

## **Laura Beers, Assistant Professor**

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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*

### FELLOWSHIPS

Junior research fellowship, Newnham College, Cambridge University	2008-09
ERSC postdoctoral research fellowship, Faculty of History, Cambridge University	2007-08
Mellon Foundation research fellowship, Institute of Historical Research, London	2006-07
Krupp-Foundation - Harvard Center for European Studies Research Fellowship	2004-05
Outstanding Young Scholars fellowship, Dept of History, Warwick University	Fall 2004

### OTHER GRANTS AND AWARDS

British Academy Small Research Grant (ref. SG 51480), awarded January 2009  
Mellon Foundation seminar in Modern British History, Columbia University, May-June 2007, funded participant  
Krupp Foundation - Harvard Center for European Studies research grant, summers 2004& 2006  
Harvard University Certificate of Distinction in Teaching, Fall 2005  
Princeton University Walter Phelps Hall thesis prize in European History, June 2000

### TEACHING

#### American University:

Undergraduate courses taught:

Hist 222: History of Britain II: 1815 to the present

Hist 337: Labour and Politics in Britain from Adam Smith to Gordon Brown

Hist 480/490: Major Seminar I & II

MA courses taught:

Hist 637: Labour and Politics in Britain, graduate supplemental syllabus

M.A. comprehensive examination field: Modern Britain

PhD supervisor for Erica Munkwitz

#### Cambridge University:

Lectures given:

Women and party politics between the wars

The Media and Society in Britain (series of 4 lectures)

Labour in the 1930s and 'the People's War'

Undergraduate papers supervised:

British Political and Constitutional History Since 1867

British Social and Economic History since c. 1870

The Politics of Gender in Britain and Ireland, 1790-1990

TEACHING (CONT.)

Harvard University:

Undergraduate courses taught as a teaching assistant:

Nineteenth Century British History (for Prof. Robert Travers)

Western Civilization: 1648 to the Present (for Prof. Niall Ferguson)

World War I (for Prof. Charles Maier)

Undergraduate theses supervised:

Timothy Naylor, "'All Eyes on the Star and Key": Matthew Flinders and the British Invasion of Mauritius in 1810' (magna cum laude, June 2006)

CONFERENCES ORGANIZED

'Unconventional Wisdoms: new perspectives on interwar Britain,' invited conference, held at Newnham College, Cambridge, on 14-15 April 2009

MEDIA/JOURNALISM

Commentator for "Learning to Love the Microphone," BBC Radio 4, 14 June 2009, 10:45pm

The Battle of Britain, Review essay on Graham Stewart's *Burying Caesar*.

*The New Republic* (19 February 2001): 43-49.

ACADEMIC PUBLICATIONS

Books:

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

*Brave New World: Imperial and Democratic Nation-building in Britain between the Wars* (edited with Geraint Thomas), under review with the Institute of Historical Research Publication Department.

Articles:

Punting on the Thames: Political Betting in Interwar Britain. *Journal of Contemporary History*, forthcoming 2010.

'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), forthcoming.

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.

Book Chapters:

Introduction, and 'A Model MP: Ellen Wilkinson, 'Star Culture', and the Changing Boundaries of the Political in Interwar Britain', in *Brave New World: Imperial and Democratic Nation-building in Britain between the Wars*, Beers and Thomas, eds.

Book Chapters (cont.)

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, 2010), forthcoming.

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), 231-68.

Book Reviews for *Economic History Review*, *Journal of British Studies*, *Journal of Modern History*, *Journal of Social History*, *Labour History Review*, *Parliamentary History*, *Times Higher Education Supplement*, *Twentieth Century British History*

WORK IN PROGRESS:

Book Manuscript:

*After the Vote: Women in Party Politics in Britain*

Articles:

Democracy and Its Discontents: Anxiety about adult suffrage and its implications for political culture in modern Britain

The Importance of Being Ellen: The challenges of being a woman in politics as seen through Ellen Wilkinson's fiction

REFERENCES:

Prof. Susan Pedersen, Dept of History, Columbia University  
(PhD thesis supervisor)

Email: [sp2216@columbia.edu](mailto:sp2216@columbia.edu); phone: +1 212 854-2414

Dr. Jon Lawrence, Emmanuel College, Cambridge University

(ESRC fellowship mentor, and external reader for PhD thesis)

Email: [jml55@cam.ac.uk](mailto:jml55@cam.ac.uk); phone: 01223 334281

Prof. Charles Maier, Department of History, Harvard University

(member of PhD supervision committee, and course head World War I)

Email: [cmaier@fas.harvard.edu](mailto:cmaier@fas.harvard.edu); phone: +1 617 495 4303, ext. 273

Prof. Niall Ferguson, Department of History, Harvard University

(member of PhD supervision committee, and course head Western Civilization)

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