

WOLFSON COLLEGE'S

# INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY CONFERENCE

8 MARCH 2021

PROGRAMME  
BOOKLET



# A MESSAGE FROM YOUR ORGANISERS:

After the success of last year's International Women's Day Conference, we're thrilled to be hosting another conference this year on 8 March, 2021. A joint effort between our WCSA Women and Non-Binary Reps and college's Interdisciplinary Gender Research Hub, this conference provides a safe and supportive environment for researchers, activists, and allies at Wolfson to discuss their work and lived experiences. We hope that this will become an annual event for our students to share their work and expertise with a wide audience.

Our speakers are grouped into three panels, each of which is tied together through a common theme. Our first panel explores the lived experiences of women across multiple areas, including the experiences of women in the field of conservation; the importance of women in empires, with a specific focus on colonial India; and the challenges resulting from maternity partner restrictions during the COVID-19 pandemic. Our second panel centres on the written stories of women across historical events, current research, and in crime fiction, ranging from explorations of equality gains made during US President Franklin D. Roosevelt's New Deal in the 1930s, the stories that spurred research into the financial literacy of Amazonian fisherwomen, and analyses of female protagonists' roles in crime-thriller novels. Our final panel explores the intersecting inequalities that result in women's exclusion from public discussions and spaces, spanning the experiences of sex workers in Spain, the targeted nature of online misogynistic abuse in incel forums, and a discussion about creating platforms for anti-racist dialogues and action from the women behind the Shade in Cambridge podcast. Our conference closes with a keynote address from recent graduate Bronwen Mehta that focuses on the importance of re-centering local perspectives in online activism.

Importantly, this conference wouldn't be possible without the vibrant community of women and gender-focused scholars at Wolfson and in the wider Cambridge community. To each of our presenters: thank you for sharing your knowledge and expertise with all of us.

A final note: this event is a safe and inclusive space for all of us, and is open to people of all gender identities. Sexism, racism, transphobia, homophobia, or discrimination any kind *will not be tolerated* during this conference.

With love,  
Ella Jennings, Monique Keane, and Allysa Czerwinsky

A recording of this conference will be posted on the Gender Hub webpage and added to Wolfson's media collection.

Questions, comments, concerns? Reach out to us at:  
wcsa-women@wolfson.cam.ac.uk (Ella and Monique)  
genderhub@wolfson.cam.ac.uk (Allysa)



# CONFERENCE SCHEDULE:

6:00 - 6:10 PM

Welcome from the organising committee!  
Allysa Czerwinsky, Ella Jennings & Monique Keane

6:10 - 6:50 PM

## PANEL 1: Lived Experiences

*Women in Conservation*  
Lashanti Jupp

*Rewriting Women Back into the British Empire: Exploring the role and impact of women in colonial India*  
Lizzie Roberts

*Birth Partners are not a Luxury: Pregnancy and Birth During COVID-19 in England*  
Rebecca Best & Chanel McLaughlin

TEA BREAK

6:55 - 7:35 PM

## PANEL 2: Written Stories

*Women and Gender Equality in FDR's New Deal*  
Charlotte Clarke

*Dialogues of fisherwomen in the Amazonian coastal communities igniting academic research: how financial literacy education contributed to seeing cultural identity in a new light*  
Jonas Batista & Raquel Scarpa-Gebara

*Reclaiming Amy: Reading Gillian Flynn's 'Gone Girl' as post-feminist satire*  
Geraldine Seymour

TEA BREAK

7:40 - 8:20 PM

## PANEL 3: Intersecting Inequalities

*Sex Workers in Spain: The 'Others' of the Spanish Feminist Movement*  
David Sánchez García

*Virtual violence as real harm: Examining online misogynistic abuse in incel forums*  
Allysa Czerwinsky

*All Tea, All Shade: How the podcast series 'Shade in Cambridge' started, and reflections on its role in diversity, equity and inclusion*  
Annoa Abekah-Mensah, Megan Coe & Raquel Scarpa-Gebara

TEA BREAK

8:25 - 8:50 PM

**Keynote** - *Online Activism: Challenging transnational perspectives & recentring the local*  
Bronwen Mehta

8:50 - 9:00 PM

Closing thoughts, final remarks, and thank-yous  
Allysa Czerwinsky, Ella Jennings & Monique Keane



# MEET YOUR ORGANISERS



## **Ella Jennings** (she/her)

MPhil in Energy Technologies, University of Cambridge  
WCSA Women and Non-Binary Rep

Ella is a current member of Wolfson College and sits on the WCSA welfare committee as the representative for women and non-binary people alongside Monique Keane. As a physicist-turned-engineer, she is a strong advocate for getting more women and young girls into STEM subjects. She hopes to start her PhD in Global Energy Efficiency Engineering in October.



## **Monique Keane** (she/her)

Graduate Entry Medicine, University of Cambridge  
WCSA Women and Non-Binary Rep

Monique is from Ireland, and is currently studying to become a doctor. She completed her undergraduate degree in physics at Oxford, where she was also women's rep for her college. Before coming to Wolfson she did a research masters in medical physics in London, where she volunteered with a charity helping vulnerable women involved in sex work.



## **Allysa Czerwinsky** (she/her)

MPhil in Criminological Research, University of Cambridge  
Organising member of the Interdisciplinary Research Hub on Gender

Allysa is a recent graduate from Wolfson College and is an active organising member of college's Gender Research Hub. She has a wealth of research and practical experience with survivors of harassment, abuse, and gender-based violence. Beyond her academics, she's a key member of the COVID-19 Task Force on Domestic Violence and a recent addition to the International Data-driven Research for Advanced Modeling and Analysis (iDRAMA) Lab.



# KEYNOTE ADDRESS

## *Online Activism: Challenging transnational perspectives & recentring the local*



### **Bronwen Mehta (she/her)**

MPhil in International Relations & Politics, University of Cambridge

MSc in Middle East Politics, School of Oriental and African Studies

Recent Wolfson College graduate Bronwen Mehta holds many titles: researcher, editor, copywriter, indie bookstore assistant, and occasional website builder. With a wealth of expertise in Politics and International Relations, her work centres on contemporary Middle Eastern politics with a specific focus on Egypt. Her MPhil utilised quantitative and qualitative methodology to examine the Egyptian government's use of digital information controls to co-opt and control resistance messaging on social media. This built upon her previous research into the development of post-revolution political parties in Egypt during her MSc. Continuing her focus on social movements, Bron is looking to explore the discursive strategies of online anti-sexual harassment activists within the Middle East as a PhD candidate from September.

Beyond her academics, Bron has used her knowledge of Egyptian culture, politics, and social movements to create lasting and inclusive spaces for women in Cairo's online and print media scene. She's previously held roles as a senior editor of eniGma magazine and an editorial coordinator of female empowerment publication, What Women Want... magazine. Now back in the UK, she has also contributed to projects supporting local refugees both online and offline, including hosting a four-part series discussing migration and identity with activists, academics, and researchers for [BreakTheMould.care](https://www.breakthemould.care).

Bron was also instrumental in organising, hosting, and presenting at Wolfson's first International Women's Day Conference held last year on 8 March, 2020.



# MEET OUR PANELLISTS:

## LIVED EXPERIENCES



### **Lashanti Jupp** (she/her)

MPhil in Conservation Leadership, University of Cambridge  
*Women in Conservation*

Lashanti was born and raised in the beautiful islands of The Bahamas and has always been passionate about the marine environment. She's a marine conservationist who believes the first step in conservation is breaking the myth that humans are separate from nature; humans play a key role in every ecosystem. She aspires to reconnect people with nature by saving the world, one ocean at a time, with one conversation at a time.



### **Lizzie Roberts** (she/her)

MPhil in Modern British History, University of Cambridge  
*Rewriting Women Back into the British Empire: Exploring the role and impact of women in colonial India*

Lizzie is currently studying for an MPhil in Modern British History. Before coming to Cambridge, she did her undergraduate degree at the University of Warwick in French and History, where she also did a year abroad in Grenoble, France. Away from academics, she's a keen ski racer and student radio presenter!



# MEET OUR PANELLISTS:

## LIVED EXPERIENCES



### **Rebecca Best** (she/her)

MPhil in Public Health

*Birth Partners are not a Luxury: Pregnancy and Birth During COVID-19 in England*

Rebecca is a Public Health Speciality Registrar working in the East of England. Before this, she was a midwife for 10 years, working clinically and in research in the UK and Sierra Leone. She remains passionate about maternal health and currently serves as a director for Welbodi Partnership, an NGO working to improve women and children's health in Sierra Leone.



### **Chanel McLaughlin** (she/her)

Midwife - Barkantine Birth Centre

*Birth Partners are not a Luxury: Pregnancy and Birth During COVID-19 in England*

Chanel has been working as a qualified Midwife since 2016. She's currently based at The Barkantine Birth Centre, inner London's only freestanding Birth Centre. She is incredibly passionate about supporting and empowering women throughout their pregnancy journey, and educating them on their birth choices.



# MEET OUR PANELLISTS:

## WRITTEN STORIES



### **Charlotte Clarke** (she/her)

BA (Honours) in History, University of Cambridge  
*Women and Gender Equality in FDR's New Deal*

Embarking on an undergraduate degree in History at the University of Cambridge, Charlotte has found a particular interest in modern 20th century histories. She is particularly interested in the intersection between the political and social from a gendered perspective. She looks forward to embarking on further research into this topic, with a particular focus on the United States.



### **Jonas Batista** (he/him)

BA in Business Administration, Fundação Getulio Vargas Associate, Financial Inclusion - Rare Brazil  
*Dialogues of fisherwomen in the Amazonian coastal communities igniting academic research: how financial literacy education contributed to seeing cultural identity in a new light*

Jonas earned a BA in Business Administration from Fundação Getulio Vargas (FGV) - São Paulo, Brazil. He then joined Rare Brazil, an NGO that catalyzes behavior change to achieve enduring conservation results. He has led projects to increase financial literacy for fisher households living in Marine Extractive Reserves (RESEX), supporting their transition from the grey to the formal economy. Jonas embeds research into his practice, using autoethnography to guide his work with traditional communities living from extractivism in the Amazonian coast.



# MEET OUR PANELLISTS:

## WRITTEN STORIES



### **Raquel Scarpa-Gebara** (she/her)

PhD Candidate - Faculty of Education, University of Cambridge

*Dialogues of fisherwomen in the Amazonian coastal communities igniting academic research: how financial literacy education contributed to seeing cultural identity in a new light*

Raquel holds a master's degree in Neuroscience and Behaviour Analysis from the University of São Paulo, Brazil and earned an MPhil in 2020 in Educational Leadership and School Improvement from Wolfson College, University of Cambridge. Raquel is part of the Education Reform and Innovation team, currently working on her PhD at the University of Cambridge Faculty of Education, conducting research in Education Impact Analysis. Her research relates to using Social Network Analysis to map and track education reform implementation, specifically related to individual and organisational change. In addition to her research, Raquel chairs and moderates school evaluations in many countries.



### **Geraldine Seymour** (she/her)

MSt in Crime and Thriller Writing

*Reclaiming Amy: Reading Gillian Flynn's 'Gone Girl' as post-feminist satire*

Geraldine is currently writing a gothic thriller set in the 1860s as part of her degree course. She is fascinated by the complexities of human behaviour and how social norms and anxieties are reflected in crime fiction.



# MEET OUR PANELLISTS:

## INTERSECTING INEQUALITIES



### **David Sánchez García (he/him)**

MPhil in Sociology of Marginality and Exclusion, University of Cambridge

*Sex Workers in Spain: The 'Others' of the Spanish Feminist Movement*

Originally from Madrid, Spain, David is currently studying an MPhil in the Sociology of Marginality and Exclusion at the University of Cambridge. He is also the LGBTQ+ Officer at Wolfson College and an active member of the Interdisciplinary Gender Research Hub. His ongoing research explores the criminalization of some forms of sex work and the exclusion of sex workers from public discussions and from the feminist movement.



### **Allysa Czerwinsky (she/her)**

MPhil in Criminological Research, University of Cambridge

*Virtual violence as real harm: Examining online misogynistic abuse in incel forums*

Allysa earned her BA in Criminology and Criminal Justice from Carleton University, Canada, and recently completed an MPhil in Criminological Research at the University of Cambridge. Her areas of expertise involve the intersections of technology, harm, and gendered violence, with a specific focus on the extremist communities that populate the Internet manosphere. Situating her analyses within critical criminology and intersectional cyberfeminism, she utilises ethnographic and qualitative methods to examine how misogynistic discourse in incel forums works to shape and (re)create gendered power hierarchies that enable violence against women within the virtual sphere.



# MEET OUR PANELLISTS:

## INTERSECTING INEQUALITIES



### **Annoa Abekah-Mensah (she/her)**

BA (Honours) in Human, Social, and Political Sciences,  
University of Cambridge

*All Tea, All Shade: How the podcast series 'Shade in Cambridge' started, and reflections on its role in diversity, equity and inclusion*

Annoa is an undergrad at Wolfson studying Human, Social, and Political Sciences. She is from South-East London and is of Ghanaian heritage. Annoa has previously studied at UCL, worked in education and interned in Investment Banking.



### **Megan Coe (she/her)**

BA (Honours) in Human, Social, and Political Sciences,  
University of Cambridge

*All Tea, All Shade: How the podcast series 'Shade in Cambridge' started, and reflections on its role in diversity, equity and inclusion*

Megan is from Dover, Kent and a first-year undergrad at Wolfson, studying HSPS. She is the Welfare Officer at Wolfson and has previously been involved in student unions in other places she has studied. Megan was an active volunteer in her local community working as part of the pride team in Dover.



### **Raquel Scarpa-Gebara (she/her)**

PhD Candidate - Faculty of Education, University of  
Cambridge

*All Tea, All Shade: How the podcast series 'Shade in Cambridge' started, and reflections on its role in diversity, equity and inclusion*

Raquel has worked as a marine biologist, an experimental psychologist and is currently responsible for chairing evaluation visits in schools around the world. She holds an MSc in Neuroscience and Behaviour Analysis from the University of Sao Paulo, Brazil and an MPhil in Educational Leadership and School Improvement from the University of Cambridge, UK. She is currently at Wolfson College working on her PhD in the Faculty of Education at the University of Cambridge, conducting research in Education Reform, Teacher Learning and Education Impact Analysis.

