



Royal Holloway
University of London
Egham, Surrey
TW20 0EX

SCHOOLS AND OUTREACH ACTIVITIES

Department of Classics, Royal Holloway

The Classics department is keen to maintain and develop links with schools and colleges, both within the UK and overseas.

As part of our integrated outreach strategy we can offer schools and colleges in the UK:

- dedicated workshops and talks on your site
- opportunities to visit our department and the College with groups of pupils
- advice and guidance for teachers on teaching classical culture and ancient history
- Undergraduate Taster Day events for post-GCSE pupils
- the Royal Holloway Classical Society's annual Classics Day celebration
- contributions to College outreach events.

At your school

Workshops and talks for schools

As part of our commitment to schools, we are able to visit schools to give talks or lead workshops on a wide range of subjects.

Below you will find an introduction to the expertise and interests of our staff and a sample of what we have currently on offer. Please e-mail us if you have a specific request, as you will find that we are often able to offer talks tailored to your needs. Please note, however, that it is not always possible for us to be available on all preferred dates and times, so it is best to get in touch with us as far in advance as possible.

Also, please do not be disappointed if a member of staff happens to be absent on research leave: if your first choice of talk or lecturer is not available, we can often provide an equally interesting alternative.

For more information, please write directly to the member of staff offering a particular title or topic (e-mail addresses below) OR the Classics Department's Undergraduate Recruitment Lead, **Dr Siobhan Chomse** (siobhan.chomse@rhul.ac.uk).

Prof. Richard Alston

My research interests are within Roman history, particularly that of the Roman Empire. My last book was on Augustus and the fall of the Republic. My other work has focused on issues of cities, Egypt, the Roman army, cultural change, and how Romans saw themselves in relation to the Roman Empire. I like to find issues of contemporary relevance and interest, such as political power, gender, urbanism, and then see what we can learn from the Roman world about those issues. I have a number of standard talks I give to schools, but can talk on other topics in Roman history and culture by agreement.

Schools talks:

The Roman House (for year 4 onwards)

Cleopatra: A history of fantasy (year 8 onwards).

Pliny's Women (year 8 onwards).

Roman Civilization and its Discontents (year 8 onwards)

Topics around Roman imperial history by negotiation.

Dr Siobhan Chomse, siobhan.chomse@rhul.ac.uk

Dr Chomse teaches Latin language and literature at Royal Holloway. Her research focuses on early imperial Latin literature (especially Virgil, Lucan and Tacitus) and she is particularly interested in the idea of the sublime and the part it plays in shaping the way Romans thought and wrote about the world around them.

Dr Chomse is happy to give talks on Virgil's *Aeneid* and Roman epic more broadly, Tacitus' *Agricola*, *Historiae* and *Annals*, as well as other texts and topics concerning Latin literature.

Examples of some specific talks are as follows:

A cosmic creation: beginning the *Aeneid*

Sublime cities in Virgil's *Aeneid*

Tacitus' Tiberius: an emperor obscured

Out of the darkness and into the light: death and the self in Seneca's *Letters* (51, 53, 57)

Shakin' all over: earthquakes in the Roman imagination

The wild child of Roman epic: Lucan, on coming after Virgil

Dr Liz Gloyn, liz.gloyn@rhul.ac.uk (on research leave 2019-20)

Dr. Liz Gloyn's research and teaching looks at the intersections between Latin literature, ancient philosophy and social history. She is also interested in classical reception, particularly in popular culture.

Talk titles and topics:

Travels with Seneca: A cautionary tale (focusing on the A-level set texts)

Seneca: Philosopher, politician, playwright

How do you solve a problem like Ovid?

Women's lives in ancient Rome

Does having a beard make you a philosopher?

Thinking philosophically in the Roman world

The classical world in the films of Hollywood (requires Powerpoint & access to internet for video clips)

Hollywood and epic (requires Powerpoint & access to internet for video clips)

Depictions of Medusa on film (requires Powerpoint & access to internet for video clips)

Talks available by arrangement on the year's set GCSE and A-level Latin texts

Dr Richard Hawley, richard.hawley@rhul.ac.uk

Dr Richard Hawley teaches Greek language and literature at Royal Holloway, especially Greek literature of the Roman empire. He is also particularly interested in gender studies, Greco-Roman social history and ancient literary criticism.

Talk titles:

Why learn Ancient Languages?

The employability skills gained from a classical degree

Topics (exact title by arrangement):

Classical Greek and Roman concepts of gender

Women's life in ancient Greece/Rome

Greek Tragedy, especially women; also gods, chorus, stagecraft, etc.

Greek Comedy, especially women, audience, types of humour, etc.

The modern reception of ancient women in films, novels and poetry

Women in Greek literature (e.g. Homer)

Women in Latin literature (e.g. love poets, Livy)

The supernatural in Greek/Roman culture (e.g. literature, folklore, religion)

Dr Zena Kamash, zena.kamash@rhul.ac.uk

Dr Zena Kamash is a specialist in the Roman Middle East and Roman Britain. She works on a range of areas including religion, memory, food and the senses, ancient technology and, currently, on post-conflict reconstruction in the Middle East.

Topics for school talks include:

Roman religion in Britain and/or the Middle East

Roman food

Roman water supply and management in the Middle East

3D printing and its applications in archaeology

Dr Christos Kremmydas (on research leave 2018-2020)

Dr Christos Kremmydas teaches a range of courses in the areas of Classical Greek History, Greek Law, historiography and Rhetoric. He loves visiting schools to give talks about Classical topics (Alexander the Great is a firm favourite) and share his passion about the Classical world.

Talk titles:

Who killed Philip II of Macedon?

Alexander the Great and Athens

Alexander the Great and the question of his divinity
Bringing officials to account in Classical Athens
Athenian democracy and modern democracies

Dr Nick Lowe, n.lowe@rhul.ac.uk (on research leave 2019-20)

Dr Nick Lowe teaches and researches both Greek and Latin literature, especially comedy. He is also interested in Greek religion, amongst many other things.

Talk titles:

Making the New Hollywood Classics: Secrets, Lies, and Tales from Development Hell

The Rough Guide to Hades

Ancient Greece in Fiction

What Makes a Greek Tragedy

Write your Own Greek Tragedy

Stagecraft in *Medea* (or other plays by request)

Greek Tragedy: The Missing 98%

Tragedy and Cinema: Parallel Lives

Comedy from the Dionysia to the Apollo

The End of the *Odyssey*

The Shapes of Epic

The Writing of *Gladiator*

War Stories: The *Iliad* and the Plotting of Battle

The Rough Guide to Homer's Ithaca

Untold Homers: Retellings and Untellings Lost and Found

Staging the Epic: From Homer to Tragedy

Why the Greeks Didn't Invent the Bicycle

What happens in *Pseudolus* (or any other Roman comedy by request)

Greek Gods and Festivals

Other topics on Homer, tragedy, comedy by request

(Most of the above need a data projector, but some can manage without – contact Nick for details.)

Prof. Jari Pakkanen, j.pakkanen@rhul.ac.uk

Prof. Jari Pakkanen is an archaeologist specialising in Greek archaeology. He is particularly interested in architecture, archaeological reconstruction and quantitative methods in archaeology.

Talk titles:

Architectural orders in Ancient Greece

Digital Documentation and Reconstruction of Greek Architecture in Three Dimensions

Dr Erica Rowan, erica.rowan@rhul.ac.uk

Dr Rowan is a Roman archaeologist with a specialization in archaeobotany (ancient plant remains). She uses archaeobotanical remains in conjunction with literary and archaeological evidence to explore the way cultural tensions within Roman society were expressed, embedded, and resolved through the prevailing food culture. Dr Rowan teaches courses on Roman archaeology, Pompeii and Herculaneum and ancient foodways. Her research focuses on the formation and evolution of ancient cultural identities, routes of connectivity and economic developments through an examination of Roman foodways.

Talk titles:

Did they really eat dormice? An exploration of Roman diet

Eating and drinking in the ancient world

Introducing archaeobotany: Can we really learn anything from old seeds?

Introducing environmental archaeology: people, plants and animals

Life on the Bay of Naples

Health and nutrition in the Roman world

Farmers and scholars: How did the Romans feel about food?

Were the Romans foodies?

Prof. Lene Rubinstein

Prof. Lene Rubinstein is Professor of Ancient History in the Department of Classics at Royal Holloway, University of London. She specialises in ancient Greek democracy as well as alternative forms of government (including dictatorship and oligarchy), Greek social history, and Greek historiography. She also teaches rhetoric and is particularly interested in how the Greek and Roman legacy has influenced oratory in the modern western world. She is happy to give school talks on the following themes:

Athenian law and litigation

The Athenian family and the position of women

The Athenian way of death

The classical art of persuasion: from Demosthenes to Donald Trump

Direct democracy in the ancient Greek world

Dr Efi Spentzou, e.spentzou@rhul.ac.uk

Dr Efi Spentzou researches mainly on Roman epic and Latin love elegy. She has always been interested in the female voice in these male-authored texts as well as in broader issues around exile and belonging, interplay between genre and gender, creativity and inspiration and expressions of the (wayward) self in literature. More recently she has worked on the way Propertius in his poetry creates alternative spaces for individuals to engage with (or defy) monumental/Augustan space and culture. Her other on-going interest is on receptions of Classical Myth with work on modern variations of the Iliad and the Odyssey, and on feminist and other revisions of e.g. Helen of Troy, Penelope, and Eurydice.

The new Achilles: redefining the epic hero in the Aeneid

Aeneid 10: The return of the leader

Passions, Art and Roman Sensitivities in Catullus

Catullus from Verona: the poet, the soldier, the lover

Dream and Desire: Tibullus at a Crossroads

Propertius Unbound: A Latin lover at Rome

Love-games and power-games: Ovid and the Politics of Desire

Vengeful Gods and Suffering Mortals in Ovid's *Metamorphoses*

Discreet Subversion: female narrators in Ovid's *Metamorphoses*

Writing her/story: Ovid's heroines in distress

Meek maiden speaking from the dead: Eurydice in modern literature

From Troy to Hollywood: the Story of the Hero