

# Elizabeth Dore, 1946–2022

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It is with great sadness that I write this tribute to Elizabeth (Liz) Dore, Professor Emerita of Modern Languages and Linguistics at Southampton University, and a good friend, coeditor and valued associate of the Institute of the Americas.

Liz was born to a Jewish family in Brooklyn and always described herself as a “proud New Yorker.” Both of her parents graduated from college during the Depression. Her mother came from an affluent family and took up teaching until the birth of Liz’s sister in 1942. Her father was from a working-class background; he became a successful lawyer and during the Depression years, when jobs were scarce, he worked for a spell as an FBI agent before setting up his own advertising agency.

Liz studied at Vassar, graduated in 1967, and then moved to New York to work for Random House while embarking on doctoral research at Columbia University. An activist in student politics and a member of the Revolutionary Communist Party (Maoist), she gained a Ford Fellowship and in 1975 started on her doctoral research in Peru. It was shortly before she left that she met John Weeks, who was to become her life partner and father of her twins, Rachel and Matthew, born in 1979.

The years that followed involved many moves as Liz and John took up jobs in Latin America, the United States, and Britain. In 1981 the family moved to Nicaragua, where Liz worked for the Ministry of Information. In 1985 she and John took up a posts at the University of Leeds, returning to the United States two years later when Liz gained a post teaching history at Middlebury College in Vermont. Then, after 1989, the family made a more permanent move, settling in Britain, John to teach at the School of Oriental and African Studies and Liz at Portsmouth Polytechnic. From

there she moved to Southampton University in 2000, where she remained until she retired.

Liz authored two monographs on Latin America, *The Peruvian Mining Industry: Growth, Stagnation, and Crisis* (Westview, 1988; Routledge, 2019), and *The Myths of Modernity: Peonage and Patriarchy in Nicaragua* (Duke University Press, 2006), a Spanish version of which appeared in 2008, published by the Instituto de Historia de Nicaragua y Centroamérica. She also coedited (with me) *The Hidden Histories of Gender and the State in Latin America* (Duke University Press, 2000). She was a contributor to NACLA, and her articles appeared in *Latin American Perspectives* and other scholarly journals.

Her last decade was dedicated to research in Cuba. In the 2000s she successfully applied for funding from the Ford Foundation and SIDA to embark on a project to collect oral histories on the Cuban revolution. It was the first oral history project authorized by the Cuban government in 40 years. Over a period of almost 8 years she traveled to and from the island to work with her Cuban team. The project was not without its difficulties, but it resulted in more than one hundred in-depth life history interviews with women and men across the island. In the last weeks before her death Liz worked hard to complete the book that she wrote based on these interviews. *How Things Fall Apart: What Happened to the Cuban Revolution* will be published by Apollo later this year. //

