Advisory Board, *Classical Receptions Journal*, Oxford University Press
- 1990-2017 Comité de Lecture, *Gaia: Revue interdisciplinaire sur la Grèce archaïque*

#### SERVICE AS EXTERNAL EXAMINER

- Monash University, Sydney (M.A. thesis)
- Scuola Normale Superiore di Pisa (Tesi di Perfezionamento)
- University of California, Los Angeles (Ph.D. dissertation)
- University of Melbourne (Ph.D. dissertation)
- University of Toronto (Ph.D. dissertation)