

Nude historian Amanda Foreman seeks role at 'new Oxford University'

Amanda Foreman, the glamorous historian, wants to lecture at A C Grayling's proposed New College of the Humanities.



British author Amanda Foreman Photo: AFP/GETTY

By Richard Eden

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AC Grayling's plans for a private university to rival Oxford and Cambridge have received a glamorous boost.

Amanda Foreman, who once posed naked behind a pile of books, tells Mandrake that she wants to lecture at the London-based New College of the Humanities.

"If they asked me, then I'd love to do it," the historian says at *The Oldie* literary luncheon at Simpson's-in-the-Strand, in London. "Since I've had baskets of babies, I haven't had time for lecturing."

Foreman, 42, whose book *Georgiana, Duchess of Devonshire* was turned into a film starring Keira Knightley, has five children, but has squeezed in some lecturing. "I did a talk in New York with William Shawcross that raised something like half a million dollars," she says.

Prof Grayling's plans for the New College of the Humanities, which will charge fees of £18,000 per year, have provoked such hostility that the philosopher was forced to abandon a talk after a smoke bomb was thrown.

['Immaculate conception' and the Marquess of Bath's 'wifelets' catfight \(http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/celebritynews/8570619/Immaculate-conception-and-the-Marquess-of-Baths-wifelets-catfight.html\)](http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/celebritynews/8570619/Immaculate-conception-and-the-Marquess-of-Baths-wifelets-catfight.html)

[Prince's charity to cost £450,000 \(http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/uknews/theroyalfamily/8570638/Prince-Williams-charity-to-cost-450000-per-year.html\)](http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/uknews/theroyalfamily/8570638/Prince-Williams-charity-to-cost-450000-per-year.html)

[The Queen's cousin the Marquess of Milford Haven and a High Court battle \(http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/uknews/theroyalfamily/8570646/The-Queens-cousin-the-Marquess-of-Milford-Haven-and-a-High-Court-battle.html\)](http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/uknews/theroyalfamily/8570646/The-Queens-cousin-the-Marquess-of-Milford-Haven-and-a-High-Court-battle.html)

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"Obviously, it's expensive, but I've heard that they're going to fund-raise for it, like they do at private universities in the States," says Foreman, pictured right. "If they don't offer bursaries, people won't go. There aren't enough rich and clever people out there."

She supports the rise in fees at other universities. "There was a lot of crap being taught before, like David Beckham studies, Mickey Mouse courses," she claims. "Hopefully, the rise in fees will stop that kind of course."