Elaine Hobby in conversation with Sara Read

One of the aims of the WSG’s *Commonplace Book*, was to conduct interviews with some prominent academics who have been closely involved with WSG over the years. Late last year WSG member Sara Read sat down with Elaine Hobby, Professor of Seventeenth-Century Studies at Loughborough University, and this half hour audio is the result.

For audio please use separate link in archive listing.

Elaine Hobby, *Virtue of Necessity*  
(Virago, 1988)

As some readers might know Elaine is a long-time associate of WSG who has encouraged her PhD students to join the group and give research papers at their seminars, and who recently gave a keynote on Aphra Behn at WSG’s 2015 workshop. She is a renowned scholar of seventeenth-century women’s writing, especially autobiographical and lesbian writing, as well as midwifery manuals, whose books include *Virtue of Necessity: English Women’s Writing 1649-88* (1988) and an edition of Jane Sharp’s 1671 *Midwives Book or the Whole Art of Midwifry Discovered* (1999).

She is currently leading a major project to produce an edition of Aphra Behn’s works. Sara spoke with Elaine about her research interests, her experiences of an “embryonic” WSG, her early influences and her latest project. The conversation helps illustrate just how small a circle of people the feminist study of early modern women involved in the UK in 1987, and the changes that have transformed the field since.