

Claire Fox

Claire Fox is a writer and commentator with a background in teaching and education.

She graduated from Warwick University in 1981 and worked for a variety of voluntary organisations (such as MIND and the Cyrenians), working with the homeless, the mentally ill and in adult education in Coventry, Newcastle and Bradford. She then moved to London to teach at Thurrock Technical College, where she taught English and set up a Return to Learning course for women. From 1989 to 1991, she worked for the Polytechnic of North London Student Union as Women's Officer and Vice-President. In 1992, she completed a PGCE (FE) at Greenwich University (then Thames Polytechnic) and then worked as a lecturer at West Herts College, teaching English GCSE, A level, literacy support and English as a Second Language.

In 1997, she became the publisher of *LM* magazine (formerly *Living Marxism*), whilst teaching part-time.

In 2000 she set up the Academy of Ideas, of which she is the Director. The Academy was established to create a forum committed to open and robust public debate. She convenes the yearly Battle of Ideas festival and initiated the Debating Matters Competition for sixth-formers. She also co-founded a residential summer school, The Academy, with the aim to demonstrate 'university as it should be'.

She is a panelist on BBC Radio 4's *The Moral Maze* and is frequently invited to comment on developments in culture, education, media and free speech issues on TV and radio programmes in the UK such as *Newsnight* and *Any Questions?* She regularly appears on Sky News Paper Review. She is a columnist for *TES* (*Times Educational Supplement*) and *MJ* (*Municipal Journal*). She is author of a book on free speech, recently republished as *I STILL Find That Offensive!* (Biteback, 2018), and *No Strings Attached! Why arts funding should say no to instrumentalism* (Arts&Business, 2007).

In May 2019, she was elected as an MEP for the North West England constituency of the UK in the European elections. During her tenure, she has taken a temporary sabbatical as Battle of Ideas festival convenor, but remains on the editorial board.