

THE CAMBRIDGE STATISTICS DISCUSSION GROUP

Tuesday 7th March 2017 7:15 for 7:45

Department of Applied Mathematics and Theoretical Physics,
Centre for Mathematical Sciences,
Wilberforce Road,
Cambridge, CB3 0WB

A lab of one's own: science & suffrage in the First World War

Patricia Fara
Clare College

Abstract: Inspired by utopian dreams, H G Wells imagined a future characterized by science, equality and justice; and in 1919, the suffragist leader Millicent Fawcett declared triumphantly, 'The war revolutionised the industrial position of women. It found them serfs, and left them free.' Their optimism was premature. World War I did benefit British women by enabling them to take on traditionally male roles in science, engineering and medicine. But even though some women over 30 gained the right to vote, conventional hierarchies were rapidly re-established after the Armistice. Concentrating mainly on a small group of well-qualified scientific and medical women, marginalized at the time and also in the secondary literature, I review the attitudes they experienced and the work they undertook during and immediately after the War.

Speaker: Dr Patricia Fara is a historian of science at the University of Cambridge and a fellow of Clare College. President of the British Society for the History of Science, she is the author of several acclaimed popular science books including "Newton: the Making of Genius" (2002), " Pandora's Breeches: Women, Science and Power in the Enlightenment" (2004), "Science: a 4000 Year History" (2009) and, most recently, "Erasmus Darwin: Sex, Science and Serendipity" (2012). This talk is based on research for her next book, "A Lab of one's Own: Science & Suffrage in World War one." She is a regular contributor to BBC science discussion programmes and a fascinating speaker.

Directions: The main entrance is reached from Clarkson Road by going along the footpath to the right of the Newton Institute, and turning left through the gatehouse towards the main building (Pavilion A), which has a glass front and a curved grassed roof. Coffee before the talk will be in the common room in Pavilion G, and the talk will be in Meeting Room 15 in Pavilion G. The main entrance is in the middle of the glass front. Free Parking is available after 5pm on Clarkson and Wilberforce Roads and by entering the site off Clarkson Road. Admittance may be difficult after 7:45.

Provisional Next Meetings:

3rd April - Daniel Gaffney (Sanger) on 'Mapping regulatory variation in human cells'.

3rd May - Alun Bedding (Roche Products) on 'The use of model based adaptive dose response in choosing doses in a lean clinical development plan'.

10th October - Zoubin Ghahramani (Engineering).

20th November - Adam Kashlak (Statistical Laboratory).

5th February 2018 - Anthony Edwards (Gonville & Caius) on 'Cambridge Statistics from Venn to Fisher and Beyond'.

Supper: Some members eat regularly in the University Centre before each meeting at **5-45pm**. Feel free to join them.

Subscriptions: of 1 pound are now due for attending the 2016-2017 session.

Secretary: Peter Watson, MRC Cognition and Brain Sciences Unit, 15 Chaucer Road, Cambridge CB2 7EF;

telephone 01223 355294 Extension 801; E-mail peter.watson@mrc-cbu.cam.ac.uk

Slides and .mp3 files of old talks: <http://www.mrc-cbu.cam.ac.uk/people/peter.watson/csdg.html>