Women at Cambridge

THE RISING TIDE

What's on
Oct 2019 - Jan 2020
The Rising Tide: Women at Cambridge is a festival of exhibitions, events, and displays exploring the past, present, and future of women at Cambridge.

Programmed by Cambridge University Libraries, created by students and staff from across the University, and running across the city, The Rising Tide will facilitate assembly, debate and conversation. The programme will provide opportunities for Cambridge women to discuss their singular experiences, and the lives of those women who forged the modern University.

A further season of events is currently being programmed for February-June 2020. To get involved, visit www.cam.ac.uk/RiseEvents
All events listed in the programme are free and open to all.

Where ★ is used, the events are suitable for all ages. Please be aware that some events are only suitable for the ages indicated in the listing.

Under 18s should be accompanied by an adult at all events including those suitable for young people.

Events with ⌁ are drop-in events, and you are welcome to arrive at any point during the listed times.

Events with ★ next to it require pre-booking and you are asked to arrive on time. Please visit the online booking sites to book your place and find out more: www.lib.cam.ac.uk/whatson

Where ‘partial access’ is indicated, please visit our website for full details: www.lib.cam.ac.uk/whatson

THE RISING TIDE

Women at Cambridge

/ Exhibition

Monday 14 October 2019 – Saturday 21 March 2020

Mon-Fri 9am-6.30pm, Sat 9am-4.30pm, Sun CLOSED

1 Milstein Exhibition Centre, Cambridge University Library, West Road, Cambridge CB3 9DR

Sign in at Reader Services Desk to visit the portraits.

The Rising Tide: Women at Cambridge is an exhibition of two parts. Displays in the Milstein Exhibition Centre focus on the experience of being a woman at Cambridge University over the past 150 years. Along the front corridors of the library hang portraits of women associated with the University.

This exhibition marks 150 years since the founding of Cambridge’s first women’s college. It focuses on the lived experience of women at Cambridge, the fight for equal educational rights, and the careers of some of the women who shaped the institution (and the world). This story is told through costumes, letters, and audio-visual material, with visitors getting the chance to explore collections from across the University and Colleges.

★ ⌁
**Rise: Inspirational Women / Exhibition**
3-6pm, Monday 14 - Friday 18 & Monday 21 – Friday 25 October

St John’s College Old Divinity School, Main Hall, All Saints Passage, CB2 1TP

We asked a variety of former and current Cambridge students and staff to nominate a woman associated with the University who has inspired them. See their choices at this special pop-up exhibition.

**Women in cartography / Exhibition**
2-4.30pm, Wednesday 23 October
Cambridge University Library, Milstein Seminar Rooms, West Road CB3 9DR

The role of women in map production and publishing has often been overlooked or trivialised. See some fantastic examples from the University Library’s collection of their output from the 18th century to today, and track how cartography and attitudes have changed.

**Changing the story? Women and leadership / Talk**
5.30-6.30pm, Wednesday 16 October
Cambridge University Library, Milstein Seminar Rooms, West Road CB3 9DR

Popular explanations for women’s absence from leadership stand on empirically contested ground. This talk by seasoned business executive and PhD researcher Heide Baumann challenges our understanding of the path to parity at the top.

**These Four Walls / Exhibition**
10am-4pm, Friday 25 & Saturday 26 October
Cambridge University Library, Milstein Seminar Rooms, West Road CB3 9DR

This exhibition explores the contested meanings of paid work performed by women in their own homes. Created by historian Dr Helen McCarthy and photographer Leonora Saunders, this fusion of portrait photography and cutting-edge historical research explores themes of insecurity, flexibility and domesticity, bringing the past into dynamic conversation with the present.

**Curating These Four Walls / Talk**
5-6.45pm, Friday 25 October
Cambridge University Library, Milstein Seminar Rooms, West Road CB3 9DR

How can we recover and represent the hidden histories of women’s paid labour in the home? The creators of These Four Walls will be in conversation on the subject of women working at home. A chance to view the exhibition with a glass of wine will follow the talk.

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Online booking
www.lib.cam.ac.uk/whatson
www.festivalofideas.cam.ac.uk

Tickets needed
Suitable for all ages
Drop-in events
Women at Cambridge

Murray Edwards College
Murray Edwards was founded in 1954 as New Hall, with the intention of providing more provision for women students at Cambridge, which was then the university with the lowest proportion of women undergraduates in Britain.

Lucy Cavendish
Founded in 1965 for female graduates, this college expanded to admit female undergraduates over the age of 25 in 1972. It will admit male students from 2021.

Darwin College
Founded in 1964 as a graduate college, Darwin was the first to admit men and women from its establishment.

Senate House
This was the location of two hotly contested votes over women’s membership of the University in 1897 and 1921, both of which were lost. Huge crowds gathered to witness the votes, display placards and effigies, and exchange missiles of eggs, fireworks, peas and confetti.

Robinson College
This was the first Cambridge undergraduate college to be co-educational on its foundation in 1981.

Magdalene College
This was the last formerly all-male college to admit women, in 1988. Its Governing Body declared that it had ‘made a conscientious attempt to see if there was a genuine market for a single-sex men’s College, and to cater for it…. There is no significant demand.’

Churchill, King’s and Clare Colleges
These were the first formerly all-male colleges to admit women undergraduates, in 1972.

Girton College, founded in 1869, was the first institution of higher education to offer courses to women on the same terms as men. Originally based in Hitchin, the current buildings were opened in 1873 with 13 students. Girton admitted male students from 1976.
Women of the Tower Collection / Tour
11.30-12.30, Monday 11am & 2.30-3.30pm, Wednesday 13 November
1 Cambridge University Library, Meet in Entrance Hall, West Road CB3 9DR. This event has partial access.

Exclusive for members of the Friends. Join our Deputy Keeper of Rare Books, Dr Emily Dourish, for this behind-the-scenes visit to the University Library’s tower. Look at a selection of books by female authors and for female audiences published over the last 200 years. 18+

Women in and behind the Lawrence Room at Girton College / Talk
1-2pm, Thursday 14 November
1 Cambridge University Library, Milstein Seminar Rooms, West Road CB3 9DR

Join the contributors to a new book for this panel discussion about the Lawrence Room, a museum of antiquities at Cambridge’s first college for women. Attendees are invited to visit the museum at Girton College following the discussion between 2-6pm. 14+

Women of Westminster: The MPs who changed politics / Talk
5.30-6.30pm, Thursday 28 November
4 Churchill College, Jock Colville Hall, Storey’s Way, CB3 0DS

Rachel Reeves, MP for Leeds West and author of Women of Westminster, explores the history of women in Parliament in the 100 years since Nancy Astor became the first woman MP to take her seat in the House of Commons in 1919. A drinks reception until 7pm will follow the talk. 14+

Almae matres: the forgotten daughters of Edward I / Talk
5.30-6.30pm, Wednesday 27 November
4 Cambridge University Library, West Road CB3 9DR

Medieval English noble women founded many of Cambridge’s oldest Colleges, building on a legacy of aristocratic female learning stretching back to the thirteenth-century. This talk from Dr Kelcey Wilson-Lee will examine the daughters of Edward I, their lives and legacy of learning. 14+

‘Love From, Women’ Library Late / Special event
7.30-9.30pm, Tuesday 26 November
Cambridge University Library, West Road CB3 9DR

Mix, mingle, celebrate! Join us after-hours for live DJs, spoken word performances and an interactive art installation, all representing the voices and experiences of Cambridge women and non-binary people. Our exhibition will be open for a late night viewing, and a cash bar will be serving drinks. 18+

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24 Portraits: Recovering and Reimagining Women’s Labour in the Department of Pathology / Exhibition
10am-4pm weekdays only, Friday 1 November – Friday 7 February
3 Department of Pathology, check-in at Ground Floor, Tennis Court Road, CB2 1QR. This event has partial access.

Artist Emma Copley has created an immersive, site-specific, painted portrait installation in order to celebrate and address the representation of women who currently work in all areas of the Department of Pathology.
A club of their own:
Cambridge women’s societies and associations 1883-1914 / Talk
5.30-6.30pm, Thursday 5 December
Cambridge University Library, Milstein Seminar Rooms, West Road CB3 9DR

Dr Ann Kennedy Smith discusses how influential women’s groups from the 1880s provided forums for intellectual debate among the University’s first female students and other women. Come and find out how these groups encouraged political, professional and social activism beyond college walls. 14+ 🌟

Greenham Women Everywhere / Exhibition
11am-4pm, Saturday 7 December
Cambridge University Library, Milstein Seminar Rooms, West Road CB3 9DR

This exhibition offers an intimate look at the sights and sounds of the Greenham Common Peace Camp, which in 1982 bought 30,000 women together to protest peacefully against the nuclear arms race. Voices are given to these radical women and you are asked what changes you want to see in the world. 🌟

“Lock up your libraries?”:
Women readers of Cambridge University Library, 1869-1923 / Talk
5-6pm, Thursday 16 January
Cambridge University Library, Milstein Seminar Rooms, West Road CB3 9DR

This talk from the University Library’s Head of Special Collections, Dr Jill Whitelock, will explore the admission of women readers. Find out how the control of access to privileged spaces such as the University Library, alongside lecture halls and laboratories, was bound up with the status of women in the University. 14+ 🌟

British Sign Language exhibition & library tour / Tour
1-2pm, Saturday 18 January
Cambridge University Library, Meet in Entrance Hall, West Road CB3 9DR

Join one of our exhibition curators for this guided tour of The Rising Tide exhibition, to be followed by an introductory tour of the wider library. British Sign Language interpretation will be provided by the Cambridgeshire Deaf Association. 🌟

Preparing women leaders for the future / Talk
6-7pm, Thursday 23 January
Cambridge Judge Business School LTI, Trumpington Street CB2 1AG

We invite you to join us for a rich and engaging conversation about the opportunities and challenges in preparing women leaders for the future with two illustrious leaders at the University of Cambridge, Dame Carol Black and a special guest. Followed by drinks and networking. 14+ 🌟

As is your due:
50th anniversary of women’s admission to the University / Talk & film
5.30-7pm, Thursday 30 January
Cambridge University Library, Milstein Seminar Rooms, West Road CB3 9DR

This film records the 50th anniversary celebration of women’s admission to the University of Cambridge, when in 1998 more than 800 women who matriculated before 1948 returned to Senate House to collect their degrees retrospectively. The 1-hour documentary will be followed by a Q&A with director, Lucy Thane. 14+ 🌟
Openings hours
Mon-Fri: 9am-7pm
(Easter Term 9am-9.45pm)
Saturday: 9am-4.45pm
Sunday: CLOSED
See website for Bank Holiday and seasonal closures.

Contact us
Telephone: 01223 333000
www.lib.cam.ac.uk
Facebook: /cambridgeuniversitylibrary
Twitter: @theUL

How to find us
The University Library is located on West Road, approximately a 10-minute walk from the Market Square.

There is plenty of space to securely lock your bike outside the front of the library building. Cambridge’s Park & Ride services stop in the city centre, and West Road is served by the U bus operated by Go Whippet: www.go-whippet.co.uk.

Parking onsite is reserved for readers of the University Library. Nearby Pay-and-Display parking is available on West Road and Queens’ Road. Other multi-storey car parks are located in the city centre.

Join the Friends of Cambridge University Library

Our events are supported by the Friends of Cambridge University Library, a community of library enthusiasts. The Friends enable the University Library to acquire works from the past and preserve them for the future, sharing them through exhibitions and digitisation.

We would love you to become a Friend too. As a Friend you will be directly contributing to the University Library’s success as a place of learning and discovery. You will also receive publications and invitations to behind the scenes events.

Membership starts from just £35 a year (£10 for students).

Enquire today, email Jenny Broadway, Friends Coordinator:
friends@lib.cam.ac.uk
Or visit www.lib.cam.ac.uk/friends

Daily Mail March 12 1980, Bedmaker Mrs H Symonds, New Hall (Murray Edwards) students gardening, Newnham’s first five students 1871 (Newnham College), Dame Jocelyn Bell Burnell, Cambridge’s first black female graduate Gloria Cumper
Generously supported by Cambridge Assessment, the Vice Chancellor of the University of Cambridge, the Howard and Abby Milstein Foundation, and the Friends of Cambridge University Library.