Writing Politics in Modern Britain

Why do people write about politics? And why does political writing get published? This innovative study explores the diverse world of modern British political writing, examining its evolving genres and their pivotal role in shaping political identities, ideologies, and movements. Spanning memoirs, biographies, parliamentary novels, fanzines, and grassroots publications, chapters consider how these forms have documented lived experiences, challenged authority, and influenced political discourse across all levels of society. Contributions from leading scholars illuminate the creative strategies and cultural contexts of political writing since the late nineteenth century across varied regional contexts, from Beatrice Webb's diaries to punk zines and Conservative pamphlets. In doing so, they examine the interplay of literature, propaganda, and activism, offering fresh perspectives on the connections between politics and publishing. Accessible and insightful, this study provides a window into how political ideas are crafted, disseminated, and reinforced through the written word. This title is also available as open access on Cambridge Core.

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Genre and Cultures of Publishing since 1900

Edited by

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Information on this title: www.cambridge.org/9781009634281

DOI: 10.1017/9781009634304

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When citing this work, please include a reference to the DOI 10.1017/9781009634304

First published 2026

Cover image: Shirley Williams of the Social Democratic Party on the campaign trail in Crosby ahead of the by-election, 18th November 1981. Photo by Eric Piper / Mirrorpix via Getty Images.

A catalogue record for this publication is available from the British Library

A Cataloging-in-Publication data record for this book is available from the Library of Congress

ISBN 978-1-009-63428-1 Hardback
ISBN 978-1-009-63432-8 Paperback

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