

BLACK HISTORY MONTH NEWSLETTER

University of Leicester School of Physics and Astronomy
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Black in STEM: Spotlight on Dr. Shirley Ann Jackson

Today, we're highlighting the work of Doctor Shirley Ann Jackson, a visionary scientist, educator and public policy innovator.

[Shirley](#) holds a distinguished career as the President of the Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute which since her start has had an extraordinary transformation into a

world-class technological research university.

Completing both her S.B. in Physics and Ph.D in [Theoretical Elementary Particle Physics](#) at MIT, she became the first African-American woman to receive a doctorate (at MIT) despite on-going [racial discrimination](#).



Photo credit: Nature Conservancy

Today's donation link is [Black Heroes Foundation](#) who are developing cultural awareness and promoting a world where Black Heroes are acknowledged and celebrated. Donate [here!](#)

In 2014, President Barack Obama appointed Shirley as the Co-Chair of the President's [Intelligence Advisory Board](#), from her previous position on the [President's Council of Advisors on Science and Technology](#). She was also part of the Board of Directors for corporations such as the New York Stock Exchange, IBM,

FedEx, Marathon Oil and Smithsonian Institution.

In her current presidential position, [Shirley](#) has consistently voiced her concerns for more students, especially [women](#) and [minorities](#), to break into STEM fields. She has been honoured for her continued work by the Black Enterprise Magazine with the [Women of Power Legacy Award](#).

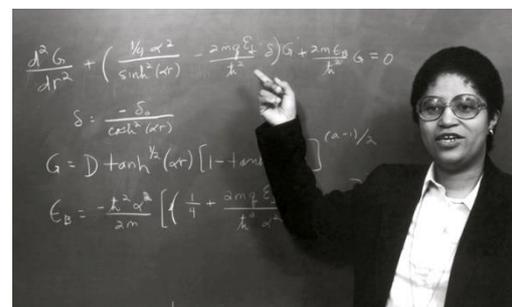


Photo credit: Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute

EVENTS TODAY

Flash Black (Live)

Teaming up with some of the brightest names in arts and heritage to produce an ongoing five-part event exploring Black British History. All online showings can be found [here](#).

RECOMMENDATIONS & RESOURCES

Book for younger readers:

[The Story of the Windrush](#) by Kandace Chimbiri, this easy-to-read book explains the history of the Windrush generation, with wonderfully illustrated photos, maps and artwork. Available at the Black-owned bookshops [New Beacon Books](#) and [Book Love](#).

Book for older readers: [Me](#)

and [White Supremacy](#) by Layla Saad, based on the original workbook, this work leads readers through an understanding of their white privilege and participation in systemic racism. Available at the bookshops [Book Love](#) and [No Ordinary Bookshop](#).

Podcast: [The Echo Chamber](#)

hosted by Jade and Ez, who discuss issues that can resonate among Black British

people, from the perspective of Black working class women. Available on [Spotify](#) and [Soundcloud](#).

Livestream: [PikaChulita](#)

is a charity and diversity focused streamer, Twitch partner and a member of the [BlackGirlGamers](#) Twitch team. Her gaming focuses on platformers, non-military shooters and more. Check her [Twitter](#).



Photo credit: Lambeth Archives

Today's key figure from Black British history is [Olive Morris](#). Born in 1952 in St Catherine, Jamaica, Olive was part of the Windrush generation, with her family emigrating to South London when she was nine. [She dedicated her life to the rights of Black Britons and Black women](#), starting from a young age where she witnessed police brutality of a Nigerian diplomat who was assaulted and arrested under the "sus" law. Olive tried to step in only for these police officers to [assault and arrest her too](#).

In 1968 she took a stand with the [British Black Panther Movement](#), where in 1974 Olive went on to be the co-founder of the [Brixton Black Women's Group](#), as well as the [Organisation of Women of Asian and African Descent](#).

Contact us

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

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Special Thanks to [Nicolle Finch](#) for her recommendations!