



John Cabot University **ALUMNI PROFILE**



Daniela Cerimonia
BA, English Literature, Class of 2004
PhD Candidate and Lecturer, Royal Holloway, University of London
London, United Kingdom
Interviewed March 2009

What was your career path after graduating from JCU?

I completed an MA in Comparative Literature at King's College, University of London, and thereafter devised a PhD proposal and obtained a three-year scholarship for the project, together with a part-time teaching position at Royal Holloway.

Tell us a little about your current position.

I am currently finishing my PhD on literary translation and cross-cultural communication. My project is titled "Making the Foreign Familiar: Giacomo Leopardi and Percy Bysshe Shelley in Translation," and I should submit it by the end of 2009. I am also presenting some results from my research at conferences throughout the United Kingdom. Furthermore, I teach courses of literature and cinema at the undergraduate level. Having different tasks is what I am enjoying the most, as I hardly have the same routine and also have the chance to travel on a regular basis.

What is it like living in London?

From my experiences living within London, I have adapted to the fast-paced work ethic that the working world brings. I believe the opportunities that can be created here bring out the charming and cosmopolitan aura within the city. London is a unique place, and I love it.

Was there anyone during your time at JCU who acted as a mentor for you?

Many people, indeed... teachers, especially. I decided to apply for an MA in London thanks to excellent suggestions, especially by Professor Allan Christensen.

Which of your JCU experiences have been the most valuable in your professional life?

The JCU experience certainly has been priceless overall: above all, you learn to work in an international environment, and this is essential. On a more technical level, some JCU courses proved to be particularly helpful for devising my PhD project too. I learned a good deal about research while writing my undergraduate thesis at John Cabot, which helped prepare me for the academic work I've done since then.

What advice would you give to students attending JCU today?

Make the most of this experience. Study and enjoy, as there are many challenges ahead.

Where will you take your next vacation?

There are several ideas that I would like to explore through my next vacation. I would like to visit certain areas of the world that would inspire me to continue fulfilling my desire to learn about different cultures and further my research.

What are your plans for the future?

My initial plan is to publish a book from my PhD thesis, then I will endeavor to see what the future holds!!