

# DORA VARGHA

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## ACADEMIC POSTS

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<b>Professor of History and Medical Humanities</b> University of Exeter, UK Promoted to full professor in 2021	2016-
<b>PI, Socialist Medicine ERC Starting Grant</b> Humbolt-Universität zu Berlin, Germany	2021-
<b>Visiting Scholar</b> Max Planck Institute for the History of Science, Berlin	2021-
<b>Visiting Scholar</b> Wellcome Centre for Ethics and Humanities, Oxford University	2018
<b>Postdoctoral Fellow</b> Birkbeck, University of London	2013-2016

## EDUCATION

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<b>PhD</b> History Department, Rutgers University, USA	May 2013
<b>BA</b> History Eötvös Loránd University, Hungary	July 2004

## PRIZES AND DISTINCTIONS

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- Guggenheim-Schnurr Lecture 2022**, Swiss Society for the History of Science and Medicine
- 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)

## GRANTS AND FELLOWSHIPS

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2022	<b>Co-I, Wellcome Trust Discovery Award</b> , After the End: Lived Experiences and Aftermaths of Diseases, Disasters and Drugs in Global Health. £375,000 (£8,000,000), 2023-2031.
2020	<b>PI, ERC Starting Grant</b> , SOCMED Socialist Medicine: an Alternative Global Health History €1,500,000, 2021-2026. <b>PI, Wellcome Trust Collaborative Award</b> Connecting Three Worlds: socialism, medicine and global health after WWII £1,500,000, 2021-2026.
2019	<b>Europe Network Fund Award</b> , Global Partnerships, University of Exeter; for developing collaboration with the University of Leiden £2,500

- 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 £5,000
- 2017 **Junior Thyssen Fellowship**, Institute of Advanced Study, CEU, *declined*
- 2017 **PI, Wellcome Seed Award** for research project Socialist Medicine: an Alternative Global Health History, ref. no. 205681/Z/16/Z £50,000
- 2016 **AHRC Bursary, History & Policy**, King's College London, £350
- 2015 **Society for the History of Technology (SHOT) Travel Grant**, \$1000
- 2015 **PI, Wellcome Trust Small Grant**, for funding After the End of Disease conference, May 25-26, 2016, ref. no. 200447/Z/16/Z, £10,000
- Consortium for the History of Science, Technology and Medicine Research Fellowship** \$1,550
- Society for the Social History of Medicine Conference Funding Award** £500
- Birkbeck Institute for Humanities Award** £500
- 2013 **Max Weber Fellowship**, European University Institute, *declined*
- 2012 **Mellon Dissertation Writing Fellowship**, Rutgers University/MPIWG \$28,000
- Max Planck Institute for the History of Science, Berlin (MPIWG) Research Fellowship**, Department II €12,500
- 2011 **Karen Johnson Freeze Fellowship**, Foundation for the History of Technology (SHT) and the Society for the History of Technology (SHOT) €2,500
- 2010 **PACHS (Philadelphia Area Center for the History of Science) Dissertation Research Fellowship** \$1,000
- 2009 **Mellon Summer Research Award** \$1,500
- 2008 **Excellence Fellowship, Institute for Health, Health Care Policy and Aging Research**, Rutgers University \$27,000
- Graduate Fellowship, Center for Race and Ethnicity**, Rutgers University \$27,000

## LEADERSHIP EXPERIENCE

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### *Research leadership*

**PI, ERC Starting Grant**, 'Socialist Medicine' research group, Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin (6 group members) 2021-2026

**PI, Wellcome Collaborative Award**, 'Connecting Three Worlds' research group, University of Exeter (3 universities, 12 group members, 6 collaborators) 2021-2026

**Co-I, Wellcome Discovery Award**, 'After the End' research group, University of Exeter (collaboration with 8 research institutions) 2023-2031

### *Editorial experience*

#### **Book series**

Epidemic Histories book series, Johns Hopkins University Press, co-editor, 2024-

#### **Handbook**

Cambridge History of Medicine, Cambridge University Press, co-editor, 2022-

#### **Journal**

Journal of the History of Knowledge, editorial board member, 2023-

Bulletin of the History of Medicine, advisory editorial board member, 2023-

Social History of Medicine, Oxford University Press, co-editor, 2017-2021

### *Learned societies*

#### **European Association for the History of Medicine and Health (EAHMH)**

President, 2023-

#### **History of Science Society (HSS)**

Chair, Committee on Publications, 2024

Council Member, 2021-2023  
**American Association for the History of Medicine (AAHM)**  
Nominating Committee, 2020-21  
George Rosen Prize committee, 2019-20

*Grant evaluation and professional evaluation/review*

**Funding**

Wellcome Trust, Early Career Award Interview Committee member, 2021-  
ERC, European Commission, ad-hoc evaluator, 2022-  
Marie Skłodowska-Curie Fellowship, European Commission, evaluator, 2019-  
FWF (Fonds zur Förderung der wissenschaftlichen Forschung), ad-hoc evaluator, 2023

**Promotion and professional evaluation**

HPS, Cambridge University, UK  
Graduate Institute, Geneva, Switzerland  
King's College London, UK  
University of Connecticut, USA

*Academic administrative roles, University of Exeter*

*University Covid Advisory Group member, 2020*  
*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 (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*

**POLICY AND INTERDISCIPLINARY ENGAGEMENT**

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*WHO Expert* - member of **Foresight Thinktank on Epidemic History, World Health Organization Western Pacific**, May-July 2020. Co-authored *History as a Partner in Public Health: A Report of the Foresight Thinktank on History of Epidemics*, World Health Organization, 2024.

*Socialist Medicine*. Public Lecture Series in Global Health, University of Belgrade (**Circle U**), October 11, 2023

*After the End of Disease*. Invited speaker at Science, Ethics and Politics Day: Power Structures of Science in a Post-Colonial World. **Interdisciplinary Center of Infection Biology** and Immunity, Berlin, May 12, 2023.

*History of Medicine: state of the field and current challenges*. **GCSE Diversity Network** on the History of Medicine teacher training and Exam Board meeting. September 24, 2021

*WHO Futures Forum, World Health Organization Western Pacific Office*, Manila. Invited speaker at WHO symposium, August 24, 2021.

*Epidemic Endings: A Historical Perspective*. **NHS Analytical Academy**, August 11, 2021

*When do Epidemics End? A historical perspective*. Invited talk at the **Science Seminar of the Department of Health and Social Care, UK Government**. April 22, 2021

**PUBLICATIONS**

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**Monographs**

*Socialist Medicine*. Manuscript invited for publication to *Global Studies of Race, Colonialism and Medicine* series, Johns Hopkins University Press.

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

### **Edited Collections**

Of shortages and solidarity. Eds. Luis Aue, Alila Brossard Antonielli, and Dora Vargha. Special journal issue in *European Journal for the History of Medicine and Health*, forthcoming.

Connecting Three Worlds. Eds. Edna Suarez-Diaz, Sarah Marks and Dora Vargha. Johns Hopkins University Press, forthcoming.

### **Journal publications**

“Missing pieces: Integrating the socialist world in global health history.” *History Compass*, 21(7), e12779. <https://doi.org/10.1111/hic3.12779>

“Where is the End and What Comes After?” In: Arnold, David, Pablo F. Gomez, Maria John, Angela Ki Che Leung, Kalala Ngalamulume, and Dora Vargha. "The Pandemic and History." *American Historical Review* 127, no. 3 (2022): 1340-1378.

Dora Vargha and Imogen Wilkins, “Vaccination and pandemics” *Isis Current Bibliography Special Issue*, ed. by Stephen P. Weldon and Neeraja Sankaran. February, 2022.

“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 19<sup>th</sup> century Hungarian medical discourse.” In: *Budapesti Negyed (Budapest Quarterly)* 47-48/2005 [in Hungarian]

### **Book chapters**

“Social and Socialist: Ideas of Health and Medicine across the Iron Curtain” in: Warwick Anderson, Jeremy Greene and Anne Kveim Lie eds. *A Global History of Social Medicine*. Cambridge: University of Cambridge Press, 2024 (forthcoming)

“1959 A Sabin-cseppek bevezetése Magyarországon” in Ferenc Laczó and Bálint Varga eds. *Magyarország Globális Története*. Budapest: Corvina Kiadó, 2022 [in Hungarian]

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

### **Podcasts**

[Fundamental Concepts in Understanding Pandemic Diseases](#). Isis Current Bibliography Podcast series. Consortium for the History of Science, Technology and Medicine, May 2022.

[There is No One History of Science \(but It’s All Interconnected\)](#). Science Social. Pakinam Amer and Stephani Hood eds. podcast series, Max Planck Institute for the History of Science, May 2022

[Global Health. A view from the Socialist World](#). Anna Calori ed. Research Centre for the History of Transformations (RECET). February 2022.

[Dora Vargha and Arthur Rose on Epidemics, Expectations, and Ends](#). Kristin Heitmann and Erica Charters eds. How Epidemics End podcast series, University of Oxford, October 2021

[Learning from Epidemics Past \(with Dora Vargha and Jahnvi Phalkey\)](#). Science Gallery Bengaluru and Bangalore International Centre, May 2021.

[Polio in Hungary and the End of Epidemics](#). Merle Eisenberg and Lee Mordechai eds. Infectious Historians podcast series. April 2021.

[Polio Across the Iron Curtain: Hungary’s Cold War with an Epidemic](#). Covid-10 Podcasts. Consortium for the History of Science, Technology and Medicine, March 2020.

[Writing Outsiders into the History of International Public Health: International Networks](#). Birkbeck podcast series, Reluctant Internationalists, 2017.

### **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

## TEACHING AND MENTORING

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### *PhD supervision*

Liang Wan, Department of History, University of Exeter, primary supervisor,  
'Connecting Three Worlds' Wellcome Collaborative Award Project, 2021-present

Maresa Marangoni, Department of History, University of Exeter, primary 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". 2020-present

Nicholas Evans, 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". PhD completed in 2022.

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.

### *Mentoring*

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

2023- Humanities Arts and Social Sciences Faculty Mentoring programme – Dr. Emily Bridger (senior lecturer), University of Exeter

2021-2022 University of Bern, mentoring agreement

### *Courses taught*

University of Exeter

"*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*" 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, University of London, London, UK

"*Europe from 1800*" B.A. survey course (co-teaching Spring, 2016)

"*Internationalism in the 20<sup>th</sup> 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*

## KEYNOTES

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Gender and Health. Socialism, Medicine and Global Health after WWII. Keynote presentation at the seminar series Gender and Health: Discussing Socialism and Transformation after WWII. University of Exeter, March 7, 2024 (online)

Keynote lecture, 13<sup>th</sup> Genealogies of Memory Conference, European Network Remembrance and Solidarity, Warsaw, November 22, 2023

Keynote lecture, UK-China Humanities Alliance Conference, Wuhan University, November 12, 2023

Keynote lecture, Medical Humanities Workshop, Oxford University, May 25-26, 2023

Guggenheim-Schnurr-Lecture, annual meeting of the Swiss Society for the History of Medicine and Sciences. Bern, November 11, 2022

Keynote Lecture, Leibniz Institute for East and Southeast European Studies annual conference, University of Regensburg, October 13, 2022

Special Guest Keynote, European Society for Dermatological Research annual meeting, Amsterdam, September 29, 2022

Keynote Lecture, Afterlives of Epidemics conference, University of Oslo, June 9, 2022

Director's Annual Lecture, CEERES, University of Chicago, April 19, 2022

Keynote Lecture, Public Health Utopias Spring School, l'EHESS, April 12, 2022

## SELECTED INVITED TALKS

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*Social or Socialist? Ideas of Health and medicine across the iron curtain.* Science Studies colloquium, ETH Zurich, March 20, 2024

*Medical technologies as solidarity: Eastern European goods in an alternative international health.* CENTRAL Workshop: Commodities, Trade, and Materiality in the Global Cold War, organised by The Research Centre for the History of Transformations (RECET), University of Vienna, April 19-20, 2023

*Epidemic Endings.* Lifetimes of Epidemics seminar series, University of Oslo, September 15, 2021

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

*Rethinking global health: shifting analysis to the socialist world.* Medical Humanities Seminar, University of Leeds-University of Laval, March 11, 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

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

*Kleio in pandemia*. Commentator on panel at Imre Kertesz Kolleg, Jena, July 13, 2020

[\*Histories of Medicine in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century\*](#). HPS Virtual Conversation series, Cambridge University, May 19, 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

*Connecting the socialist worlds: technical assistance and the Hungarian medical mission in North Korea*. Research colloquium in History of Science, Medicine and Technology, University of Edinburgh, March 14, 2019

*Cold War Rhetorics of Scarcity and Abundance: Technical Assistance in Socialist International Health*. CHSTM Research Seminar, University of Manchester, November 20, 2018.

*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

*Hungary, the Cold War, and the making of a socialist international health*. History of Science, Medicine and Technology Colloquium, UCLA, Los Angeles, May 14, 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.

*After the End of Polio: local and global consequences of disease elimination*. Consortium for the History of Science, Technology and Medicine, New York Academy of Medicine Library, April 15, 2016

## **LANGUAGES**

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Hungarian (native), English, German, Portuguese