

Dora Vargha

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CURRENT POSTS

Professor of History and Medical Humanities, University of Exeter, December 2020-
Head of Research Group 'Socialist Medicine', Humboldt University, September 2021-

Member of [WHO Collaborating Centre](#), University of Exeter, 2017-present

PREVIOUSLY HELD POSTS

Senior Lecturer in Medical Humanities, University of Exeter, 2019-2020

Lecturer in Medical Humanities, University of Exeter, 2016-2019

History Department and Wellcome Centre for Cultures and Environments of Health (WCCEH)

Co-Editor, Social History of Medicine journal, 2017-2021

Visiting fellow at [Wellcome Centre for Ethics and Humanities \(WEH\)](#), University of Oxford, 2018
September-2019 January

Postdoctoral Research Fellow at Birkbeck, University of London, 2013-2016

Researcher in Wellcome Trust funded project ["The Reluctant Internationalists: A History of Public Health and International Organisations, Movements and Experts in Twentieth Century Europe"](#)

Predocctoral research fellow, Max Planck Institute for the History of Science, Berlin (MPIWG),
Department II, 2012-2013

EDUCATION

Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey, New Brunswick, NJ

Ph.D. May 2013

Major Field: Modern European History, *Minor Field:* Women and Gender History

Dissertation: Iron Curtain Iron lungs: Governing Polio in Cold War Hungary 1952-1963

Dissertation committee: Paul Hanebrink, Julie Livingston, Bonnie Smith, Keith Wailoo (Princeton University)

Eötvös Loránd University, Budapest, Hungary

B.A. and Teaching Certificate in History, July 2004

PRIZES

Deputy Vice-Chancellor for Education's Commendation 2021 for Health and Its Politics upper-level undergraduate course, University of Exeter

AHRC/Wellcome Medical Humanities Award 2020 for Best International Research

EAHMH Book Award 2019 for *Polio Across the Iron Curtain: Hungary's Cold War with an Epidemic* (CUP, 2018). Awarded by the European Association for the History of Medicine and Health for the best book published in the two years preceding the biannual EAHMH conference.

Dean's Commendation Award for Celebrating Academic Excellence 2017 through Postgraduate Certificate in Academic Practice (PCAP), University of Exeter

J. Worth Estes Prize 2016, awarded by the American Association for the History of Medicine (AAHM) for best published article in the history of pharmacology

Young Scholar Book (Dissertation) Prize 2014, awarded by the International Committee for the History of Technology (ICOHTEC)

FELLOWSHIPS AND AWARDS

- 2020 **ERC Starting Grant**, SOCMED Socialist Medicine: an Alternative Global Health History
Wellcome Trust Collaborative Award Connecting Three Worlds: socialism, medicine and global health after WWII
- 2019 **Europe Network Fund Award**, Global Partnerships, University of Exeter; for developing collaboration with the University of Leiden
Enhanced Research Award, Wellcome Centre for Cultures and Environments of Health, University of Exeter; for collaborative research with University of Oxford and University of Edinburgh
Junior Thyssen Fellowship, Institute of Advanced Study, CEU, *declined*
- 2017 **Wellcome Seed Award** for research project Socialist Medicine: an Alternative Global Health History, ref. no. 205681/Z/16/Z
- 2016 **AHRC Bursary, History & Policy**, King's College London
Society for the History of Technology (SHOT) Travel Grant
- 2015 **Wellcome Trust Small Grant**, for funding After the End of Disease conference, May 25-26, 2016, ref. no. 200447/Z/16/Z
Consortium for the History of Science, Technology and Medicine Research Fellowship
Society for the Social History of Medicine Conference Funding Award
Birkbeck Institute for Humanities Award
- 2013 **Max Weber Fellowship**, European University Institute, *declined*
- 2012 **Mellon Dissertation Writing Fellowship**, Rutgers University/MPIWG
Max Planck Institute for the History of Science, Berlin (MPIWG) Research Fellowship, Department II
- 2011 **Karen Johnson Freeze Fellowship**, Foundation for the History of Technology (SHT) and the Society for the History of Technology (SHOT)
- 2010 **PACHS (Philadelphia Area Center for the History of Science) Dissertation Research Fellowship**
- 2009 **Mellon Summer Research Award**
- 2008 **Excellence Fellowship**, Institute for Health, Health Care Policy and Aging Research, Rutgers University
Graduate Fellowship, Center for Race and Ethnicity, Rutgers University

PUBLICATIONS

Monograph

[*Polio Across the Iron Curtain: Hungary's Cold War with an Epidemic*](#). Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, Global Health Histories Series, 2018. Open Access.

Edited volumes and series

[After the End of Disease](#). Series on *Somatosphere*, May-August 2016

Jessica Reinisch, Ana Antic, Johanna Conterio and Dora Vargha eds.: Agents of Internationalism. Special Issue of the *Journal of Contemporary European History*, vol.25, Part 2, May 2016

Peer-Reviewed Articles and Essays

"The Vaccine", *Historical Studies in the Natural Sciences*, Vol. 51, no 1, February, 2021.

"Reconsidering the dramaturgy", *Bulletin of the History of Medicine*, Vol. 94. No. 4, 2020. 690-699.

"Technical Assistance and Socialist International Health: Hungary, the WHO, and the Korean War" *History and Technology* Vol 36 no. 3-4, 2020. 400-417.

"Epidemic Years: A Third Look", *Isis*, Vol. 111 no. 4., 2020. 791-794.

"The Socialist World in Global Polio Eradication". *Revue d'Études Comparatives Est-Ouest (RECEO)*, Vol 49, No.1, 2018

"Socialist Utopia in Practice: Everyday Life and Medical Authority in a Hungarian Polio Hospital. *Social History of Medicine*, Volume 31, Issue 2, 1 May 2018

Jeremy Greene and Dora Vargha, "Grey-market Medicines: diphtheria antitoxin and the decay of biomedical infrastructure. *The Lancet*, Vol 389, April 29, 2017

Ana Antic, Johanna Conterio and Dora Vargha, "Beyond Liberal Internationalism" *Journal of Contemporary European History*, vol. 25, Part 2, May 2016

"Between East and West: Polio Vaccination Across the Iron Curtain in Cold War Hungary" *Bulletin of the History of Medicine*, vol. 88, no. 2., Summer 2014

"The Medicalization of Sin. The body of the prostitute in 19th century Hungarian medical discourse." In: *Budapesti Negyed (Budapest Quarterly)* 47-48/2005 [in Hungarian]

Book chapters

Jeremy Greene and Dora Vargha, "Ends of Epidemics" in *COVID-19 and World Order: The Future of Conflict, Competition, and Cooperation*, Hal Brands and Francis J. Gavin eds. Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press, 2020

"Polio and Disability in Hungary" in Catherine Kudlick, Kim Nielsen, and Michael Rembis eds. *Oxford Handbook of Disability History*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2018

"Vaccination and the communist state: polio in Eastern Europe" in Stuart Blume, Peter Greenough and Christine Holmberg eds. *The Politics of Vaccination: A Global History*, Studies for the Society of the Social History of Medicine. Manchester: University of Manchester Press, 2017

Reference articles

"Polio Vaccination in Cold War Hungary" in The History of Vaccines Blog – A Project of the College of Physicians of Philadelphia, March 21, 2011. <http://www.historyofvaccines.org/content/blog/polio-vaccination-cold-war-hungary>

"Kafka, Margit." Oxford Encyclopedia of Women in World History. Edited by Bonnie Smith. New York and Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2007

News Media

[How epidemics end](#) (Co-authored with Jeremy Greene) Boston Review, July 2, 2020

[Gefährliche Jahre](#). (Co-authored with Tobias Rupprecht) Süddeutsche Zeitung, June 24, 2019

[Windrush Scandal: a historian on why destroying archives is never a good idea](#). The Conversation, April 24, 2018

[Cold war conspiracies and suspect polio prevention](#). In guest feature Imagining Conspiracies: Science Under Suspicion edited by Alfred Moore on OpenDemocracy.net September 16, 2015

["Los antivacunas y el pasado fascista de España"](#). (Co-authored with David Bryan) El País, June 12, 2015.

["Strangling Angel" of Diphtheria Caught Spain off Guard – here's how"](#). (With David Bryan) The Conversation, June 10, 2015.

["Outbreaks of disease and war: polio's history with conflict"](#) The Guardian, May 8, 2014

Interviews and Feature Articles

[From plague to polio: how do pandemics end?](#) Financial Times, March 12, 2021 (UK)

[Tip Tarihcisi Vargha: Pandemiler özgürlük sorununu açığa çıkardı](#). Birgün, March 6, 2021 (Turkey)

[Wie bestimmen wir das Ende einer Epidemie?](#) Tagebuch, March 1, 2021 (Austria)

Channel 4 News, May 28, 2020 (UK)

The Race for a Cure: Making Britain Safe. The Tonight Programme, ITV, May 21, 2020 (UK)

["A járványok felerősítik a meglévő feszültségeket"](#) Feature interview in 444.hu, May 20, 2020 (Hungary)

Interview on historical sources and epidemics, ITV Westcountry, May 20, 2020 (UK)

Live interview on the end of COVID-19, CNN newsroom, May 11, 2020 (US)

["How Pandemics End"](#) The New York Times, May 10, 2020 (US)

[„Bizalomra és összefogásra van szükség a járvány megállításához"](#) Feature interview in NLC.hu, April 23, 2020 (Hungary)

[Resist. Episode of historical program 'When Greeks Flew Kites'](#). Interview on the history of polio on BBC Radio 4, February 4, 2018 (UK)

"How to get an iron lung in the midst of a revolution" Feature article in Hungarian news portal Index http://index.hu/tudomany/tortenelem/2015/10/23/hogyan_szerezzunk_vastudot_ha_eppen_forradalom_van/ (Hungary)

"Hungary's cold war with polio" feature article in Mosaic magazine by Penny Bailey. London: Wellcome Trust, April 15, 2014 <http://mosaicscience.com/story/hungary-cold-war-polio> (UK)

also appeared in:

New Statesman <http://www.newstatesman.com/world-affairs/2014/04/hungary-s-cold-war-polio>

BBC <http://www.bbc.com/future/story/20140415-how-polio-eased-cold-war-tensions>

Pacific Standard Magazine <http://www.psmag.com/navigation/health-and-behavior/hungarys-cold-war-polio-85276/>

Readers Digest Hungary, October, 2014

“Mensch, die Maschinen. Eine Berliner Tagung rückt Roboter ins Licht” Feuilleton, Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung, 10 December, 2013 (Germany)

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE AND SERVICE

Learned Societies

Council member, elected official of the History of Science Society (HSS) 2021-23

Nominating Committee member, American Association for the History of Medicine (AAHM), 2020-21

George Rosen Prize committee member, American Association for the History of Medicine (AAHM), 2019-20

Executive Committee member, Society for the Social History of Medicine, 2017-2021

Grant Evaluation and Peer Review

Grant evaluator, Wellcome Trust postdoctoral fellowships and PhD studentships, 2021

Grant evaluator and rapporteur, Marie Skłodowska-Curie Fellowship, European Commission, 2019-present

Expert reviewer for ‘Atlas of Diseases’, Aurum Press, 2018

Peer reviewer, New England Journal of Medicine, Medical History, Journal of Historical Sociology, Social History of Medicine, American Journal of Public Health, Routledge, BMJ Global Health, Bulletin of the History of Medicine, Oxford University Press, Johns Hopkins University Press, Princeton University Press

Advisory Groups

Covid Academic Advisory Group member, University of Exeter, 2020

Advisory Board Member, Taming the European Leviathan: The Legacy of Post-War Medicine and the Common Good. ERC Synergy project. 2019-

Administrative Roles

University of Exeter

Undergraduate Dissertation Coordinator, Department of History, 2020

Flexible Combined Honours department liaison officer, Department of History, 2019-2020

Internationalisation officer, Wellcome Centre for Cultures and Environments of Health, 2019

Humanities Latin American Working Group member, 2019

Athena Swan committee member (Gender Equality and Diversity working group), lead for Culture and Diversity, Department of History, 2018-2020

Personal Tutor (undergraduate and PhD), University of Exeter 2016-2018

Birkbeck, University of London

Editor (2015-16), Europe in Crisis on [The Reluctant Internationalists Blog](#)

(2013-16), [Central and Eastern European History of Medicine Network](#), Founding editor and contributor of professional blog

Rutgers University

PhD Intern (2009), Cold War History Research Center, Budapest

Held seminar for undergraduate interns, translation and editorial work

Research Assistant (2007-2009), Center for Race and Ethnicity, Rutgers University

Competitive post in interdisciplinary team of research assistants

Student Representative (2006 – 2008), Graduate Education Committee, Rutgers University

Elected post in graduate student governing body of the History Department

Other

Accountability in post-World War II health care systems network member. Maastricht, Manchester and Stony Brook Universities, 2019-present

Volunteer (2014-present), Hungarian Civil Liberties Union

TEACHING EXPERIENCE AND FIELDS

Graduate training

Contributor and co-convener of joint history of medicine PhD workshop of Tel Aviv University and the University of Exeter, 2018-19.

Co-convener of career and academic skills workshop for PhD students and postdoctoral fellows in medical humanities, 2020-21

PhD supervision

Maresa Marangoni, Department of History, University of Exeter, co-supervisor. Dissertation: "Global Health Discourse and Local Health Governance: A Complex Interplay as Illustrated by the Case of the 2017 Childhood Immunisation Law in Italy".

Nicholas Evans, (part time), Department of History, Birkbeck, University of London, co-supervisor. Dissertation: "Stagnation or innovation? The work of the Local Government Board Medical Department between 1871 and 1919 and its impact on public health in England".

Johanna Folland, Department of History, University of Michigan, dissertation committee member. Dissertation: "Globalizing Socialist Health: Africa, East Germany, and the AIDS Crisis". PhD completed in 2019.

University of Exeter, Exeter, UK

Undergraduate Dissertation Coordinator, 2020-21

"Health and Its Politics: Context and Sources", final-year undergraduate course, Autumn 2020/Spring 2021

"Humanities in the Workplace", upper-level undergraduate course, Spring 2020

"The Global Cold War", course designer and convener, graduate seminar (Spring 2020, Spring, 2019, Spring, 2018)

"Science, Technology and Medicine in the Cold War", course designer and convener, undergraduate optional course (Autumn 2019, Spring 2019, Autumn, 2017)

"Disease", upper-level comparative undergraduate course (2019/20, 2017/18)

"Uses of the Past" undergraduate seminar (Autumn, 2016)

"Critical Approaches in Medical Humanities" graduate seminar (Autumn 2017, Autumn, 2016)

"Sources and Skills: The History of Epidemics from the Plague to Zika" course designer and convener, undergraduate methodology seminar (Spring 2018, Spring 2017)

"Medicine across the borders" graduate seminar (Spring 2019, Spring 2017)

"Doing History" undergraduate research project supervision (Spring 2017)

Birkbeck College, University of London, London, UK

"Europe from 1800" B.A. survey course (co-teaching Spring, 2016)
"Internationalism in the 20th century" graduate seminar (Spring, 2016)
"Europe 1800-1989" B.A. survey seminar (Autumn, 2013)

Rutgers University, New Brunswick, NJ

"Disease in History: Epidemics from the Plague to Swine Flu" (Summer, 2012)
Upper-level undergraduate course
"History and the News" (Spring 2011 - Rudolph Bell) – *Teaching Assistant*
Online course

Teaching Fields and Interests

History of Science	History of Internationalism
History of Global Public Health	Cold War History
History of Medicine	Eastern European History
History of the Body	Modern European History
History of Technology	Women and Gender History
History of Childhood	Global History
Central European History	Disability History

LANGUAGES

Hungarian: native language, fluent in reading, writing and speaking

German: working knowledge in reading, intermediate knowledge in speaking and writing

Portuguese: working knowledge in reading, intermediate knowledge in writing and speaking

Spanish: working knowledge in reading

Italian: basic knowledge in reading

French: basic knowledge in reading

SELECT PRESENTATIONS

Establishing Socialist International Health: Hungary, North Korea and the WHO in the 1950s. Berlin Global History Colloquium, Freie Universität, June 16, 2021

'Socialist medicine: rethinking the history of global health'. Seminar in the History of Science, Medicine, and Technology, Oxford University, June 14, 2021

Connecting Three Worlds. Aging, Disability and Health in Socialist Europe Workshop. University of Pittsburgh, April 2, 2021

Social or Socialist Medicine? Ideas and practices in the early Cold War's 'Second World. 50 Years of Social Medicine: Critique, Utopias and Networks of Knowledge. University of Lausanne, University of Vienna and University of Strasbourg. March 29, 2021

The Acute and the Chronic: Temporalities of Medical Authority in an Epidemic. ["Gendered Knowledges in Times of Crisis"](#). Colloquium of the Max Planck Institute for the History of Science, Berlin, November 17, 2020

No end in sight? Epidemic temporalities and narratives in modern Europe. Jean Monnet Chair EU lecture series, Center for European Studies, University of Florida, November 11, 2020

Socialist Medicine. Science and Technology Studies Seminar, Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México, September 25, 2020

Ends of Epidemics. Paper co-presented with Jeremy Greene at [World Order after COVID-19 Forum](#). Johns Hopkins University School of Advanced International Studies and the Henry A. Kissinger Center for Global Affairs, June 30-July 1, 2020.

[Polio and Global Health Politics](#). Pandemic, Creating a Usable Past: Epidemic History, COVID-19, and the Future of Health Zoom Webinar, AAHM and Princeton University, 8-9 May, 2020

Patient Needs: an Example from History. Health, Medicine and Agency Research Network Seminar CRASSH, University of Cambridge, November 5, 2018

After the End of Disease: a Historical Perspective on Epidemic Narratives. Ethox and WEH seminar, University of Oxford, October 18, 2018

History and politics of vaccines in Europe. Workshop on European Attitudes to Vaccination, Oxford Martin School, Oxford, April 28, 2017

Out of the World Health Organization: socialist international health in the 1950s. Institute of the History of Medicine, Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore, April 19, 2016.