

Education for All: Challenging Orthodoxies and Fostering Inclusion

A review of current trends in education and development internationally, inspired by the work and life of the late Professor Lalage Bown.

Venue: Flora Anderson Hall, Somerville College, University of Oxford, OX2 6HD

Thursday, 4 April 2024: 0930 – 1900:

Organising Committee

Professor Heribert Hinzen, Senior Consultant, DVV International

Dr Neil Kemp MBE, OBE, Trustee, Council for Education in the Commonwealth

Dr Alastair Niven, LVO, OBE, Honorary Fellow, Harris Manchester College, University of Oxford

Professor Michael Omolewa, University of Ibadan

Professor Mike Osborne, University of Glasgow

Professor Maria Slowey, Dublin City University

CONFERENCE PROGRAMME

0930 – 1015	<u>Registration opens.</u> Coffee
1015 - 1030	<u>Welcome & Conference Introduction</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Alastair Niven, Honorary Fellow, Harris Manchester College, University of Oxford – Baroness Jan Royall, Principal, Somerville College – Annabel Boud, Association of Commonwealth Universities – Professor Michael Osborne, University of Glasgow
1030 - 1035	Introducing Professor Lalage Bown: a short film
1035 – 1135	<u>Session 1: Lalage remembered.</u> Convenor: Professor Maria Slowey, Dublin City University Panel Members to include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Professor Michael Omolewa, University of Ibadan – Professor Peter Williams, President, Commonwealth Consortium for Education – Dr Robert Hamilton, University of Glasgow – Dr Rachael Akinyede, Max Planck Institute for Biogeochemistry, Jena, Germany and granddaughter of Lalage Bown Delegate discussion & contributions
1135 – 1230	<u>Session 2: African literature</u> Convenor: Alastair Niven, Honorary Fellow, Harris Manchester College, University of Oxford Panel Members to include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Gabriel Gbadamosi (novelist and poet), – James Gibbs, Independent Scholar – Professor Madhu Krishnan, University of Bristol Delegate discussion & contributions

1230 – 1330	Lunch
1330 – 1430	<p><u>Session 3: Decolonising Education</u></p> <p>Convenor: Sir Alan Tuckett, Professor Emeritus, University of Wolverhampton</p> <p>Panel Members to include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Dr Harry Kuchah, University of Birmingham and Chair, British Council English Advisory Committee. – Professor Madhu Krishnan, University of Bristol – Professor Rashid Adewumi Aderinoye, University of Ibadan <p>Delegate discussion & contributions</p>
1430 - 1435	Break
1435 - 1535	<p><u>Session 4: Addressing the educational needs of women and girls.</u></p> <p>Convenor: Professor Miriam Zukas, Birkbeck. University of London</p> <p>Panel Members:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Betty Abeng, CEO, The Commonwealth Education Trust – Professor Jean Barr, University of Glasgow – Professor Pauline Rose, University of Cambridge – Professor Tom Schuller, Previously Dean of Continuing Education, Birkbeck, University of London and Author of ‘The Paula Principle’ <p>Delegate discussion & contributions</p>
1535 - 1600	Afternoon Tea
1600 - 1610	<p>Professor Sir Rick Trainor, Rector, Exeter College, Oxford</p> <p>To introduce a recently published book drawing on Lalage Bown's work and legacy: <u>‘Adult Education and Social Justice-International Perspectives’</u>, edited by Maria Slowey, Heirbert Hinzen, Michael Omolewa and Michael Osborne, published by Florence University Press.</p>
1610 – 1710	<p><u>Session 5: Adult and continuing education – a social justice perspective</u></p> <p>Convenor: Professor Michael Osborne, University of Glasgow</p> <p>Panel Members to include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Professor Jonathan Michie, President, Kellogg College, University of Oxford – Professor Gbolagade Adekanmbi, Botswana Open University – Dr Babangida Ladan, Bayero University, Kano, and National President, Nigerian National Council for Adult Education – Professor Paolo Federighi, University of Florence – Dr Edeh John Onimisi, Nigeria National Commission for Mass Literacy Adult and Non-Formal Education <p>Delegate discussion & contributions</p>
1710 – 1735	<p><u>Session 6: Reflections on the day – some voices of scholars</u></p> <p>Convenor: Dr Neil Kemp, Trustee, Council for Education in the Commonwealth</p> <p>Panel Members are Commonwealth Scholars</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Md. Meraz Ahmed, Liverpool John Moores University – Siddhi Joshi, University of Exeter – Md Shirajis Shadik, University of Bristol
1735 – 1745	<p><u>Concluding Remarks & Acknowledgements</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Stephen Twigg, Chair, Council for Education in the Commonwealth and Secretary-General, Commonwealth Parliamentary Association – Alastair Niven, Honorary Fellow, Harris Manchester College, University of Oxford

1745 - 1800	<p><u>Book Launch: 'Adult Education and Social Justice – International Perspectives'</u></p> <p><u>'Adult Education and Social Justice-International Perspectives'</u>; edited by Maria Slowey, Heirbert Hinzen, Michael Omolewa and Michael Osborne, published by Florence University Press.</p> <p>Professor Paolo Federighi, University of Florence, will conclude the proceedings.</p> <p>https://books.fupress.com/catalogue/adult-education-and-social-justice-international-perspectives/14038</p>
1800 - 1900	Reception (canapes and drinks)
1900	Close

The Context of the Event

The conference will review current trends in education and development, inspired by the work and life of the work of the late Professor Lalage Bown, and explore her legacy. During the day a new edited collection, *Adult Education and Social Justice – International Perspectives*, will be launched.

The Council for Education in the Commonwealth is delighted to be partnering with the Association of Commonwealth Universities, the Centre for Research and Development in Adult and Lifelong Learning, University of Glasgow and Somerville College, University of Oxford, to deliver this important event.

The themes to be addressed:

Adult and continuing education: A retrospective and prospective analysis of adult and lifelong learning, both in sub-Saharan Africa and in the UK. It will consider traditions from the past and how these may shape future directions for the field with an eye towards contemporary global challenges such as climate change, forced migration and artificial intelligence.

The education of girls and women: The education of girls and women: the last fifty years have seen a marked improvement in literacy levels and access to education by girls and women. However, globally, the picture is very varied. Where are the gaps and who is at most risk? What are the barriers and where might our actions need to be focused?

Decolonising education: The legacy of colonialism continues to impact upon knowledge & learning across the world and at all levels. There have always been some critical thinkers who had voiced concerns; however, in recent years a much deeper understanding has been emerging. What are the concerns? Where are the challenges? What action is required? Who needs to be involved?

African writers in English: Many first readers of 'Two Centuries of African English' (1973) had little notion that the history of written English in the African continent long pre-dated the new generation of emerging writers such as Chinua Achebe and Wole Soyinka. We ask if recognition of memoir, autobiography and documentation in the story of African literature had lasting influence, leading to a rethinking of African history itself. Where is African writing today and whence might it be heading? Has it fully freed itself of dependency on European models?

These areas of focus will be addressed by panels of specialists. There will be round table discussions and contributions from the floor will be encouraged.

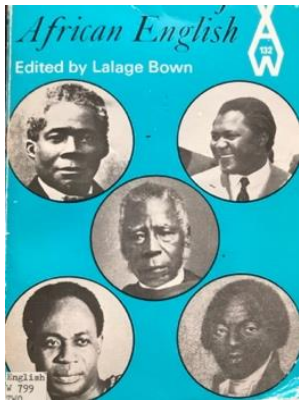
Emeritus Professor Lalage Bown, OBE (1927-2021)

Professor Bown was a life-long fighter for social justice. She was dedicated to improving education for the disadvantaged and sought to bring university opportunities to the widest possible sections of society. She was an eminent women's literacy advocate who viewed literacy as a human right and an instrument for transformation. Lalage developed new inclusive, post-colonial approaches to education, including the reform of university curricula.

On graduating from Somerville College, Oxford (1945-9), the 22-year-old Lalage took up a teaching post at University College of the Gold Coast (Ghana). For the next 32 years she held full time university posts in Ghana, Zambia, Uganda and Nigeria. In 1979 she was appointed, Dean of the Faculty of Education, University of Lagos. She embraced African culture and life and the journal, *Adult Education in Nigeria*, named her the 'Mother of Adult Education in Africa'.



Supporting the 'Africanisation' of the curriculum was important to Lalage. Famously, she won a bet in 1965, at the University of Ibadan, that she could not produce an anthology of African texts for a teacher's course taking place in 6 weeks-time. She delivered the text, on time, and won the beer. This eventually led to her book: *Two Centuries of African English*.



She held several professorial posts in the UK including at the Universities of Edinburgh and Sussex and then as Director, Adult and Continuing Education, at the University of Glasgow (1981-1992). Lalage 'retired' to Shrewsbury in 1992 but remained an active member of many boards, trusts, committees and councils concerned with higher education, adult education, literacy and community enrichment in Africa, the Commonwealth and the UK. She observed that "they say you can't teach an old dog new tricks, but research has shown you can go on learning new things until you drop off the perch".

Amongst many accolades she was inducted in 2009 into the International Hall of Fame for Adult and Continuing Education. She also contributed to 26 books and published 86 articles.

In addition to her work in education, she encouraged greater engagement in all aspects of arts and literature. She was a founder of an Arts Club in Ibadan which hosted performances by many famous artists including Fela Kuti and Wole Soyinka. She was a woman of flair and amassed a fashion wardrobe whilst in Africa, typically purchasing from local tailors. She donated her collection to the Victoria & Albert Museum; an act that also reflected her own great interest in museums and the need to encourage links between museums and education.

Lalage's legacy is immense. She was a trail blazer in the global Adult Education movement. She was immersed in a tradition which regarded adult education as a catalyst for significant social change. Her understanding of adult education extended to and integrated with economics, ecology, health education, literacy, religious and linguistic traditions. Lalage succeeded in giving Adult and Continuing Education a recognised profile as a major field of education policy in Europe, Africa and beyond. She had a truly unique gift for people and for engaging in the communities in which she found herself. Lalage loved her family and was a friend and mentor to countless people.

Presenter profiles

Betty Abeng



Betty Abeng is CEO, Commonwealth Education Trust. Originally from Cameroon, Betty is a passionate and dynamic leader, with over 15 years of experience working within the Not-for-profit sector, supporting growth, cultivating effective partnerships, delivering results, and leading growth. Prior to being appointed CEO, she served as a trustee on the board of the CET. She is a passionate Education and Youth skills advocate and holds a BSC (Hons) in Economics and Business from the University of London (Birkbeck College).

Professor Gbolagade Adekanmbi



Professor Gbolagade Adekanmbi obtained a PhD in Adult Education from the University of Ibadan in 1992, with a research focus on Distance Education. From 1987, he taught adult education, distance education, industrial education and community development at the University of Ibadan. He later joined the Centre for Continuing Education (CCE), University of Botswana in 1995. From 2008 to 2011, he was the Centre's Deputy Director, Academic Programming, and from 2009 to 2011, was the Acting Director. Professor Adekanmbi has published widely and is currently the Dean, School of Education, and Acting Deputy Vice Chancellor, Academic Services, at the Botswana Open University.

Professor Rashid Adewumi Aderinoye



Professor Aderinoye is Professor of Literacy and Open Distance Learning. Served in different capacities: Head of Department of Adult Education, UNESCO, Consultant to Sudan Basic Education study, Deputy Executive Secretary Universal Basic Education Commission(UBEC), Executive Secretary National Commission for Nomadic Education(NCNE), Chairman, Presidential Visitation Panel to Federal College of Education Technical Bichi, Kano, External assessor to Universities, Lead Investigator to National Research Fund(NRF TETFund): 'Preventive Education Strategies As Vaccine To COVID-19 Prevalence and Related Diseases.'

Md Meraz Ahmed



Md Meraz Ahmed is currently a PhD student in education at Liverpool John Moores University. His doctoral research area is blended learning in teacher education. He is working to develop a blended teacher education model that can support the achievement of UN Sustainable Development Goal 4 (SDG-4: Quality Education) for Low-and-Middle-Income Countries, like Bangladesh. He holds a MA in Education (with Distinction) from the University of Nottingham and an MBA from the University of Rajshahi.

Dr Rachael Akinyede



Granddaughter of Professor Lalage J. Bown, Rachael Akinyede was born in the Netherlands but raised in Nigeria by her parents, Professor & Mrs. Akinyede. She later proceeded to the Max Planck Institute for Biogeochemistry in Jena, Germany, where she received her doctorate, majoring in Soil Biogeochemistry. She has published peer-reviewed articles on soil carbon dioxide fixation and works as a scientific coordinator in a greenhouse gas monitoring project in Jena. She lives in Jena with her husband, Adeoye Adetoba.

Professor Jean Barr



Dr Jean Barr was Professor of Adult and Continuing Education (now Emeritus) at the University of Glasgow, where she was Associate Dean and Head of the Graduate School of the Faculty of Education. She has worked in the WEA as District Secretary of the West of Scotland District (1982-1991); the Open University and the Universities of Warwick and Stirling. She is the author or co-author of five books: *The Legacy: A Memoir* (2022); *The Stranger Within: On the Idea of an Educated Public* (2008); *Liberating Knowledge* (1999); *For a Radical Higher Education* (2003) with Tom Steele and Richard Taylor) and *Common Science* (1996) with Lynda Birke.

Annabel Boud



Annabel is Head of Scholarships at the Association of Commonwealth Universities, leading the ACU's portfolio of international scholarship, fellowship and grant programmes. Annabel has over 20 years' experience working in higher education and sustainable development in Australia, Fiji, Sri Lanka and the UK. She is a doctoral researcher at the REAL Centre at the University of Cambridge, where her research focuses on equitable access for refugees, and other historically excluded groups, to international higher education mobility.

Rachel Dale



Rachel Dale (nee Bown) was born in 1969 in Lusaka Zambia, she is Lalage's niece, the daughter of Lalage's brother Hugh. Rachel organises ESG conferences bringing together corporations, finance, universities, public office and entrepreneurs to advance solutions to climate change and promote human rights. She has a background in project management, IT and environmental science. She is British and Swiss and lives in Zurich with her husband and 3 sons.

Professor Paolo Federighi



Honorary Professor of Adult Education. He started working as a junior researcher in the field of adult education in 1972 at Florence University. PhD HC at Vest Timisoara University (2009). Member of Hall of Fame (2019). During the last 40 years he has been working for several national and international organisations on researches concerning adult learning policies and applied researches in private firms in the field of workplace learning.

James Gibbs



Born in South Wales, James Gibbs and was awarded degrees by the Universities of Bristol and Leeds, and by American University, Washington D.C. Starting in 1968, he taught drama and literature at universities in Ghana, Malawi, Nigeria, and Belgium before retiring from the University of the West of England (Bristol) in 2007. His publications include plays, a study of Wole Soyinka, handbooks for African Writers and a collection of essays on the Ghanaian Theatre.

Gabriel Gbadamosi



Gabriel Gbadamosi is an Irish and Nigerian poet, playwright and critic. His London novel *Vauxhall* (Telegram, 2013) won the Tibor Jones Pageturner Prize and Best International Novel at the Sharjah Book Fair. He was AHRC Creative and Performing Arts Fellow at the Pinter Centre, Goldsmiths in European and African performance; a Judith E. Wilson Fellow for creative writing at Cambridge University; and Writer in Residence at the Manchester Royal Exchange. Plays include *Stop and Search* (Arcola Theatre, London), *Hotel Orpheu* (Schaubühne, Berlin), and for radio *The Long, Hot Summer of '76* (BBC Radio 3) which won the first Richard Imison Award. He presented BBC Radio 3's flagship arts and ideas programme *Night Waves* and is the founding editor of *WritersMosaic*. <https://writersmosaic.org.uk>

Dr Robert Hamilton



Dr Robert Hamilton is a tutor in history at the Centre for Lifelong Learning, University of Strathclyde, and is an Honorary Senior Lecturer at the University of Glasgow. He was previously head of open studies at Short Courses in the University of Glasgow and has a lifelong commitment to public engagement. His book *Dr Martin Luther King Jr and the Poor People's Campaign of 1968* was published in 2021.

Sidhi Joshi



A cultural exchange and social-impact advocate, and the Commonwealth Regional Coordinator for South West UK, Siddhi has spearheaded several developmental projects including 'Building a Culture of Women Empowerment' and 'Youth for Global Empathy' with AFS India, 'Sanitation Sensitisation with The Global Outlook, and 'Ikhtiyar' with Enactus. Siddhi was featured as an emerging leader under DU Beat 21 under 21. A US Department of States KL-YES program Alumni, Global Village on the Move & Azadi Leadership program fellow, she brings in a blend of global perspectives rooted in her identity and leadership experience. An award-winning poet, writing and art are integral forms of expression and activism for her. Currently she's a Commonwealth Scholar at the University of Exeter pursuing MSc Global Sustainability Solutions.

Dr Neil Kemp MBE OBE



Neil is a Trustee of CEC and Hornby Education Trust. Interests include internationalisation of education, transnational education and global student mobility. He worked for British Council for 30 years, including in India, Indonesia, Sri Lanka, Malaysia, Kenya and Pakistan. He was the organisation's Director of Education, Development Projects and Science & Technology. Neil completed a PhD in analytical chemistry and subsequently developed interests in economics of education. He studied at UCL Institute of Education and was a research fellow there. He was board member Open University Worldwide and Institute for Development Studies, University of Sussex

Professor Madhu Krishnan



Madhu Krishnan is Professor of African, World and Comparative Literatures at the University of Bristol. She is author of *Contemporary African Literature in English: Global Locations, Postcolonial Identifications* (2014), *Writing Spatiality in West Africa: Colonial Legacies in the Anglophone/Francophone Novel* (2018) and *Contingent Canons: African Literature and the Politics of Location* (2018). She is currently working on a five-year project funded by the ERC titled 'Literary Activism in Sub-Saharan Africa: Commons, Publics and Networks of Practice'.

Dr Harry Kuchah



Harry Kuchah Kuchah is Associate Professor of Languages, Social Justice and Education at the School of Education, University of Birmingham, and Chair of the British Council English Language Advisory Group. Recently, he has served as a consultant on different aspects of language policy and practice for the Council of Europe and the British Council. His research interests include English-medium education in multilingual contexts, context appropriate pedagogies and language teacher education.

Dr Babangida Ladan



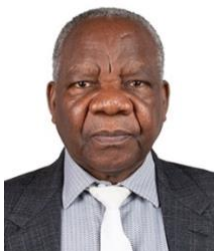
Dr. Ladan was born in a village in Katsina State Nigeria in 1968. He is a trained teacher, Adult Educator and Community facilitator. His areas of research interest include but not limited to Adult Education; Extension Education; Community Development and Innovation Difussion. He is currently a Senior Lecturer in the Department of Adult Education and Community Services, Bayero University, Kano, Nigeria and is the National President of the Nigerian National Council for Adult Education (NNCAE).

Alastair Niven LVO OBE



Alastair Niven chairs the Commonwealth Scholarship Support Group, which liaises with Parliament. He has been the Director General of the Africa Centre, Director of Literature at both the Arts Council and the British Council, and Principal of Cumberland Lodge, an educational charity in Windsor. He is a former President of English PEN and has twice been a judge of the Booker Prize. He has held academic posts at the Universities of Ghana, Leeds, Stirling, Aarhus, SOAS and Oxford, where he is an honorary fellow of Harris Manchester College.

Professor Michael Omolewa



Michael Omolewa, former Ambassador of Nigeria to UNESCO in Paris, France, is Emeritus Professor at the University of Ibadan, and at Babcock University in Nigeria ; Member of the Governing Board of the International Research Council for Rural Education in Beijing, China ; Member of the Faculty of the Jerusalem Institute for Multicultural Studies in Bethlehem, Israel ; Member of the Council of the International African Institute in the UK, and Chairman of the Governing Council of Christ the Redeemer College in the UK.

Professor Michael Osborne



Michael Osborne is Professor of Adult and Lifelong Learning at the University of Glasgow, and Director of the Centre for Research and Development in Adult and Lifelong Learning within the School of Education. He is also the European Director of the PASCAL Observatory on Place Management, Social Capital and Lifelong Learning. His main interests in research are the role of education in international development, urban big data, universities' engagement with communities, widening participation to higher education, teaching and learning in higher education, the VET/HE interface and the development of learning cities and regions.

Professor Pauline Rose



Pauline Rose is Professor of International Education at the University of Cambridge, where she is Director of the Research for Equitable Access and Learning (REAL) Centre in the Faculty of Education. Prior to joining Cambridge, Pauline was Director of UNESCO's Education for All Global Monitoring Report. Her research focuses on issues examining educational policy and practice, including in relation to gender and intersecting inequalities, and the political economy of financing and governance of education systems.

Rt Hon. the Baroness Royall of Blaisdon.



Jan is the Principal of Somerville College and was appointed to the Lords in 2004. Jan was appointed Leader of the Lords in 2008 and a member the Cabinet. Jan previously worked in the European Commission, for Neil Kinnock and for the Labour Group in the European Parliament. Jan is still an active backbencher with an interest in education, young people, housing, health and social care, social justice, women, diversity and foreign affairs. In addition she is Co-Chair of the Oxfordshire Inclusive Economy Partnership, and is associated with many charities and voluntary organisations.

Professor Tom Schuller



Tom Schuller was Dean of Continuing Education at Birkbeck and before that professor of lifelong learning at the University of Edinburgh, when Lalage Bown was at Glasgow. From 2008-18 he was chair of the Governing Board of the Working Men's College in London, and is co-editing a forthcoming history of the College with Dick Taylor. Tom's latest book - *The Paula Principle: how and why women work below their competence level* - was published in 2017.

Md Shirajis Shadik



Md Shirajis Shadik is an assistant professor and writer. He is currently pursuing an MSc in Public Policy at the University of Bristol as a Commonwealth Scholar. He works at the University of Barishal and graduated from the University of Dhaka in Bangladesh. His research focuses on governance, public policy, and development administration. In his newspaper Opinion-Editorials, he addresses various social problems. He has received numerous national awards and scholarships for his exceptional academic achievements.

Professor Maria Slowey



Maria Slowey is Emeritus Professor, Dublin City University (and previously Vice-President). She was Lalage Bown's successor as Professor and Director of Adult and Continuing Education, Glasgow University. Her research addresses lifelong learning and higher education on which has been advisor to many bodies including UNESCO, OECD and the EU. Currently Visiting Professor at the Universities of Florence and Glasgow, she is Senior Editor Studies in Higher Education, Fellow the Academy of Social Sciences, and Member of the International Adult Education Hall of Fame.

Professor Sir Richard Trainor



Since 2014 Rick Trainor has been Rector (Head) of Exeter College Oxford. Previously he was Principal of King's College London 2004-14, Vice-Chancellor of the University of Greenwich 2000-04, and President of Universities UK 2007-09. Between 1979 and 2000 he was an academic (personal chair in social history), and an academic administrator (dean and vice-principal), at the University of Glasgow, where he was a colleague both of Professor Lalage Bown and of Professor Maria Slowey.

Professor Sir Alan Tuckett



He is Emeritus Professor at the University of Wolverhampton, an Honorary Fellow of the UNESCO Institute of Lifelong Learning and Distinguished Professor, International Institute of Adult and Lifelong Education, New Delhi. He worked for 40 years in adult education. 1988-2011 led the National Institute of Adult Continuing Education in the UK, and was President, International Council for Adult Education, from 2011-2015, and Professor of Education at Wolverhampton 2015-20. Helped start the national adult literacy campaign in the UK, instigated Adult Learners' Week in 1992, an initiative adopted by UNESCO and spread to 55 countries.

Stephen Twigg



Stephen Twigg is Chairperson of the Council for Education in the Commonwealth, a role he took up in 2023. He has been the Secretary-General of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association since August 2020. Before that, he served as a UK Member of Parliament (1997-2005 and 2010-19). He served as a junior Minister for Education (2002-5), Shadow Secretary of State for Education (2011-13) and Chairperson of the International Development Select Committee (2015-19).

Professor Peter Williams OBE



President, Commonwealth Consortium for Education, Life Member CEC (on Executive 1963-2015). Graduated economics, social anthropology Cambridge. Research Officer ODI 1962-66; Education Planning Adviser Kenya, Ghana Governments 1966-72; Lecturer/Professor Education in Developing Countries UCL Institute of Education 1973-84; Director Education, Commonwealth Secretariat 1984-94. Member/Chair national education commissions Botswana 1976, Zimbabwe 1988, Namibia 1990, Gambia 1993. Friend and associate of Lalage Bown for 45 years; collaborator on three of her main publications.

Professor Miriam Zukas



Miriam Zukas is Professor Emerita of Adult Education at Birkbeck, University of London. She was previously Executive Dean of the School of Social Sciences, History and Philosophy at Birkbeck, and before that Director of the Lifelong Learning Institute at the University of Leeds. She is a National Teaching Fellow, a Fellow of Birkbeck and a member of the Council of the University of Sussex. She has worked in adult education throughout her career and also has a long-standing interest in gender in education and work.