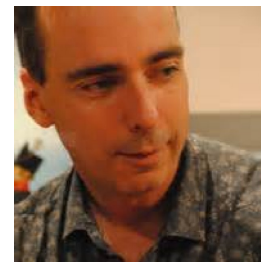


Ray Laurence
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Biography

Ray is a Professor of Ancient History. He joined Macquarie University in 2017. Previously, he worked in universities in the UK, where he was Professor of Roman History and Archaeology at the University of Kent.

He is an enthusiastic communicator of his research and has founded the start-up *Ancient Rome in Motion* to engage the wider public with his research.

Research Focus and Capabilities

Professor Ray Laurence is a Roman historian recognised for his research that has transformed his discipline to develop a better understanding of the lives of women, men and children living in cities under Roman rule (200 BCE to 300 CE).

He leads a research programme to understand the fragments of evidence, that survive from two millennia ago, to make sense of the significance of mobility and transport within the context of early empires.

Ray is also contributing to the understanding of the time-depth of the contemporary concepts of age and ageing. Many of which have their point of origin over 2000 years ago.

Research Goals

Identify and develop applications of his research beyond the higher education sector.

Obtain research funding to support effective research engagement.

Train and build research teams in Roman history and archaeology.

Connect research findings to the curricula in high schools and universities.

Research Impact

Ray has over ten years' experience making animated films about the Roman world. His films have had more than 20 million views on YouTube. These films have been used by educators across the world, in primary schools in the UK, in high schools in North and South America, as well as in Australia.

Ray set up Ancient Rome in Motion (ARM) – a start-up – in 2022 to create films relevant to the teaching of the HSC syllabus in Ancient History in New South Wales to provide teachers with the tools to make lessons more exciting for the 6,600 students who each year face the challenge of studying this subject.

Key Projects

Urban space and urban living in the Roman empire

Transport and mobility in the Roman world

Perceptions of human ageing in antiquity

Understanding the past in the present

Abilities

Management and mentoring of researchers in the higher education sector

Supervision of graduate research students (Masters and PhD)

Writing and editing content from animation scripts to authored books

Development of engaging content for high school and university students

Collaboration with creative industry professionals

Contact

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LINK TO ACADEMIC HOMEPAGE: <https://researchers.mq.edu.au/en/persons/ray-laurence>

Research outputs

Ageing and Death

Laurence, R., 2027, (Accepted/In press) *Oxford handbook of everyday life in the Roman world*. Cooper, K. & Platts, H. (eds.). Oxford University Press

The City of Rome

Laurence, R., 2026, In: *The Classical Review*. 76, 1, p. 257-259 3 p.

The New Bachelor of History Degree at Macquarie University

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Animating antiquity for HSC students: Pompeii and beyond

Laurence, R. & Park, A., Jun 2025, In: *Teaching History: Journal of the History Teacher's Association of NSW*. 59, 2, p. 37-40 4 p.

Gladiator II (2024): an historian's view

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Inside the 'Lost City' of Pompeii: an historian's review of the NMA exhibition

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A Cultural History of Transport and Mobility in the Ancient World

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Introduction

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J. J. Pollitt and Susan B. Matheson, *Old Age in Greek and Roman Art*. New Haven: Yale University Art Gallery, 2022.

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Sulla redefines time

Laurence, R., Apr 2024, In: *The Classical Review*. 74, 1, p. 188-190 3 p.

Fabio Guidetti, *Veicoli cerimoniali nell'antica Roma. Contributo a una storia sociale dello spazio urbano*

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The world of goods

Laurence, R., 2024, *A cultural history of leisure in antiquity*. Toner, J. (ed.). London ; New York ; Dublin: Bloomsbury Academic, p. 141-162 22 p. (A Cultural History of Leisure; vol. 1)(Cultural History Series).

'Souvenirs' in Ancient Rome

Laurence, R., Oct 2023, In: *The Classical Review*. 73, 2, p. 654-656 3 p.

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Mediterranean timescapes: chronological age and cultural practice in the Roman empire

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A cultural history of shopping in antiquity

Harlow, M. (Editor) & Laurence, R. (Editor), 2022, London ; New York ; Dublin: Bloomsbury Academic. 234 p. (A Cultural History of Shopping; vol. 1)

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Introduction: shops and shopping in antiquity

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Saúde e curso da vida em Herculano e Pompeia

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Trajan's Forum (Hemicycle) and the Via Biberatica (Trajan's Markets): an HHPXRF study of the provenance of lava paving in Ancient Rome (Italy)

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A father's advice – Cicero *De Officiis* (On Duties)

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A day in the life of a Roman client

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The sounds of the city: from noise to silence in ancient Rome

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Ancient Rome: mobility in Europe's first metropolis

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Towards a history of mobility in Ancient Rome (300 BCE to 100 CE)

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Turismo e *Romanità*: uma nova visão de Pompeia (1924-1942)

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Prizes

Faculty of Arts Learning & Teaching Educational Leader Award: Pioneering AI-Enhanced Learning Across Multiple Disciplines in the Faculty of Arts

Ballsun-Stanton, B. (Recipient), Cam, G. (Recipient), Garde, U. (Recipient), Hawker, G. (Recipient), Head, A. (Recipient), Hurley, V. (Recipient), Khalid, M. (Recipient), Laurence, R. (Recipient), Revink, T. (Recipient), Stolfi, F. (Recipient) & Willis, S. (Recipient), 4 Dec 2024

Longman-History Today Next Generation Prize

Laurence, R. (Recipient) & Butterworth, A. (Recipient), 2006

MQ Incubator Research Impact Course Prize (\$20,000)

Laurence, R. (Recipient), 26 Oct 2022

Routledge Ancient History Prize

Laurence, R. (Recipient), 1994

Teaching Prize

Laurence, R. (Recipient), 2015

Vice Chancellor's Awards for Excellence in Education

Ballsun-Stanton, B. (Recipient), Torrington, J. (Recipient), Daft, S. (Recipient), Head, A. (Recipient), Khalid, M. (Recipient), Laurence, R. (Recipient), Wang, H.-C. (Recipient) & Revink, T. (Recipient), 2 Dec 2025

Press/Media

A 2,000-year-old building site reveals the raw ingredients for ancient Roman self-healing concrete

Laurence, R.

10/12/25

1 Media contribution

Ancient History Exam Confusion in Queensland - ABC RN Breakfast

Laurence, R.

29/10/25

1 Media contribution

A New Map Just Added 60,000 Miles to Ancient Rome's Roadways

Laurence, R.

6/11/25

1 Media contribution

Building Eternity

Laurence, R.

6/08/21

1 Media contribution

Dido & Aeneas, an opera and circus in one: a review

Laurence, R.

21/03/25

1 Media contribution

Discovery of a Chariot in Pompeii

Laurence, R.

3/03/21

1 Media contribution

Gladiator II

Laurence, R.

16/11/24

1 Media contribution

Gladiator II - 50 minute audio interview

Laurence, R.

16/11/24

2 Media contributions

Gladiator II: How historically accurate is it?

Laurence, R.

14/11/24

1 item of Media coverage

History Lessons

Laurence, R.

13/12/24

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Hot Wired for History

Laurence, R.

22/10/25

1 Media contribution

Italian government approves plans to build new floor in the Colosseum

Laurence, R.

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Ithaca Bound Podcast episode: Ancient Pompeii

Laurence, R. & Schiestel, A.

21/07/21

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Julius Caesar and Augustus Caesar confusion in Queensland Year 12 Exams

Laurence, R.

29/10/25

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Pompeii inside the ancient city

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3/02/25

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Pompeii snack-bar contents to give historians look into 'classic, everyday experience'

Laurence, R.

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Research Assessment: Mapping the Differences

Laurence, R.

11/10/18

1 Media contribution

Skeleton from Roman gladiator cemetery was mauled by a lion or other big cat, archaeologists suggest

Laurence, R.

24/04/25

1 Media contribution

Special Episode - Pompeii - with Professor Ray Laurence

Laurence, R., Radford, F. & Greenfield, P.

19/08/21

1 Media contribution

St Valentine's Day - Historical Origins

Laurence, R.

14/02/25

1 Media contribution

St Valentine's Day - Saturday Breakfast - ABC Melbourne

Laurence, R.

14/02/26

1 Media contribution

Talking Point: Life in Ancient Rome

Laurence, R.

24/04/21

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The Best Books on the Archaeology of Roman Italy

Laurence, R.

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The Roman empire built 300,000 kilometres of roads: new study

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Tourist footfall, tyre dust and leaded petrol

Laurence, R.

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Tutkijat löysivät 90000 kilometriä uusia roomalais-teitä

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What you'll discover at the new Pompeii exhibition: review

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9/01/25

1 Media contribution

When in Rome do as the Romans do? Cosplaying in the Colosseum

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18/11/24

1 Media contribution

Why you should ditch Pompeii and head to this ancient Roman town instead

Laurence, R.

29/01/26

1 Media contribution

Impacts

Animated Antiquity: Pompeii and NSW Schools Curriculum

Laurence, R. (Participant)

Using the Roman Family to Enhance the Value of Roman Culture in the Present

Laurence, R. (Participant)