

Jessica Metheringham

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Qualifications and Education

2008 – 2010 MSc in Government, Politics and Policy.	Birkbeck, University of London Malet Street, London
2002 – 2005 2.1 Honours BA in Philosophy.	University of Durham St. Mary's College, Elvet Hill Rd, Durham
1999 – 2001 3 A-levels and 2 AS-levels.	Worthing Sixth Form College Bolsover Road, Durrington, West Sussex
1994 – 1999 11 GCSEs and 1 Short GCSE.	The Weald Secondary School Station Road, Billingshurst, West Sussex

Current Positions

Dissent Campaigns and Games: Director and Founder

May 2019 – present

Dissent Campaigns and Games Ltd creates games and workshops for the campaigning and charity sector. In 2019 I designed and released *Disarm the Base*, a game about peace protesters. I have run sessions on how to use games and other communication techniques to change hearts and minds. *Library Labyrinth*, a cooperative game featuring 60 famous literary and historical women, will be released in March 2023.

Unlock Democracy: Chair (voluntary)

March 2020 – present

I am the elected chair of Unlock Democracy, a campaigning organisation working for a fairer democracy and a codified constitution. I oversee the Director and other staff, and lead the elected council in setting the strategic direction. Between March 2020 and October 2020 I acted as Interim Director, reviewing the organisational and governance structures and recruiting a new team.

Previous Policy and Political Experience

Freelance: Political Consultant on the Police, Crime, Sentencing and Courts Bill

August 2021 – May 2022 (part-time and temporary)

Responsible for strategy as the Bill progressed through the House of Lords.

- Directly liaised with Peers and with front bench teams.
- Advised on parliamentary procedure and possible outcomes of key amendments.
- Wrote short briefings to be used by a coalition of campaigners.
- Updated the coalition of campaigners during key debates in both Houses.

Working with other campaigners in the coalition, we encouraged the House of Lords to vote against the Government 14 times in one night, setting a new record.

The Religious Society of Friends (Quakers) in Britain: Parliamentary Engagement Manager, and deputy to the Head of External Communication

September 2013 – May 2019

Responsible for political and parliamentary engagement for Quakers in Britain.

- Deputised for the Head of External Communications, directly line-managed two members of staff, and was responsible for the output of the rest of the team of eight.
- Parliamentary lobbying on key topics (especially equality, social justice, peace, and sustainability) to Westminster and the Scottish and Welsh Parliaments.

- Developed, monitored, and analysed social media channels, press, and website.
- Developed strategy for campaigns and communications, including online content.
- Ran workshops and advised on local campaigns.
- Responsible for compliance with the Lobbying Act and PPERA.
- Advised on all political media issues, and on media and social media as a whole.

In addition to the responsibilities above, I acted up as the Head of External Communication from January 2019 until leaving in May 2019. This involved directly advising the CEO on social media, publications, and website content, as well as being responsible for the external communications budget and taking on additional staff management duties.

The Local Government Boundary Commission for England: Review Manager

March 2012 – September 2013

Provided overview on reviews of electoral boundaries, running public consultations on the political changes.

- Led a team of three project managers.
- Dealt with stakeholders including Ministers and local authority chief executives.
- Simultaneously worked on up to twenty different projects.
- Responsible for budgets of between £35,000 and £100,000 for each project.
- Responsible for the Order laid in both Houses of Parliament.
- Participated in Senior Management Team meetings.

The Local Government Boundary Commission for England (part of the Electoral Commission): Review Officer

July 2007 – March 2012

Project manager responsible for leading political reviews into the boundaries of local authorities, ensuring that the electoral framework is both fair and reflective of local community interests and identities. I also monitored UK, EU, and local elections, visiting polling stations, interviewing election staff, and producing written reports.

House of Commons: Researcher to Alistair Burt MP

Facilitator for Michael Heseltine's Cities Task Force

August 2005 – June 2007

Worked for the Shadow Minister for Communities and Regeneration on his parliamentary remit, collecting statistics and research for debates, speech writing, writing parliamentary questions, liaising with local media and writing press releases. I was given the additional role of assisting the Cities Task Force by briefing Michael Heseltine, compiling agendas and discussion questions, answering public enquiries, and co-ordinating high profile visits.

Previous Volunteer and Charitable Experience

Joseph Rowntree Charitable Trust: Co-opted Board Member

October 2014 – November 2019

Co-opted on to the JRCT's Power and Accountability board. The board allocates grants to a total of approximately £1,200,000 per year. I attended three board meetings (each with two separate rounds of applications) and one set of interviews with applicants per year.

Young Friends General Meeting (Quakers): Managing Trustee

October 2009 – October 2013

Managed an administrator employed by Young Friends General Meeting, a national Quaker charity. I also managed a team of long-term volunteers involved in running weekend conferences, and was responsible for fundraising.

Women's History Month: Co-Founder, Political Engagement and Campaigns

May 2010 – April 2012

Founding member of a new initiative around women's history. I led a team of volunteers in organising our 2011 launch event held in Parliament and attended by MPs.