

Fiona Mitchell

Employment

At the University of Wales Trinity St David I teach courses on languages, literature and mythology. Having a significantly larger than average number of students with additional needs, I have focused on developing teaching (especially language teaching) that is accessible to those with a range of needs.

2016-18	Lecturer in Classics, University of Wales Trinity St David
2016	Fellow of the Higher Education Academy
2015-16	Lecturer in Classics (0.5 FTE), University of Wales Trinity St David
2013-15	Classics Editor for HARTS & Minds
2013-15	Student Support Worker for Disability Services, University of Bristol
2013-14	Graduate Teaching Assistant, University of Bristol
2012	Tutor for Intermediate-advanced Latin at Lampeter Summer Workshop

Administrative Roles

My administrative experience is primarily in admissions. In this role I have been working with local schools and sixth-form colleges to promote the study of the humanities in general, and Classics and Ancient History in particular. I have also gained a lot of experience promoting the work we are doing via social media.

2017-18	Academic Lead on Admissions for the Faculty of Humanities and Performing Arts (UWTSD).
2016-17	Admissions Tutor and Social Media Manager for the Faculty of Humanities and Performing Arts (UWTSD).

Research

My research focuses on ancient Greek literature, particularly on representations of monstrosity in Greek texts and ideas about time in creation narratives. I am particularly interested in the ways that ideas about bodily abnormality and time were transmitted between different cultures in antiquity.

For a list of past and upcoming publications, see my Humanities Commons profile:
<https://hcommons.org/members/fionamitchell/>

Education

2011-15	PhD in Classics and Ancient History, University of Bristol
2009-10	MA in Classics and Ancient History, University of Manchester
2006-09	BA (Hons.) in Classical Studies, University of Manchester

Statement

The Women's Classical Committee has made a great start in providing a platform for the discussion and promotion of the work of women working within Classics and Ancient History. However, I think there are areas which could be improved, and these improvements can generally be made by including people from a more diverse range of backgrounds and institutions on the steering committee.

The WCC needs a greater range of diversity on the steering committee in terms of both the location of the institutions that the members are from and the types of institutions they are from. At the moment the majority of members of the steering committee are from research-focused institutions in or near London.

On the whole these institutions are better funded and provide much more time and resources for research than teaching-focused institutions. For this reason the needs and interests of a large number of women working in teaching-focused institutions in Classics and Ancient History are not going to be heard as loudly as they should be in an organisation that is representing us.

At teaching-focused institutions, the difficulty in getting time to research is particularly difficult. In these sorts of institutions, staff often do a large proportion of their research in their free time, such as weekends, evenings, and annual leave. However, as women still do the majority of domestic work and childcare, women at teaching-focused institutions are less able to use these times than their male counterparts. Given the way that research is prioritised on the job market and for promotions, this directly disadvantages women. So it is very important that the WCC has strong representation of women working in teaching-focused universities on the steering committee. As a member of the steering committee and a member of staff at a university with a strong focus on teaching, I will make sure the specific needs of women working in these institutions are a key part of the strategy of the committee.

The number of members of the steering committee working in or near London also means that the needs of women working in other parts of the country are not fully represented. For example, events need to take place in a greater range of locations around the UK. At the moment the events that the WCC runs or participates in have all taken place in England. This means that for women working in institutions outside these areas, the events can be prohibitively expensive to attend as a result of higher travel and accommodation costs. Further, to be an organisation that represents women throughout the UK, the WCC needs to demonstrate this by running or participating in events in Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland. If I am elected to the steering committee I am keen to make sure that the events the WCC take place in a wider range of locations around the UK, and that more use is made of recording/live streaming of events for those who are unable to travel to the events.