

BLACK HISTORY MONTH NEWSLETTER

University of Leicester School of Physics and Astronomy
5th October 2020, Edition 2

Black in STEM: Spotlight on Dr. Maggie Aderin-Pocock

Today, we're highlighting the work of Dr Margaret (Maggie) Ebinoluwa Aderin-Pocock MBE.

Maggie is a space scientist, science communicator and presenter of [BBC's The Sky at Night](#). As founder and managing director of

Science Innovation Ltd, she organises a wide range of public engagement activities focusing on increasing diversity and inclusion.

Completing her BSc and PhD in Physics at [Imperial College London](#), where she investigated the



Photo Credit: Imperial College London

Today's donation link is the [Stephen Lawrence Charitable Trust](#), who work with young people from disadvantaged backgrounds aged 13 to 30 to inspire and enable them to succeed in the career of their choice. [Donate here!](#)

development of an ultra-thin film measurement system, Maggie focussed her research on instrumentation. Her work has ranged from designing handheld land mine detectors with the UK Ministry of Defence to developing a high-resolution spectrograph for the Gemini telescope, [bHORS](#) and an optical

subsystem for the James Webb space Telescope.

Maggie has also made appearances and talks with [TEDx](#), discussing the democratisation of space travel and at [The Royal Institution](#) about her unconventional career path. She has also appeared on [Made By Dyslexia](#), discussing her triumphs and challenges in academia.



Photo Credit: Jody Hartley

EVENTS TODAY

How to argue with a racist – Book Club with Adam Rutherford

On the 12th October, the UoL Current Issues Book Club will be discussing Adam Rutherford's "How to Argue with a Racist". Online bookings are found [here](#).

RECOMMENDATIONS & RESOURCES

Book for younger readers:

[Hair Love](#) by Matthew A. Cherry, illustrated by Vashti Harrison. Watch the Oscar-Winning Short film [here](#). Available in paperback copy at [Waterstones](#), [WHSmith](#) and [Amazon](#).

Book for older readers:

[Black and British: A Forgotten History](#) by David Olusoga, who tells a rich and revealing story of how

Black British history is woven into the cultural and economic histories of the nation. Available in paperback at [Waterstone](#), [WHSmith](#) and [Amazon](#).

Podcast: [About Race](#), a series of thirty minute podcasts by Reni Eddo-Lodge who features key voices from the last few decades of anti-racist activism, looking at recent

history that lead to the politics of today. The full library of podcasts can be found [here](#).

Livestream: [The Cookout](#) is a community organisation focused on building a safe space for content creators of colour to share their content and stories in new and innovative ways. For their [livestream events](#), more information can be found [here](#).



Photo Credit: Imperial War Museum

Today's key figure from Black British history is [Lilian Bader](#). Born in Liverpool in 1917, Lilian was orphaned at the age of nine, when she was separated from her brothers and placed in a convent until age 20. With the war starting in 1939, she worked briefly in a Navy, Army and Air Force Institute canteen, but was forced to leave due to racial prejudices.

Determined, Lilian volunteered to join the WAAF and trained as an [Instrument Repairer](#), where she went on to become one of the first women in the air force to qualify in the trade. Posted in RAF Shawbury, she went on to be promoted as Acting Corporal. Her full obituary including her work outside of the war can be found [here](#).

Contact us

To recommend scientists, events, donation links, books and podcasts for future editions, please contact the PGR Reps at the emails below:

Emma Thomas: emt18@leicester.ac.uk **Rosie Tilbrook:** rht6@leicester.ac.uk

Don Bowden: dlb28@leicester.ac.uk