



Friday 6th March 16:30-19:30

Seminar Rooms, Royce Hub Building

16:30-16:35	Opening Welcome	
16:35-16:40	Dr Lin Ma Women@Manchester	
16:40-16:55		Dr Claire Seitzinger University of Manchester Up/Down Frunk: Comparing Recycling Methods for Non-Woven Poly(ethylene terephthalate) from an Electric Vehicle
16:55-17:10		Dr Miley Li University of Manchester From Antimicrobial Smart Fibres to Advanced Imaging: The Technical Backbone of Biomedical Research
17:10-17:40		Prof Emily Draper University of Glasgow How Did I End Up Here? An Honest Account of How I Became a Professor
17:40-17:50	Questions, Break, Panel Set-up	
17:50-18:30	Panel Discussion – <i>Women in Science</i> Polly Greensmith Head of Operations at National Graphene Institute Prof Jill Rubery Professor, PMO Human Resource Mgmt, Employment Relations & Law Dr Ahu Dumanli-Parry Lecturer in Bioinspired Soft Materials Prof Perdita Barran Professor of Mass Spectrometry, Analytical, Measurements and Physical Chemistry	
18:30-19:30	Nibbles, refreshments, networking, & posters!	

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Meet our Speakers!



Dr Claire Seitzinger

PDRA

University of Manchester

Up/Down Frunk: Comparing Recycling Methods for Non-Woven Poly(ethylene terephthalate) from an Electric Vehicle

When assessing optimal recycling routes for a specific plastic product, the object geometry and formulation complexity play a significant role. For example, recycling processes that work well on bottles may not apply well to other items, such as fabrics.

Here, I will discuss comparing the technical feasibility of two recycling methods for a non-woven poly(ethylene terephthalate) (PET) textile from an electric vehicle. Mechanical recycling is considered through shredding and re-extruding to produce a new filament, while chemical recycling is tested by glycolysis. The success of each technique and the scale up thereof is compared, along with the need for pretreatment.

In this work we took an approach that focused on how to implement proposed solutions to a challenge on a technical level, comparing approaches to determine viability and guide decision making.

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Meet our Speakers!



Dr Miley Li

Technical Specialist
University of Manchester

**From Antimicrobial Smart Fibres
to Advanced Imaging: The
Technical Backbone of
Biomedical Research**

Behind every major scientific breakthrough is a foundation of robust materials and expert technical support. In this talk, Miley will share her career journey through the field of biomedical materials. She will begin by highlighting her PhD research, which focused on developing antimicrobial surfaces for titanium and pH-responsive electrospun fibres. She will then discuss her postdoctoral work designing photodynamic wet spun fibres for advanced wound dressings.

Transitioning from individual research to a critical enabling role, Miley will then discuss her current work as a Technical Specialist at the Royce Hub. By managing four cell culture laboratories and providing expert training in confocal microscopy, she will showcase the vital, often unseen technical leadership that empowers the wider research community to succeed.

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Prof Emily Draper

Professor of Soft Materials
University of Glasgow

**How Did I End Up Here? An
Honest Account of How I Became
a Professor**

A 'successful' research career is not just about having a great idea or luck, it is a mixture of taking the right opportunities, overcoming challenges, building a network, as well as that good idea.

I reflect on my journey to becoming a Professor and how my life experiences directly influenced my research directions and decisions to get me where I am today. I explore how you can take your personal career path and build your own unique research.

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International Women's Day

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Meet our Panel!



Polly Greensmith

Head of Operations,
National Graphene Institute
University of Manchester

Polly has a wealth of experience from her 28 years working for the University of Manchester in materials science, both as a laboratory technician and manager, making her perfectly suited to lead NTPMI as their principal investigator – empowering research technical professionals across the UK's materials innovation community. Furthermore, Polly sits on the Royce Technicians Commitment Committee.

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Prof Jill Rubery

Professor, PMO Human Resource
Management, Employment
Relations & Law
University of Manchester

Jill Rubery is a Professor of Comparative Employment Systems, and Executive Director of the Work and Equalities Institute at Alliance Manchester Business School, University of Manchester. She is an international expert on gender and employment and co-ordinated the European Commission's expert group on gender and employment from 1991 to 2007 and has consulted for the EU, the ILO and the EHRC on gender issues including issues of employment, pay, working time and welfare state support. Her new edited book (forthcoming 2026), on Women in Turbulent Times follows on from previous works on Women and Recession and Women and Austerity.

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Dr Ahu Dumanli-Parry

Lecturer in Bioinspired Soft Materials

University of Manchester

Ahu joined the School of Materials as a BP-ICAM Dame Kathleen Lonsdale Research Fellow in 2019, with her latest work focusing on tailoring shape, size, and surface chemistry of nanoparticles to fabricate photonic structures via the self-assembly process, as well as producing highly porous hydro- and aerogels.

Ahu's career started with Chemistry studies at Hacettepe University, Ankara, followed by a PhD on controlled production of carbon nanotubes with different morphologies at Sabanci University, Istanbul. In 2008, Ahu was a postdoctoral research associate at Cambridge University, where she was awarded a Future Fellowship in 2012. In 2014, Ahu moved to a Senior Researcher post at Adolphe Merkle Institute in Switzerland before returning to Cambridge as a Senior Researcher. Before joining the University of Manchester, Ahu worked as a Teaching Fellow at Imperial College London.

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Prof Perdita Barran

Professor in Mass Spectrometry,
Analytical, Measurements and
Physical Chemistry
University of Manchester

Perdita is Chair of Mass Spectrometry in the Department of chemistry, Director of the Michael Barber Centre for Collaborative Mass Spectrometry, which is located in the Manchester Institute of Biotechnology, and Fellow of the Royal Society of Chemistry.

In 2025, Perdita was awarded the Tiden Prize by the RSC, the RSC Theophilus Redwood Award in 2019, Researcher of the Year at the University of Manchester in 2020, and the ACS Measurement Science Lectureship in 2021.

In 2020, Perdita played a significant role in the pandemic, initiating the COVID-19 Mass Spectrometry Coalition and was appointed as Chef Advisor to the UK Government on Mass Spectrometry.

In 2021, Perdita founded the company Sebomix Ltd. to exploit sebum as a diagnostic biofluid with a focus on Parkinson's Disease.

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Historical Scientists



Ada Lovelace

1815-1852

British Mathematician

Lovelace is often considered the first computer programmer. Despite no formal university education, through private education, Lovelace became a talented mathematician and collaborated with Charles Babbage on the *analytical engine*.

Whilst the analytical engine did not influence the invention of electronic computers, it is recognised as a Turing-complete general-purpose computer. Babbage is therefore known as the *father of computers*.

Lovelace described a method of using the analytical engine to calculate Bernoulli numbers. This is the first published computer program.

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Scientists erased by the Matilda Effect



Nettie Maria Stevens

1861-1912

American Geneticist, PhD, MA, BA

In 1905, Nettie Maria Stevens discovered sex chromosomes through observing that the perm of mealworms was either made from

Two large chromosomes (XX) or one large and one small chromosome (XY).

When selecting specific sperm to fertilise eggs, Nettie recorded that those fertilised with two large chromosomes made females, and those with one large and one small chromosome made males. This was the first time differences in chromosomes was linked to observable different phenotypes (i.e., male or female).

Nettie Maria Stevens was told by her mentor that her findings were too bold, despite this, she made 38 publications throughout her career.

Despite Nettie Maria Stevens being correct in her discovery, Edmund Wilson received credit alone for this discovery even though his discoveries were not as impactful and the Nobel Prize award in 1933 went to Thomas Morgan for his discoveries in the role of chromosomes, despite him arguing with Stevens' interpretations.

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Lise Meitner

1878-1968

Austrian Physicist, PhD

Meitner was the first female professor in Physics in Germany, collaborating with Otto Hahn in research into radioactivity following her doctorate.

The two were amongst the first to isolate isotope protactinium-231, study nuclear isomerism and beta decay, and investigate the products of neutron bombardment of uranium.

Hahn and Fritz Strassmann demonstrated that barium appears in neutron-bombarded uranium and then passed this data to Meitner, who with Otto Frisch, elucidated this division and coined the term fission. The Nobel Prize for discovering nuclear fission was later awarded to Hahn, with no share going to Strassmann, Meitner, or Frisch, causing much controversy.

Later, Meitner was invited to work on the Manhattan Project in America, developing nuclear weapons, however, Meitner opposed the use of atomic weapons and refused the offer. With her tombstone bearing "A physicist who never lost her humanity".

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Alice Ball

1892-1916

American Chemist, Msc, Bsc

Alice Ball was the first black American woman to achieve a master's degree in chemistry in 1915 and was appointed as the first female chemistry instructor at University of Hawai'i.

While working in Hawai'i, Ball was approached by Harry Hollmann for help with therapeutics for Leprosy. The treatment at the time, chaulmoogra oil, showed potential but the known delivery methods made it ineffective. Ball worked to chemically modify the oil into ethyl esters, creating a water-soluble compound suitable for injection, creating a treatment for Leprosy that was used world-wide. This became known as the *Ball Method*.

Ball died at age 24 before she could publish her work and subsequently others took credit for her work. Since then, Ball's legacy has been restored, and she is recognised for her innovation.

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Cecilia Payne-Gaposchkin

1900-1979

British Astrophysicist, PhD

Payne determined that stars do in fact have a different elemental composition to planets and are primarily composed of hydrogen and helium. This discovery was the basis

her conclusion that hydrogen was not only the main constituent of stars, but that it is the most abundant element in the Universe. Payne's work was initially rejected by Henry Russell and other leading astrophysicists, labelling her work as *too bold*. Four years later, Russell came to the same conclusions as Payne and published these findings. Whilst Russell did credit Payne's prior work displaying the same results, Russell was generally credited for these findings entirely.

Like many women in her time, Payne studied for her undergraduate degree and doctoral studies at Cambridge and Harvard, however, because she was a woman, she was not awarded either degree. Payne instead was awarded her PhD from Radcliffe College and campaigned for the barriers women face in science education to be overcome, opening the door for countless female astronomers.

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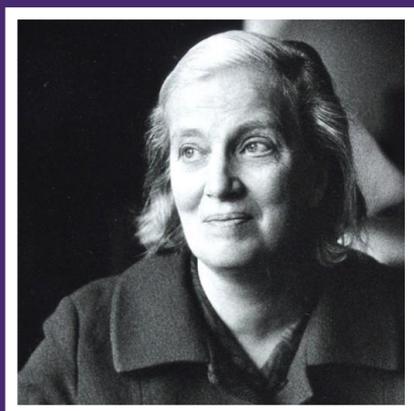




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Scientists erased by the Matilda Effect



Dorothy Hodgkin

1910-1994

British Scientists, PhD

Dorothy Hodgkin had a passion for chemistry from an early age, studying at Oxford and Cambridge Universities, then becoming a lecturer, reader, and finally a professor of the Royal Society whilst at Oxford.

Hodgkin is well known for her work and contributions in determining biomolecular structures, such as the first steroid structure (cholesteryl iodide), the structure of penicillin, the structure of one of the most complex vitamins, B₁₂, and the structure of insulin – allowing the hormone to be mass produced, changing the landscape for diabetics.

Hodgkin's won the 1964 Nobel Prize for her determinations by X-ray techniques of the structures of important biochemical substances. To this day, Hodgkin's remains the only British woman to be awarded a Nobel Prize in science.

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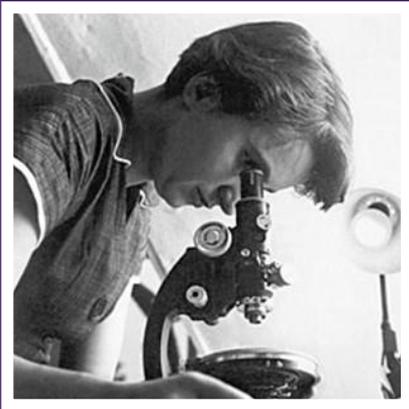




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Rosalind Franklin

1920-1958

British Scientists, PhD

During a fellowship, Franklin worked on a DNA project with a PhD student, Ray Gosling. Under Franklin's instruction, Gosling took the crucial X-ray photography 51, a simple cross.

Franklin drafted papers of this work, suggesting that DNA forms two helices. However, before Franklin could publish, another researcher, Wilkins, showed this crucial image to Watson, who then incorporated Franklin's data into his work to construct a double helix model of DNA with Crick. Watson and Crick then published this theory with their only evidence being Franklin's and Gosling's photograph 51. Watson, Crick, and Wilkins, were awarded the Nobel Prize in 1962 for the discovery of the DNA double helix.

As well as her infamous investigations into DNA, Franklin made foundational contributions to understanding of viruses, coal, and graphite, publishing almost 30 articles. Franklin studied Chemistry at Cambridge University, although being a woman, was not allowed to graduate. Later Cambridge did award Franklin a PhD for her work on predicting fuel performance and manufacturing gas masks.

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