

ADRIENNE MAYOR

Classics Department
Bldg 110, Main Quad
Stanford University

2030 Emerson St
Palo Alto CA 94301
650-387-8470
mayor@stanford.edu

<https://web.stanford.edu/dept/HPS/Mayor.html>

Research scholar, Department of Classics and History and Philosophy of Science Program, Stanford University, 2006--

Education

University of Minnesota BA 1971
Montana State University Honorary Doctorate 2007

Books

Flying Snakes and Griffin Claws, and Other Classical Myths, Historical Oddities, and Scientific Curiosities. Princeton University Press, 2022

Greek Fire, Poison Arrows & Scorpion Bombs: Unconventional Warfare in the Ancient World, updated and revised edition, Princeton University Press, 2022

- Spanish, Japanese, Polish, Chinese, Turkish, Greek, Chinese translations
- featured in History Channel “Ancient WMDs”; *National Geographic* “12 Poison Tales,” 2005

Les Temps des Amazones: Entre Myth et Realite. Illustrated large format book. Editions Quai des Brunes, Paris, 2022

Gods and Robots: Myths, Machines, and Ancient Dreams of Technology. Princeton University Press, 2018, audiobook 2019, paperback 2020

- Chinese, Korean, German, Spanish, Turkish, Arabic translations
- TED-Ed animation, "Talos, the Robot of Greek Myth"
- 1 of 4 finalists, Association of American Publishers 2019 PROSE Awards
- 1 of BookAuthority's 3 Best New Robotics Audiobooks in 2019
- 1 of 5 finalists, Mythopoetic Society 2021

The Amazons: Lives and Legends of Warrior Women across the Ancient World. Princeton University Press, 2014, paperback and audiobook 2015

- French, Italian, Spanish, German, Chinese translations
- Disney FreeForm TV series option, 2021
- Finalist 2018 L'Academie Pegase Prix
- Sarasvati Award, Best Nonfiction Book in Women and Mythology, Association for the Study of Women & Mythology, 2016
- *New York Times Book Review*, “The Year in Reading” 2016
- Shortlisted for the 2014 London Hellenic Prize
- *Foreign Affairs*’ Best Military, Scientific, and Technological Books of 2015
- *American Scientist*’s Science Book Gift Guide 2014
- Silver Medal, World History, Independent Book Publisher Awards
- Smithsonian-Urban Canyons TV documentary-dramatization, March 2018
- Ted-Ed animation, "Were Amazons Real?"

The Poison King: The Life and Legend of Mithradates, Rome’s Deadliest Enemy. Princeton University Press, 2009, paperback and audiobook 2011

- Italian, German, Spanish, Turkish, Russian, Chinese translations
- Finalist, National Book Award, nonfiction
- *Washington Post* Best Books of 2009
- Gold Medal, Biography, Independent Book Publisher Awards, 2010

Fossil Legends of the First Americans. Princeton University Press, 2005, paperback 2007

- featured in History Channel “Quest for Dragons” and “Monster Quest”; *National Geographic* “Water Monsters,” 2006

The First Fossil Hunters: Paleontology in Greek and Roman Times. Princeton University Press, 2000, paperback 2001, 2nd ed with new Introduction, 2011, audiobook 2020

- Spanish, Greek, Korean, Hungarian, Chinese translations
- History Channel “Ancient Monster Hunters”; “Mythic Creatures” traveling exhibit, American Museum of Natural History, Field Museum, and many other venues, 2007-2020

Selected Publications

“Prometheus’ Toolbox,” *Lapham’s Quarterly*, March 2021: 193-200; translated to Portuguese for Brazilian magazine *Revista Dystopia*, 2021; audio version produced by Curio

“Labor IX: The Girdle of the Amazon Hippolyte,” chapter 11, in *Oxford Handbook of Heracles*, ed. Daniel Ogden. Oxford University Press, 2021, pp 124-34

“Did Amazons Roam Ancient Rome? Camilla in Virgil’s Aeneid,” *Antigone*, October 16, 2021

“Especially in the Use of Weapons: Plato and the Amazons,” *Antigone*, March 26, 2021

"Amazons." New entry, *Oxford Classical Dictionary*, digital ed. Oxford University Press, 2021

"Ancient Amazons and Archaeology," *National Geographic History*, May-June 2020

"Beyond Nature: Human Enhancements in Myth and History," *Noema*, July 2020

"The Real Amazons," *Storica, National Geographic*, Italy, Feb 2020

"Mythologie: les fières Amazones ont bel et bien existé," *National Geographic*, France, June 2020

"Ancient Automatons in Myth and History," *The Ancient Near East Today*, American Schools of Oriental Research, Chicago, March 2020

"Ancient Amazons, the Equals of Men," *Historia, National Geographic*, Spain, February 2020

"Amazons," *Encyclopedia of Ancient History*, Wiley 2020

"Amazons," *Herstory*, inaugural issue, Desperta Ferro, Spain, 2020

"What Do We Know about Ancient Amazons' Religion?" *Weekly Hubris*, March 2020

"Myths and Fossils in Ancient Italy," *Ligabue Magazine*, Venice, 2020

"Storytelling and Artificial Intelligence," in *After Shock: Future Shock at 50*, ed. John Schroeter (2020): 25-29

"Imagining the Captive Amazon in Myth, Art, and History," for *Imagination and Art*, ed. Keith Moser, Brill, 2020

"Heracles and Hippolyta and other Amazon Adventures," *Oxford Handbook of Heracles*, ed. Daniel Ogden (forthcoming OUP)

"Robots Guarded Buddha's Relics in a Legend from India," *The Conversation*, March 13, 2019, syndicated in international media

"Talos, the Bronze Robot of Greek Myth and His Amazing Afterlife," *Technica Curiosa*, March 23, 2019

"Pandora's Vox," *Foreign Policy*, July 4, 2019, Spanish translation *El Malpensante*
<https://foreignpolicy.com/2019/07/04/pandoras-vox-artificial-intelligence-ancient-greece/>

"The First Sex Robot" *Gizmodo*, Dec 9, 2018

"Uncanny Valley -- Classical Antiquity," Time.com, 2018
<https://time.com/5452383/uncanny-valley-ancient-greece/>

"Interest in Geological and Palaeontological Curiosities by Southern African Non-Western Societies," with Helm, Benoit et al., *Proceedings of the Geologists' Association* 130 (2019): 541-58

"Tyrants and Robots," *History Today*, Nov 2018

"An Artificial Intelligence Wake-Up Call from Ancient Greece," Project Syndicate, Oct 16, 2018, widely syndicated

"Amazons in all Shapes, Sizes, and Colors: What the *Wonder Woman* Movie Got Right," *Princeton University Press Blog*, June 13, 2017

"Dreams of Human Powered Flight: The Myth of Daedalus," in *Unravelling Ancient Myths and Legends*, www.Ancient-Origins.net, e-book 4, Feb 2017

"Amazons in Iranian Culture and Persian Literature," *Encyclopaedia Iranica*, 2017

"Replicants and Robots: What Can the Ancient Greeks Teach Us?" *Aeon*, May 16, 2016

"Warrior Women: The Archaeology of Amazons," chapter in *Women in Antiquity*, ed. Jean Turfa and Stephanie Budin (Routledge, 2016)

"Ancient Amazons: Warrior Women in Myth and History," *World Financial Review*, March 25, 2016

"Warrior Women: Myths and Reality of the Amazons," *Foreign Affairs*, May 6, 2015

"The Invention of Science: Review of Leroi's *The Lagoon: How Aristotle Invented Science*," *London Review of Books*, 2015

"When Alexander Met Thalestris," *History Today*, 2015

"Tracking a legend: An Early Cretaceous sauropod trackway from Zhaojue County, Sichuan Province, southwestern China," with Xing et al. *Ichnos* 22 (2015): 22-28

"Dinosaur tracks, myths and buildings: The Jin Ji (Golden Chicken) stones from Zizhou area, northern Shaanxi, China," with Xing et al. *Ichnos* 22 (2015): 224-32

"Making Sense of Nonsense Inscriptions Associated with Amazons and Scythians on Athenian Vases," co-authors J. Colarusso and D. Saunders. *Hesperia* 83.3 (September 2014)

"Where Wonder Woman Came From," *LA Times*, December 5, 2014

"Who Invented Trousers?" *Natural History* magazine, October 2014

"Alexander the Great: A Questionable Death." In *History of Toxicology: vol 1, Antiquity*, ed. P. Wexler. Academic Press, 2014

"The Folklore of Dinosaur Trackways in China: Impact on Paleontology," with Xing et al., *Ichnos* 18,4 (2012): 213-20

"Lianhua Baozhai (Lotus Mountain Fortress): Evidence of Co-existing Ancient Chinese and Dinosaur Tracks," with Xing and Chen Yu, *Geological Bulletin of China*, 2011

"Mithradates, Scourge of Rome," *History Today*, 2009

"Suppression of Indigenous Fossil Knowledge." 2008. In *Agnology: Making and Unmaking of Ignorance*, ed. R. Proctor and L. Schiebinger. Stanford University Press, 163-82

"Place Names Describing Fossils in Oral Traditions." 2007. In *Myth and Geology*, ed. B. Masse and L. Piccardi. London: Geological Society, 245-61

"The Folklore of Footprints in Stone: From Classical Antiquity to the Present." 2001. With W.A.S. Sarjeant. *Ichnos* 8, 1:143-63

"Killer Khilats: Legends of Poisoned Robes of Honour in India. Parts 1 & 2." 2001. With M. Maskiell. *Folklore* [London] 112:23-45, 163-82

"The 'Monster of Troy' Vase: The Earliest Artistic Record of a Vertebrate Fossil Discovery?" 2000. *Oxford Journal of Archaeology* 19, 1:57-63

"The Nessus Shirt in the New World: Smallpox Blankets in History and Legend." 1995. *Journal of American Folklore* 108:54-77.

Selected Honors, Residencies, Cultural Activities

"Talos Dreams," musical composition commissioned by Greek Chamber Music, based on my book *Gods and Robots*, premiere UCLA Berkeley, April 25, 2021
Earphones Award for audiobook *The Griffin and the Dinosaur*, Audiofile magazine, April 2021.

Berggruen Fellow, Center for Advanced Study in the Behavioral Sciences, 2018-2019
Judge, Nonfiction, National Book Awards, 2015

Getty Villa, Malibu, Guest Researcher, August-September 2010
 Finalist, Nonfiction, National Book Awards 2010
 Humanities Council Old Dominion Fellow, Princeton University, 2005-2006
 Residency, Ucross Foundation Writers Colony, Ucross, WY, Fall 2000
 PEN/Jerard Fund Award, finalist nonfiction essay, 1998
 Public lectures: Institute for Ethics in AI (Oxford), AlphabetX (Google Moonshot Div.)
 Everyday; Harvard Divinity School, Wellesley, UC Berkeley, Long Now's
 Interval San Francisco, Singapore Leaders in Science Forum, Getty Villa,
 Chicago Art Institute, American Museum of Natural History, Boston Museum of
 Fine Art, Houston Art Museum and Museum of Natural History, Dallas Art
 Museum, Smithsonian, Philadelphia Museum of Art and Archaeology, Google,
 Oxford University, NASA, Seattle Town Hall, 92nd St Y, among others
 Podcasts: Andreessen & Horowitz; Foreign Affairs; Sean Carroll; Guardian Digital
 Culture, History Hit, AI Element, numerous others
 Media interviews, NPR, BBC, Le Monde, Times of India, National Geographic,
 Smithsonian, among others
 Consultant for numerous film and TV documentaries, US, UK, and Europe
 Consulting for books and articles, *National Geographic*
 Consulting for museum exhibits, American Museum of Natural History, The Lost World
 of Dinosaurs, etc.
 Monthly contributor to the award-winning history of science website "Wonders and
 Marvels," 2011-2017