

**PhD Studentship, University of York (3 years, from September 2013; AHRC-funded)
(ref: PhD1)**

This cross-disciplinary project will create an intellectual map of the library of Thomas Browne by tracing the relationships between his books, and re-establish the often-neglected relationship between them and Browne's great encyclopaedic work *Pseudodoxia Epidemica* (1646). Mapping his library onto his own work, a detailed case-study will emerge of at least one of his book-clusters (in, e.g., medicine, natural philosophy, travel literature, biblical scholarship, or patristics).

The student will be encouraged to develop the research questions and organisation of the project; these might include Renaissance classical reception; the material reconstruction of the past within libraries; taxonomies of library arrangement; the conceptualisation of early-modern reading through *Pseudodoxia*'s intriguing relationship with unreliable or mistaken sources; and the distributions of knowledge that inhere in the structures of libraries and catalogues. How are clusters within Browne's library related to his encyclopaedic frameworks, or to his own social, cultural and political milieu? What can the library teach us about the acquisition and organisation of knowledge in the period?

The student will be based at the University of York in the Department of English and Related Literature, under the supervision of Dr Kevin Killeen (co-editor of *Pseudodoxia* within the Browne edition). As part of the AHRC-funded edition of *The Complete Works of Sir Thomas Browne* (8 vols, OUP 2015-2019; general editor, Prof Claire Preston), the student will interact extensively with the eleven editors, two post-doctoral researchers, and a second doctoral student in contributing to its intellectual, analytical, and textual framework. The student may be expected to contribute, as directed, to background research on the edition of *Pseudodoxia Epidemica*.

Enquiries are welcome. Please contact either Dr Kevin Killeen (kevin.killeen@york.ac.uk) or Prof Claire Preston (c.e.preston@bham.ac.uk), specifying 'PhD1'.

Applications (ref 'PhD1') should be made directly to Professor Preston via email. The successful candidate will be asked to apply formally to the university.

Qualifications: you will have very good undergraduate and master's degrees in English Literature or a closely related subject such as intellectual history or comparative literature. Only **UK home students** not already reading for a PhD are eligible.

Application:

-- **cv** including your undergraduate and MA/M.Phil educational history with degree and exam results, and any awards; special skills or experience (eg, language proficiency, other relevant expertise); and publications (if any).

– **covering letter** one A4 side only, describing your preparation and qualification for, and interest in, this post.

– **two letters of reference**, one of which should be from your post-graduate supervisor.

– **a sample of your post-graduate academic writing** (up to 3000 words), or a short academic publication.

Submission of material:

Send hard and electronic copies to Professor Preston, Department of English, University of Birmingham, Edgbaston B15 2TT by **18 March, 2013**. Ask your referees to send their letters directly by email to c.e.preston@bham.ac.uk by that date.