

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 22nd 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 21st 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.

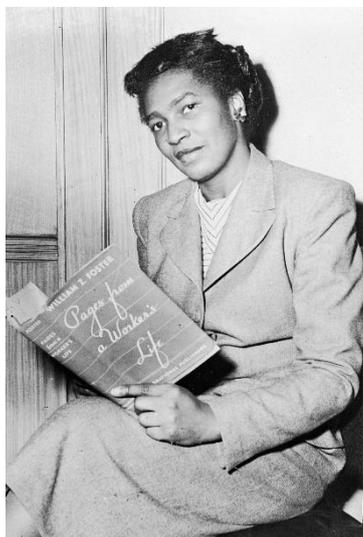


Photo credit: Getty Images

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!