

# BLACK HISTORY MONTH NEWSLETTER

University of Leicester School of Physics and Astronomy  
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## Black in STEM: Spotlight on Dr. Claudia Alexander

Today, we're highlighting the work of Doctor Claudia Joan Alexander at the Jet Propulsion Laboratory, NASA.

[Claudia](#) is well known for her role as project manager on the [Galileo mission](#) to Jupiter and as a project scientist on the [ESA Rosetta mission](#).

After studying Earth Science, Geophysics and Space Physics at UC-Berkeley for her bachelor's and at UCLA for her Master's, Claudia went on to study her PhD in Atmospheric, Oceanic and Space Sciences, specialising in space plasmas.

Claudia joined [JPL](#) in 1986 as a member of Galileo, where she also worked as a [science](#)



Photo credit: NASA

Today's donation link is [Black Girls Hike](#), a non-profit organisation aiming to make the UK countryside more inclusive and provide a safe space for Black women to hike. Donate [here!](#)

[coordinator](#) on the Cassini mission to Saturn.

In 1993, the University of Michigan named Claudia its [Woman of the Year](#) where, a decade later, she also received the Emerald Honor for Women of Color in Research and Engineering from the Career Communications Group.

In her spare time, Claudia has written [two books](#) on science for children and mentored young people, especially African American girls so they could see themselves as scientists. She also has presented a [TED Talk](#) in Chicago discussing how to engage the youth in science education through her love of steampunk.



Photo credit: Ric Francis/AP

# EVENTS TODAY

## Contemporary Activism, from past to present

On the 22<sup>nd</sup> October at 6pm, the Love Camden events team present an online event discussing how young people can become future activists. Tickets [here](#).

# RECOMMENDATIONS & RESOURCES

### Book for younger readers:

[I am enough](#) by Grace Byers and illustrated by Keturah Bolo. A gorgeous, lyrical ode to loving who you are, respecting and being kind to one another. Available at the Black-owned bookshops [New Beacon Books](#) and [Book Love](#).

### Book for older readers:

[How to Argue with a Racist](#)

by Adam Rutherford. A vital manifesto for a 21<sup>st</sup> century understanding of human evolution and variation, and a powerful resource against the misuse of science to justify bigotry. Available at [Book Love](#) and [No Ordinary Bookshop](#).

**Podcast:** [Good Ancestor Podcast](#) hosted by Layla F. Saad. An interview series with change-makers and

culture-shapers exploring what it means to be a good ancestor. Available on [Spotify](#) and [Apple Podcasts](#).

**Livestream:** [Parris Lilly](#) is a co-host of [Gamertag Radio](#) and [Twitch partner](#) who co-produces bi-weekly podcasts filled with gaming news, reviews and exclusive interviews and discussions.

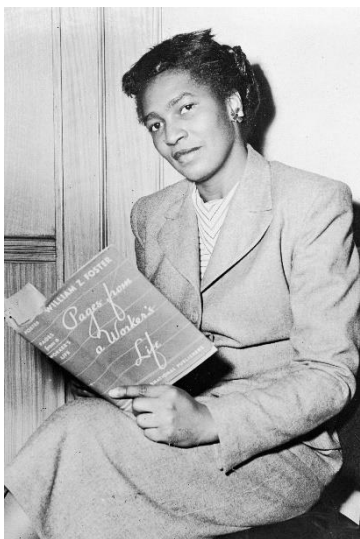


Photo credit: Getty Images

Today's key figure from Black British history is [Claudia Jones](#). Born in Port of Spain, Trinidad in 1915, her parents moved to Harlem, New York when Claudia was 9. For over 30 years she was a passionate [human and civil rights activist](#), speaking out at the false charges of [the Scottsboro boys](#) and highlighting injustice as an editor for the Daily Worker and Weekly Review.

In 1955, she was deported to the UK due to "[Un-American activities](#)", where she spent the rest of her life working with London's African-Caribbean community. She founded and edited [The West Indian Gazette](#) (WIG), the first commercial Black newspaper in Britain, and helped launch the [Notting Hill carnival](#) in 1959, as an annual showcase of Caribbean talent.

## 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 [Leigh Fletcher](#) for his recommendation!