

Cover Letter WCC Steering Committee

As an educator, it is my responsibility to understand what happens to my colleagues and my students. I am a member of the Women's Classical Committee (WCC), co-mentoring offer for the WCC and am today seeking to become a member of the Steering Committee. Recently, Under the aegis of the WCC, I organised a conference in Dec 2020 to demystify the publication process for early career scholars. Female ECRs during Covid lockdowns took the brunt of childcare responsibilities in the home and publication submission for women fell drastically. Editors from many of the major presses, e.g. Oxford, Liverpool, Bloomsbury, and journal editors, e.g. *JHS*, *AJP*, gave talks and provided the audience with gender differentiated statistics on manuscript submission and their selection process. Gender imbalance in output was across all publication platforms biased toward male authors for the last 3-5 years, and most concerning was the evidence of far more first-time male authors. The numbers are still being compiled; however, an important note was made by Lin Foxhall who reported that even though there had been an attempt to rectify the problem by increasing the % of women referees between 2016 (21%) and 2020 (41%): "This has so far had no impact on acceptance rates of submissions by women which are likely to reflect seniority/gender balance in the field." The intense and unabashed cronyism of male scholars sets many women at a disadvantage, where we see only a handful succeed in their own right. Unfortunately, in some cases as a result of self-funding at a great personal expense or enabled to rise by a romantic attachment with another much more senior male scholar. Sexual harassment, psychological harassment, micro-aggression and the inability to rise in the ranks is a common problem, with which I have had considerable experience like many others.

I am a feminist scholar and emulate Donna Haraway's writing. That is, there is no need to state that one's work is feminist when it should speak for itself. I am actively anti-racist and regularly participate in actions to fight for student and staff equal representation within my departments at UCL and Cambridge. Scholarship can only improve if one's staff and student body are diverse in gender, race and ethnicity. A collection of homogenous people will lead to recursive scholarship, inevitably. This is an especially worrying point for those early career male scholars in ancient Greek history who are at present promoting and redigesting turn-of-the-century scholarship

written by white men for white men. Reading, interpreting and rediscovering primary source text, epigraphic and archaeological materials are all but ignored or passed over as a necessary after thought. Innovation and inspiring students must be a priority. I was nominated for most inspiring lecturer in 2020 by my students and hope that my research background demonstrates my ability to be innovative.

I wish to bring this energy and initiative to the WCC by sitting on the steering committee. It would be an honour and a privilege.