Electronic Supplementary Information:
On the origin of the ferromagnetic signature in Ag nanoparticles and thin films

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Table
Table S1 displays the parameters utilized during the preparation of Ag NPs.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>NP diameter (nm)</th>
<th>Ar flow rate (sccm)</th>
<th>He flow rate (sccm)</th>
<th>I (mA)</th>
<th>V (V)</th>
<th>D (cm)</th>
<th>p (Pa)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>3.3 ± 0.9</td>
<td>50.5</td>
<td>80.7</td>
<td>253</td>
<td>266.3</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>61.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.0 ± 0.9</td>
<td>50.1</td>
<td>50.7</td>
<td>253</td>
<td>259.8</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>50.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7.7 ± 1.3</td>
<td>90.2</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>235</td>
<td>263.1</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>45.3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table S1 Conditions for the generation of Ag NPs of different diameters. I is the sputtering current, V is the sputtering voltage, D is the distance of the metal target to the aggregation chamber exit, p is the pressure in the aggregation chamber during deposition.
Figures

Figure S1 shows the experimental *in situ* mass spectrometry for two Ag NP diameters $5.0 \pm 0.9$ and $7.8 \pm 1.3$ nm fitted with two Gaussian peaks each.

**Fig. S1** Ag NPs with a size distribution of (a) $5.0 \pm 0.9$ and (b) $7.8 \pm 1.3$ nm. Each panel consists of the experimental data (scattered symbol), two Gaussian peaks and overall fitting (solid lines).
Figure S2 shows SQUID magnetometry measurements of a Ag film collected ON-target onto NaCl and exfoliated with Kapton tape. The sample shows hysteresis which suggests that the observed ferromagnetism is independent of substrate as it rules out epitaxial driven formation or other such substrate-dependent processes.

**Fig. S2** Room-temperature (300 K) $M$ vs $H$ loops for a ON-target Ag thin film transferred to Kapton tape after direct deposition onto a NaCl substrate. Inset shows full applied field range. Main graph is the zoomed section near the origin. Lines are guides to the eye.
Fig. S3 SEM images of ON- and OFF-target films. (a) ON-target deposition for 1 min and (b) 15 min. (c) OFF-target deposition for ∼ 2 hr.
**Estimation of the Ag/O ratio from MQCM data**

Assuming all NPs are 3.3 nm in diameter (based on average experimental results of smaller NPs) and are perfect spheres, it can be estimated that each NP contains $N_{\text{Ag}}^{\text{NP}} = 1.50 \times 10^3$ Ag atoms (based on an atomic radius $r_{\text{Ag}}$ of 144 pm).

The volume of the last atomic shell $V_{\text{OS}}$ on a NP of radius $r_{\text{NP}}$ can be estimated as

$$V_{\text{OS}} = \frac{4\pi}{3} r_{\text{NP}}^3 - \frac{4\pi}{3} (r_{\text{NP}} - 2r_{\text{Ag}})^3$$  \hspace{1cm} (1)

from which it can be estimated that there are $N_{\text{Ag}}^{\text{surface}} = 6.58 \times 10^2$ surface Ag atoms / NP.

The total number of surface Ag atoms $N_{\text{Ag}}^{\text{surface}}$ in a 96.6 µg Ag sample (containing $N_{\text{Ag}}^{\text{ttl}}$) is then given as

$$N_{\text{Ag}}^{\text{surface}} = \frac{N_{\text{Ag}}^{\text{surface}}}{N_{\text{Ag}}^{\text{ttl}}} \cdot N_{\text{Ag}}^{\text{ttl}} = 2.36 \times 10^{17}$$  \hspace{1cm} (2)

Knowing this sample uptakes 0.7993 µg of oxygen from QCM measurements (i.e. $N_{\text{O}}^{\text{ttl}} = 3.01 \times 10^{16}$) and assuming these O-atoms will react at the surface, the ratio of surface Ag atoms to O atoms is then

$$\frac{N_{\text{Ag}}^{\text{surface}}}{N_{\text{O}}^{\text{ttl}}} = \frac{2.36 \times 10^{17}}{3.01 \times 10^{16}} = 7.84 \sim 8$$  \hspace{1cm} (3)
Fig. S4 Peak assignments for the XPS survey spectra of O2-kept and heat-treated Ag thin films.