



MATTHEW GRANT

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(University of Essex)

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EDUCATION

2002-2006	PhD History (Queen Mary, University of London)
2001-2002	MA Contemporary British History (Queen Mary, University of London)
1998-2001	BA (Hons) History (Queen Mary, University of London)

Favourite university module

The Secret State. This was a module taught by Peter Hennessy, and it was the foundation of a book he published with the same name in 2002. It sparked my love of Cold War history and introduced me to the idea that a module could help the lecturer develop their ideas and help them produce a book.

Favourite history book

David Reynolds, In Command of History: Churchill Fighting and Writing the Second World War (2005). It's a book which shows that writing, language,

and the sharing of ideas, shapes our understanding of politics and the past. In that sense, it's a political history but one that focuses on ideas and culture.

EMPLOYMENT

2016-present	Reader in History (University of Essex)
2015-2016	Senior Lecturer in History (University of Essex)
2013-2015	Lecturer in History (University of Essex)
2010-2015	Senior Lecturer in History (Teesside University)
2009-2010	Economic and Social Research Council Postdoctoral Fellow (University of Manchester)
2007-2009	Teaching Fellow (University of Sheffield)

After my PhD I taught at the University of Sheffield for two years. After a year of postdoctoral funding, I worked for three years at Teesside University. I have worked at Essex since 2013, and have been Head of School since 2024.

SELECTED PUBLICATIONS

Britain's Cold War Home Front: Citizens and the State (Oxford University Press, forthcoming 2027)

National Service Life Stories: Class, Masculinity and Memory (with Peter Gurney and Joes Morley) (Oxford University Press, 2025).

'Memory Problems: Framing the New Cold War', *Labour History Review* 87:3 (2022), 282-87.

'Making Sense of Nuclear War: Narratives of Voluntary Civil Defence and the Memory of Britain's Cold War', *Social History* 44:2 (2019), 229-54.

'The Trial of Neville Heath, the Popular Press, and the Construction of the Memory of the Second World War in Britain, 1945-1946', *English Historical Review* 133: 564 (2018), 1155-77.

'Historicising Citizenship in Post-War Britain', *Historical Journal* 59:4 (2016), 1187-1206.

Understanding the Imaginary War: Culture, Thought and Nuclear Conflict, 1945-1990 (edited with Benjamin Ziemann) (Manchester: Manchester University Press, 2016).

After the Bomb: Civil Defence and Nuclear War in Britain, 1945-68 (Basingstoke: Palgrave Macmillan, 2010).

'Images of Survival, Stories of Destruction: Nuclear War on British Screens from 1945 to the Early 1960s', *Journal of British Cinema and Television* 10:1 (2013), 7-26.

'Citizenship, Sexual Anxiety and Womanhood in Second World War Britain: the Case of the Man with the Cleft Chin', in S. Nicholas and T. O'Malley (eds), *Moral Panics, Social Fears and The Media: Historical Perspectives* (London: Routledge, 2013), 177-90.

'"Civil Defence Gives Meaning to Your Leisure": Citizenship, Participation and Cultural Change in Cold War Recruitment Propaganda, 1949-53', *Twentieth Century British History* 22:1 (2011), 52-78.

The British Way in Cold Warfare: Diplomacy, Intelligence and the Bomb (edited) (London: Continuum, 2009; paperback edition, 2011).

'Historians, the Penguin Specials and the "State-of-the-Nation" Literature, 1958-64', *Contemporary British History* 17:3 (2003), 29-54.

My research has primarily focused on the Cold War, and in particular the plans to defend Britain against an enemy attack. But I've written on several different things, from paperback books to murder trials. My approach is to focus on a cultural history of politics: to understand that ideas, media, and language shapes people's perceptions of what is political possible, whether they are Prime Ministers or ordinary people.