

# UNIVERSITY COLLABORATIVE AWARDS FOR OUTSTANDING CONTRIBUTIONS TO TEACHING AND LEARNING

## APPLICATION FORM

Reference Number (13/2020):

Please refer to the [scheme criteria and guidance](#) when completing your application.

Please save as a PDF file and submit your application to Martin Wise: [m.wise@reading.ac.uk](mailto:m.wise@reading.ac.uk)

### Nominator's details

Name:	Mrs Louise Hague
Role:	Deputy Head of School/SDTL
Directorate:	
School / Service:	LAW
Department / Unit:	
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### Team Leader's details (This may be the same person as the Nominator)

Name:	Elizabeth Conaghan
Role:	Lecturer
Directorate:	
School / Service:	LAW
Department / Unit:	
Contact Telephone number:	0118 378 4920
Email:	<a href="mailto:e.t.conaghan@reading.ac.uk">e.t.conaghan@reading.ac.uk</a>

### Team Name / Project Title

"Celebrating 100 Years of Women's Voices: a Play, a Book and a Symposium"

## Team Members

(Include all members of the group applying for the award, including the team leader and any student members. Indicate the percentage of the award that each group member should receive. This should total 100%)

Name	School/Function	Role in Team	% of Award per team member
<b>STAFF:</b> <b>Prof Rosemary Auchmuty</b>	School of Law	Researcher; symposium contributor	Equal share to all contributors
<b>Mrs Elizabeth Conaghan</b>	School of Law	Overall team leader	
<b>Dr Madeleine Davies</b>	Department of English	Editor (book); symposium contributor	
<b>Dr Rachel Horton</b>	School of Law	Auditions (play); promotional material (symposium)	
<b>Dr Charlotte Smith</b>	School of Law	Play and symposium co-ordinator	
<b>Dr Anne Thies</b>	School of Law	Poetry competition; external sponsorship	
<b>Ms Suzy Tutchell</b>	Institute of Education	Art exhibition; symposium contributor	
<b>Ms Lucy Tyler</b>	Department for Film, Theatre and Television	Venue (play and symposium)	
<b>STUDENTS:</b> <b>(student names removed)</b>	Department of Typography & Graphic Communications	Design and typography (book)	
	School of Law	Producer (play)	
	School of Law	Poetry competition	
	School of Law	Lead actor (play)	
	School of Law	Lead actor (play)	

**Previous Funding**

Has anyone in your team previously been awarded in these or any other Awards at the University?	Yes
<p>If yes, please give details of date and type of award:</p> <p>Dr Rachel Horton, 2008, School of Law School Pro Bono Team</p> <p>Dr Madeleine Davies, 2018 , 'Celebrating Forgotten Women', and 2019 for 'Second Sight'.</p>	

## Case for Award

Please outline your case for an award, referring to the scheme criteria as appropriate (1000 words maximum):

### INTRODUCTION

Co-ordinated by **Liz Conaghan**, this project involved collaboration between staff and students from eight schools and departments, and from two local charities, in the development of staff-student co-curricular activities on the theme of 'equality'.

### AIMS, OBJECTIVES AND RATIONALE FOR THE TEAM'S APPROACH

In 2019, the Law School considered how best to commemorate the centenary of women being allowed to practise law. Our aims were to educate and inform each other through a cross-disciplinary and student-focused approach underpinned by the **Principles of Partnership**, fostering a sense of belonging and empowerment. The series of events, "100 Years of Women's Voices", was born and involved the performance of a **staff-student play**, a **cross-disciplinary symposium**, a student-led **art exhibition**, a student **poetry competition**, and the production of a **collaborative book**.

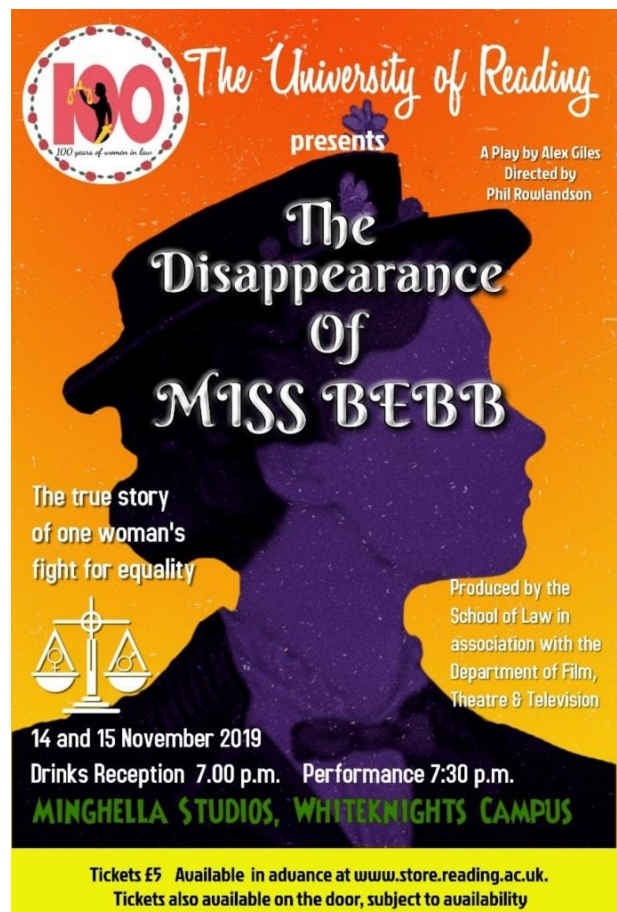
These activities aligned closely with the **University's Teaching and Learning Strategy** by offering students, "the best possible co-curricular personal development opportunities that enable them to reach their full potential".

### HOW THE TEAM WORKED COLLABORATIVELY, INCLUDING HOW STUDENTS WERE DIRECTLY INVOLVED

#### The Play: 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> November 2019

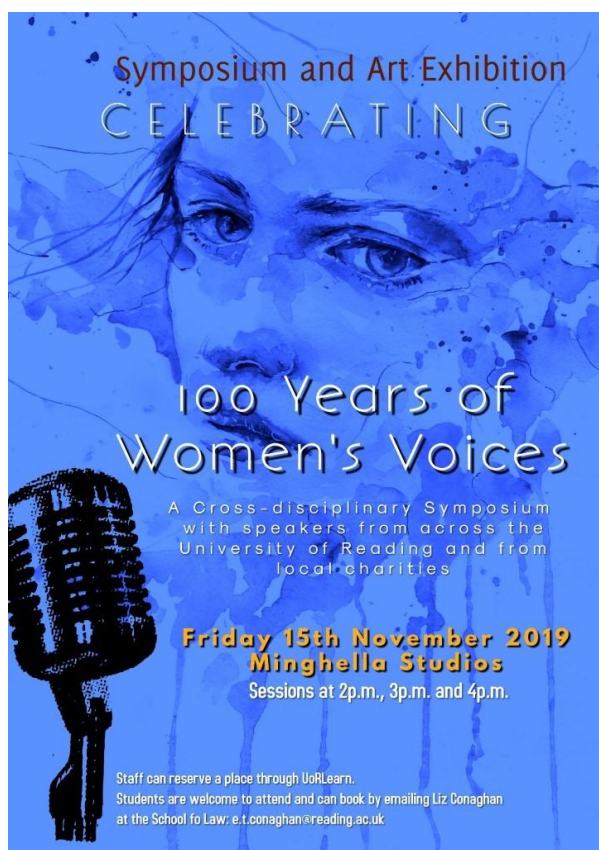
In 1913, Gwyneth Bebb challenged the Law Society's refusal to allow women to become solicitors. **Rosemary Auchmuty's** research on Bebb inspired dramatist, Alex Giles, to write a radio play, "The Disappearance of Miss Bebb". Given the play's provenance, it was apt that the School of Law should stage the play as part of our centenary celebrations.

Alex Giles offered us use of his script without charge, **Lucy Tyler (FTT)** provided theatre space and the expertise of the technicians at Minghella Studios, and funding was obtained through a DI Award. **Liz Conaghan** appointed a student producer, **(name removed)**, and a director, Phil Rowlandson (an alumnus of FTT). A team of us (**Liz Conaghan, (name removed), Anne Thies, Charlotte Wilde, Rachel Horton**) auditioned and assembled a large cast of students, and four members of staff (including Rosemary) took cameo roles. We also



recruited back-stage and front-of-house student volunteers who used this activity as a contribution to the RED Award.

Most of the cast had no previous acting experience but our director created a company of actors whose performances informed, educated, and inspired. **(student names removed)** played the lead roles and both delivered exceptional performances to a packed house.



### The Symposium: 15<sup>th</sup> November 2019

The playwright, Alex Giles, joined speakers from across the University and from the charities, Alana House and Women in Prison, for an afternoon of short 'TED'-style talks. The Symposium was open to all students and staff and consisted of three seminars: 'Past Protagonists', 'Present Challenges', and 'Future Hope'.

The full list of speakers demonstrates our cross-disciplinary approach to the theme of 'equality':

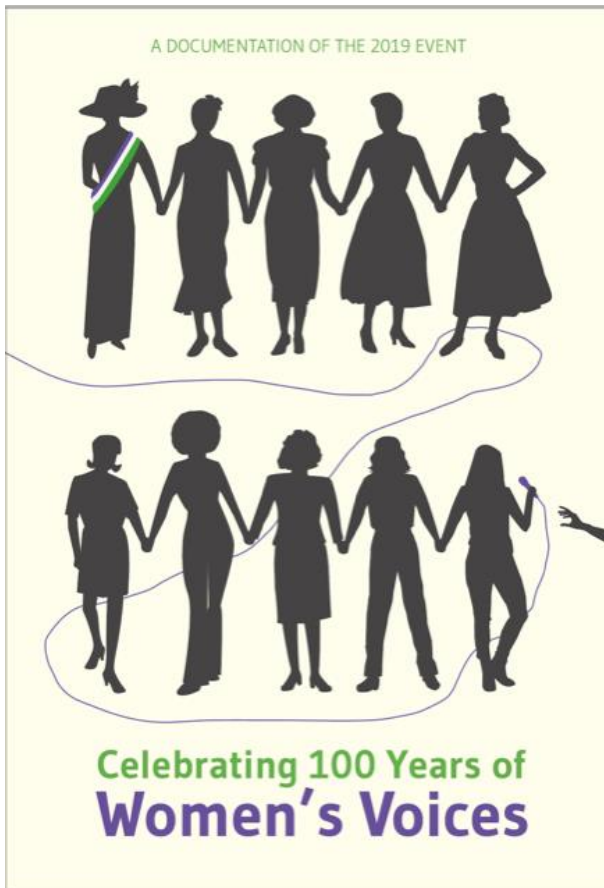
*Professor Rosemary Auchmuty (Law)*  
*Professor Thérèse Callus (Law)*  
*Professor Claire Collins (HBS)*  
*Dr Madeleine Davies (SLL)*  
*Professor Marina Della Giusta (SPEIR)*  
*Alex Giles (writer and dramatist)*  
*Professor Grace James (Law)*  
*Professor Helen Osborn (Pharmacy)*  
*Sarah Smart (Women in Prison)*  
*Suzy Tutchell (IoE)*  
*Natausha Van Vliet (Alana House)*

### The Art Exhibition: 15<sup>th</sup> November 2019

The art exhibition, 'The Empowerment of the Female Artist', was curated by **Suzy Tutchell (IoE)** and included the work of staff at the School of Law and students at the Institute of Education.

### The Poetry Competition

**Anne Thies** and **(student name removed)** organised a poetry competition on the theme of 'equality' which was open to all members of the University. The entries were celebrated and shared during a reading at the School of Law in January 2020.



### The Book

**Madeleine Davies** and **Liz Conaghan** wanted student involvement to be integral to the design and creation of a commemorative book and recruited **(student name removed)** through the 'Real Jobs' scheme at the Department of Typography. The contributions from each of the events were collated into a beautiful anthology (funded by a consortium of sponsors) that is a lasting testament to "100 Years of

### EVIDENCE OF IMPACT, SPECIFICALLY IN RELATION TO THE STUDENT LEARNING EXPERIENCE

**Liz Conaghan** surveyed students and staff about their experience of being involved in the play, and the comments provided further insight into the value of a shared story; friendships made, confidence gained, and a deeper understanding of issues relating to equality (and a desire to educate others about it). One student noted the "fantastic environment", and the "excitement and passion" of her fellow students. Another said, "I'm so

grateful to have collected such wonderful memories! Truly unforgettable." Yet others remarked, "we formed a real comradery which I believe shone through", and, "this play helped me to understand the impact of the law much better because it took the cases I learn about in textbooks and transferred them into real life enactment."

The play has impacted participants' view of the future as well. One student remarked, "The play has taught me never to give up". Another said that he had learnt, "a great deal" about "how essential it is that we strive for equality in today's society." A colleague remarked that she was, "particularly touched by the way that the young men (and the older ones) were such enthusiastic participants in a play about women and feminism.... It made me feel positive about the future."

The feedback from the other events was also overwhelmingly positive: "I was very excited to participate in the poetry competition... It gave me a channel to express my passion for law in a creative way." One Symposium attendee reflected that it was, "a reminder that Universities can do 'beautiful things'".

### DISSEMINATION OF THE OUTCOMES AND IMPACT OF THIS PROJECT

The book allows us to reach a wider audience and it provides students with a material record of their achievements. The book is published in March 2020, will be promoted at the International Gender Research Conference in April 2020, and is included in the UoR CATE submission ('Inspiring Engagement'). A showcase on the events and on the book project is currently being planned for the summer term 2020.

**CONCLUSION**

Staff and students were integral to every stage of this project. There would have been no play without **Rosemary**'s research and students' participation; there would have been no art exhibition without **Suzy Tutchell** and her IoE students; there would have been no poetry competition without **Anne Thies** and student poets, and no book without the editorial and design skills of **Madeleine Davies** and **(student name removed)**. Working together, staff and students have demonstrated the impact on T&L and student experience that can be achieved through imagination, commitment and goodwill. As **Rosemary Auchmuty** reflects, "This kind of event, which does not 'count' towards the students' final degree, is really what higher education is all about."

**Head of School / Service** (Please answer all questions and delete as applicable)

<b>Is your Head of School/Service aware of this application?</b>	Yes
<b>Is your Head of School/Service supportive of this application?</b>	Yes