

ALEXANDER GRANT SKINNER

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Profiles: [VCLA](#) [Academia](#) [ResearchGate](#) [LinkedIn](#) [Google Scholar](#)
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EDUCATION

- PhD in History, University of London (University College London), 2011.
Thesis: ‘The Senatorial Aristocracy of Constantinople from Constantine to Theodosius II’.
- Fulbright Scholar (non-degree research on late Roman history), Yale University, 1998–9.
- BA (Hons), Ancient and Modern History, University of Oxford, 1996.
First Class, Part 1, 1994 / First Class, Part 2, 1996; Scholar of Christ Church, 1994–6; MA, 2000.

CURRENT POSITIONS

2017–: Virtual Centre for Late Antiquity (‘VCLA’) —
◦ founding Member, Board of Directors, from 2017;
◦ inaugural Research Director & Executive Director, from 2018.

PREVIOUS POSITIONS

2011–20: Honorary Research Fellow, School of History, Archaeology & Religion, Cardiff Univ. —
Member, Centre for Late Antique Religion and Culture.

2013–15: Lecturer in Roman History, Department of Classics, Ancient History & Archaeology,
University of Birmingham:
◦ participated in UK Research Excellence Framework 2014;
◦ successfully completed two years’ academic probation.

2005–13: Non-academic career in charity, commerce and public sector.

1999–05: Various sessional teaching positions: Visiting Lecturer in History, Roehampton University
(2005); Associate Teacher in History, Royal Holloway College, University of London (2002–
5); Visiting Lecturer in History, St Mary’s University College (2002–3); Teaching Assistant,
then College Teacher, in History, University College London (2001–3); Teaching Fellow in
Classics, Yale University (1999).

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS & RECOGNITION

- Freeman, Worshipful Company of Educators, City of London, 2018 (resigned 2021).
- Associate Fellow, Higher Education Academy (AFHEA), 2014.
- Fellow, Royal Society of Arts (FRSA), 2012.
- Norman Hepburn Baynes Prize, University of London, 2004.

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RESEARCH: PUBLICATIONS & TRAVEL

PAPERS (RESEARCH & HISTORIOGRAPHY)

5. 'The World of Late Antiquity by Peter Brown and the Need for a New Sociology of Empire', *Ancient West and East* 24 (2025), 337–376.
4. 'Violence at Constantinople in AD341–342 and Themistius, *Oration 1*', *Journal of Roman Studies* 105 (2015), 234–249. [<http://dx.doi.org/10.1017/S0075435815000969>]
3. 'Political Mobility in the Later Roman Empire', *Past and Present* 218 (2013), 17–53. [<http://dx.doi.org/10.1093/pastj/gts044>]
2. 'The Early Development of the Senate of Constantinople', *Byzantine and Modern Greek Studies* 32 (2008), 128–148. [<http://dx.doi.org/10.1179/174962508X322641>]
1. 'The Birth of a "Byzantine" Senatorial Perspective', *Arethusa* 33 (2000), 363–377. [<http://dx.doi.org/10.1353/arc.2000.0024>]

REVIEW ARTICLES

1. 'The Needle's Eye: Wealth and Western Society from the Late Roman Empire to the Early Middle Ages', *Journal for Late Antique Religion and Culture* 8 (2014), 68–89. [<http://doi.org/10.18573/j.2014.10326>]

EPHEMERA

- 20 reviews (addressing 24 books) in 5 academic journals: *Ancient History Bulletin Online Reviews* (1); *Ancient West and East* (13); *Classical Review* (2); *Journal of Ecclesiastical History* (1); *Journal of Roman Studies* (3).
- >40 encyclopaedia entries totalling approx. 9,000 words in O. Nicholson (ed.), *The Oxford Dictionary of Late Antiquity* (Oxford, 2018).

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RESEARCH TRAVEL

Various locations (sites, museums, landscapes) with surviving material from Late Antiquity, in the following 26 countries:

- Eastern Mediterranean region: Cyprus, Israel, Lebanon, Syria, Turkey.
- Caucasus: Armenia, Georgia.
- Central & South-East Europe: Austria, Bulgaria, Croatia, Greece, Hungary, Kosovo, North Macedonia, Romania, Serbia, Slovenia.
- Western & Northern Europe: France, Italy, Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, Spain, UK.
- Rest of World: Morocco, USA.

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LEADERSHIP & SERVICE (SELECTIVE)

VIRTUAL CENTRE FOR LATE ANTIQUITY

- Research Director & Executive Director, from 2018:
 - executive lead on regulatory tasks in regard to Companies House, HMRC, Pensions Regulator;
 - executive lead on strategy and operations, including development and execution of Heritage Strategy; Academic Programme; policy development; banking, finance and insurance; resourcing; team-building.
- Board of Directors, from 2017:
 - statutory directorial duties under Companies Act 2006 and other legislation;
 - strategic planning of all activities;
 - development of good governance practices;
 - coordination on all of the above duties with other company officers and service providers.

PEER REVIEW

- *Journal of Roman Studies*, *Ancient West and East*.
- Reading Panellist, US-UK Fulbright Commission, 7 cohorts departing from 2013–19.

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TEACHING

- Guest MA seminars (one-offs) at —
 - Cardiff University;
 - University of Bucharest.
- Full-time equivalent of five years' university teaching to 2015:
 - two years' full-time load as Lecturer in Roman History at the University of Birmingham;
 - previously accrued about 750 hours' formal contact time plus consultations, principally taking lead roles (staff cover);
 - ranged over Greek, Roman, Late Ancient and Early Medieval history, and Historiography, with concentrations on Roman and Late Ancient history.
- Teaching has ranged from one-to-one dissertation supervision through to lecturing to over 100 students and managing up to three post-graduate teaching assistants concurrently.
- Experience in addition to specific course delivery includes:
 - participation in a major departmental curriculum review;
 - plagiarism interviewing;
 - participation in a range of quality assurance procedures for BA and MA examinations (e.g. reviewing draft coursework/examination questions; moderating/second-marking and liaising with first markers as necessary; external examiner liaison; exam boards).

POSTGRADUATE COURSES

- ‘Empire and Identity’ (co-delivery).
- ‘Writing the History of Christianity’ (co-delivery).
- ‘Church and Society’ (design and delivery of complete material covering Pliny to Charlemagne, as 50% of a longer course).

UNDERGRADUATE SUPERVISION

- final-year dissertations and intermediate long essays on Roman history.
- study tour groups planning 2-week visits to Italy.

PRINCIPAL UNDERGRADUATE COURSES

- ‘The Birth of Western Christendom, c.300-1215’ (design and delivery of complete material AD300–800 as 50% of a 2-term course).
- ‘Barbarians and the Transformation of the Roman World’ (convenor; some design).
- ‘Late Antiquity’ (40% design and delivery).
- ‘The Fall of the Western Roman Empire’ (designer and convenor).
- ‘Politics, Society and Religion in the Late Roman Empire’ (convenor).
- ‘The Christianization of the Roman World, from Constantine to Justinian’ (convenor).
- ‘The Roman Empire from Augustus to Theodosius’ (convenor).
- ‘The Romans and Their Past’ (designer and convenor).
- ‘Gods, Men and Power in the Ancient World’ (design and delivery of complete Roman material as 50% of a 2-term Greco-Roman course).
- ‘Caesar and his World’ (designer and convenor).
- ‘Alexander the Great’ (designer and convenor).

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