Women of Science Initiative

Just 13% of those working in Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths (STEM) in the UK are women. This gender disparity has long fuelled misconceptions about who can be a Scientist/Engineer, which then influences the choices and confidence of our young people.

Women of Science is a campaign that shares photo stories of women who work and study in STEM to increase the visibility of relatable female role models in STEM. Showcasing the achievements, struggles and attitudes of a diverse range of female scientists.

Rhys Archer created Women of Science to give female role models to young people interested in Science and Engineering. Combining WISE ‘Not for People Like Me’ research, Rhys takes and publishes engaging and candid photographs and curates interviews with the women into honest stories and publishes them in short engaging quotes (inspired by the format seen in Humans of New York) to create a uniquely relatable and emotive campaign to address the gender imbalance in STEM fields.

The campaign is focused on providing these role models to young girls in widening participation schools, but secondary aims include providing a supportive network for current women in STEM, and also challenging the preconception of what a scientist or engineer is in the public.

Alongside being published on the website and across social media, stories are also printed on postcards which are then sent into schools and given out to families at events including The University of Manchester Community Festival, Science Spectacular, and Bluedot Festival. More recently, the campaign presented a digital photography exhibition at The People’s History Museum.

How Rhys has Made a Difference

Rhys created Women of Science in December and she is responsible for all aspects - finding women to interview, interviewing and photographing the women, researching the statistics and reasons behind the gender disparity, bidding for funding, project management, website/social media content delivery, and volunteer management and running the campaign at events, as well as creating the printed materials and sending them into schools. This is in addition to her finishing her PhD and is all voluntary.

Vote

www.womenofsci.com

Vote for the person or project you feel is doing the most to Make a Difference