

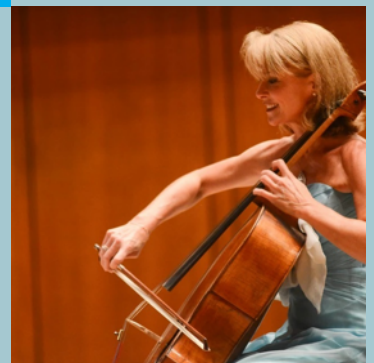


**Ustinov College**  
Durham University

Inspiring the extraordinary

# International Women's Day 2021

## Ustinov meets inspirational women



# Ustinov meets



## 16 women

from public life, the emergency services, higher education, health, the arts, music, media, and publishing.

They share insights into their inspirational experiences



# for IWD 2021

## International Women's Day 2021

The UN theme for International Women's Day 2021 is: 'Women in leadership: achieving an equal future in a Covid-19 world'.

This theme is aligned to the priority theme of the Commission on the Status of Women: 'Women's full and effective participation and decision-making in public life, as well as the elimination of violence, for achieving gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls'.

This year's campaign is focussed on #ChooseToChallenge.



## Ustinov meets inspirational women

At Ustinov College, our Global Citizenship Programme supports activities to mark major events globally and this year, we have hosted a series of interviews for International Women's Day 2021.

Through these interviews, we meet sixteen inspirational women from a range of sectors in public life, including public service, the emergency services, higher education, the arts, media, and health services.

We are committed to our local community and global citizenship, as outlined in our ethos of 'local community, global citizens'. As a result, we have approached women from County Durham, the UK and overseas to feature within the programme in 2021.

We are delighted to welcome:

- Professor Harriet Bulkeley - Department of Geography
- Dr Margaret Busby OBE - publisher, editor and broadcaster
- Professor Charlotte Clarke - Executive Dean (Social Sciences and Health)
- Alix Collingwood-Swinburn - Curator of Western Art
- Chief Constable Jo Farrell - Chief Constable of Durham Constabulary
- Dr Nina Griffiths - Director of Operations (Colleges and Student Experience)
- Professor Harriet Hawkins - Royal Holloway, University of London
- Diana Martinez-Trejo - Graduate Common Room President
- Clare McHugh - novelist and former magazine editor
- Dr Ruvandhi Nathavitharana - infectious diseases physician
- Professor Wendy Powers - Principal of University College
- Professor Jacqui Ramagge - Executive Dean (Science)
- Sara Sant'Ambrogio - Grammy Award winning cellist
- Mrs Sue Snowdon, Lord-Lieutenant - Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant of County Durham
- Professor Janet Stewart - Executive Dean (Arts and Humanities)
- Dr Pippa Whitehouse - Department of Geography

We are grateful to our Global Citizenship Programme scholars and fellows who conducted our interviews. Our interviewers include:

- Ayurshi Dutt
- Safiya Khanum
- Arabella Lawler
- Xinyue Li
- Teodora Nikolova
- Samantha Seikaly
- Roisin Thompson
- Di Wang

Information about our International Women's Day activities and all interviews can be found at: [durham.ac.uk/ustinov.college/iwd2021](http://durham.ac.uk/ustinov.college/iwd2021)

## Strength in diversity

At Ustinov College, our vision is to be an international exemplar of a postgraduate community that celebrates the strength arising from diversity, interdisciplinarity and collegiality, and makes a substantive contribution to the intellectual life and reputation of Durham University.

Central to our ethos as a collegiate community are the cornerstone values of respect, trust, responsibility, fairness, integrity, humility, open-mindedness and objectivity. Allied with these values we openly celebrate leadership, creativity, innovation, teamwork, diversity and excellence.

## Ustinov College

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Ustinov College is Durham University's postgraduate-only college, and we aim to celebrate the strength arising from diversity, interdisciplinarity and collegiality, as reflected in our college motto 'Diversitate Valemus'.

We are one of the largest colleges in the University, with around 1600 members who study for taught and research degrees across all disciplines.

We are a vibrant, welcoming, and international scholarly community, with over 65 nationalities represented across our membership, and host the only family accommodation within Durham University.

Our scholarly activities are organised through our Global Citizenship Programme, which has run successfully for over a decade, and provides scholarships to students who then facilitate and deliver a range of seminars, workshops, and projects for the College.

There are several student-led teams associated with the programme, including Café Politique, Café Scientifique and Café des Arts, the Ustinov Intercultural Forum, and the Ustinov Annual Conference. Full details of the programme can be found at:

[durham.ac.uk/ustinov.college/fees/funding/ustinov/gcp/](http://durham.ac.uk/ustinov.college/fees/funding/ustinov/gcp/)



# Our interviewees



## Professor Harriet Bulkeley

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Professor Harriet Bulkeley is Professor of Geography in the Department of Geography at Durham University.

Harriet is a key voice in the increasingly topical debate that surrounds the dynamic relationship between politics and environmental issues. Her particular expertise lies in relation to climate change and urban sustainability. Harriet has consistently been recognised as a leading expert in her field, and has received numerous prestigious awards as a result of her commitment and excellence in her field of study.

She is Project Co-ordinator for the H2020 Smart Cities and Communities programme NATURVATION project (2016-2020) involving a team of 80 researchers from 14 institutions in six European countries. The project aims to understand the role that nature-based solutions can play in responding to urban sustainability challenges.

Harriet has undertaken commissioned research for the UK Government, European Commission, non-governmental organisations, UN-Habitat, the World Bank and OECD.

Harriet was interviewed by Arabella Lawler, our Ustinov Volunteering Fellow.

## Dr Margaret Busby OBE

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Dr Margaret Busby OBE Hon FRSL is a publisher, writer, editor and broadcaster.

At the age of 23, Margaret was Britain's youngest and first black female book publisher when she co-founded the publishing house *Allison and Busby* in 1967.

She compiled and edited the anthology 'Daughters of Africa: an international anthology of words and writings by women of African descent from the Ancient Egyptian to the present', which was published in 1992. The anthology features over 200 pieces of writing across a range of genres. In 2019, Margaret edited the second anthology 'New Daughters of Africa: an international anthology of writing by women of African descent', which was released on International Women's Day.

She holds the Benson Medal from the Royal Society of Literature, and was voted one of the '100 Great Black Britons' in 2020.

Margaret has judged many literary awards during her career, and in 2020, she was Chair of The Booker Prize.

Margaret was interviewed by Roisin Thompson, our Ustinov Media and Publications Fellow.

## Professor Charlotte Clarke

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Professor Charlotte Clarke is Executive Dean (Social Sciences and Health) at Durham University.

Charlotte is responsible for the strategic development and financial performance of the Faculty of Social Sciences and Health. She also supports and enhances research and teaching performance within the faculty.

Prior to joining Durham University, Charlotte was Dean International for the College of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences at the University of Edinburgh. She was Head of School of Health in Social Science between 2011 and 2018.

Charlotte graduated as a nurse and worked clinically prior to research- and education-focussed roles. Her PhD research focussed on the experiences of carers of people with dementia.

Charlotte's research has since focussed on health inequalities and stigma, particularly in relation to dementia. Her research has influenced international health and social care policy and practice.

Charlotte was interviewed by Ayurshi Dutt, a Ustinov Annual Conference Scholar.

## Alix Collingwood-Swinburn

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Alix Collingwood-Swinburn is Curator of Western Art at Durham University.

Alix joined Durham University in 2016 and works with the University's collection of modern and contemporary art.

Prior to joining Durham, Alix was based at the Middlesborough Institute of Modern Art (MIMA), initially as a curatorial assistant and later as a senior curator.

In her current role, she focusses both on the conservation of the artworks, as well as ways to engage the community with the University's western art collection.

Alix recently launched the Art Prize Art School, which has included a number of sessions to support the development of art and artists within the student community.

Alix was interviewed by Di Wang, our Ustinov Seminar Fellow.

## Chief Constable Jo Farrell

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Chief Constable Jo Farrell is Chief Constable of Durham Constabulary.

Jo joined Cambridgeshire Constabulary as a constable at the age of 22, after completing a degree in business.

She joined Northumbria Police in 2002 as Chief Inspector, and was promoted to Assistant Chief Constable. During her time at Northumbria, she was responsible for response and neighbourhood policing.

Jo moved to Durham Constabulary as Deputy Chief Constable in 2016 and was subsequently appointed to the post of Chief Constable in June 2019.

Jo is the first woman to hold the post of Chief Constable in the constabulary's 180-year history.

In addition to her work in County Durham, Jo contributes to policing at a national level. She works on information management and criminal justice file quality on behalf of the National Police Chiefs Council.

Jo was interviewed by Ayurshi Dutt, a Ustinov Annual Conference Scholar.

## Dr Nina Griffiths

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Dr Nina Griffiths is Director of Operations in the Colleges and Student Experience Division at Durham University.

Initially trained as a scientist, Nina changed career to manage Corporate Development at Northumbria Police before moving to Tyne and Wear Fire and Rescue Service.

Within her role in the Fire and Rescue Service, she set the strategic agenda to lead and position the organisation to meet emerging challenges, and to improve its services.

Nina joined Durham University in May 2019 as Director of Operations for the Colleges and Wider Student Experience.

In her current role, Nina ensures that a coherent and consistent service for the University's residential operations across the Colleges, Experience Durham and Catering operates seamlessly and holistically in support of the wider student experience and student wellbeing.

Nina was interviewed by Safiya Khanum, a Ustinov Intercultural Forum Scholar.



## Professor Harriet Hawkins

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Professor Harriet Hawkins is Professor of Geography in the Department of Geography at Royal Holloway, University of London.

Harriet's research is focussed on the geohumanities, which is at the intersection of geography and the arts and humanities. She explores the geographies of art works and art worlds, with a recent focus on the underground as a site of new environmental imaginations.

She is Chair of the Royal Geographical Society's Social and Cultural Geography Research Group and is also founding Co-Director of the Royal Holloway Centre for the GeoHumanities.

In 2016, Harriet was awarded the Royal Geographical Society Gill Memorial Award, the Philip Leverhulme Prize, and an AHRC Early Career Leadership Fellowship.

Alongside her research, Harriet runs a PhD and ECR focussed Wellbeing Programme, which received a RHUL Teaching Prize in 2019.

Harriet was interviewed by Teodora Nikolova, a Ustinov Cafe des Arts Scholar.

## Diana Martinez-Trejo

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Diana Martinez-Trejo is the current Graduate Common Room (GCR) President at Ustinov College and a PhD student in the School of Engineering, Durham University.

As GCR President, Diana leads the student community at Ustinov College, representing the views of postgraduates to the College and University.

Alongside members of her Executive Committee, Diana organises events and activities for resident and non-resident postgraduate students at Ustinov College.

In the Academic Year 2020/2021, Diana began her second term of office, leading the GCR during the Covid-19 pandemic.

In addition to her work with the GCR, Diana's research focusses on power electronics and blockchain, with a focus on smart grids at the distribution level.

Diana was interviewed by Di Wang, our Ustinov Seminar Fellow.

## Clare McHugh

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Clare McHugh is a novelist and former magazine editor.

Clare was born in London but grew up in the United States. She holds a degree in European History from Harvard University.

Following her degree, Clare has worked as a newspaper reporter and later as a magazine editor, with thirty years of experience in the industry. She has also reviewed books for the *Wall Street Journal* and the *Baltimore Sun*.

Driven by her passion for history, which she has also taught at high school level, Clare is now a historical fiction writer.

She recently published her first novel 'A most English princess: a novel of Queen Victoria's daughter'.

Clare was interviewed by Roisin Thompson, our Ustinov Media and Publications Fellow.

## Dr Ruvandhi Nathavitharana

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Dr Ruvandhi Nathavitharana is an infectious diseases physician and tuberculosis (TB) researcher at Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center, and Assistant Professor of Medicine at Harvard Medical School.

Ruvandhi graduated from Imperial College Medical School and subsequently attended Harvard School of Public Health. She completed her medical residency in New York.

Ruvandhi's research is focussed on the optimisation of strategies to diagnose TB in order to decrease transmission. Alongside her research, she is a practicing clinician.

Ruvandhi is Vice-Chair of TB Proof, an organisation which works towards raising awareness of TB and reducing stigma around conversations surrounding TB.

She is passionate about providing a voice for survivors of TB, especially those from at-risk communities.

Ruvandhi was interviewed by Safiya Khanum, a Ustinov Intercultural Forum Scholar.

## Professor Wendy Powers

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Professor Wendy Powers is Principal of University College and Associate Vice-Provost (Education) at Durham University.

Wendy has over thirty years of experience in Higher Education and joined Durham University in 2020.

Prior to joining Durham, Wendy was Vice-President of Student Affairs and Dean of Students at Alverno College, Milwaukee, USA.

As Head of College, Wendy provides leadership to the College community and is responsible for student enrichment and wellbeing.

In her role as Associate Vice-Provost (Education), Wendy uses her extensive experience to support the University's work in widening access and participation, which in an area which she is passionate about.

Wendy was interviewed by Arabella Lawler, our Ustinov Volunteering Fellow.

## Professor Jacqui Ramagge

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Professor Jacqui Ramagge is Executive Dean (Science) at Durham University.

Jacqui is responsible for the strategic development and financial performance of the Faculty of Science. She also enhances and supports research and teaching performance in the faculty.

Before joining Durham, Jacqui was Head of School of Mathematics and Statistics at the University of Sydney, Australia.

Jacqui's research overlaps analysis, algebra and geometry. She has received numerous awards for her research and teaching in mathematical sciences.

She is a Fellow of the Australian Mathematical Society and a Fellow of the Royal Society of New South Wales.

Jacqui was interviewed by Samantha Seikaly, our Ustinov SUCCESS Fellow.

## Sara Sant'Ambrogio

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Sara Sant'Ambrogio is a Grammy Award winning cellist and member of The Eroica Trio.

Sara studied at the Curtis Institute of Music and The Juilliard School of Music, where she won the all-Juilliard Competition within her first month.

Sara has performed as a soloist with orchestras including Beijing, Boston, Prague, Osaka, and the Royal Philharmonic.

She has performed internationally as a soloist, with concerts on six continents.

During her career to date, Sara has won numerous awards and competed internationally. She won a Grammy Award for Best Contemporary Composition for Bernstein's 'Arias and Barcarolles'.

She is a member of Naumburg Award winning and Grammy nominated Eroica Trio, who have performed thousands of concerts across the world.

Sara was interviewed by Samantha Seikaly, our Ustinov SUCCESS Fellow.

## Mrs Sue Snowdon, Lord-Lieutenant

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Mrs Sue Snowdon, Lord-Lieutenant is Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant of County Durham.

Mrs Snowdon, Lord-Lieutenant is the first woman to hold the Lieutenancy since it was created. As Lord-Lieutenant, her primary duty is to uphold the dignity of the Crown.

Within her role, the Lord-Lieutenant supports and encourages voluntary service and benevolent organisations. She also takes an interest in the business, industrial and social life of the area.

Mrs Snowdon, Lord-Lieutenant is a former teacher and magistrate. She served as a magistrate for 23 years in County Durham and Darlington, and launched the 'Magistrates into the Community' programme.

She has also devoted much of her life to fundraising for charities, including cancer research and hospices in the Lieutenancy area.

Mrs Snowdon, Lord-Lieutenant was interviewed by Xinyue Li, a Ustinov Cafe Politique Scholar.

## Professor Janet Stewart

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Professor Janet Stewart is Executive Dean (Arts and Humanities) at Durham University.

Janet is responsible for the strategic development and financial performance of the Faculty of Arts and Humanities. She also supports and enhances the development of research and teaching in the faculty.

Prior to her current role, Janet was the founding Director of the Centre for Visual Arts and Culture, and Head of School of Modern Languages and Cultures at Durham University.

Janet's research interests include visual culture, the energy humanities and Austrian and German cultural history.

Her current research focusses on the connections between modernity, visual culture and the study of energy, specifically petroleum.

Janet was interviewed by Teodora Nikolova, a Ustinov Cafe des Arts Scholar.

## Dr Pippa Whitehouse

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Dr Pippa Whitehouse is Associate Professor of Geography at Durham University.

Pippa's research focusses on the response of the Earth system to changes in ice and ocean loading during glacial cycles.

Pippa uses numerical models that reflect ice dynamics, sea-level change and Earth deformation to generate predictions of change through time.

She is currently leading a 5 year NERC-funded project that makes use of data from the UK Antarctic GPS network to improve our understanding of Earth rheology.

Pippa is committed to the communication of science to non-expert audiences. She recently published a blog outlining her experiences of installing instruments on the Antarctic peninsula as part of her ongoing research.

Pippa was interviewed by Xinyue Li, a Ustinov Cafe Politique Scholar.



# Acknowledgements



# International Women's Day 2021

## Choose to challenge

We would like to take this opportunity to thank our interviewees for their participation in our interviews for International Women's Day.

We are delighted to welcome these sixteen inspirational women to share their experiences with us from a wide range of sectors.

It has been a privilege to discuss their careers and expertise, as well as to hear their advice to themselves and others.

We would also like to thank our Global Citizenship Programme Scholars and Fellows for conducting interview research, completing the interviews, and drafting biographies for this brochure.

We also acknowledge the support of colleagues from Durham University, including those working in Ustinov College, the Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Unit, Marketing and Communications, and the Department of Physics.





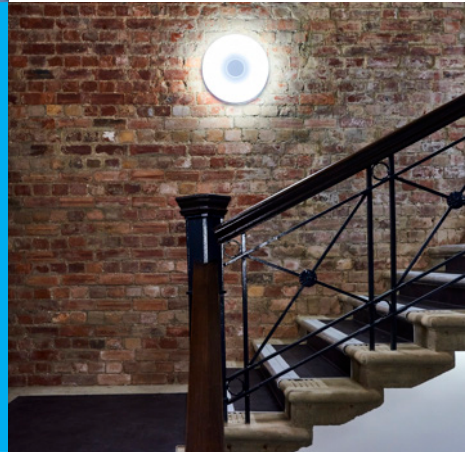
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