

Dr April Pudsey

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I'm a Senior Lecturer in Ancient History at Manchester Metropolitan University, and have worked at Newcastle, Birkbeck, Liverpool, Edinburgh and Birmingham since completing my PhD at Manchester in 2007. I am currently a UCU Convenor and regularly represent individual members of all career stages when I take on casework, as well as representing all members in negotiations with senior management, particularly around the equalities dimensions of university policies. I have a good deal of experience chairing and participating in equalities committees and strategies.

Having worked across a wide range of UK institutional environments, I've seen (and experienced on a personal level) many damaging consequences of harassment – sexual and otherwise – and discrimination in regard to protected characteristics. I would be keen to join the Steering Committee of WCC in particular to help with its important work in strengthening positive and empowering environments for all members of our discipline.

I would like to work in relation to WCC's key aims to support women in Classics, and to advance equality and diversity in Classics. First, by establishing an independent point of contact, advice and practical assistance for colleagues experiencing discrimination, harassment, sexual misconduct/harassment. I would work with UCU to make available to WCC formal training around advising in these areas, so that colleagues and graduate students in our discipline would have an additional point of confidential advice independent of their own institution. Second, by expanding on the good work WCC has already begun in raising awareness of the professional and personal impact of harassment; I would work toward systems for promoting and sharing best practices in creating environments where the poor behaviour of a few individuals has less traction, and positive, aware and widespread collegial support is commonplace.