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# THE WOMEN'S CLASSICAL COMMITTEE

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## Origin and Visions

In March 2015 on International Women's Day, and in the same month the Women's Equality Party was thought into existence, the establishment of the Women's Classical Caucus (UK) was announced. The announcement followed the Classics and the New Faces of Feminism sandpit which took place at the end of January 2015 at the Institute of Classical Studies. The sandpit was organised by Efi Spentzou and Genevieve Liveley, and brought researchers from all stages of their academic careers to share their interests in the dynamic dialogues taking place between Classics and contemporary feminism. The event generated lively discussion around the kinds of feminism taking place in the UK at present, and revealed a shared desire to do something to address many of the issues that were aired as participants took the opportunity to pool their experiences.

The shared sense of purpose made it clear that there was a thirst for a UK-based institution to parallel the US-based Women's Classical Caucus, founded in 1972. Liz Gloyn, who studied for her PhD in the US and benefitted from the Caucus academically and pastorally, contacted the participants of the sandpit to gauge interest in setting up a UK equivalent. After initial discussions, volunteers were sought from the wider classics community, and the first steering group is now in place.

The organisation, now renamed the Women's Classical Committee (WCC), has similar aims to the Caucus in striving for the promotion of feminist and gender-informed perspectives in the study and teaching of ancient Mediterranean cultures and Classical antiquity. The Society for Women in Philosophy also provided a useful model for WCC to follow.

The founding members of WCC are postgraduates, academics and teachers who are united in their desire to support women in Classics, promote feminist and gender-informed perspectives in Classics, raise the profile of the study of women in antiquity and Classical reception, and advance equality and diversity in Classics. These are our [aims](#). Each member would give different reasons for why the foundation of WCC was essential, but the Committee is passionate in advancing these central objectives.

WCC is currently developing a formal constitution which will set out the structure and future direction of the organisation. We are also organising our launch event, 'Women in Classics: Past, Present and Future', which will take place at the Institute of Classical Studies on 11th April 2016. The day promises to bring together those in support of our aims and give fuel to their progression with short talks and break-out discussion groups. We will hold our first business meeting at our launch, when we will ratify the constitution and then be able to begin accepting members.

In the longer term, WCC will organise a regular Feminism and Classics conference, much like the [Visions: Feminism and Classics](#) Conference to be held in the US in Seattle in May 2016. We will also have a presence at the annual Classical Association conference, and will regularly propose and sponsor panels. We aim to support members financially with the costs of travel, childcare and other expenses related to their scholarly activities. WCC will initiate a much-needed mentoring programme for PhD students and early-career academics in Classics. We will also facilitate the sharing of resources for teaching both feminist approaches with Classics and women in antiquity. Finally, WCC will promote the positive representation and presence of women on-line.

WCC is on [Twitter](#), [Facebook](#) and has a dedicated [website](#). We welcome and actively seek support and membership from people of any gender expression or identity who endorse our aims. We invite anyone with an interest in getting involved with WCC to get in touch; we would be particularly delighted to hear from senior and established women academics about how we might benefit from their expertise.

The Founding Committee Members of WCC are:

- \* Dr Rosa Andujar, University College London (Steering committee, 2015-17)
- \* Dr Carol Attack, University of Oxford/University of Warwick (Treasurer)
- \* Dr Emma Bridges, Open University (Part-time and alt-ac liaison)
- \* Dr Susan Deacy, University of Roehampton (Disability liaison, staff and post-PhD)
- \* Dr Jane Draycott, University of Wales Trinity St David (ECR liaison)
- \* Rhiannon Easterbrook, University of Bristol (Graduate liaison)
- \* Dr Lisa Eberle, University of Oxford (Steering committee, 2015)
- \* Dr Liz Gloyn, Royal Holloway University of London (Administrator)
- \* Dr Katherine Harloe, University of Reading (Steering committee, 2015-16)
- \* Chloe Hixson, University College London (Disability liaison, post-grads)
- \* Dr Lucy Jackson, University of Oxford (Steering committee, 2015-17)
- \* Joanna Johnson, Head of Classics, Solihull School (Schools liaison)
- \* Dr Victoria Leonard, University of Cardiff (Co-chair, 2015)
- \* Prof. Helen Lovatt, University of Nottingham (Co-chair, 2015-16)
- \* Dr Katherine McDonald, University of Cambridge (ECR liaison)
- \* Dr Amy Russell, University of Durham (Steering committee, 2015-17)
- \* Dr Irene Salvo, University of Göttingen (LBGTQI liaison)
- \* Prof. Amy Smith, University of Reading (Email list and website)
- \* Dr Efrossini Spentzou, Royal Holloway University of London (Part-time and alt-ac liaison)
- \* Dr Elena Theodorakopoulos, University of Birmingham (Steering committee, 2015-17)

**By Victoria Leonard (Co-Chair) and Liz Gloyn (Administrator and Founder), [womensclassicalcommittee@gmail.com](mailto:womensclassicalcommittee@gmail.com)**