

Dr Alexander Skinner MA (Oxon), PhD, FRSA

Lecturer in Roman History

[Classics, Ancient History and Archaeology \(/schools/historycultures/departments/caha/index.aspx\)](/schools/historycultures/departments/caha/index.aspx)

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About

I am a specialist in the history of late antiquity. My academic background lies in the study of ancient and medieval history, across which I have taught broadly. My current research interests lie mainly in the social and political history of the later Roman Empire. I have a particular interest in the aristocracies of the age.

Qualifications

I received my undergraduate degree in Ancient and Modern History from the University of Oxford and my PhD in History from the University of London, where I studied at University College London.

Biography

As an undergraduate, I was a Scholar of Christ Church, Oxford. Subsequently, I was a Fulbright Scholar at Yale University, where I spent a golden year doing non-degree research. During roughly an eight-year career outside academic life, I completed my PhD in the University of London (studying at UCL) where I was also awarded the university's biennial Norman Hepburn Baynes Prize. I am a Fellow of the Royal Society of Arts and currently also an Honorary Research Fellow at Cardiff University. I joined the Department in 2013.

Teaching

I supervise third-year dissertations in ancient history. I am also module coordinator for a second- and third-year seminar course on 'Caesar and his World' and a first-year lecture course on 'Barbarians and the Transformation of the Roman World'. I co-teach MA students for 'Writing the History of Christianity' and 'Empire and Identity', as well as giving lectures for the second- and third-year option course on 'Late Antiquity'.

Research

Following doctoral research on the eastern senatorial aristocracy (based at Constantinople) in the fourth and fifth centuries AD, my research has widened both geographically and sociologically. I am now also carrying out research on western aristocracies and extending my trans-imperial interests to local aristocracies in the provinces. I am particularly interested in their social formation, their relations with imperial government and their relations with wider provincial society.

Other activities

I am currently the Department's library representative.

Publications

Papers in peer-reviewed journals

- 'Political Mobility in the Later Roman Empire', *Past and Present* 218 (Feb. 2013), 17-53. [<http://dx.doi.org/10.1093/pastj/gts044> (<http://dx.doi.org/10.1093/pastj/gts044>)]
- 'The Early Development of the Senate of Constantinople', *Byzantine and Modern Greek Studies* 32 (2008), 128-148. [<http://dx.doi.org/10.1179/174962508X322641> (<http://dx.doi.org/10.1179/174962508X322641>)]
- 'The Birth of a "Byzantine" Senatorial Perspective', *Arethusa* 33 (2000), 363-377. [<http://dx.doi.org/10.1353/are.2000.0024> (<http://dx.doi.org/10.1353/are.2000.0024>)]

Other

Short reviews in *Journal of Ecclesiastical History* and *Journal of Roman Studies*.