

Dr. Amelia Morris

Lecturer of Communications

Department of Communications, Drama and Film

QUALIFICATIONS

University of Birmingham:

Ph.D. Political Science and International Studies, December 2018

Fully funded doctoral scholarship (Economic Social Research Council)

Postgraduate Certificate in Advanced Research Methods and Skills (2015 - 2018)

University of Sussex:

MA Gender and Media (Distinction), September 2015

Chancellor's Master's Scholarship for First Class Graduates

University of Birmingham:

BA Political Science and International Relations (First), June 2014

Fellow of Higher Education Accreditation (FHEA) in recognition of attainment against the UK Professional Standards Framework for teaching and learning support in higher education (August 2021)

SUMMARY

I am a leading cultural studies scholar with a public profile and international reputation in the fields of media studies and gender studies. My forthcoming co-authored second book, *Fat State*, has been described by the Editors at New York University Press as a major international milestone in feminist scholarship on the body. I have continuously delivered high-quality teaching to students from a range of backgrounds, receiving strong feedback in all my roles. In 2024, I won a teaching award at the Student Guild Awards. I have submitted bids for over £1 million in funding with major bodies, including the AHRC, and I am producing the first public-facing book on celebrity culture in the 'What is it For?' series for Bristol University Press.

POSITIONS HELD

- Lecturer of Communications in the Department of Communications, Drama and Film at the University of Exeter (May 2023 – present, 1.0 FTE)
- Lecturer/Assistant Professor of Sociology in the Department of Social Sciences at the University of Law (May 2020 - May 2023, 1.0 FTE)

- Postdoctoral Research Fellow on the UKRI-funded 'People-Powered Algorithms for Desirable Social Outcomes' project in the Department of Political Science at Royal Holloway University (August 2019 - May 2020, 1.0 FTE)
- Qualitative Research Manager at the Office of the Public Guardian in the Ministry of Justice (September 2018 - August 2019, 1.0 FTE)
- Qualitative Research Assistant for Dr. David Bailey for his project on protest movements in Germany and the UK (September 2017 - June 2018, 0.5 FTE)
- Mixed Methods Research Assistant for the College of Social Sciences, University of Birmingham (August 2017 - October 2017, 0.75 FTE)
- Teaching Associate in the Department of Political Science at the University of Birmingham (September 2015 - July 2018, 0.5 FTE)

RESEARCH AND PUBLICATIONS

My research spans a wide range of topics, including austerity, poverty, reality TV, gender, body, dieting, speciesism and celebrity culture. Although these interests are varied, the central objective of my work is to interrogate the relationship between popular culture and socioeconomic issues. Methodologically, I employ a post-structuralist feminist discourse analysis, drawing upon the work of scholars such as Judith Butler and Michel Foucault. I am committed to public scholarship, and my work has attracted considerable interest in the global media – I have contributed to major documentaries (HBO, Channel 4) and been invited to write for national publications, such as Tribune magazine.

GRANTS:

AHRC Curiosity Award, £100,000 [Project id: 11882903, submitted March 2026]

Sofa Studies. This project interrogates the invisible – but essential – components that construct intimacy and informality in the public sphere. Through the lens of the sofa, a seemingly innocuous element of the home, we will expand scholarly debates to blur the lines between the domestic and state violence. Working with **arts organisations in the Southwest** to cultivate **public engagement** and **building partnerships** with the **creative sector**.

ESRC Impact Accelerator Award, £2940.00 [Project id: 10478397, submitted November 2025; unfunded]

Working It: 'Doing' Feminism and Queer Theory. This project would focus on how workplaces can implement feminist theories to do feminism and queer theory in the everyday. We will

focus on organisations that position themselves as feminist and/or anti-fascist. To see how I took this forward with partners, see BEI section.

AHRC Catalyst, £259,655.50 [Project id: 100063246, submitted July 2025; unfunded]

Outskirts: Alternative Living in an Age of Perma-Crisis. Proposed as a two-year project with a research assistant focusing on alternative communities under late-stage capitalism. The project had the potential for regional, national and international impact. To see how I took this forward with partners, see BEI section.

UKRI, £800,227.17 [Project 2595695, submitted July 2023], unfunded.

Cross-disciplinary Experience-based Approaches for Informing Evidence-based Policymaking on Fuel Poverty. Proposed a two-year project on understanding and communicating the lived experiences of those living in fuel poverty to inform evidence-based policymaking by city authorities and government departments. Creative, visual representation of lived experiences is crucial to understanding the traumatic experience of fuel poverty, and as a channel through which these experiences, and their affective and emotional import, can be communicated and brought out of their granular context to a wider audience.

PUBLICATIONS

Books:

- Smith, N. and Morris, A. (forthcoming June 2026). *Fat State: The Body Politics of Austerity* (80,389 words) submitted to New York University Press in September 2025.
- Morris, A. (forthcoming, February 2027). *What Are Celebrities For?* Bristol University Press.
- Morris, A. (2019). *The Politics of Weight: Feminist Dichotomies of Power in Dieting*. London. Palgrave Macmillan. Pp. 1 – 202. DOI: 10.1007/978-3-030-13670-3.

Book chapter:

- Morris, A. (in press). Buffy's 'Slay' Era: Instagram, Escapism and the Fashion of Buffy the Vampire Slayer in an Age of 'Perma-Crisis.' in *Coming Back Stronger: 90s Nostalgia in Contemporary Media Culture* edited by Ewen, N. Cobb, S. and Hamad, H. Bloomsbury Academic. pp. 1 – 42.

Journal articles:

- Morris, A. 2026. The 1950s shit: pregnancy, the far-right and a 'Tayvis' baby. *Celebrity Studies*. Pp. 1 – 31. DOI: 10.1080/19392397.2026.2631401.
- Morris, A. and Smith, N. 2024. Fat scrounger, lean times: a tale of two bodies in austerity Britain. *British Politics*. 20(4). pp.579 - 598. DOI: 10.1057/s41293-024-00273-2. **Shortlisted for 'Best Article' award by the British Politics journal (2025).**
- Morris, A. 2025. Drew a map on your bedroom ceiling: Fandoms, nostalgic girlhood and digital bedroom cultures in the Swiftie-sphere. *Celebrity Studies*, 16(1), pp.77 - 95. DOI: 10.1080/19392397.2024.2338540
- Morris, A. and Oliver, K. 2022. The politics of friendship as resistance to the neoliberal university at UK conferences. *British Journal of Sociology of Education*, 43(4). Pp.603 - 622. DOI: 10.1080/01425692.2022.2042193.
- Morris, A., Coles-Kemp, L. and Jones, W. 2020. Digitalised welfare: Systems for both seeing and working with mess. In *WebSci'20 Workshop: Digital (In)Equality, Digital Inclusion, Digital Humanism*. ACM. Pp. 26 – 31. DOI: 10.1145/3394332.3492825.
- Coles-Kemp, L., Ashenden, D. and Morris, A. 2020. Universal Credit and Digital Design. *Policy, Design and Practice*. 3(2), Pp.177-188. DOI: 10.1080/25741292.2020.1760414.
- Oliver, K. and Morris, A. 2019. (dis-)Belonging Bodies: negotiating outsider-ness and embodied surveillance at academic conferences. *Gender, Place and Culture*. Pp. 27 (6), 765-787. DOI: 10.1080/0966369X.2019. 1609913.

Book reviews:

- Morris, A. 2019. Gender and Precarious Research Careers: A Comparative Analysis. Edited by Annalisa Murgia and Barbara Poggio. *LSE Review of Books*.
- Morris, A. 2018. Popular culture, political economy and the death of feminism: why women are in refrigerators and other stories. By Penny Griffin. *International Affairs*. 94(1). 1 January 2018. Pp.202–204.

Public engagement media:

- Morris, A. 2024. Feeding the Fascist Machine. Tribune.

- Quoted in an article by Yahr. 2023. 'After this year, we're all majoring in Taylor Swift'. The Washington Post.
- Quoted in an article by Warren-Lister. 2023. 'Why being hailed 'wifey material' isn't the compliment you think it is'. Glamour.
- Quoted in an article by Goyal. 2023. 'Does it matter if Taylor Swift is a girl's girl?' Medium.
- Morris, A. and Oliver, C. 2022. Multi-Level Marketing Companies are Cashing in on the Crisis. Tribune.
- Morris, A. 2022. After Surviving Cancer, You Have to Survive Capitalism. Tribune.
- Morris, A. 2021. Seeing the Self Through Selfies: Beauty, Selfies and Cancer. Beauty Demands.
- Williams, O., Morris, A. and Quigly, F. 2020. Who Are You Calling Diseased? Cost of Living.
- Morris, A. 2020. Friendship as Warfare. Feminist Academic Collective.
- Morris, A. 2019. Why the university strikes are a feminist issue. Royal Holloway UCU.
- Morris, A. 2018. March4(which)Women? Conservative MPs and Feminism. University of Birmingham School of Social Sciences.
- Morris, A. 2018. Girl Power? Trump, Resistance and the dangers of "empowerment." University of Birmingham Perspectives.
- Morris, A. 2018. Good Girls VS Bad Girls: exploring the representations of female sexuality on ITV's Love Island. University of Birmingham Perspectives.
- Morris, A. 2017. For all women, or for no women: power and feminism's broken relationship with consumer capitalism. Porridge Magazine.

RESEARCH, IMPACT AND KNOWLEDGE EXCHANGE

I have developed strong international visibility and fostered knowledge exchange across academic and public fora. I have presented my work at leading international venues, using these platforms to build global research partnerships and initiate new collaborations. These networks have directly contributed to the development of grant applications and to the establishment of the world-leading Centre for the Study of Gender, Media, and Sexuality (GEMS) at the University of Exeter. As Co-Director of GEMS, I co-organised a highly successful two-day launch workshop in Exeter, featuring internationally recognised scholars and helping to shape research agendas in gender studies. I also engage wider publics through research-led commentary and contributions to international news media.

The Centre for the Study of Gender, Media and Sexuality (2023 – present)

- Co-founded GEMS with Drs. Woori Han and Haili Li, launching the Centre with a one-day international conference (May 2023)
- **Network development** - With Professor Andrea Medrado, I networked with the Gender Studies programme at the University of Vienna, establishing plans for international collaboration (January 2026).
- **Community engagement** - With Dr. Hanne Stegeman, I have founded a queer/feminist book club at Book Bag, a local book shop in Exeter. This will be a monthly event that is open to the public and led by academics (including members of GEMS) (December 2025)
- **Collaborations** - I visited the University of Birmingham to plan collaborative events between The Centre for the Study of Gender, Media and Sexuality and academics in Social Policy and Political Science, including Dr. Frankie Rogan (August 2025)

Education collaborations:

- I co-organized the Department-wide GEMS research seminar with Professor Andrea Medrado (October 2025).
- I delivered a specialist lecture on popular culture for Grand Challenges week at the University of Exeter (June 2025)
- I co-organised the ZJUT-Exeter Symposium, an international two-day conference between the University of Exeter's Communications programme and ZJUT University. A delegation from Zhejiang University of Technology (ZJUT), in Hangzhou, was hosted by the Department of Communications, Drama and Film, wherein we explored possible research collaborations. Dr. Medrado and I organised 30 presentations across four panels, created programmes, led the social media content of the

conference (including interviews with speakers), as well as coordinating hospitality – a key contribution to the TNE collaboration (February 2025).

- Co-organised (with Drs. Haili Li and Woori Han) the conference, 'Resistance and Resilience: Gender/Sexuality in Digital Culture,' that launched The Centre for the Study of Gender, Media and Sexuality. The event had **global significance**, bringing together world-leading scholars such as Professor Alison Phipps. Under my direction the event received strong traction on social media (16th May 2024).
- I spearheaded a collaborative seminar between Communications, Drama and Film (Exeter) and the Institute of Islamic and Arabic Studies (Exeter). Dr. Naser-Najjab from IAIS spoke about the process of decolonising her research as a Palestinian academic and activist, as well as the 'Othering' of Arabic scholars by Western institutions and media (March 2024).
- Administrator for the Critical Security Design Reading and Doing Group: During my role as a Postdoctoral Researcher at Royal Holloway University, I was the sole administrator for the CSDRDG, a cross-disciplinary reading group that explores digital security from a range of perspectives. I managed the mailing list, sending out notifications and organizing the weekly presentations (2019 – 2021).
- Gender and feminism workshops in schools: As a PhD student, I led a series of workshops in secondary schools in Worcestershire to encourage students to think critically about gender norms and explore how gender impacts them in their everyday life (2015 - 2018).

EDUCATION

Innovative pedagogy to high numbers of students on the themes of cultural theory, media studies, the politics of gender, political ideologies, political economy of the welfare state, research methods, socioeconomics of health and inequalities.

Teaching experience	Institution	Dates	Role
CMM2008/CMM1004: Communications Research Methods	University of Exeter	2025 – present	Lecturer and Seminar Leader
CMM3009: Selling the Self: Influencer	University of Exeter	2024 – present	Lecturer and Seminar Leader

Culture and Digital
Capitalism

CMM1002: Communications Challenges	University of Exeter	2024 – present	Lecturer and Seminar Leader
CMM1001: Perspectives on Communications	University of Exeter	2023 – 2024	Lecturer and Seminar Leader
Foundations of Social Sciences	University of Law	2021 – 2023	Senior Tutor
Academic Skills and Report Writing	University of Law	2021 – 2023	Senior Tutor
Media, Crime and Control	University of Law	2021	Senior Tutor
Citizenship	University of Law	2021	Senior Tutor
Diversity, Difference and Inequality	University of Law	2021	Module design
Foundations of Sociology	University of Law	2021	Module design
Terrorism and the Media	University of Law	2021	Module design
Politics as a Vocation	University of Birmingham	2015 – 2018	Teaching Associate
Research Skills and Methods	University of Birmingham	2015	Teaching Associate
Liberal Arts and Sciences	University of Birmingham	2015	Teaching Associate
Berlin Film Festival	University of Exeter	2024	Lecturer: Field Trip
Feminist Geographies of Berlin	University of Birmingham	2015, 2016, 2017	Lecturer: Field Trip

Invited lectures Institution Date Network/course

Taylor Swift and Fascism	University College London	October 2025	Gender and Feminism Research Network
Taylor Swift, Fascism and Gender	Indiana State University	April 2025	Indiana Arts and Humanities Council
Taylor Swift and Bedroom Cultures	Ghent University	December 2024	Taylor Swift and Literature (BA Hons)
Media Representations of Gender and the Refugee Crisis	Royal Holloway University	November 2019	Gender and the Refugee Crisis (BA Hons)
Feminist Research Methods and Critical Discourse Analysis in the Media	Royal Holloway University	October 2019	Research Methods (BA Hons)
Security, Risk and 'Obesity' Discourses'	Royal Holloway University	September 2019	Critical Security Design Reading and Doing Group
Discourses of Health and the 'Obesity' Crisis in the Media'	Royal Holloway University	December 2019	Research Methods (BA Hons)
Civil Service Research Methods Research in Policy	University of Birmingham	November 2018	Research Methods (BA Hons)
Training	Institution	Date	Role
Perspectives in educational psychology - reality, being, motivation	University of Law	2023	Senior Tutor
Racial Literacy Training	University of Law	2021	Senior Tutor

Teaching sensitive subjects: pitfalls and trigger warnings	University of Law	2021	Senior Tutor
Care experienced students	University of Law	2021	Senior Tutor
Introduction to Learning and Teaching in Higher Education for Postgraduates	University of Birmingham	2015	Teaching Associate
Small Group Teaching for Postgraduates	University of Birmingham	2015	Teaching Associate

Postgraduate Research Supervision

- 2024 – present: Lead Supervisor to two doctoral students, Jing Lei and Sadeem Althani, in Media and Communications at the University of Exeter.
- January 2024 - present: undergraduate dissertation supervisor to four students on the BA in Media and Communications at the University of Exeter.
- May 2023 – present: MA supervisor for seven postgraduate dissertation students at the University of Exeter.

Personal Tutoring:

- May 2023 – present: Personal Tutor to thirty undergraduate students at the University of Exeter.
- 2020 – 2023: Personal Tutor to undergraduate students at the University of Law

LEADERSHIP AND MANAGEMENT

After joining the University of Exeter in 2023, I have increased my responsibility significantly, taking on the roles of Social Media Lead and Widening Participation. Notably, I wrote and implemented a **Social Media Strategy** for the Department of Communications, Drama and Film, which involves overseeing the student-led Social Media Committee and marketing the work in the department. I have undertaken the following roles:

Social Media Lead (2023 – present)

- I steered, wrote and implemented a **Social Media Strategy** for CDF, which was approved at the Faculty-level, to do the following: put CDF on the map for prospective students, showcase the high-quality research and teaching of CDF, **highlight local businesses and activities** for students, and form **partnerships with local businesses** for students to **improve their employability**.

As part of the Social Media Strategy, I have done the following:

- Continually documented and promoted CDF publications, modules and events online, showcasing the thriving life of the Department.
- Led and created internships for members of the Social Media Committee to create a digital marketing campaign for: Malvern French Film Festival (April 2026) and the London Comedy Film Festival (May 2025).
- Started the #ExploringExeter series, wherein students film the content about life in Exeter. This highlights and forms connections with local businesses, such as coffee shops, improving student employability (October 2024 – present)
- Led, recruited for and facilitated a student-run podcast, *Coffee and Comms* (October 2024 – present)

Widening Participation (2023 – 2025)

- Delivered six sessions to prospective state school students (2023 – 2025)
- Spearheaded a state-school visit (Christopher Whitehead Language College in Worcester) which included: delivering a x1 -hour workshop, a tour of the Bill Douglas Cinema Museum, a 2-hour workshop on video games and catering for the students/staff throughout the day (January, 2024)
- Spearheaded a collaboration with the BBC for a Young Reporter's Day, wherein state schools from Devon attended campus and were trained in journalist practises and ethics (June 2024)

Citizenship

- I have led four Open Days and three Offer Holder Days at the Streatham Campus.
- Widening Participation Lead from 2023 – 2025. Organised and delivered six sessions for prospective state school students.

- Co-founded the **PhD club** for The Centre for the Study of Gender, Media and Sexuality (GEMS)
- Organised and led CDF taster sessions for state school, Christopher Whitehead Language College (January 2025).
- Created and led a student competition for the creation of a new CDF logo (December 2025)
- Attended all UG graduation ceremonies (July 2024 and 2025).
- Consistently volunteer for one-off duties, such as teaching/marking cover when staff are ill/unavailable.

I have consistently led and supported extra-curricular activities:

- Pre-NSS party for Third Years (2024)
- UG and MA 'Quiz Nights' (2023 – 2024)
- Pre-NSS 'pizza night' (2026)
- 'Coffee and cake dissertation drop-ins' (2026)

EXTERNAL RECOGNITION

Awards:

- Awarded two Above and Beyond Awards by Dr. Alex Taylor and Dr. Emily Kreider. Both nominations commented on my collegial and helpful attitude (2025)
- Awarded the Fairer Society Award at the Guild of Students Award at the University of Exeter (2024)
- Awarded the 'Above and Beyond' prize by the Humanities and Social Sciences Faculty Leadership Team for my leadership in social media (December 2023).
- Nominated for Teacher of the Year, Covid-19 Hero and the Creative Teaching Award at the Annual Student-Led Awards at the University of Law (2021)

Professional external activities:

- Spearheaded the **partnership** between WomanKind Worldwide and The Centre for the Study of Gender, Media and Sexuality (GEMS). WomanKind Worldwide is a global feminist charity that focuses on the socio-economic rights of women, girls and non-binary people. GEMS delivered research-led sessions as part of WomanKind's Thinking Spaces series, wherein the organisation critically discusses current issues impacting their work (May 2025).
- Invited for a one-month Visiting Scholarship with the prestigious Gender Studies discipline at the University of Vienna during my approved research leave (January 2027 – July 2027). My aim is to form collaborations and build networks with scholars working on gender and sexuality, **cultivating pathways for international relationships**.

Media Appearances:

I have also made the following television appearances, which demonstrate the reach of my work beyond academia.

- I was a key interviewee in HBO's documentary 'Taylor VS Scooter' (June 2024). The documentary premiered with 1 million+ viewers.
- I was interviewed on the BBC News about my work on Taylor Swift and 'Swiftonomics' (April 2024).

Conference papers:

Paper title	Conference	Organiser	Location	Date
The 1950s Shit They Want From Me: Taylor Swift, Fascism and Motherhood	Textuality and Narrativity in the Work of Taylor Swift	Taylor Swift Studies Association	Online	May 2025
Kamala IS BRAT? Post-Feminist Sensibilities and the BRAT-ification of Kamala Harris	Society for Screen and Media Studies	Society for Screen and Media Studies	Chicago	April 2025
Taylor Swift and Bedroom Cultures	Taylor Swift: The Conference Era	Arts and Humanities Council	Bloomington, Indiana	October 2023

Gender, 'the obesity crisis' and the dieting industry	Blake Arts and Humanities Society	Downing College, the University of Cambridge	Cambridge	March 2023
The Politics of Friendship and Exclusion	Postgraduate student network	GeoPolitics Department, Macquarie University	Macquarie, Australia	August 2022
The Politics of Weight	Visual Embodied Methodologies: Art and Exclusion	King's College London	London	October 2019
The Politics of Pop Culture	The Politics of Pop Culture	University of Birmingham	Birmingham	February 2018
Organiser of the 5th Midlands Graduate School ESRC Doctoral Training Partnership	Doctoral Training Centre Student Conference	University of Birmingham	Birmingham	June 2017
Organiser and panel speaker of 'Gender and Trump: how can feminism resist fascism?'	POLSiS PhD students	University of Birmingham	Birmingham	January 2017
MyFitnessPal? Fitness tracking applications in an age of self-surveillance	Gender Roles Group	University of Birmingham	Birmingham	May 2017
MyFitnessPal? Fitness tracking applications in an age of self-surveillance	Women in Leadership Group	Oxford University	Oxford	December 2016

#Gymlife: does Instagram's fitness trend have the potential to negatively impact female body image?

Researching Social Media Use: Identity, Community and Political Dissent, Media Discourse Group

De Montfort University

Leicester

July 2016