



# THE THATCHER NETWORK

2021 ANNUAL CONFERENCE

NEWCASTLE UNIVERSITY

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# VENUE & TRAVEL

The conference will take place in Rooms 1.05 and 1.06 of the Armstrong Building, which is situated at the heart of Newcastle University's city centre campus (NE1 7RU). Access to the building is via the main entrance on Queen Victoria Road, opposite the Great North Children's Hospital.

Maps of Newcastle city centre and of the University campus are [available online](#).

Delegates travelling by train are advised to arrive at Newcastle Central station and then use the Tyne and Wear Metro to travel to either Haymarket (for the University) or West Jesmond (for the conference hotel). Free parking is available at the hotel.

Speakers and delegates wishing to participate virtually can join the conference via Zoom. A link will be sent in an automated email upon [registering your attendance](#).



# PROGRAMME

Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> July

- |               |   |
|---------------|---|
| 09.25 – 09.30 | <b>Welcome</b>  |
| 09.30 – 11.00 | <b>Euroscepticism</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Andrew Crines (Liverpool) and Timothy Heppell (Leeds)</li><li>• Manel Salem (Jules Verne)</li><li>• David Jeffery (Liverpool)</li></ul>   |
| 11.00 – 11.30 | Refreshment break   |
| 11.30 – 13.00 | <b>Social Attitudes and Government Policy</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Stephen Farrall, Emily Gray and Philip Mike Jones (Derby)</li><li>• Ruth Davidson (King's College London)</li><li>• Lenon Maschette (São Paulo/King's College London)</li></ul> |
| 13.00 – 14.00 | Lunch break   |
| 14.00 – 15.30 | <b>Historic Parallels and Perspectives</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Sam Blaxland (Swansea)</li><li>• Paul Stott (EFSAS)</li><li>• Emma Barrett (Birmingham) and Colm Murphy (QMUL)</li></ul>   |
| 15.30 – 16.00 | Refreshment break   |
| 16.00 – 17.00 | <b>Is the current government Thatcherite?</b><br><i>Featuring Martin Farr, Emma Barrett and Neil Carmichael</i>   |

## Friday 30<sup>th</sup> July

- |               |  |
|---------------|--|
| 10.30 – 12.00 | <b>Citizens and the Constitution</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Craig Prescott (Winchester)</li><li>• Daniel Pitt (Hull)</li><li>• Monia O'Brien Castro (Tours)</li></ul>                           |
| 12.00 – 13.00 | Lunch break  |
| 13.00 – 14.30 | <b>Approaches to Power and Leadership</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Nigel Fletcher (King's College London)</li><li>• Alessia Cesena-Harris (Edinburgh)</li><li>• Martin Farr (Newcastle)</li></ul> |
| 14.30 – 15.00 | Refreshment break  |
| 15.00 – 16.00 | <b>Keynote Address</b><br>Lord Parkinson of Whitley Bay  |
| 16.00         | <b>Close of conference</b>   |

# HOTEL

We have partnered with the Cairn Group to secure a heavily discounted rate for speakers and delegates travelling to Newcastle for the conference.

The Cairn Hotel is located at 97-103 Osborne Road, Jesmond, NE2 2TJ. It is situated next to the West Jesmond metro station and is two stops from the Newcastle University campus (or a 30-minute walk).

Guests can enjoy a double room and breakfast for a discounted rate by going to [www.cairnnewcastle.com](http://www.cairnnewcastle.com) and using the code **NCU2807** when booking.

The hotel is near a range of cafes, bars, restaurants, and convenience stores.



# CONFERENCE DINNER

Speakers and delegates who are joining us in Newcastle are invited to join us for dinner in Antico restaurant, a short walk from the conference hotel at 13-15 Osborne Road, Jesmond, Newcastle upon Tyne NE2 2AE.

Tables are booked for 7pm but delegates will need to inform the organisers if they wish to attend by 22<sup>nd</sup> July 2021.



# KEYNOTE, ORGANISERS & SUPPORT

## KEYNOTE

### **Lord Parkinson of Whitley Bay**

Stephen Parkinson was Political Secretary to the Prime Minister from 2016-2019.

He is the editor of the Conservative History Journal and has previously served as Director of Research at the Centre for Policy Studies, the think-tank founded by Margaret Thatcher and Keith Joseph in 1974.

Lord Parkinson has also held roles within CCHQ, as a Special Advisor in the Home Office, and within the Vote Leave campaign during the 2016 EU referendum.

## ORGANISERS

**Dr Antony Mullen** is a Research Associate at the University of Bolton and Director of the Thatcher Network.

**Dr David Jeffery** is a Lecturer at the University of Liverpool and Co-Director of the Thatcher Network.

**Dr Martin Farr** is Senior Lecturer at Newcastle University and the host institution organiser of this year's conference.

## SUPPORT

The conference has been supported by the Political Studies Association's Conservatism Studies and Politics & History Specialist Groups. Thanks also to the School of History, Classics, and Archaeology for providing the venue and sponsoring the conference.

# ABSTRACTS

## **The Legacy of Thatcherism? The Influence of Thatcherite Ideology upon Conservative Party Leadership Elections since 1990**

Andrew Roe-Crines (Liverpool) and Timothy Heppell (Leeds)

The aim of this paper is to examine the influence of the ideological legacy of Thatcherism since 1990 by focusing on leadership selection within the Conservative Party. The paper will identify how Thatcherism prised open three ideological divides within the Conservative Party – i.e. between wets and dries on the economic ideological divide; between Europhiles and Eurosceptics on the European ideological divide; and between social conservatives and social liberals on the social, sexual and morality ideological divide. Having done so the paper will assess the changing ideological composition of the parliamentary Conservative Party at the time of the leadership elections of 1990, 1995, 1997, 2001, 2005, 2016 and 2019 and then it will assess the link between each ideological divide and voting behaviour in the respective leadership elections. The paper will identify the declining influence of the economic policy divide in terms of leadership selection. It will identify a fluctuating pattern of influence vis-à-vis the social, sexual and moral divide. It will then identify how the evolving European ideological policy divide – in which the Europhile/Eurosceptic divide morphed into soft and hard variants of Euroscepticism and then remain/leave – has remained a constant driver of voting behaviour in Conservative Party leadership elections.

## **From Thatcher to Brexit: Is British Democracy in a state of change or continuity or/and continued crisis?**

Manel Salem (UPJV)

Over the last decades, many events that have taken place in the United Kingdom show a series of crises. Among the events one can mention the 2008 financial crisis, the Great Recession that led to the implementation of an austerity programme by the Cameron government, the rise of the UK Independence Party or UKIP whose programme is built upon anti-immigration and Euroscepticism. Euroscepticism also rose within the two major political parties especially the Conservative Party. The organization of the 2016 referendum came as an outcome to all the confusion regarding Europe and the role of UK in it. The current Brexit debate has been described as an unprecedented crisis and has become the ultimate evidence that the crisis was much deeper and went back to an even deeper crisis relating to farther events such as the time of the Empire, a period involving different interpretations about the Empire. Bernard Porter, an emeritus professor of history at the University of New Castle, UK, stated in this sense, “Empires, in common with most other historical events, leave behind them after-images ... There is no one version of the British imperial myth.” The origins of the Brexit-debate also dates back to more recent events

taking place during the seventies and the eighties, that is Margaret Thatcher's premiership and even before when she was leader of the Conservative Party. Therefore, "How are we to view Thatcher's contribution – either direct or in terms of influence and inspiration – to the Conservatives' evolution into a party now fully committed to withdrawal from the EU?"

## **Euroscepticism**

David Jeffery (Liverpool)

David Jeffery will respond to the papers by Crines and Heppell and by Salem, reflecting upon Margaret Thatcher's impact upon contemporary Euroscepticism and the strains of Euroscepticism and Euro-rejectionism within the Conservative Party that Heppell's previous work has identified.

## **The Role of Radical Economic Restructuring in Truancy from School and Engagement in Crime**

Stephen Farrall, Emily Gray and Philip Mike Jones (Derby)

Discussions of the impact of Thatcherite policies have come to the fore of late as historians and political scientists influenced by historical thinking start to grapple with unpacking the effects of policies from the 1980s. This paper explores the subject of truancy from school, using two cohorts of people (born 1958, and treated as a pre-Thatcherite cohort, and 1970 and treated as the Thatcherite cohort), and explores the role of economic change at the areal level as an explanation of their truancy.

Typically, existing studies approach the phenomenon from an individualist perspective and examine truancy in terms of the truants' attitudes, academic achievement or their home-life. What remains unclear however is a consideration of a) how macro-level social and economic processes may influence the incidence of truancy, and b) how structural processes fluctuate over time, and in so doing produce variations in truancy rates or the causal processes associated with truancy. This paper empirically address these blind-spots and tests the role of social-structural processes in truancy, and how these may change over time.

## **The coercive state: Women, poverty and pressure group activism in the long 1980s**

Ruth Davidson

The Thatcher era introduced a range of policies that 'rolled back' the state. These cuts significantly impacted women and families. Alongside the huge rise in unemployment in industrial regions many public sector workers, the majority of whom were women, found their jobs under threat; social security benefits, that supported low-income or single-parent families, were pared back; and a range of 'family' benefits, such child

benefits, free school meals and school uniform grants lost value or were restricted. All of which is evidenced in the enormous rise in child poverty during these years.

At the national level, the ways in which the welfare state was transformed has been closely analysed. It has been argued that the Thatcher governments were more cautious than their rhetoric would suggest, with the most significant statutory changes not being implemented until her third term. By framing the analysis from the lived experience of women who these cuts directly impacted, supplemented with contemporary material from pressure groups such as CPAG and the Maternity Alliance, this paper will argue for a much sharper and more immediate impact of the Thatcher government on families everyday lives. It will also suggest that there is a need to develop an analysis of the social security system that moves beyond national policy towards a more granular historical understanding of the way social security has impacted people's lives. For many women, their experience of the state in these decades was coercive and fraught. As this paper will conclude these negative subjectivities are a critical factor which need to be understood in discussions of the development of social security policies both before and after Thatcher.

### **Thatcher's Moral Record: Why did she intervene in specific spaces?**

Lenon Campos Maschette (São Paulo)

Most modern British prime ministers have been inspired by moral beliefs of varying kinds, but Margaret Thatcher was unusual if not unique in her willingness to give public expression to these views, and to associate them with her political goals. Yet on the moral sphere her records are regarded, by many supporters, as disappointing. This aspect of the Thatcher years has been examined by several scholars, whose findings give rise to sharply contrasting conclusions. Many factors seem to have contributed in preventing Mrs. Thatcher to develop an active moral agenda in her years in office. In any case, in spite of these records, she did legislate and use the state to impose moral standards in specific fields. Through the analysis of speeches, interviews and recently unclassified documents, the paper tries to explain why, in specific areas and circumstances, she turned away of her non-interventionist behaviour and legislated over morality. The paper analysis her Reform Acts on Broadcasting (1981/1990) and Education (1988), specifically her measures regarding decency and obscenity in broadcasting as well as sex and religious education within the British educational system. Thatcherite worldview accounted traditional institutions such as media, schools and especially the Church as the main responsible for the generation and transmission of moral values and traditional beliefs, especially due to their roles in shaping children and teenager values. The research concludes that Thatcher would only consider to legislate on morality, on the one hand, in spaces that she regarded as essential for moral purpose and, on the other hand, where she thought that they were not properly fulfilling their 'natural' roles due to the introduction of progressive and left wing ideology. Towards the end of the decade, she was increasingly inclined to think that these institutions would not naturally develop their functions unless she used the state

## **Still one short of ‘a Welsh rugby team’ of Conservative MPs: comparing the 1983 and 2019 general elections**

Sam Blaxland (Swansea)

At the 2019 general election, the Conservative Party won 14 seats in Wales. In doing so, it equalled its best ever result in the modern era. The other was in 1983. Commentators were quick to jump on the fact that this represented the party’s strongest Welsh showing since Thatcher, and much talk was of the parallels that could be drawn between the two episodes. Indeed, there were some similarities: seats not normally Conservative, like Anglesey and Bridgend, went blue again for the first time since the 80s. But almost all of north-east Wales – at one end of the so-called ‘red wall’ and an area of steadfast Labour support 30 years ago – fell to the Tories. What was perhaps most notable, however, was that some seats that had been Conservative in the Thatcher era are now resolutely not. Cardiff North, for example, once one of Wales’s safest Tory seat, witnessed a swing away from the Conservatives, against the national trend, akin to the kind of shift seen in Putney.

This paper will explore these dynamics. It will scrutinise Philip Cowley’s argument that politics has returned to something broadly resembling ‘how things were in the 1980s’, by using Wales as a case study. It will also investigate the extent to which Thatcherism, and memories of Thatcher, helped change (or did not change) conditions on the ground in certain Welsh constituencies. Has the swelling of the urban middle-class since the 1980s, so in evidence in places like Cardiff North, worked against the Tories? Were seats in Wales’ north-east drifting away from Labour anyway, drawn to the kinds of policies on home ownership or tax relief that the Conservatives have often advocated since the 1980s? If the old working-classes are becoming more receptive to conservatism, why do the south Wales ‘Valleys’ remain implacably opposed to the Tories – is this still all to do with Thatcher? Why have former mining areas in England drifted towards the Conservatives whilst seats with similar profiles in Wales have not?

## **“An embrace followed by a sneer”: Margaret Thatcher and Islam**

Paul Stott (EFSAS)

In 2014 Niall Ferguson addressed the Centre for Policy Studies inaugural Margaret Thatcher Conference on Liberty. It was an inauspicious year for such an event – Islamic State had enjoyed a series of military victories and Abu Bakr Al-Baghdadi declared himself Caliph of swathes of Iraq and Syria. Ferguson was in no doubt that had she been here, Mrs Thatcher would have been leading the fight against ISIS. He stated “It is on the issue of Islam we have most to learn from Thatcher.”(Ferguson, 2014).

But do we? Mrs Thatcher had been a willing participant in the strategy of using Islam as a bulwark against communism. This led to some questionable Cold War alliances. Whilst critics have tended to decry Britain’s relationship with General Pinochet, that with Pakistan’s General Zia has not received the scrutiny it deserved (Curtis, 2010). Domestically Mrs Thatcher’s reign saw the gradual rise of Muslim communities in

many UK cities. Significant controversies emerged concerning the role of Islam in schools in Bradford and Dewsbury, the former leading to the departure of Headmaster Ray Honeyford, despite significant support from conservatives.

This paper will analyse Mrs Thatcher's approach to Islamic actors both domestically and internationally, making use of speeches and documents from the Thatcher Foundation. It will identify the principles which guided her actions, and asks whether Mrs Thatcher's relationship with Islam provides a framework for responding to events today.

### **The Douglas French Archive and the 1981 Budget Debate: Ways of knowing and thinking about Thatcherism**

Emma Barrett (Birmingham) and Colm Murphy (QMUL)

In 1979 Douglas French established Westminster and City Programmes, a conference business designed to foster 'interaction and communication' between the City of London and government. Often based on Green or White Papers, conferences were 'timed to take place within formal periods of consultation, thus contributing to the consultative process itself'. In short, they were designed to influence policy and French was well-placed to deliver; he was special adviser to Geoffrey Howe, former chairman of the Bow Group and, from 1987-97, Conservative MP for Gloucester.

The Douglas French Archive consists of conference materials from 1979 to 2005. It was acquired by the University of Birmingham's Cadbury Research Library in 2017, initially in connection with doctoral research on the 'making' of the 1980s financial revolution. Now open to researchers, the archive provides new insights into the ways in which neoliberal policies were mediated and government policy evolved.

In this joint paper, Emma Barrett introduces DFA conference themes and (often ministerial) speakers. Moving to the 1981 Budget, she outlines City support for anti-inflationary Thatcherite policies which culminated in pre-Budget submissions to the Chancellor.

Thereafter and by way of contrast, Colm Murphy introduces one of the fiercest Keynesian critics of the 1981 Budget from academia – Wynne Godley and his Cambridge Economic Policy Group – and their own distinct world of political intervention, financial consultancy and policy advice. He discusses their contributions to the public 1981 debate, which unlike French's conference attendees prioritised fiscal stimulus to boost employment over controlling inflation. Partly due to these interventions (including that letter), that debate polarised into two warring camps of 'Keynesians' and 'Monetarists' (or 'Thatcherites'), which flattened out nuances, curtailed the subsequent influence of those like Godley until the early 1990s, and indelibly shaped both scholarly and popular memories of 'Thatcherism'. To end, Murphy draws suggestive parallels and contrasts between the 1981 conflict and the emerging debate today on inflation and stimulus. The paper offers new forms of knowing about Thatcherism and invites debates about its legacies.

## **The Queen, Thatcher and Blair: Translating the Thatcherite Monarchy to the Post-Brexit Modern Monarchy**

Craig Prescott (Winchester)

In 1986, the Murdoch-owned Sunday Times published a series of stories suggesting that the Queen was 'unhappy with the whole thrust of Thatcherism', and that a rift had emerged between the Sovereign and Prime Minister. Disagreements over sanctions against South Africa, the divisiveness of the miners' strike, the usurping of established hierarchies, and an embrace of the market each contributed towards the changing nature of the state. The fear within Buckingham Palace was that this could ultimately rebound on the very notion of monarchy.

The effect of Thatcherism on the monarchy has been more subtle. The language of audit, value for money meant that like all other public institutions, it needed to justify its continued existence. After a difficult period for the monarchy this was taken up by New Labour, whose 1997 manifesto contained the line, 'we have no plans to replace the monarchy'. The election of New Labour created a belief that 'Things Could Only Get Better', but its failure to wholly translate its intellectual ambitions into substantive change has been the leitmotif of British politics, at least since 2010, if not before. Arguably, this is the underlying cause of Brexit. This is a remarkable turnaround in events, as in 1997, potentially the abolition of the monarchy was more likely than exiting the EU.

The monarchy has skillfully navigated this changing political and constitutional environment. Indeed, the aftermath of the death of Diana, Princess of Wales allowed the monarchy to update how it operated and connected with the people, in concert with the tenor of New Labour. Yet, unlike much of the constitution, New Labour largely left the constitutional position of the monarchy untouched.

This reappraisal of the relationship of the Queen and the politics of her two longest-serving Prime Ministers, helps us understand the present moves towards a slimmed-down monarchy on the very Thatcherite ground of value for money. Yet, arguably, Brexit requires a shift away from such Thatcherite thinking and a reassertion of the continued importance of national institutions such as the monarchy.

## **Thatcher's Thoughts and the British Constitution**

Daniel Pitt (Hull)

Margaret Thatcher has been described in the literature as a 'instinctive constitutional conservative' but also as some who lacked interest in the British constitution and its governing institutions. Moreover, it has been argued that Thatcher focused on the economy rather than on constitutional questions during her premiership. Nevertheless, Thatcher did have to deal with many constitutional questions throughout her political career as well as her time as Prime Minister, such as the passing of The European Communities (Amendment) Act 1986, which was a major constitutional moment. Therefore, Thatcher's thoughts and beliefs must also be analysed from a constitutional

perspective and placed within a wider framework of Conservative thinking on the constitution.

Thatcher demonstrated that she did take an interest in the constitution when she wrote in an article for *The European* on the 8<sup>th</sup> of October 1992 that like 'many of my fellow Tories, I too have a favourite quotation from Disraeli'. According to Thatcher, her favourite quotation was 'the programme of the Conservative Party is to maintain the Constitution of the country'. Thatcher then wrote that Conservative governments 'should have as its main priority the maintenance of our constitutional freedoms, our democratic institutions, and the accountability of Parliament to the people'.

The purpose of this paper is to analyse and draw out Thatcher's thoughts on the British constitution as well as the principles, arguments, ideas she used across her political career and to set them within a historical Conservative thinking. Moreover, to assist with this analysis three interrelated questions will be explored: (1) what were the principles, arguments and ideas that Thatcher utilised? (2) What narratives, stories and historical figures did Thatcher use to communicate her position? And (3) How did these fit within the wider historical Conservative thinking on the British constitution?

## **History Repeating: Repressing the British Poor**

Monia O'Brien Castro (Tours)

The thrust of the presentation shall be to highlight the evident Thatcher-influenced management of British "gangs" following the infamous 2011 English riots, and by extension of the associated weakest section of the community.

Indeed, in spite of contrary evidence emphasizing the social origins to riots, published as early as 1980, the events, as well as the "gang" phenomenon, were interpreted as sheer violence and the social was basis was deliberately overlooked. The "gang" and its powerful American imagery came as an epiphany to the coalition government since, encapsulating moral, social and populist crises linked with immigration, terrorism and drugs, it became the epitome of what was wrong in British society. These "domestic terrorists" enabled the government to have the people obliterate the negative social effects of capitalism, real structural problems, as it were, from their minds, to justify their Big Society project and to implement their neoliberal ideology to the greatest possible extent. The State in fact embarked on a scapegoating enterprise with the media, highly reminiscent of the Thatcher years, and introduced a series of security and punitive policies, which were to have the most disastrous impact on marginalized populations already affected by long-lasting, harsh austerity measures. The black community in particular, and the poor in general, were criminalized, and as a consequence subjected to the rule of a Janus-like intolerant State, which, having undoubtedly replaced the welfare state, showed a paternalistic and disciplinary face to the poor, and a liberal and permissive face to middle and upper classes and business. *In fine*, the neoliberal state, in line with the purest Thatcherite tradition, pursued an all-out war on "gangs" which didn't targeted the profound causes, poverty, one may argue, because eradicating "gangs" would have equated with on the one

hand, eradicating the State's alibi, on the other hand, eradicating what capitalism feeds on.

## **Me and my shadow: Mrs Thatcher's relationship with Opposition Leaders 1979-1990**

Nigel Fletcher (King's College London)

The paper will examine the relationship between Margaret Thatcher and successive Leaders of the Opposition during her time in Number 10. When she entered office, she faced her predecessor, James Callaghan, across the despatch boxes of the House of Commons for a year, before he was replaced by Michael Foot. After her landslide victory in 1983 she then faced Neil Kinnock for seven years, until she left office. The relationship between a Prime Minister and the person who seeks to replace them is a delicate one – behind the partisan contest, there are routine contacts on issues from security to honours which require private discussions on a cross-party basis. The nature of these high-level communications fluctuates according to the personalities involved, and Mrs Thatcher's unique style heavily influenced the tone and substance of how she dealt with the Labour Leaders she faced. She was also operating during a period in which the prospect of a credible challenge to the two-party system from an insurgent third party – the SDP/Liberal Alliance – was believed to be very real. Her relationship with the Alliance Leaders and other smaller opposition parties will therefore also be covered. The paper will seek to draw conclusions on what the formal relationship between Thatcher and her opponents can tell us about her approach to politics and her effectiveness in power. Her instinctive aversion to consensus politics is well documented, and this aspect of her character will be considered in respect of how it was manifested during her years in Downing Street.

## **Margaret Thatcher: woman of her days or political thinker for all times?**

Alessia Cesana-Harris

The 1980s were a peculiar time in history: the Cold War was coming to an end, social and political turmoil had seen the rise of terrorism in the prior decade, and all across the liberal West strong leaders rose to power. Margaret Thatcher was one of them, and her programme of neoliberalism is so strongly associated with her government it has become its own political ideology, named after her.

This paper will look at the policies of Thatcher's government and the influences behind those policies comparatively with the election victories of liberal Prime Ministers from the late 18<sup>th</sup> century (when Adam Smith's ideas entered the political arena) to the landslide of 1906, the last victory before the decline of liberalism in British politics until the age of the New Right and Thatcherism put it back on the agenda.

By contextualising the popularity of liberal manifestos, this paper aims to show how Thatcher's real strength was her political acumen in responding to the challenges of her times. She enacted policies that were contrary to the consensus of the age, as

exemplified by the 1981 letter signed by 384 economists criticising monetarism, and the tide turning in the recovering from 1982 suggests us she had done something right. Not all her policies, however, have been as successful as turning the economy around, so it is hard to see her legacy as a unified political programme to look up to in the changing circumstances of the 21<sup>st</sup> century. While many proponents of Thatcherism would focus on her economic legacy alone, the paper will argue that the circumstances of the time were the biggest driver of her success and the biggest lesson we can take from her legacy is the necessity of pragmatism.

### ***Primus inter pares: a Prime Minister and her Peers, 1979-1990***

Martin Farr (Newcastle)

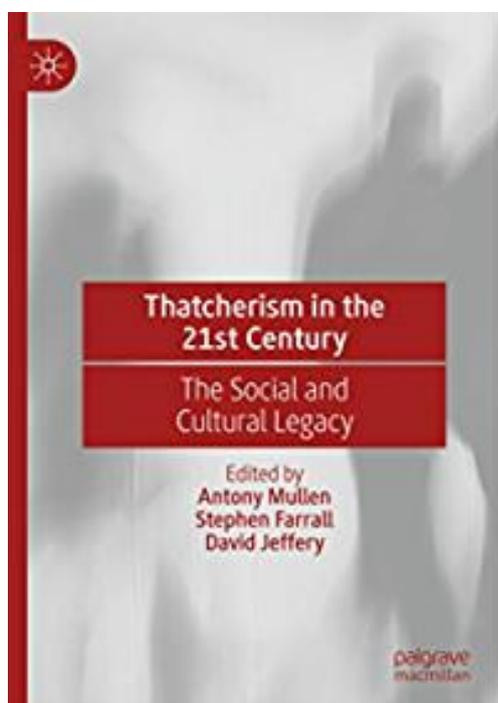
This paper explores Thatcher's relations with other heads of government of whom, given the duration of her period in office, there were many. Leadership style was perhaps the most distinctive aspect of the *de facto* brands of both Thatcher and Thatcherism. Certainly it was the most apparent feature, and that which also tended to lead an observer into admiration or disapproval, and this paper considers the extent to which charismatic authority could be held both to assist, and to hinder. As with Churchill, recollections tend to note whatever connection there may have been with a leader who was, most of the time, the only woman on the dais.

# THE THATCHER NETWORK

Founded in 2016, the Thatcher Network is a not-for-profit, non-partisan research network which seeks to promote the interdisciplinary study of Margaret Thatcher and Thatcherism.

In 2020 we published *Thatcherism in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century: The Social and Cultural Legacy* (Palgrave Macmillan), based on papers presented at our 2017 and 2018 conferences.

The book examines the contemporary legacy of Thatcherism through four prisms: ideologies, geographies, attitudes, and representations.



“A highly original and deeply impressive collection of essays which offers considerable insight into the complex and varied legacies of Thatcherism whilst laying to rest a series of enduring myths about this most contested period of British politics.” **(Colin Hay, Professor of Political Sciences, Sciences Po, Paris, France)**

“Whether you're interested in ideological legacy, policy impact, artistic interpretations, or electoral shifts, this eclectic set of takes on one of Britain's great 'watershed' politicians is indubitably the book for you.” **(Tim Bale, Professor of Politics, Queen Mary University of London, UK)**

You can also listen to Dr Antony Mullen and Dr Emily Stacey discuss the book with Professor Tim Bale on the 'Mile End Institute Podcast' episode also entitled *Thatcherism in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century*. It is [available here](#).

# STAYING IN TOUCH

Be the first to hear about our future events and activities by joining our mailing list and follow us and our supporters on social media.

## Mailing List

Join the Thatcher Network mailing list by [completing our online form](#).

## Social Media

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