

Academic Curriculum Vitae

Elizabeth Margaret Rees

2201 Old Ivy Rd, Charlottesville, VA, 22903

mtc8ap@virginia.edu

Employment

Research Fellow, Current

Miller Center of Public Affairs, University of Virginia, Charlottesville, VA.

Working on ongoing Presidential Oral History Program as an interviewer and researcher.

Postdoctoral Fellow, 2024-2025

Center for Presidential History, Southern Methodist University, Dallas, TX.

Worked on editing thesis into book manuscript and securing a two-volume book contract.

Education

PhD/DPhil in History, 2020-2024

St. Catherine's College, University of Oxford, UK.

Completed research on the development of the modern East Wing and the Office of the First Lady, 1961-1976.

MA United States Studies: History and Politics, 2018-2019

University College London, UK.

BA (Hons) History and English Literature, 2015-2018

University of Exeter, UK.

Awards and Fellowships

Commended Scholar in Women's History, Cokie Roberts Fellowship, National Archives Foundation, 2025.

David M. Rubenstein Center Fellowship, White House Historical Association, 2023.

Theodore C. Sorensen Fellowship, John F. Kennedy Presidential Library and Museum, 2023.

Rothermere American Institute Fourth Year Scholarship, University of Oxford, 2023.

Harry Middleton Fellowship in Presidential Studies, Lyndon Baines Johnson Presidential Library and Museum, 2023.

Gerald R. Ford Scholar Award, Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library and Museum, 2022.

Ford Foundation Travel Award, Gerald R. Ford Foundation, 2022.

The Colin Matthew Fund, University of Oxford, 2022.

RAI Travel Award, University of Oxford, 2021.

Faculty of History Emergency Archival Funding, University of Oxford, 2020.

Mini-Covid 19 Grant, HOTCUS, 2020.

Institute of the Americas Travel Award, UCL, 2019.

Teaching and Faculty Experience

Guest Lecturer, Hunt Scholars Program, SMU, Spring Semester 2025.

Tutor, Reagan and the AIDS Crisis, Michaelmas 2022.

Teaching Assistant, Special Subject: Race, Religion and Resistance in Jim Crow America, University of Oxford, Michaelmas 2021.

History Aptitude Test Examiner, Michaelmas, 2020.

Oral History Experience

Barack Obama Oral History Project, Miller Center Presidential Oral History Project.

Donald J. Trump Oral History Project, Miller Center Presidential Oral History Project.

Joseph R. Biden Jr. Oral History Project, Miller Center Presidential Oral History Project.

Publications

Contracts signed, *The East Wing and the Office of the First Lady, Volume I and Volume II*, Forthcoming with The Miller Center Studies on the Presidency Series at UVA Press.

“The Animal Envoy: The Diplomatic Gifting of Animals to the White House, *White House History Quarterly*, Number 76, Winter 2025: 18-25.

“Plains and Simple: The Influences of Plains, Georgia, and Ideas of the American South on Jimmy Carter’s Public Persona,” in Thomas J. Cobb and Olga Akroyd, eds. *Presidents and Place: America’s Favorite Sons*, Lexington Books, 2023: 197-211.

“Fit to Govern? The Presidency, Running and Perceptions of Strength,” in Adam Burns and Rivers Gambrell eds. *Sports and the American Presidency: From Theodore Roosevelt to Donald Trump*, Edinburgh University Press, 2022: 103-122.

Public Writing

‘What Melania Trump’s Decision on Speak Out on Abortion Says About the GOP,’ *TIME*, November 1, 2024, <https://time.com/7134432/melania-trump-abortion-history-gop/>

‘Mom-in-Chief: Jill Biden, Melania Trump, and the Rhetoric of Motherhood in First Lady Campaigning,’ *USSO*, October 23, 2020: <https://usso.uk/mom-in-chief-jill-biden-melania-trump-and-the-rhetoric-of-motherhood-in-first-lady-campaigning/>

‘The Nation’s Top Dog’: The Enduring Fascination of Animals in the White House, *RAI Blog*, June 4, 2021: <https://www.rai.ox.ac.uk/article/the-nations-top-dog-the-enduring-fascination-of-animals-in-the-white-house>

Conferences and Panels

‘Nancy Reagan and the Transformation of the East Wing Staff,’ The Age of Reagan Conference, Ronald Reagan Presidential Library, Simi Valley, July 30-August 1, 2025.

Moderator, ‘Shaking It Up: The Life and Times of Liz Carpenter,’ Film Screening at Sixth Floor Museum, Dealey Plaza, Dallas, TX, March 6, 2025.

Panelist, ‘The 1984 U.S. Presidential Election in Retrospective,’ York St. John University Online Roundtable, November 14, 2024.

Panel Moderator, ‘Revolutionary Sisterhoods: Women’s Political Activism and Thought, 1930s to 1970s,’ HOTCUS Annual Conference, University of Southampton, 2024.

Panel moderator, ‘First Books,’ HOTCUS Annual Conference, University of Southampton, 2024.

Plenary Session Panel Contributor, ‘Celebrating the Work of Professor Iwan Morgan,’ HOTCUS Annual Conference, Northumbria University, 2023.

‘Alternative Methodologies,’ HOTCUS Annual Conference, Northumbria University, 2023.

‘The Personal is Political: Second Wave Feminism and the Politicization of the East Wing Staff, 1963-1976,’ British Association of American Studies Annual Conference, 2023.

PhD Project Presentation, Heidelberg Center for American Studies Spring Academy, 2023.

PhD Project Presentation, Roosevelt Institute of American Studies PhD Winter Seminar, 2022.

Convened and presented on ‘The Distaff Side: Women in Washington’ with Thomas Tunstall Allcock (Manchester) and Alexandra Penler (LSE) at HOTCUS Annual Conference, University of Edinburgh, 2022.

‘Once a Polio Victim’: Wilma Rudolph and American Exceptionalism in the 1960 Olympics,’ HOTCUS Winter Symposium: Americans in the World, February 20, 2021.

‘Running for First Lady: Modern Presidential Campaigning and the Role of the First Lady,’ HOTCUS Postgraduate and ECR Virtual Conference: America at the Ballot Box, September 19, 2019.

Volunteered on organizing committee at UCL Institute of the Americas Research Network Conference: Chaos and Crisis in the Americas, 2019.

Organizational Service

SMU CPH Book Prize Committee Member, 2025.

SMU CPH High School Intern Mentor, 2024-5.

HOTCUS Postgraduate Representative, 2023-4.

Rothermere American Institute Social Media Moderator, University of Oxford, 2022.

Graduate Seminar Coordinator, RAI University of Oxford, 2021.

American History Research Seminar Coordinator, RAI University of Oxford, 2022-3.