

# **Governing America: John Locke in the 1690s**

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## **The author:**

Mark Goldie is Professor of Intellectual History at the University of Cambridge. He took his first degree from the University of Sussex and his PhD from Cambridge, where he became a college lecturer in 1979 and a university lecturer in 1993. He divides his time between the intellectual history and the political and religious history of early-modern Britain. He is currently working on a book on post-Revolutionary Locke.

## **The paper:**

This paper concerns Locke's attempts to govern America during his four-year tenure as one of the Lords Commissioners for Trade and Plantations, and their entanglements with his political theory; its subtitle is 'Locke, property, and the New York land grants'. The land grant question entwined property claims, the duty of cultivation, and the collision with native Americans. The conflict between the colonists and London/Locke culminated in the first American citation of Locke's *Two Treatises of Government*, in 1701, in which hostile colonists pitted Locke the theorist against Locke the political practitioner.