

DR EMILY COUSENS

Assistant Professor in Politics and International Relations

Northeastern University London

Devon House, 58 St Katharine's Way, London, E1W 1LP

e.cousens@northeastern.edu

CURRENT ACADEMIC EMPLOYMENT

Assistant Professor, Politics and International Relations

Northeastern University London | Aug 2024 – present

LEADERSHIP POSITIONS

Director of UK and European Initiatives

Digital Transgender Archive | Oct 2024 – present

PAST ACADEMIC EMPLOYMENT

Lecturer in the History of Gender and Sexuality

Birkbeck, University of London | Sept 2023 – Aug 2024

Fellow, Teaching & Research, LSE100

London School of Economics | Sept 2021 – Aug 2023

Visiting Lecturer in Gender and Sexuality Studies

University of Oxford | Sept 2018 – Aug 2022

Associate Lecturer in Gender and Political Theory

Oxford Brookes University | Sept 2016 – Aug 2021

Graduate Teaching Assistant, LSE100

London School of Economics | Sept 2018 – June 2020

Visiting Lecturer in Feminist Philosophy

University of Hertfordshire | Dec 2017 – Apr 2018

DEGREES AND QUALIFICATIONS

Fellowship of Advance HE | 2024

Accredited postgraduate qualification awarded by the London School of Economics

PhD in Political Philosophy, Oxford Brookes University | 2020

Thesis: *Vulnerability and the Feminist Politics of Sexual Violence*

Supervisors: Victoria Browne (Political Theory), Doerthe Rosenow (International Relations), Beverley Clack (Philosophy)

Examiners: Moya Lloyd (University of Essex), Alison Phipps (Newcastle University)

MSt. in Women's Studies, University of Oxford | 2014

Result: Distinction (Dissertation 84%)

BA (Hons) in Philosophy, Politics and International Relations, University of Oxford | 2013

Result: High 2.1

PRIZES AND AWARDS

Humanities Centre Global Fellow, Northeastern University | Sept 2025 – Aug 2026

Teaching Award, London School of Economics (selected by Head of Department) | June 2019

Oxford Brookes Students Union Teaching Award: Diversifying the Curriculum | May 2018

FUNDING AND GRANTS

Leverhulme Research Project Grant - £284,815 | In Process, Second Round, Submitted July 2026

National Lottery Heritage Grant - £248,413 | In Process, Second Round, to submit August 2026

Pop-Up Research Grant, Northeastern University London — £750 | Jan 2025 – July 2025

Birkbeck Strategic Research Funding Grant — £1,200 | Dec 2023 – Aug 2024

LSE Conference Grant — £500 | June – Aug 2023

BA/Leverhulme Small Research Grant — £6,105 | Mar 2022 – Sept 2023

Santander Student Research Grant — £500 | May 2017

Aristotelian Society Conference Grant — £300 | Dec 2016

Doctoral Research Studentship, Oxford Brookes University — £57,000 | Jan 2015 – Jan 2018

PUBLICATIONS

Books

Cousens, E. (2023) *Trans Feminist Epistemologies in the US Second Wave*. New York: Palgrave Macmillan.
[Series: Breaking Feminist Waves]

Peer Reviewed Articles

Cousens, E. (2026, forthcoming). 1960s Transvestite Periodicals as Portals Beyond Cisnormativity: Temporalities and Phenomenologies of Hatching. *Women's Studies Quarterly*. Special Issue. Copyedited and forthcoming in Fall 2006

Cousens, E. (2025) Subjectivity Without Sex? The Materialist Trans Feminist Potential in Monique Wittig's Non-Fiction. *L'Esprit Créateur*, 65(2), 104–11

Cousens, E. (2025) Virginia Prince, Robert Stoller and the Trans Feminist Intellectual History of the Sex/Gender Distinction. *History Workshop Journal*, 99(1), 73–97.

Cousens, E. & Pihlak, A. (2025) 1970s Transvestite Taxonomies and the New Queer Frontier. *Sexualities*, 0(0).

Pihlak, A. & Cousens, E. (2025) Putting the Femme in Feminist: Trans Feminism and the “Male Lesbian” in the American Second Wave. *Gender & History*.

Cousens, E. (2023) Entering the Archive of Second Wave Trans Feminist Print Culture: The Journal of Male Feminism. *Gender and History*, pp. 1–17. [Special Issue: Historicising Trans Pasts]

Cousens, E. (2023) Androgyny in the Archives: 1970s Trans and Feminist Encounters with the Promise and Politics of Non-Binary. *Graduate History Review*, pp. 164–187. [Special Issue: Trans & Two-Spirit Histories]

Cousens, E. (2020) Anderson's Ethical Vulnerability: Animating Feminist Responses to Sexual Violence. *Angelaki: Journal of the Theoretical Humanities*, 25(1–2), pp. 165–180.

Manfredi, S., Clayton-Hathway, K. & Cousens, E. (2019) Increasing Gender Diversity in Higher Education Leadership: The Role of Executive Search Firms. *Social Sciences (Basel)*, 8(6), 168, pp. 1–17.

Cousens, E. (2017) Corporeal Vulnerability and the Temporality of Feminist Theory. *Studies in Social and Political Thought*, 27, pp. 40–56.

Book Chapters

Cousens, E. (2020) Anderson's Ethical Vulnerability: Animating Feminist Responses to Sexual Violence. In *Love and Vulnerability*. London: Routledge, pp. 156–180.

Book Reviews

Cousens, E. (2018) Living a Feminist Life by Sara Ahmed. *Excursions*, 8(1).

Cousens, E. (2016) What is a People? by Alain Badiou. *Marx & Philosophy Review of Books*.
https://marxandphilosophy.org.uk/reviews/8196_what-is-a-people-review-by-emily-cousens/

INVITED TALKS AND PAPERS (SELECTED)

Keynotes

2026 — Reading Trans [Feminism?] In the Archives: Phenomenologies and Temporalities of Hatching, Goethe University, Frankfurt. Invited Guest Lecture for Manon Garica's Colloquium.

2025 — The Materiality of the Digital Transgender Archive: Trans Feminist Epistemologies and Ethics. University of Oxford, UK.

2023 — A Trans Feminist History of the Sex/Gender Distinction. Feminist Thinking Graduate Conference, University of Oxford, UK.

2022 — Writing the Revolution: Second Wave Feminisms in Print. Subversions Conference, University of Oxford, UK

2021 — Against Progress Narratives of Second Wave Feminism. Body, Space, Voice: Dimensions in Feminism Conference, University of Oxford, UK.

Guest Lectures

2025 — Constructing Trans Archives. EHRC Network Event, University of Nottingham.

2024 — Second Wave Trans Feminism. Centre for Biomedicine, Self and Society Seminar Series, University of Edinburgh, UK.

2024 — Second Wave Trans Feminism. Centre for Gender History Seminar Series, University of Glasgow, UK.

2024 — Second Wave Trans Feminism. Oxford University Feminist Thinking Seminar Series, University of Oxford, UK.

2023 — Second Wave Trans Feminisms in Print. University of the West of England, Bristol, UK.

2022 — Second Wave Trans Feminisms in Print. Centre for Women's Studies LGBTQ+ History Month Speaker Series, University of York, UK.

2021 — On Curating Feminist Spaces. FemThinkDo Launch Event. Online.

Panel and Event Chair

2026 — Glut in the Archives (invited panelist). Centre for Women's, Gender and Queer Histories, University of Oxford

2024 — The Politics of Trans Identities (panel chair). Queer History Conference, San Francisco State University, USA.

2021 — Dr Emily Cousens and Levi Hord in conversation with Judith Butler. University of Oxford, UK.

2017 — New Directions in the History of the Women's Liberation Movement Conference (chair). All Souls College, University of Oxford, UK.

CONFERENCE PAPERS AND PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT (SELECTED)

Conference Papers

2026— Cousens, E. 'Trans [Feminist?] Epistemologies', Lesbian Lives Conference, University of Cork.

2025 — Cousens, E. 'Putting the Femme in Feminist: Trans Lesbian Feminism in the Second Wave'. Queer History Conference, University of Oxford.

2025 — Cousens, E. 'Towards a Theory of Cismelancholia'. Thinking with Wendy Brown: Democracy in Nihilistic Times Conference. University of Brighton, Centre for Applied Politics, Philosophy and Ethics.

2024 — Cousens, E. 'Putting the Femme in Feminist: The Male Lesbian and Sex-Positive Trans Lesbian Feminism in the Second Wave'. Lesbian Lives Conference, Brighton, UK.

2023 — Cousens, E. & Pihlak, C. 'Putting the Femme in Feminist: The Male Lesbian and Sex-Positive Trans Lesbian Feminism in the Second Wave'. Gender and Sexuality History Workshop, University of Cambridge.

2023 — Cousens, E. 'The Male Lesbian: Sally Douglas, Salmacis & 1970s Trans Lesbian Feminism'. Queer Frontiers Conference, University of Bristol, UK.

2023 — Cousens, E. 'The Archive of 1970s Trans Community Print Culture as Second Wave Feminist Theory'.

Hypatia 40th Anniversary Conference, University of Oregon, USA.

2023 — Cousens, E. 'Trans Embodiment as Second-Wave Feminist Epistemology'. Talking Bodies Conference, University of Chester, UK.

2023 — Cousens, E. & Cetinkaya, H. 'Feeling Attached to Norms: Beyond Repression and Resistance? An Encounter Between Trans and Postcolonial Feminist Perspectives'. On Relationalities: Politics, Narrative, Sociality CAPPE Symposium, University of Brighton, UK.

2023 — Cousens, E. 'Behind the Cis Story of Sex and Gender'. Moving Trans History Forward Conference, University of Victoria, Canada.

2022 — Cousens, E. 'Entering the Archive of Second Wave Trans Feminism'. Historicising Trans Lives Conference, University of Sheffield, UK.

2022 — Cousens, E. 'Entering the Archive of Second Wave Trans Feminism'. Queer History Conference, San Francisco State University, USA.

Impact and Public Engagement

2025 — Cousens, E. The Construction of the Sex/Gender Distinction. History Workshop Blog.

2025 — Hopkins Press Podcast 4.7: "Emily Cousens on Wittig's Trans Feminist Potential." Oct 2025. 2024 — *Trans Feminist Epistemologies in the U.S. Second Wave*. New Books Network podcast.

2024 — "Trans Feminism in the Archives". Panel at Museum of London Docklands, UK. Invited to speak as part of Pride month.

2023 — "Second Wave Trans Feminism with Emily Cousens." Episode of *Queer Lit* podcast, UK.

2020 — "How Fast is Too Fast: The Role of Rapid Response Publishing in Covid Times." Event organiser and chair, LSE, UK.

2017 — "Topical Discussion Show The 180." Interviewed by Canadian Broadcasting Corporation (CBC) as expert on the gendered language of war reporting.

2015 — "We need to stop telling ourselves that women and children are the only refugees who matter." *The Independent*.

TEACHING AND SUPERVISION

Doctoral Supervision

2023–2026 — Leila Sellers, School of Historical Studies, Northeastern University London.
Thesis: *The Beaumont Society: A Transvestite History of Britain from the 1950s*.

Funded by the Wellcome Collection. Co-supervised with Professor Matt Cook, University of Oxford.

Result: Passed with No Corrections

Graduate Teaching

Northeastern University London | 2024–present

Dissertation Supervision – One Masters dissertation, marked at distinction (75).

Birkbeck, University of London | 2023–2024

Theorising Gender — MA course (core), 37 students, 10-week lecture and seminar series.

Queer Histories, Queer Cultures — MA course (optional), 29 students, 10-week lecture and seminar series.

Supervised seven MA dissertations across a range of topics.

University of Oxford | 2018–2022

Feminism and/or Queer Theory — independently designed graduate option paper, 4–5 students, seminar-based.

MSt. Approaches to Feminist Research course — co-convened and co-delivered

Dissertation Supervision - Eight Masters dissertations and 14 research papers (all marked at distinction).

Undergraduate Teaching

Northeastern University London | 2025–2026

Critical Theory — 30 students, lecture and seminar based, innovative assessments.

Introduction to Sociology – 30 students, interactive, experiential, lecture and seminar based

Foundations of Western Political Thought – 30 students, lecture and seminar based

Societies in Transition – 10 students, lecture and seminar based

London School of Economics, LSE100 | 2021–2024

Designed a new interdisciplinary pathway: Race and Reparations (approx. 700 first-year students).

Oversaw the successful transition from 1 to 3 LSE100 pathways.

Course Director, Government and Politics, LSE CHOICE Summer School | 2019–2020.

Oxford Brookes University | 2016–2021

Sex, Gender and Politics — module lead, second-year undergraduates, 15 students, 12-week course.

Additional courses: Introduction to Politics; Political Thought 1 & 2; Continental Philosophy of Religion;

Researching International Relations.

University of Hertfordshire | 2018

Feminist Philosophy — module lead, fourth-year undergraduates, 16 students, 12-week course.

SERVICE

Conference and Event Organisation

2026 — UK Trans History Summit

Organised a half-day event on the state of the field in UK trans history/trans studies. Attended by 30 leading academics and archivists from across the UK.

Co-sponsored with the University of Oxford Centre for Women's, Gender and Queer History.

2023 — Feminist Print Cultures: Creating Community and Consciousness 1960–2020

Won funding for and co-organised a one-day workshop involving activists and academics, including Dr Julie Enszer, Dr Nat Raha, and representatives of small-press publishing.

2016–2020 — Founding Director, The London Free School of Applied Critical and Feminist Theory

Established and secured funding for a fee-free summer school for students and academics; secured high-profile

academic speakers.

University Service

2025–2026— Minutes Secretary, Northeastern University London

2023–2024 — Postgraduate Exam Board Member, Birkbeck

2023–2024 — Steering Group Member, Birkbeck Institute for Gender and Sexuality

2021–2023 — Academic Board Departmental Representative, London School of Economics

2021–2022 — Board of Internal Examiners, University of Oxford

2020–2020 — Green Impact Officer, LSE100, London School of Economics

2020–2020 —Academic Mentor, Widening Participation, LSE Sprint, London School of Economics

2018–2022 — MSt. Women's, Gender & Sexuality Studies Steering Committee, University of Oxford

2018–2022 — MSt. Women's, Gender & Sexuality Studies Admissions and Applications Board, University of Oxford.