

Professor Laura Beers
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EDUCATION

Harvard University, Cambridge, MA
PhD in Modern British History, 2007
MA in History, 2003

Princeton University, Princeton, NJ
AB in History, 2000, *summa cum laude*

EMPLOYMENT HISTORY

American University, Washington, DC
Professor of History, 2020-
Associate Professor of History, 2015-2020
Assistant Professor of History, 2009-2015

University of Birmingham
Senior Lecturer, 2017-2018
Birmingham Fellow, 2014-2018

Newnham College, Cambridge, UK
Post-doctoral fellow, 2008-2009

Cambridge University, Cambridge, UK
ESRC-funded post-doctoral fellow, 2007-2008

OTHER PROFESSIONAL POSITIONS

Executive Director, North American Conference on British Studies (from January 2019)

Associate Editor, *Journal of British Studies*

HONOURS AND AWARDS

Major Fellowships

Birmingham Fellowship, Department of History, University of Birmingham (Fully costed salary, ending at Senior Lecturer, Grade 8, Point 49)	2014-18
Leverhulme Trust fellowship, Department of History, Exeter University (£23,050)	2011-12
Junior research fellowship, Newnham College, Cambridge University (£21,000 salary p.a. + housing and retirement benefits)	2008-09
ERSC postdoctoral research fellowship, Faculty of History, Cambridge University (FEC at £64,912.33)	2007-08

Mellon Foundation research fellowship, Institute of Historical Research, London 2006-07
(\$25,000)
Krupp-Foundation – Harvard Center for European Studies Research Fellowship 2004-05
(\$20,000)
Outstanding Young Scholars fellowship, Dept of History, Warwick University Fall 2004
(£10,000)

Research Grants:

Wellcome Trust Research Bursary, awarded December 2018 (£6,820)
Mellon Faculty Support grant, Andrew W. Mellon foundation, awarded March 2016 (\$7,000)
Bernadotte E. Schmitt research grant, American Historical Association, awarded June 2013
(\$2,000)
American University, Provost's International Travel Fund grant, awarded April 2013 (\$4,000)
Mellon Faculty Support grant, Andrew W. Mellon foundation, awarded Nov. 2010 (\$7,000)
British Academy Small Research Grant (ref. SG 51480), awarded January 2009 (£7,144)
Mellon Foundation seminar in Modern British History, Columbia University, May-June 2007,
funded participant (\$4,300)
Krupp Foundation - Harvard Center for European Studies research grant, summers 2004& 2006
(\$5,000 each)

Awards

Morton Bender prize for scholarly achievement by an Associate Professor, American University,
2019
Stansky prize for best book published on modern British history, North American Conference of
British Studies, 2017
Certificate of Distinction in Teaching, Harvard University, 2005

PUBLICATIONS

Books:

Red Ellen: The Life of Ellen Wilkinson: Socialist, Feminist, Internationalist,
Harvard University Press (2016).

Turkish translation published as *Ellen Wilkinson: Bir Sosyalist ve Feministin Hayatı*, trans. Cemre
Ömürsuyu Seyis, Hep Kitap (2019).

Your Britain: Media and the Making of the Labour Party, Harvard University Press (2010).

(edited with Geraint Thomas), *Brave New World: Imperial and Democratic Nation-Building in Britain
between the Wars*, Institute of Historical Research (2012).

Refereed Journal Articles:

Both Feminist and Practical Politics: the incorporation of infertility treatment into family planning
in postwar Britain. Forthcoming in the *Journal of British Studies*, Vol. 60, no. 3 (Fall 2021).

Liberal and Socialist Collaboration in the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom.
Forthcoming in the *Journal of Women's History*, Vol. 33, no. 2 (Summer 2021).

Model MP?: Ellen Wilkinson, gender, politics and celebrity culture in interwar Britain. *Cultural and Social History*, Vol. 10, no 2 (June 2013): 231-250.

Feminism and Sexuality in Ellen Wilkinson's Fiction. *Parliamentary Affairs*, vol. 64, no. 2 (2011): 248-262.

Punting on the Thames: Political Betting in Interwar Britain. *Journal of Contemporary History*, vol. 45, no. 2 (2010), 282-314.

'Is this man an anarchist?': industrial action, publicity and public opinion in Britain, 1919-1926. *Journal of Modern History*, vol. 82, no. 1 (Mar. 2010), 30-60.

Labour's Britain, Fight for it Now!, *Historical Journal*, vol. 52, no. 3 (Sept. 2009), 667-695.

Education or manipulation?: Labour, democracy and the popular press in interwar Britain. *Journal of British Studies*, vol. 48, no. 1 (Jan. 2009): 129-52.

Whose Opinion?: changing attitudes towards opinion polling in British politics, 1938-1964. *Twentieth Century British History*, vol. 17, issue 2 (2006): 177-205.

Chapters in edited volumes:

« Cet homme est-il un anarchiste ? » : conflits sociaux et luttes pour la conquête de l'opinion publique dans la Grande-Bretagne de l'entre-deux-guerres. In *Antisindicalisme: La vindicte des puissants*, Gilles Christoph, Marc Lenormand et Sabine Remanofsky, eds. (Éditions du Croquant, 2019).

Feminist Responses to Thatcher and Thatcherism. In *Rethinking Right-Wing Women*, Clarisse Berthezene and Julie Gottlieb, eds. (Manchester University Press, 2017).

Women organizing for democracy: agency and limits of civil society activism. In *Normalitaet und Fragilitaet, Demokratie nach dem Ersten Weltkrieg*, Adam Tooze and Tim Mueller, eds. (Hamburger Edition HIS Verlagsgesellschaft, 2015).

Advocating for a Feminist Internationalism between the Wars. In *Women, Diplomacy, and International Politics since 1500*, Carolyn James and Glenda Sluga, eds. (Routledge, 2015).

'Women for Westminster,' feminism, and the limits of non-partisan associational culture. In *The Aftermath of Suffrage*, Julie Gottlieb and Richard Toye, eds. (Palgrave Macmillan, 2013).

Thatcher and the Women's Vote. In *Making Thatcher's Britain*, Ben Jackson and Robert Saunders, eds. (Cambridge, 2012).

Introduction and 'A timid disbelief in the equality to which lip-service is constantly paid': gender, politics and the press between the wars. In *Brave New World: Imperial and Democratic Nation-Building between the Wars*, Laura Beers and Geraint Thomas, eds. (Institute of Historical Research, 2012).

Polling public opinion before opinion polling: election prediction between the wars. In *Numbers, Norms and the People: Statistics and the Public Sphere in Modern Britain, c. 1750-2000*,

Tom Crook and Glen O'Hara, eds. (Routledge, 2011).

Counter-Toryism: Labour's response to anti-socialist propaganda, 1918-1939. In *The Foundations of the Labour Party: Identities, Cultures and Perspectives, 1900-39*, Matthew Worley, ed. (Ashgate, 2009).

Invited Review Essays:

The Secondary Contradiction of Women of the Radical Left. Review essay on Julia Mickenberg, *American Girls in Red Russia: Chasing the Soviet Dream*; Patricia Melzer, *Death in the Shape of a Young Girl: Women's Political Violence in the Red Army Faction*; Michelle Chase, *Revolution Within the Revolution: Women and Gender Politics in Cuba, 1952-1962*. *Journal of Women's History*, Volume 31, Number 3, Fall 2019, 129-135.

The Doughboy Moved In. Review essay on Wendy Webster's *Mixing It: Diversity in World War Two Britain* and Jordanna Bailkin's *Unsettled: Refugee Camps and the Making of Multicultural Britain*. In *London Review of Books*, vol. 41, no. 5, 7 March 2019.

Political Communication. In David Brown and Robert Crowcroft, *Oxford Handbook of Modern British Political History, 1800-2000* (Oxford University Press, 2018).

Review essay on Ross McKibbin's *Parties and People, 1914-1951*. *Reviews in History*, review no. 985. Available at: <https://www.history.ac.uk/reviews/review/985>.

The Battle of Britain. Review essay on Graham Stewart's *Burying Caesar*. *The New Republic* (19 February 2001): 43-49.

Book Reviews for *American Historical Review*, *Cercles: Revue pluridisciplinaire du monde Anglophone*, *Economic History Review*, *English Historical Review*, *H-Albion*, *Journal of American Studies*, *Journal of British Studies*, *Journal of Economic History*, *Journal of Modern History*, *Journal of Social History*, *London School of Economics Review of Books*, *Parliamentary History*, *Times Higher Education Supplement*, *Twentieth Century British History*, *Women's History Review*.

JOURNALISM

The Senate acquitted Trump. But his impeachment may yet make a major impact. *Washington Post's Made by History*, February 14, 2021.

<https://www.washingtonpost.com/outlook/2021/02/14/senate-acquitted-trump-his-impeachment-may-yet-make-major-impact/>

Amy Coney Barrett, Enoch Powell and IVF politics. *History Workshop Online*. Oct. 30, 2020. <https://www.historyworkshop.org.uk/amy-coney-barrett-enoch-powell-and-ivf-politics/>

History suggests Barrett won't help Trump with Women. *CNN Opinion*. Oct 14, 2020. <https://www.cnn.com/2020/10/14/opinions/amy-coney-barrett-ruth-bader-ginsburg-feminism-isnt-representation-beers/index.html>

What I learned from teaching Brexit to freshmen. CNN Opinion. October 21, 2019.
<https://www.cnn.com/2019/10/20/opinions/delaying-brexit-disastrous-britain-europe-beers/index.html>

Boris Johnson put the Queen in an absurdly awkward position. CNN Opinion. August 29, 2019.
<https://www.cnn.com/2019/08/29/opinions/boris-johnson-queen-suspending-parliament-beers/index.html>

I've lived the difference between US and UK health care. Here's what I learned. CNN Opinion. August 7, 2019. <https://www.cnn.com/2019/08/07/opinions/single-payer-healthcare-beers/index.html>

Abortion and the Conservative Party, History Workshop Online, June 20, 2019
<https://www.historyworkshop.org.uk/abortion-and-the-conservative-party/>
What D-Day Taught my Grandpa. CNN Opinion. June 4, 2019.
<https://www.cnn.com/2019/06/04/opinions/d-day-75th-anniversary-letters-from-my-grandfather-beers/index.html>

'We took many steps and saw many sights'. *LRB Blog*, June 3, 2019.
<https://www.lrb.co.uk/blog/2019/june/we-took-many-steps-and-saw-many-sights>

Ellen Wilkinson's search for social justice in 1936. *History of Parliament Trust Blog*, March 28, 2019.
<https://thehistoryofparliament.wordpress.com/2019/03/28/ellen-wilkinsons-search-for-social-justice-in-1936/>

Why Britain is suddenly facing a constitutional crisis: And How It Mirrors the Unfolding Crisis in the US. *Washington Post Perspectives*, 25 March 2019.
https://www.washingtonpost.com/outlook/2019/03/25/why-britain-is-suddenly-facing-constitutional-crisis/?utm_term=.92c47f4541ed

From Robert Peel to the SDP, the history of party splits shows the danger Brexit poses for May and Corbyn. *The New Statesman*, 13 February 2019.
<https://www.newstatesman.com/politics/brexit/2019/02/robert-peel-sdp-history-party-splits-shows-danger-brexit-poses-may-and>

What Alexander Hamilton Could Teach Trump and May. CNN Opinion. 30 January 2019.
<https://edition.cnn.com/2019/01/29/opinions/alexander-hamilton-could-teach-donald-trump-theresa-may-beers/index.html>

Why Brexit Might Not Happen. *Washington Post Perspectives*, 9 December 2018.
https://www.washingtonpost.com/pb/outlook/2018/12/09/why-brexit-might-not-happen/?nid=menu_nav_accessibilityforscreenreader&outputType=accessibility&utm_term=.6f50deda1

Michelle Obama's IVF journey could help more women. CNN Opinion. 14 November 2018
<https://www.cnn.com/2018/11/13/opinions/michelle-obama-book-ivf-fertility-beers/index.html>

Roe v. Kavanaugh. *LRB Blog*, 9 August 2018. <https://www.lrb.co.uk/blog/2018/08/09/laura-beers/roe-v-kavanaugh/>

Why History Says Theresa May Should Go. CNN Opinion. 9 June 2017. <https://www.cnn.com/2017/06/09/opinions/opinion-beers-may-leadership/index.html>

MEDIA APPEARANCES

Regular political commentator of BBC Radio York.

Expert commentator on media technologies and politics for “Pandora’s Ballot Box.” BBC Radio 4, 16 November 2019. Available from <https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/m000bckm>

Brexit: Dividing the United Kingdom. Podcast for *History Talk*, 25 March 2019. Available from: <http://origins.osu.edu/historytalk/brexit-british-politics-history>

Expert commentator on political party splits for “When to Break Up the Party.” BBC Radio 4, 13 March 2019. Available from <https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/m00035ng>

Why Jeremy Corbyn Isn’t Fighting Brexit. Podcast for *The Atlantic* magazine, 10 December 2018. Available from: <https://soundcloud.com/user-998236910/masthead-briefing-laura-beers-on-why-jeremy-corbyn-isnt-fighting-brexit>

Expert commentator on Labour party politics. “British Socialism: the Grand Tour” Episodes 3 and 4. BBC Radio 4, 27 and 28 February 2018. Available from: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b09snwmp>

Expert commentator on Labour party politics, Syndicated: BBC Radio Cornwall, Derby, the West Midlands, Humberside and Surrey, 13 July 2016.

Expert commentator on women and political leadership, Business Matters, BBC World Service, 7 July 2016.

Expert commentator on Ellen Wilkinson, BBC Radio Manchester, 8 December 2015.

Expert commentator on Tony Blair and foreign policy, International Edition, Voice of America radio, 27 October 2015.

Interviewed for ‘The Historians’ View: What Can We Learn from the Labour Leadership Contest?’, *BBC History Magazine*, October 2015, p. 15.

Expert commentator on ‘The 1929 General Election and the Art of Political Persuasion.’ Episode of ‘The Long View’ with Jonathan Freedland, BBC Radio 4, 24 February 2015. <https://www.bbc.co.uk/sounds/play/b0537490>

Expert commentator on London Riots, WTTG Fox 5 News, Washington, D.C., 10 Aug. 2011.

Expert commentator on ‘Learning to Love the Microphone’, BBC Radio 4, 14 June 2009, 10.45pm.

RECENT INVITED TALKS AND PAPERS

Ellen Wilkinson and the Fight for Social Justice. Washington History Seminar, Woodrow Wilson Center, Washington, DC, 26 November 2018.

Refocusing on Women, Gender & Public Spheres in the British World. Plenary Roundtable, Mid-Atlantic Conference on British Studies, College Park, MD, 7 April 2018.

Ellen Wilkinson's International Spiderweb. Yale International History Seminar, New Haven, CT, 2 November 2017

Red Ellen: The Life of Ellen Wilkinson, Socialist, Feminist, Internationalist. Debry Book Festival, Derby, UK, 16 June 2017

Red Ellen: The Life of Ellen Wilkinson, Socialist, Feminist, Internationalist. LSE Space for Thought Literary Festival, 24 February 2017

TEACHING

Courses taught at American University:

Hist 105-028: Complex Problems: Imagining Europe

Hist 140: Modern Europe

Hist 222: Modern Britain

Hist 235: West in Crisis, 1900-1945

Hist 327: Twentieth Century Europe

Hist 337/637: British Studies: Labor and Politics from Adam Smith to Gordon Brown

Hist 437/637: British Studies: British Women and Internationalism

Hist 480: Major Seminar I (senior thesis: research and methods)

Hist 481: Major Seminar II (senior thesis: writing)

Hist 500: International Politics: 1918-1939

Hist 890: Graduate Independent Study, Modern Britain

Courses taught at University of Birmingham

Advanced Option: George Orwell, England and the Modern World

Special Subject: British Women and Internationalism

MA seminar: Modern British Studies (with Dr. Chris Moores)

DEPARTMENTAL SERVICE

Member department graduate committee, 2015-2019

Member department undergraduate committee, 2009-2015

Organizer History Forum (departmental research seminar), 2013-14, 2018-19

COLLEGE AND UNIVERSITY SERVICE

Faculty Senate, Fall 2020-present

University Committee for Faculty Actions, Fall 2020-present

Faculty Senate, Graduate Curriculum Committee, 2015-17

College of Arts and Sciences, Academic Integrity Committee, 2013-14

Organizing Committee, University Retreat, 2013

OTHER PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

Executive Director, North American Conference on British Studies (from January 2019)

Associate Editor, *Journal of British Studies*

Conference organizer, Women's History Network annual conference 2017.

Co-chair, program committee, Mid-Atlantic Conference on British Studies, 2012-2014.

Manuscript reviewer for *Bloomsbury*, *Cambridge University Press*, *Harvard University Press*, *McGill-Queens University Press*, *Oxford University Press*, *Palgrave Macmillan*, *Pickering and Chatto*; *Contemporary British History*, *Historical Journal*, *International History Review*, *International Review of Social History*, *Journal of British Studies*, *Journal of Modern History*, *Journal of Social History*, *Labour History Review*, *Law & History Review*, *Twentieth Century British History*

External Reviewer for doctoral dissertations at University of Aberystwyth (Kristopher Lovell, 2016); and University of Northumbria (Jasmise Calver, May 1, 2019)

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

Fellow of the Royal Historical Society

Member of the North American Conference on British Studies

Member of the American Historical Association