

Katherine East



Research Abstract

I joined the Royal Holloway Classics department in September 2009 to begin my AHRC funded doctoral thesis. I am being supervised by Professor Jonathan Powell, with additional support from Professor Justin Champion in the History department. I have come to Royal Holloway having completed my BA in Ancient and Modern History at St Hugh's College, Oxford (2005-2008) and my MLitt in Ancient History at the University of St Andrews (2008-2009). My research is combining my continued interest in both the late Roman Republic, in particular Cicero and his works, and more modern historical issues. I am working on a treatise written in 1712 by the English radical John Toland, entitled *Cicero Illustratus*; this work is a proposal by John Toland for a new edition of Cicero, and thus encompasses not only contemporary views of Cicero and his works but also a long history of Ciceronian scholarship from the early Renaissance in Italy through seventeenth century Dutch learning to the early eighteenth century in England. Toland's exposition of the state of Ciceronian thought in this work has provided an unanticipated degree of access to a vast resource of neglected erudition. It is my aim with this thesis to re-evaluate the state Ciceronian scholarship had reached by the early eighteenth century, utilising this unique treatise to its full capacity.