

# SAMANTHA MASTERS

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## RESEARCH INTERESTS AND IMPACT

My research direction focuses specifically on African connections to the study of antiquity and issues of heritage and memory. I am one of the few scholars in my field who is focusing on the reception of antiquity and arguing for its continued (though reconfigured) relevance in our contemporary context. I am involved in research projects and teaching related to decolonisation and pedagogy; archaeology of the Mediterranean; the reception of antiquity in contemporary South African art and culture; heritage and collective memory; material culture and identities; Africa and the Classical tradition; and collections and collecting of antiquities in South Africa.

The following projects are under way:

- 1. Edited book: 'Africa, Greece, Rome: Decolonising Classics' (forthcoming June 2021, African Minds and University of Liverpool Press)**

An edited volume I am co-editing with G. Parker (Stanford) and I. Nzungu (Stellenbosch). I am also a contributor of a chapter: 'Rethinking the commemorative landscape in South Africa after The Fall: A pedagogical case study'

**Book: 'Reflections and refractions: The classical reception in contemporary South African sculpture'**

A book project focusing on the reception of classics in South African sculpture through the work of three contemporary artists: Wim Botha, Nandipha Mnthambo and Charlayn von Solms

- 2. Classical Reception Studies Blog – African takeover Jan-July 2021**

I am leading this takeover of the well-known and international Classical Reception Studies Blog. This blog allows scholars and students on the African continent to network internationally and showcase how the ancient world is being made relevant in these various local contexts.

- 3. Databases**

*South African Classical Antiquities (SACA) database project*

*Classical scholars in Africa directory*

## ACADEMIC CAREER

Stellenbosch University	2012-current
Lecturer in the Department of Ancient Studies Co-ordinator of Postgraduate Studies	
Junior lecturer	2012
Stellenbosch University	2007- 2012
Lecturer in the Department of Ancient Studies (contract position)	
University of Cape Town	2003-2006
Lecturer in the School of Languages and Literatures, Classics Section (contract position)	
University of Natal, Durban	1999
Lecturer in the Department of Classics (contract position)	

## EDUCATION

PhD (Classics), University of Exeter	2009-2012
Dissertation: 'Iconography and emotional vocabulary: the abduction and recovery of Helen in Attic pottery c. 550-350 BCE' Supervisor: Prof. B. E. Borg	
Master of Arts (Classics), University of Natal, Durban	1994-1996
Thesis: 'The Painter of the Vatican Mourner: the extant corpus' Supervisor: Prof. E. A. Mackay Degree awarded <i>cum laude</i>	
Bachelor of Arts, Honours, University of Natal, Durban	1993
Degree awarded <i>cum laude</i>	
Bachelor of Arts, University of Natal, Durban	1990-1992
Majors: Greek, English, Classical Civilisation and Legal Studies	
Matriculation with exemption, Holy Family Convent Durban	1989

## RESEARCH OUTPUT

### Scholarly publications

1. Masters, S., Nzungu, I, & G. R. Parker (eds) (forthcoming). *Africa, Greece, Rome: Decolonising Classics*. Cape Town: African Minds and Liverpool University Press
2. Masters, S. (forthcoming) 'All Rhodes lead to Rome?: Re-thinking the commemorative landscape in South Africa after The Fall'. In Masters, S., Nzungu, I and G. R. Parker (eds) *Africa, Greece, Rome: Decolonising Classics*. Cape Town: African Minds
3. Masters, S. (in press) 'A woman in danger or a dangerous woman? "Helen" on archaic Attic vases'. In Lang-Auinger, C. & Trinkl, E. *Greek vases as medium of communication, Corpus Vasorum Antiquorum Österreich, Beiheft 3*. Vienna: Austrian Academy of Sciences Press
4. Masters, S. 2018. 'Museum space and displacement: collecting classical antiquities in South Africa'. In Parker, G. (ed.) *South Africa, Greece and Rome: Classical confrontations*. Cambridge, et al.: Cambridge University Press
5. Masters, S. & A. Andrason. 2017. '(Un)Identifying Helen and Paris in late fifth century BCE Athenian vase-painting: How context is crucial'. In Rodríguez Perez, D. *Greek Art in Context. Current Approaches to Archaeological and Art Historical Research*. London: Routledge
6. Masters S. & T. Welman. 2015. 'Disrupting context: Making a case for the digital curation of classical antiquities in South Africa'. *Akroterion* 60: 83-99
7. Masters S. 2009. 'Light, space and affluent taste: a study of the ancient Pompeian house and its decoration'. *Akroterion* 54: 141-157
8. Masters S. 2008. 'In the Museum: Containing Antiquity – an exhibition in the Sasol Art Museum, Stellenbosch'. *Akroterion* 53: 99-109
9. Masters, S. & J. L. Hilton 2006. 'Politics and Law', in Dominik, W. J. (ed.), *Words & Ideas*. Wauconda: Bolchazy-Carducci pp. 145-168
10. Mackay, E.A., Harris, D. & S. Masters. 1998. 'The Bystander at the ringside: ring composition in early Greek epic poetry and Athenian black-figure vase painting' in Mackay, E. A. (ed.) *The oral tradition and its influence in the Greek and Roman world* Leiden: Brill
11. Masters, S. 1994. 'Is Aristophanes a feminist?' In *Scholia: Natal Studies in Classical Antiquity*, 3:159-169

## Conference papers and symposia

1. 'Neither Here Nor There: A Collection of Greek Terracottas in the Storerooms of the Iziko Museums of South Africa'  
Paper presented at the Australasian Classical Association conference,  
University of Sydney 11 February 2021
2. 'From Greece and Rome to South Africa: Wim Botha and Classical Statuary'  
Paper presented at Eranos Vindobonensis lecture series hosted by  
The Institut für Klassische Archäologie, University of Vienna 14 January 2021
3. 'Reading Wim Botha's *Dead Laocoön* in South Africa'  
Conference paper presented at the Australasian Classical Association conference,  
University of Otago, Dunedin 27-30 January 2020
4. '(Dead) Laocoön in South Africa'  
Paper presented at the Classical Association of South Africa Conference, Stellenbosch  
7-10 November 2019
5. '*Damnatio memoriae* and metamorphosis: A discussion of heritage in the new South Africa'  
Paper presented at 'Metamorphosis: classical reflections on a changing South Africa',  
Corpus Christi College, Oxford 21-22 June 2018
6. 'Collections of classical antiquities in the museums of South Africa'  
Paper presented at Classical Association of South Africa Conference, Centurion  
26-28 October 2017
7. 'A woman in danger or a dangerous woman? "Helen" on Archaic Attic vases'  
Paper presented at the Symposion "Greek Vases as medium of Communication",  
University of Vienna 5-8 October 2017
8. 'The hand and supplicatory gestures on Attic vases'  
Paper presented at Ancient Studies Oberseminar, Stellenbosch 29 August 2017
9. 'From narratives to subtexts: The 'problem' of Helen's abduction and recovery in Attic black-figure vase-painting'  
Paper presented at the Australasian Classical Association conference, University of  
Wellington, New Zealand 31 January-3 February 2017
10. 'Sculptural assemblage and Homeric poetry: Charlayn von Solms' *A Catalogue of Shapes*'  
Paper presented at the Australasian Classical Association conference, University of  
Melbourne, Australia 1-5 February 2016
11. 'Disrupting context: making a case for the digital curation of classical antiquities in South Africa'

- Paper co-written with T. Welman, presented at Archaeological Colloquium at Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität, München, Germany 11 May 2015
12. 'Pottery: a global common denominator'  
Paper co-written with T. Welman, presented at the South African Museums Association conference, East London 6 November 2014
  13. '(Un)Identifying Helen and Paris in late fifth century BCE Athenian vase-painting: how context is crucial'  
Paper co-written with A. Andrason, presented at the Greek Art in Context Conference, University of Edinburgh, United Kingdom 7-9 April 2014
  14. 'The collection and reception of classical antiquities in South Africa: a case study'  
Paper presented at Ancient Studies Oberseminar, Stellenbosch 22 October 2013
  15. 'Classical antiquities in South Africa'  
Paper co-presented with S. Graham at the Postgraduate Colloquium, Department of Ancient Studies, Stellenbosch 3 September 2013
  16. 'Embellished cups and honey-sweet speech: The art of the ancient Greek symposium'  
Paper presented at Ancient Wine Mini-symposium, Department of Viticulture and Oenology (DVO) and the Institute for Wine Biotechnology (IWBT), Stellenbosch University 13 November 2012
  17. 'Helen and Paris in late fifth century BCE Athenian vase-painting: "the happy couple" or a case of mistaken identity?'  
Paper presented at Unisa Colloquium on Ancient Routes to Happiness, Pretoria 25-27 October 2012
  18. 'Greek vases and world view: A reinvestigation of Helen and Paris scenes in the 5<sup>th</sup> C BCE'  
Paper presented at the Humboldt Kolleg, 'World View and Way of Life in the Ancient World', Stellenbosch Institute for Advanced Study (STIAS) 10-12 September 2012
  19. '*Peri Aphrodision*: women, love and marriage in ancient Athens'  
Paper presented at Ancient Studies Oberseminar, Stellenbosch 27 October 2009
  20. 'Seeing eye to eye: iconography and emotion on recovery of Helen scenes in vase painting'  
Conference paper presented at Classical Association of South Africa Conference, University of Pretoria 29 June-2 July 2009
  21. 'The abduction and recovery of Helen: Iconography and emotional vocabulary in Attic vase painting'  
Paper presented at Ancient Studies Oberseminar, Stellenbosch

17 November 2008

22. 'Against an attribution: Malibu 72.AE.5'  
Conference paper presented at Classical Association of South Africa Conference,  
University of Cape Town 2-5 July 2007
23. 'Interpreting the bystander on vases attributed to the Painter of the Vatican Mourner'  
Conference paper delivered at Epos and Logos, University of Natal 1-5 July 1996

Postgraduate supervision (completed)

PhD

1. Welman, T. 2019. PhD. 'Orphan artefacts: investigating the place of classical objects in the Iziko collection, Cape Town'

Masters

2. du Preez, J. 2019. MA. 'From sacrifice to rape and violence: the portrayal of the rape of Cassandra in Attic vase-painting, c.575-375 BCE'
3. Sanders, M. 2018. MA *cum laude* (co-supervision with A. de Villers). 'Childhood companions: A study of the relationships between ancient Athenian children and their pets through classical red-figure vase paintings'
4. Robertson, E. 2017. MA *cum laude*. 'Growing up Greek: The differing journeys through childhood in ancient Athens and Sparta'
5. Martin, A. 2016. MA *cum laude*. 'Never simply nudity: A study of the functions of the nude female figure in Classical Athenian vase-painting c. 480-420 BCE'
6. Xiaoyi Zhu, M. 2015. MA (co-supervision with A. Kotze). 'Orestes' matricide. The transformation of Orestes' role from the *Oresteia* to *The Flies*'
7. Graham, S. 2015. MA *cum laude*. 'Collections of Classical antiquities in Durban, South Africa'
8. Moodie, M. 2013. MA *cum laude*. 'Drawing the divide: The nature of Athenian identity as reflected in the depiction of the 'other' in Attic red-figure vase painting in the fifth century BCE'
9. Welman, T. 2013. MA 'The feminine Other in Euripides' *Hecuba*: exploring tensions in the masculine classical polis'

## Postgraduate supervision (current)

### PhD

1. Van der Merwe, C. 'Revisionist mythmaking and pedagogy: making a case for transformed and transformative 'classics' in the classroom'
2. Chippendale, S. 'The use and meaning of garlands and wreaths in Ancient Roman art between 200 BC and 79 AD'

### Masters

1. Almendro, M. 'Revisiting the Tomb of the Diver from Paestum'
2. Lucas, B. 'The iconography of Serapis' (co-supervision with I. Cornelius)
3. van den Brink, J. "'Globalization" at Akrotiri? Investigating the material culture of Thera'
4. Nefdt, J. 'Nike in classical Greek vase-painting'
5. MacDonald, B. 'Vanth: an iconographical study'

## **AWARDS AND RECOGNITION**

1. Africa-Oxford grant, Latin literacy project (with Dr Arlene Holmes-Henderson, Oxford University) 2018-2020
2. Mellon Academic Staff Development Programme Award 2014
3. NRF Thuthuka grant: Reception of antiquities in South Africa (post-PhD track) 2013-2015
4. NRF Prestige Scholarship for PhD (Exeter) 2009-2011
5. Vogel Scholarship for research abroad 2008
6. Centre for Science Development (CSD) Scholarship (MA) 1994-1996
7. University of Natal Graduate Assistantship Scholarship 1994-1996
8. University of Natal Postgraduate Scholarship for academic excellence 1996
9. Whitely Prize for best student in Greek, UKZN 1993

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| 10. Centre for Science Development (CSD) Scholarship (Honour | 1993      |
| 11. Emma Smith Postgraduate Scholarship (Honours)            | 1993      |
| 12. Deans merit list (undergraduate)                         | 1990-1992 |

## COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND PUBLIC PLATFORMS

### Public lectures

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| 1. 'Ancient Greek sculpture and its afterlife: from Michelangelo to Wim Botha'<br>Inaugural lecture, Decorative Arts Society, Johannesburg                       | 10 February 2020 |
| 2. 'All Rhodes lead to Rome?: Re-thinking the commemorative landscape in South Africa after The Fall'<br>Annual Living Antiquity lecture, STIAS                  | 11 October 2018  |
| 3. 'South Africa, Greece, Rome: Classical confrontations'<br>Panel discussion at the Stellenbosch Woordfees  | March 2018       |
| 4. 'Breakfast with Aristarchus: Dining and drinking in classical antiquity'<br>Lecture to the Helderberg Sunrise Rotary Club                                     | November 2017    |
| 5. 'Ancient Classical women'<br>Five-lecture series at the University of Cape Town Summer School   | January 2016     |
| 6. "'Be of good cheer and drink well!" The principles, practices and utensils of ancient Greek drinking'<br>Lecture to the Decorative Arts Society, Johannesburg | November 2016    |
| 7. 'Pottery and poetry of the Ancient Greek symposium'<br>Lecture to the Friends of the Iziko South African Museum   | March 2016       |
| 8. 'The collection of classical antiquities at Iziko Museums of South Africa'<br>Lecture to the Antiques and Heritage Society of South Africa                    | November 2015    |
| 9. 'Classical antiquities in Africa: the Cape Town connection'<br>Lecture to the Cape Town Fine and Decorative Arts Society                                      | October 2014     |
| 10. 'The Villa Adriana at Tivoli and its gardens'<br>Lecture to the Helderberg Village Garden Society  | May 2014         |
| 11. 'Treasures of the Getty Villa'<br>Lecture to the Somerset West Decorative Arts Society   | August 2012      |



12. 'Collections and controversies: antiquities at the J. Paul Getty Museum'  
Lecture for the Classical Association of South Africa (CASA), W. Cape  
September 2012
13. 'Treasures of the Getty Villa'  
Lecture at Woordfees, Stellenbosch  
March 2012
14. 'Whose heritage? Revisiting the debate about the Elgin Marbles, antiquities and their repatriation'  
Lecture to the Cape Town Fine and Decorative Arts Society  
June 2011  
Lecture to the Johannesburg Decorative Arts Society  
July 2011
15. 'Dressing for success in ancient Athens'  
Lecture for University of Stellenbosch BASK BA Day  
May 2011
16. 'The Elgin Marbles: revisiting the controversy'  
Lecture to the Somerset West Decorative Arts Society  
September 2010
17. 'Light, space and affluent taste: a study of the ancient Pompeian house and its decoration'  
Lecture for the Classical Association of South Africa (CASA), W. Cape  
May 2009
18. 'In the shadow of Mount Vesuvius: Pompeian life and art'  
Lecture to the Johannesburg Decorative Arts Society  
May 2009
19. 'In the shadow of Mount Vesuvius'  
Five-lecture series at the University of Cape Town Summer School  
January 2008
20. 'The immortal Odysseus in art'  
Five-lecture series at the University of Cape Town Summer School  
January 2007
21. 'Whose temple is it anyway? A recent visit to the Temple of Aphaia on Aegina'  
Lecture for the Classical Association of South Africa (CASA), W. Cape  
October 2005
22. 'Art in the round: Reading between the scenes on Greek vases'  
Lecture for the Classical Association of South Africa (CASA), W. Cape  
October 2003
23. 'The Alexander Mosaic'  
Lecture for the Classical Association of South Africa (CASA), Natal  
October 1996

## ACADEMIC COMMUNITY ROLES AND MEMBERSHIPS

1. External examining for Rhodes University, Grahamstown School of Languages, Classics section 2020-current
2. Examiner of MA theses, University of Pretoria, UKZN 2015-current
3. Appointed as Iziko Museums of South Africa Research Associate 2020
4. Ancient Studies Department Ethics Committee 2020-current
5. Ancient Studies Department Latin Project Advisor 2019
6. Ancient Studies Department Steering Committee 2018
7. Stellenbosch University Academic Offering Committee  
*Vice-chair* 2016-2017  
*Member* 2013-2017
8. Ancient Studies Department Steering Committee 2016
9. Ancient Studies Department Transformation Committee 2015-2016
10. Ancient Studies Department Postgraduate Affairs Committee 2015-current
11. *Akroterion* Journal 2012-current  
*Editorial member and internal reviewer*
12. Subcommittee on Academic Offerings and Students with Special Learning Needs/Disabilities in the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences, Stellenbosch University (Academic Offering Committee)  
*Member* 2014
13. External examining for University of Cape Town School of Languages and Literatures, Classics section 2012-2017
14. Classical Association of South Africa, Western Cape  
*Chairperson* 2006-2009; 2012-2013  
*Member* 2004-current
15. Collaboration in the exhibition 'Containing Antiquity' at the Sasol Art Museum, Stellenbosch (with Iziko Museums of Cape Town) 2008-2011
16. Assistant curator of the UKZN Museum of Classical Antiquities 1994-1996

## POSTGRADUATE DEVELOPMENT

Postgraduate online workshops (Microsoft TEAMS) at Stellenbosch University

1. FASS: Methods and Skills Workshop for Text-Based Graduate Research  
Sources and critical thinking April 2021
2. Proposal writing for postgraduate students 2020
3. The Literature Review 2020
4. Research Skills: Finding and Using Sources 2020
5. Introductions and Conclusions 2020

Postgraduate in-person workshops

1. Honours Introduction to Research Workshop 1-5 February 2021
2. MA workshop: How to Write a Literature Review February 2020
3. Material Culture and Archaeological Tools and Methods 13-14 September 2019  
School of Philosophy, Classics and Religion, University of KwaZulu-Natal, Durban
4. Methodology for Literary Research 10-14 June 2019  
Five-day course for PhD students, Stellenbosch  
Co-presented with Amanda Lourens and Johanna Steyn
5. Theoretical Approaches to Visual and Material Culture November 2018
6. MA proposal writing workshop November 2017

## TEACHING

Postgraduate

Honours (4<sup>th</sup> year)

Research skills and methods  
Theoretical approaches to visual culture  
The body and bodies of evidence  
Women in antiquity  
Ancient Greek and Roman childhood

Undergraduate

Ancient Cultures teaching (1st year)

Introduction to ancient Greece and Rome  
Classical Legal Culture

Etymology courses	Words and Ideas Skills and Concepts (medical etymology course) Word power
Language (Greek)	JACT course
Ancient Cultures teaching (2nd/3rd year)	Greek and Roman art and material remains Greek and Roman epic Greek and Roman drama Hellenistic art and literature Greek language and literature Homeric society and literature Roman satire Roman drama Greek and Roman mythology Classical reception in literature Contemporary art and visual culture Texts in context Pompeian art African literature and the Classical tradition Roman politics, law and oratory Greek and Roman mythology

## **PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT**

1. The Question of Doctorateness workshop 5-6 February 2015  
presented by Prof. V. Trafford and Prof. S. Leshem, at Devon Valley conference venue, Stellenbosch
2. Postgraduate supervision workshop 14-16 August 2013  
Prof. E. Bitzer, Dr R. Albertyn and Dr L. Frick of the Centre for Higher and Adult Education, Stellenbosch University, at Devon Valley conference venue, Stellenbosch

## **INTERNATIONAL RESEARCH VISITS/TOURS**

1. Student tour to Greece (30 students) 7-19 June 2018  
Organiser and leader of the Stellenbosch University Ancient Studies study tour to Greece visiting sites and museums of Attica and the Peloponnese
2. Student study tour to Germany (12 students) June 2013  
Organiser and leader of DAAD and Stellenbosch University funded academic museum tour visiting Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität München, Eberhard Karls Universität Tübingen, and various museum and cultural sites in Munich, Tübingen and Berlin.

3. Institut für Klassische Archäologie, Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität München  
Research visit May 2015
4. Getty Research Institute, Getty Villa, Malibu, California  
Research visit May 2011
5. Institut für Klassische Archäologie, Ruprecht-Karls-Universität, Heidelberg  
Research visit, archive work July 2010
6. Institut für Klassische Archäologie, Ruprecht-Karls-Universität, Heidelberg  
Research visit, archive work July 2009

## REFERENCES

1. Prof. Annemaré Kotze  
Chair, Ancient Studies Department, Stellenbosch University  
Arts and Social Sciences Building, Ryneveld Street, Stellenbosch  
Email address: AK5@sun.ac.za
2. Prof. Barbara Borg  
Department of Classics, Exeter University, PhD supervisor  
Email address: B.E.Borg@exeter.ac.uk
3. Prof. Anne Mackay  
University of Auckland (previously of University of KwaZulu-Natal), MA supervisor  
Email address: anne.mackay@auckland.ac.nz
4. Prof. Rolf Schneider  
Institut für Klassische Archäologie, Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität München  
Email address: rms@ka.fak12.uni-muenchen.de
5. Prof. Grant Parker  
Department of Classics, Stanford University  
Email address: grparker@stanford.edu