

## Claire Millington

### Statement

As a PhD candidate and mature student I'm keen to add to the breadth of perspectives on the WCC committee. I can commit professional skills and experience useful to sustaining women's contributions to, and positions within, an important academic discipline that seems increasingly to be required to justify and explain itself within and beyond academia.

It is through being engaging and inclusive that we will sustain classics, both in terms of what the discipline encompasses, and in influencing others' perceptions of it as worthy of interest. From my own example, I was a career-interrupted returner to education before discovering (thanks to the OU) that classics even existed as a discipline. Other than a couple of lessons on the Roman Army (soldiers-only), and a day trip to look at a local hypocausted 'villa', I received no classics education at all at school despite taking history to A-level, and being interested in history involving women (it is not by accident that women are central to my PhD research; I am looking at the households of a group of officers within the Roman army). This lack-of-classics at school is unhappily still common, and it explains my conviction that even more classics 'outreach' and teaching is necessary, as is greater visibility and support for women involved with the discipline. I also have a non-visible disability, which gives me an insight and interest into finding ways in which people's particular needs can be met.

The professional skills I offer come from around 12 years' experience working in press and communications, and public affairs, including seven years as a UK diplomat. These include working with media (national and local, print and broadcast, journals, and social); understanding the 'landscape' in which an organisation operates; and finding, persuading and convincing useful allies to give support.

To give examples of how this can be useful to the WCC, since starting my PhD I've:

- Set up an editathon to train women to edit Wikipedia and to improve the pages of women classicists on Wikipedia, engaging the support of Wikimedia, the ICS, and drawing on the expertise of a number of classicists. This editathon achieved coverage in the *New Statesman*.
- Secured publication in the *Sunday Times* of a letter with 133 academic signatories on including Classics Civ GCSE in the UK 'baccalaureate'.
- Increased the Roman Society's social media presence by seeking to ensure this reflects the breadth of Roman studies, e.g., taking part in Women's History Month and Museum Week on Twitter to show the diversity of women in antiquity and working in museums.
- Held an ex-officio role on the Roman Society's outreach committee.
- Joined the WCC as one of its founding members.
- Been organising an editathon for biographies of women classicists, again with Wikimedia support, taking place on 23 January at the ICS and via Skype (so please consider signing up!).

I thank you for considering my candidature, and hope very much to be elected.

## **Curriculum Vitae**

Second year PhD candidate at King's College, London. Researching the households of the Roman auxiliary commanders along the western and north Africa frontiers in the first to third centuries AD, using epigraphic and archaeological sources.

### Papers and posters

'Testing the stones: inscriptions as a source for the households of Roman auxiliary military commanders under the Principate' paper given at Married to the Military: Soldiers' Families in the Ancient World & Beyond conference at the Open University (November 2016)

'Inscriptions as evidence for the households of Roman auxiliary commanders in the western provinces during the first to third centuries AD' paper given at British Epigraphy Society Autumn Colloquium (November 2016)

'Auxiliary commanders' households on the western frontiers c.27 BC-AD 268' poster at the British Epigraphy Society Autumn Colloquium (November 2014)

'Not written in stone: what can epigraphy tell us about Roman auxiliary commanders' garrison households across the western provinces in the first three centuries AD?' paper given at the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill (September 2014)

### Employment history

Diplomat, Foreign and Commonwealth Office. Variety of roles including as press officer during crises, and managing bilateral relations. London and Rome (January 1999-November 2005)

Freelance journalism and short-contract public affairs work (December 2005-September 2008)

Communications officer, Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons. Proactive corporate communications (September 2008-July 2013)

### Committees

British Epigraphy Society (since November 2015)

Roman Society outreach committee (ex officio , since July 2015)

### Communications, volunteering and outreach

Social media work for the Roman Society. Increased Twitter following from 1,500 to almost 7,000 (since July 2015)

Instigated and ran the 'Women as Classical Scholars' Wikipedia editathon gaining the support of the Institute of Classical Studies and Wikimedia UK. Created or improved nine biographies and trained 10 women in editing Wikipedia (September 2014)

Vindolanda excavations, digging and finds processing (2012, 2013, and 2014)

Surveying and monitoring the rapidly eroding archaeology of the Thames foreshore at Greenwich as a volunteer with the Greenwich Foreshore Recording and Observation Group (FROG) as part of the Thames Discovery Programme (TDP). Also publicising and explaining the group's activities via local and national media (since 2012)

### Education

MA in Classical Studies, Open University. Merit. September 2012

BA (joint) Honours in Business Management with Performing Arts, Manchester University. Upper Second (2:1). July 1997.