Wednesday 6th March

9.30am  St Hugh's College | Foyer | Registration & Refreshments

10.00am  St Hugh's College | Maplethorpe Hall | Keynote Address
Women & Power: Redressing the Balance
Annie Reilly | Head of Public Programmes | National Trust
Dr Sophie Duncan | Fellow in English | University of Oxford

11.25am  St Hugh's College | Maplethorpe Hall
Who Speaks? Co-curation & Participation

11.25am  St Hugh's College | Maplethorpe Seminar Room
‘Deeds not words’ Sharing & Celebrating Research

12.45pm  St Hugh's College | Foyer | Lunch

1.30pm  St Hugh's College | Maplethorpe Hall
Accessing Women’s History: Overcoming Barriers & Increasing Visibility

1.30pm  St Hugh's College | Maplethorpe Seminar Room
‘No matter what the differences, no matter what the dangers’ Exploring the Challenges of Collaboration

4.05pm  St Hugh's College | Foyer | Refreshments

4.35pm  St Hugh's College | Maplethorpe Hall | Keynote Address
Women & Power: Changing the Stories We Tell Ourselves
Melissa Benn | Writer & Campaigner

6.00pm  Pitt Rivers Museum
Women & Power Evening Reception

Thursday 7th March

9.30am  St Hugh's College | Maplethorpe Hall
Reimagining Women’s History: Creative Responses & the Role of Artists

9.30am  Pitt Rivers Museum
Reimagining Women’s History: Pitt Rivers Museum

9.30am  St Luke’s Chapel
Reimagining Women’s History: Heritage Open Days

11.00am  St Hugh's College | Foyer | Refreshments

11.30am  St Hugh's College | Maplethorpe Hall | Keynote Address
Women & Power: The Women who Shaped the National Trust
Hilary McGrady | Director-General | National Trust

12.30pm  St Hugh's College | Foyer | Lunch

1.15pm  St Hugh's College | Maplethorpe Hall
Who Cares? Responses to Women’s History Programming

3.30pm  St Hugh's College | Foyer | Refreshments

4.20pm  St Hugh's College | Maplethorpe Hall
Women Making History: The Leaders of Today

5.20pm  Closing remarks by Helen Antrobus | National Public Programme Curator | National Trust

5.30pm  Conference Ends

Women & Power
Redressing the Balance

6th February 2018 marked the centenary of the passing of the Representation of the People Bill. After years of struggle and campaigning, the right to vote in general elections was granted to all men aged 21 and over, and to some women over 30. It took women a step closer to the full and equal enfranchisement which would finally be achieved ten years later, with the Equal Franchise Act of 1928. The centenary commemorations throughout 2018 celebrated much more than legislative change. Indeed, the Representation of the People Act felt almost secondary as the constitutional suffragists and militant suffragettes themselves took centre stage. The purple, white, and green of Emmeline Pankhurst’s Women’s Social and Political Union covered the country, whilst the leader of the National Union of Women’s Suffrage Societies, Millicent Garrett Fawcett, was honoured with a statue in Parliament Square – becoming the first woman to be commemorated there.

Stories of hardship, humour, violence, and solidarity were collected from archives, as heritage, academic and cultural organisations across the country led the commemorations. The history of the women’s suffrage movement was told through books, exhibitions, events, plays, and processions. Many of the stories discovered, or re-discovered, were the product of collaboration – for example, the National Trust’s ongoing partnership with researchers at the University of Oxford – and were interpreted and shared in innovative ways with audiences old and new.

With support from the government’s Women’s Vote Centenary Fund Grant Scheme, the National Trust marked the anniversary with ‘Women and Power’: a national, cross-property programme which saw historic sites across England, Wales, and Northern Ireland tell a wide range of stories; from anti-suffrage supporters such as Lord Curzon at Kedleston Hall and Octavia Hill, to prominent suffrage campaigners such as the Mander family at Wightwick Manor, and Edith Craig at Smallhythe Place. Experiencing this activity first-hand, visitors came away feeling invigorated, politically engaged, and with a transformed understanding of the history of women’s suffrage.

The suffrage centenary encouraged a broader conversation about contemporary feminism, equality and representation across the National Trust and beyond, engaging visitors and non-visitors alike. It has also inspired a series of questions and challenges about the legacy of the centenary year including: how can we maintain this momentum, and how can we continue to champion the stories of women, encourage debate, and inspire change?

The Women & Power conference will allow colleagues across the heritage, cultural, and academic sectors to reflect on our practice and on our research, and will enable us to discuss how we can continue to celebrate and commemorate the women who shaped our history through suffrage and beyond. It will allow us to reaffirm our commitment to researching and telling the stories of previously lost and marginalised women, and to think collectively about how we can integrate them into broader national narratives.

Conference Convenors:
National Trust:
Rachael Lennon | National Public Programme Curator
Dr Claire Pascolini-Campbell | Research Manager
Helen Antrobus | National Public Programme Curator
University of Oxford:
Professor Senia Paseta | Associate Professor of Modern History & Women in Humanities Programme Co-Director
Alice Purkiss | National Trust Partnership Lead
Vanessa Moore | National Trust Partnership Support Officer
10.00am St Hugh's College | Maplethorpe Hall | Keynote Address

Women & Power: Redressing the Balance

Annie Reilly | Head of Public Programmes | National Trust
Dr Sophie Duncan | Fellow in English | University of Oxford

11.25am St Hugh's College | Maplethorpe Hall

PARALLEL SESSION

Who Speaks? Co-curation & Participation

Whose voice is heard and how can we broaden the debate? This session will discuss community engagement with women’s histories, exploring how participatory projects and co-creation can present multiple voices and perspectives and reach new audiences.

Chair: Helen Antrobus | National Public Programme Curator | National Trust

Wednesday 6th March

Reframing the Muse

Kelly Robinson | Community Engagement Manager | Dulwich Picture Gallery

Only one of the paintings on display at Dulwich Picture Gallery is painted by a woman, yet as you explore the collection many female faces look back at you. “Reframing the Muse” was an intergenerational project bringing together newly arrived migrant, refugee and asylum seeking teenage girls from The Baytree Centre in Brixton and socially isolated, older women from the local area. The project created a space for women of different ages and backgrounds to come together and explore questions around identity and representation, to learn new skills, and to gain a better understanding of each other.

Women of Tyneside

Gemma Ashby | Project Co-ordinator (Engagement & Collections) | Tyne & Wear Archives & Museums

‘Women of Tyneside’ is a two-year project celebrating, inspiring, and valuing women and girls across the region. Inviting women from the local community to explore the collections and identify objects with which they connect, the project is documenting their experiences and views to form the basis of a new ‘Women’s Collection’ at Tyne & Wear Archives and Museums, and will help shape activities for the ‘Festival of Women’ taking place in 2019.

Partnersing with The Pankhurst Centre & Working with Women's Aid

Kate Nicoll | National Specialist for Garden Training | National Trust

As part of the National Trust’s ‘Women and Power’ programme, an exciting new partnership has been developed with the Pankhurst Centre in Manchester. The former home of Emmeline Pankhurst and her daughters, the house has now been opened as a museum and also incorporates Manchester Women’s Aid. Following a crowdfunding campaign to create a permanent therapeutic garden paying tribute to those who fought for women’s equality, the National Trust is now supporting the centre to maintain and encourage public engagement with this new space, as well as facilitating visits from the refugees to our own local properties.

Votes for Women? Refreshing the Debate

Eileen Dillon | Learning Officer | National Trust

Killerton, the seat of the Acland family, is a modest 18th-century house set alongside an important garden and parkland. Previously home to two women who campaigned on opposing sides during the struggle for women’s suffrage, it is an ideal location for a re-examination of the debate around a woman’s right to vote. ‘Votes for Women?’ drew on the Acland women’s respective campaign material and Killerton’s textile and fashion collections to create new installations throughout the house and generate new collaborative arts projects to engage children, young people, local communities, and visitors.

Dead Women Can’t Vote

Rebecca Odell | Museum Manager | Hackney Museum

Responding to the centenary of the Representation of the People Act, Hackney Museum worked in partnership with the East End Women’s Museum to create a new exhibition, ‘Making Her Mark’. Addressing the challenge of engaging diverse and multi-cultural audiences with a subject that is often perceived as a ‘white woman’s movement’ by opening up key decision-making processes to members of the community, this collaborative project used the centenary as a starting point to explore what happened beyond the vote, both outside as well as within democratic politics.

11.25am St Hugh’s College | Maplethorpe Seminar Room

PARALLEL SESSION

‘Deeds, not words’

Sharing & Celebrating Research

Bringing together historians from Oxford University’s History Faculty and Women in the Humanities research programme, this session will explore the links between women’s history, public engagement, and the commemoration of the centenary of the Representation of the People Act across the cultural, heritage, and academic spheres.

Panel: Professor Senia Paseta | WIH Co-Director | University of Oxford (Chair)
Dr Alexandre Hughes-Johnson | WIH Research Coordinator & Fellow | University of Oxford
Dr Lyndsay Jenkins | Stipenduary Lecturer in History | University of Oxford
Dr Andrea Thompson | Research Associate | University of Oxford

Professor Senia Paseta will consider how the suffrage centenary has informed collaborations between academics and colleagues outside the academy as well as political campaign groups, exploring how these initiatives have been deliberately designed to outlive the centenary year.

Dr Alexandre Hughes-Johnson will reflect upon the commemoration of the life and political career of Wimbledon suffragette, Rose Lamartine Yates, exploring how collaborations between the academic and cultural and heritage sectors can make local suffrage histories more accessible to the public.

Dr Lyndsey Jenkins will focus on the Kenney sisters and their involvement with the militant suffrage campaign in the early twentieth century, reflecting upon the interconnections between her academic research and public engagement and how these transform our understanding of militant suffrage.

Dr Andrea Thomson will explore the links between women’s history, public engagement and the commemoration of both the centenary of the First World War and The Representation of the People Act in MaD Theatre Company’s production of ‘It’s The Wrong Way to Tickle Mary’.
1.30pm St Hugh's College | Mapletonorpe Hall
PARALLEL SESSION
Accessing Women's History: Overcoming Barriers & Increasing Visibility
What are the challenges of researching and sharing women's histories? How can the academic and heritage sectors respond positively to address gender imbalances? This session will look at the visibility of women's histories, examining the difficulties in conducting research and showcasing initiatives seeking to improve access for both researchers and the wider public.
Chair: Dr Megan Leyland | Senior Properties Historian | English Heritage

PAPERS
Suffrage 100 at The National Archives
Victoria Iglinskiwski-Broad | Principle Records Specialist in Diverse Histories, The National Archives
Katie Fox | Programming Lead – Audiences | The National Archives
The National Archives has a world-renowned collection of documents relating to women’s suffrage, including records of the police raids that occurred with increasing frequency as the militancy of the movement escalated. Discussing this rich and important resource, this paper will examine the limitations of understanding a militant organisation through the eyes of the state, how it might be possible to draw personal stories from official records, and how they can be used to reach new audiences.

Coverage of Women in the ODNB: A Balancing Act?
Dr Anders Ingram | Research Editor | Oxford Dictionary of National Biography
The recent anniversaries of the Representation of the People Act 1918, and the Sex Disqualification (Removal) Act 1919, have been marked by the Oxford Dictionary of National Biography (ODNB) with a series of new releases focusing on the lives of historical women. Reflecting critically on this activity, and the longer evolution of the dictionary’s coverage of women’s lives, this paper will discuss the practicalities of researching, commissioning, and editing women’s biographies, and will explore some of the systematic challenges and limitations of ‘redressing the balance’ in the ODNB.

Listening to the Commons: Recreating the Ventilator
Dr Mari Takayanagi | Senior Archivist | Houses of Parliament
‘Voice and Vote: Women’s Place in Parliament’ was a major exhibition in Westminster Hall taking visitors through interactive and immersive experiences including the Ventilator, a recreation of the attic space and ventilation shaft used by women to women to house of Commons debates 200 years ago. This interdisciplinary collaboration between the University of York, the University of Warwick, and Parliament’s Vote 100 Exhibition Project demonstrates how academic research can shed new light on previously overlooked subjects and help foster new public engagement initiatives.

Exploring the Challenges of Collaboration
How can arts, heritage, and academic institutions work together to research, reveal, and share women’s histories? How can collaboration empower storytelling? This session will reflect on the challenges, opportunities, and unexpected benefits that working together can bring.
Chair: Nino Stacey | Head of Research & Specialist Advice | National Trust

PAPERS
The Past, the Present, & the Personal: The Secret to Making Research Relevant
Professor Suzannah Lipscomb | Professor of History | University of Roehampton
Polly Schomburg | Visitor Experience Consultant | National Trust
Dr Emma Turnbull | Reader in Social Science | University of Kent
‘Inspiring Women’: A Museum-University Partnership & its Aftermath
Partnerships in Practice: Ada & Adelaide & the Speke Hall Project
Dr Marie Molloy | Lecturer in American History | Manchester Metropolitan University
As part of the National Trust’s ‘Women and Power’ programme, Manchester Metropolitan University worked in collaboration with Speke Hall in Liverpool to develop a new partnership which uncovered the lives and legacies of mother and daughter Ada and Adelaide Watt. The yearlong collaboration resulted in two interconnected exhibitions which examined their role as prominent figures in the history of the North West region.

Women’s History: Overcoming Barriers & Increasing Visibility
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Thursday 7th March

9.30am  PARALLEL SESSION

Reimagining Women's History: Creative Responses & the Role of Artists

How can artists, performers, and designers help shed new light on existing historical narratives? How can creative responses be used to reach and engage new audiences? This session will examine how creativity has been used to unlock and interpret women's stories, and will consider what artists can bring to the narrative that is different, challenging, or surprising.

Chair: Grace Davies | Contemporary Arts Programme Manager | National Trust

Ahead of the Curve: Highlighting Women in an Established Collection
Frith Kerr | Designer

As part of the National Trust’s ‘Women and Power’ programme, Frith Kerr, founder of Studio Frith was invited to respond to the female artists collected by Ernö and Ursula Goldfinger for their home at 2 Willow Road in London. She invited seven contemporary designers to create interventions which prompted visitors to engage with and experience this National Trust property in a new way, using sight, sound, touch and smell. This paper will reflect upon the exhibition, ‘Ahead of the Curve’, highlighting the discussions and new work created.

The Hard Way: Because Meals Don’t Come up Through the Tablecloth
Stephanie Jalland | Artistic Director Hoodwink, Theatre Maker, Writer, Director
Louise Jordan | Musician, Performer, Songwriter

This paper will outline the artistic process in devising the one-woman performance piece, ‘The Hard Way’, which charts the rise of working-class suffragette Hannah Mitchell from a remote hilltop farm in the Derbyshire moorlands to Manchester city magistrate. It will discuss methods of engaging the public with social history through the arts as well as the use of participatory storytelling methods to reach new audiences.

To Stop Her Mouth: Ellen Turner’s Story at Lyme
Sarah Richardson | Theatre Maker | We Are Filament
Dr Ben Wilcock | Academic Research & Engagement Coordinator | National Trust

At the beginning of the nineteenth century, 15-year old Ellen Turner was abducted from her boarding school by a man she had never met and coerced into marriage. Her story and the ensuing trial of her abductor provoked widespread interest amongst the society of the day and in the press. Using transcripts from the trial, Filament presented an evocative audio installation at Lyme that examined women’s power and agency and invited visitors to respond to Ellen’s story. This paper will discuss the collaborative partnerships that produced this new installation, and examine the visitor and press response.

11.30am  PARALLEL SESSION

Women & Power: The Women who Shaped the National Trust
Hilary McGrady | Director-General | National Trust

Women Making History
Cat Harrison | non zero one
John Hunter | non zero one

In 2018, award-winning interactive artists’ group non zero one doubled the number of statues of non-royal, non-mythical women in England for the project put her forward, commissioned by Heritage Open Days. Join the company in this interactive workshop looking at some of the themes of put her forward: recognition, celebration, and creating women’s history. The workshop will feature discussion and also the chance to hear more about the process of making the artwork, from public call-out and 3D scanning, through to the 25 countrywide unveilings of 3D printed statues.

9.30am  PARALLEL SESSION

Reimagining Women’s History: Pitt Rivers Museum

Multaka-Oxford volunteers at Pitt Rivers Museum © Pitt Rivers Museum

Intrepid Women: Curator’s Tour
Zena McGreery | Exhibition & Special Projects Officer | Pitt Rivers Museum

An opportunity to attend a curator’s tour of the Pitt Rivers Museum’s current special exhibition ‘Intrepid Women’. The exhibition focuses on six of the museum’s female collectors and their fieldwork between 1910 and 1957. All undertook ground-breaking fieldwork, defied conventions for women, and faced significant prejudice from male colleagues.

Multaka-Oxford
Rachel Harrison | Volunteer & Community Engagement Co-ordinator (Multaka-Oxford Project) | Pitt Rivers Museum & History of Science Museum

Find out more about the Multaka-Oxford project and its collaborative approach to working with community volunteers. This session will include the opportunity to look at some of the textiles from the Arab World collection recently donated by Jenny Balfour Paul.
SPOTLIGHT TALKS

In & Out of the Closet: Interpreting LGBTQ Heritage in Museums & the Media

Angela Clare | Collections Officer | Shibden Hall

At Shibden Hall, West Yorkshire, two remarkable stories have been uncovered: the story of Anne Lister herself, a lesbian, prolific diarist, landowner, traveller, and mountaineer; and the story of how she has been kept in the closet. Anne Lister is now officially ‘out’ and a new TV series about her, written by Sally Wainwright for the BBC and airing in 2019, will make sure of that. This spotlight talk will discuss how Anne’s story has been hidden, exposed and interpreted over the last century within Shibden Hall, in publications, and across the media.

The Vexing Question of Women in Medicine

Dr Kristin Hussey | Senior Curator | Royal College of Physicians

Marking the Royal College of Physicians’ anniversary, Vote100 and NHS70, the 2018 exhibition ‘This Vexed Question: 500 Years of Sexism in Medicine through Five Centuries’ explored the history of sexism in medicine. The public reaction surrounding women in medicine through the stories of artists Kate Stobbart and Harriet Sutcliffe which provoked polarised opinion amongst audiences. The installation consisted of covering up, in some areas, male paintings, prints, photographs, and sculptures to temporarily shift the lens within the house to shine a light on female representation, or lack of it, within the collection.

Evaluating Women & Power:

Findings, Recommendations & Next Steps

Dr Jenna C. Ashton | Research Consultant

As part of the Women and Power programme, the National Trust commissioned an external academic consultant to undertake evaluation across 19 historic sites to explore and reflect upon its relevance and resonance. This paper will share key findings, unpack approaches undertaken at property and regional level and consider the resulting impact on behaviours, perspectives, and practices of the charity’s visitors, partners, staff, and volunteers. Reflecting critically on this wide-reaching programme, identifying best practice and lessons learned, the paper will be a call-to-action for heritage practitioners and curators to ensure their work is critically astute, socially engaged and politically aware.

PAPERS

Switched On! Shinning the Light on Female Innovation at Cragside

Kiki Claxton | Cultural Programme Coordinator | Trust New Art - North | National Trust

Harriet Sutcliffe | Artist & Doctoral Researcher | Newcastle University

In 2018 researchers from Newcastle University collaborated with National Trust colleagues at Cragside, Northumberland, to create an exhibition which explored ideas that challenged the limits of modern invention, whilst showcasing the creativity of women in STEAM (science, technology, engineering, art and maths). This paper will focus on one aspect of the exhibition, ‘The Great Cragside Cover-Up: House’, a collaborative piece by artists Kate Stobbart and Harriet Sutcliffe which provoked polarised opinion amongst audiences. The installation consisted of covering up, in some areas, male paintings, prints, photographs, and sculptures to temporarily shift the lens within the house to shine a light on female representation, or lack of it, within the collection.

Women Making History: The Leaders of Today

Chair: Virginia Tandy | Co-Founder | Women Leaders in Museums Network

Panel: Hilary Carty | Director | Clore Leadership Programme
Kate Clark | Visiting Professor in Heritage Valuation | University of Sussex
Sara Wajid | Head of Engagement | Museum of London

This roundtable session will explore the presence of women in senior roles in heritage organisations through the lived experience of the first generation of female museum leaders. What difference have these women made to how heritage is managed, preserved, and constructed? What barriers have they encountered? How have these women helped others to succeed? This session will draw on the findings of three projects which have all sought to make a difference for women working in the sector: the Women Leaders in Museums Network; the Confidence Choice and Connections programme; and the Changing the Narrative initiative.

Chaired by Virginia Tandy, co-founder of the Women Leaders in Museums Network, this discussion will explore ways in which this cohort of women have worked together to support each other and encourage other women to put themselves forward for leadership roles in the sector. Together they will explore what is needed in future to ensure the representation of women’s experiences in all aspects of heritage practice.

Virginia Tandy has just completed her PhD at the University of Manchester on the role of the Heritage Lottery Fund in the construction and preservation of heritage. The former Director of Culture for Manchester City Council (2008-2011) and the first female director of both Cornerhouse and Manchester City Galleries, she was President of the Museums Association from 2008, and a trustee of the Heritage Lottery Fund from 2009-2015. Currently she sits on the board of National Museums Liverpool, chairs Curious Minds a creative and cultural education charity, and is a member of the Fabric Committee for St Paul’s Cathedral. She is an independent arts and heritage consultant, acts as an adviser to charitable foundations and in 2009 was awarded an OBE for services to the arts.

Kate Clark is Visiting Professor of Heritage Valuation at Suffolk University. She joined Welsh government as CEO of Cadw (the Welsh Government’s historic environment service) but now leads on policy and engagement across Culture, Tourism and Sport. Kate is a leading heritage scholar, with a long standing interest in heritage policy and management and a career in museums and heritage organisations. Her research interests focus on the public value of heritage (including the economic and social benefits of investing in heritage), the value of culture, and in audience development and community engagement. Prior to her current role, she was Director of Sydney Living Museums - a complex of 12 museums in Australia - where she lead a major rebranding exercise. She has also worked as Deputy Director of Policy and Research with the Heritage Lottery Fund, in policy and management roles with English Heritage, as well as with the Council for British Archaeology and Ironbridge Gorge Museums, as well as in private practice.

Hilary Carty is Director of the Clore Leadership Programme, a role she took up in Autumn 2017 after six years as a consultant, facilitator and coach specialising in leadership development, management, and organisational change. Rooted within the arts and cultural industries, Hilary drew on her creative acumen and experience to craft bespoke interactions for public sector, business sector and cross sector organisations. Prior to working independently, Hilary was the Director of the Cultural Leadership Programme, a £22m government investment in excellence in leadership within the UK cultural sector. Hilary’s earlier career demonstrates a successful record of senior level leadership, policy development and management experience in the arts, cultural and creative industries including Director, London (Arts) at Arts Council England; Director, Culture and Education at London 2012; and Director of Dance for Arts Council England. In recognition of her contribution to the arts, culture and the development of work-based learning, Hilary has been awarded Honorary Doctorates from the University of Westminster, De Montfort, and Middlesex Universities and Honorary Fellowship of Goldsmith’s University of London. Hilary was invited to join the inaugural Circle of Cultural Fellows at King’s College London in 2015 and became a Research Fellow of the Business School in 2017.

Sara Wajid is Head of Engagement at Museum of London working on the development of the new museum. As a recipient of the Arts Council ‘Change Maker’ award to promote diversity amongst arts leaders, she spent a year as Head of Interpretation at Birmingham Museum and Art Gallery. Before working in museums she was a cultural commentator and journalist. She is a trustee of the Pitt Rivers Museum and the founder of Museum Detox network of BAME museum workers.
The Women & Power conference is hosted at St Hugh’s College, Oxford.

St Hugh’s College has a long history of support for women’s education and empowerment. The college was founded by Elizabeth Wordsworth in 1886 to provide opportunities for poorer women to access an Oxford education. It has strong links to the suffrage movement with a number of students taking up the cause including, most notably, Emily Wilding-Davison who read English at St Hugh’s in 1895.

Today the college is home to the Women in the Humanities (WiH) programme within TORCH (The Oxford Research Centre in the Humanities). The WiH programme is directed by Professor Senia Paseta (co-convenor of the Women & Power conference) and Professor Selina Todd.

St Hugh’s College | st-hughs.ox.ac.uk
The Oxford Research Centre in the Humanities | torch.ox.ac.uk
Women in the Humanities | wih.web.ox.ac.uk

The conference will take place in the Maplethorpe suite. Main sessions will take place in the Maplethorpe Hall and Parallel sessions will take place in the Maplethorpe Seminar Room and offsite at St Luke’s Chapel and at the Pitt Rivers Museum.