Here’s to strong women
May we know them
May we be them
May we raise them

(Unknown)

Inspiring International Women
Women’s Network, 7th March 2019
Part of IWD@Kent
This isn’t a woman’s world

It's a funny time to be a woman in the UK. With new rules for publication of gender pay differentials and revelations of sexual impropriety, misconduct, and downright criminality emerging everywhere you turn, it feels a bit like society is collectively waking up to some of the rubbish women have been dealing with for years.

On the other hand, the gender pay gap doesn't seem to be going anywhere fast. The #metoo movement is driving home just how culturally ingrained these toxic sexual behaviours are. And we are just beginning to scratch the surface of how gender interacts with race, faith, sexuality, disability, and class to shape women's professional experiences.

Wonkhe – 4\textsuperscript{th} March, 2019
What about HE?

Higher education is premised on the idea that what should matter is the quality of your brain, not the configuration of your chromosomes. Universities are typically relatively liberal spaces in which it is accepted that there are gender inequalities and that work should be done to tackle them.

Increasingly, rules and processes exist within universities that acknowledge that we live in a culture that affords different degrees of power and agency to the genders when it comes to both personal and professional relationships.

We continue to be concerned that, notwithstanding the many excellent women working in and thinking about higher education, the notion of intellectual authority is gendered male by default.

Wonkhe 4th March, 2019
Rosalind Elsie Franklin (25 July 1920 – 16 April 1958) was an English chemist and X-ray crystallographer who made contributions to the understanding of the molecular structures of DNA (deoxyribonucleic acid), RNA (ribonucleic acid), viruses, coal and graphite. Although her works on coal and viruses were appreciated in her lifetime, her contributions to the discovery of the structure of DNA were largely recognised posthumously.

Franklin is best known for her work on the X-ray diffraction images of DNA, particularly Photo 51, while at King’s College London, which led to the discovery of the DNA double helix for which James Watson, Francis Crick and Maurice Wilkins shared the Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine in 1962.

She died in 1958 at the age of 37 of ovarian cancer.

If you want to find out more, this is a good place to start:
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rosalind_Franklin
Claudette Colvin is an American nurse and was a pioneer of the Civil Rights Movement. On March 2, 1955, she was arrested at the age of 15 in Montgomery, Alabama for refusing to give up her seat to a white woman on a crowded, segregated bus. Colvin acted 9 months before the more widely known incident in which Rosa Parks, secretary of the local chapter of the NAACP, played the lead role, sparking the Montgomery Bus Boycott that began that year.

- Born 5th September, 1939

Further information:
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Claudette_Colvin
Isabel Briggs was born in America in 1897 and experienced life during two world wars. She saw the mass mobilisation of women into the workforce and noticed that different types of jobs suited different types of women.

This sparked an interest in personality profiling and the idea that we have different personalities, strengths and weaknesses that influence our everyday lives.

At the time, the idea of personality profiling was limited to the psychological study of extreme personality types. She made it accessible to everyone through the development of her Myers-Briggs Type Indicator (MBTI).

MBTI has helped me enormously in being more self-aware of my strengths and blindspots and to really appreciate the differences in others rather than just wishing ‘why can’t everyone just be like me?’

In her words...

“no one has to be good at everything. By developing individual strengths, guarding against known weaknesses and appreciating the strengths of others, life will be more interesting and more of a daily adventure than it could possibly be if everyone were more alike”

Thank you Isabel.

If you want to find out more, this is a good place to start: https://www.16personalities.com/
Katherine Johnson, Dorothy Vaughan, and Mary Jackson

A team of female African-American mathematicians who served a vital role in NASA during the early years of the U.S. space program. Part of NASA’s team of human “computers”, this predominantly female group calculated ‘by hand’ the complex equations that allowed space heroes like Neil Armstrong, Alan Shepard, and John Glenn to travel safely to space. Through sheer tenacity, force of will and intellect, they ensured their stamp on American history—even if their story has remained obscured from public view until now.

Upper left: Johnson joins NASA in 1966

Lower left: Johnson receives the Presidential Medal in 2015

Born: August 26, 1918 – 100 years old
A thought to take away

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(Unknown)

International Women’s Day Reading List

Student Services, the Library and Kent Union have compiled a suggested reading list of titles that focus on female empowerment. Titles are classic and modern, fiction and non-fiction, sad and funny so there should be something there for everyone! Copies available of selected titles:

Aurora@Kent event
Wed 20\textsuperscript{th} March (13-14:30; DLT1)

• Supported by the Women’s Network

In this session, Amalia Arvaniti, Professor of linguistics, from the University’s School of European Culture and Languages, department of English Language and Linguistics, will be delivering a talk on “Muted Groups and Implicit Bias”.

Professor Arvaniti’s research focuses on the study of speech; among other topics she studies speech variation related to social variables, including gender. For the last 15 years she has been teaching a module on language and gender that, while popular, sometimes receives negative reviews for being too feminist. Over this time, she has noticed that sexism remains alive and well and especially hard to spot when expressed in subtle yet familiar ways. This prompted her to start a Facebook page as the bland feminist, a title inspired by a typo in a student evaluation, where when she has time she posts news items and commentary on sexism.