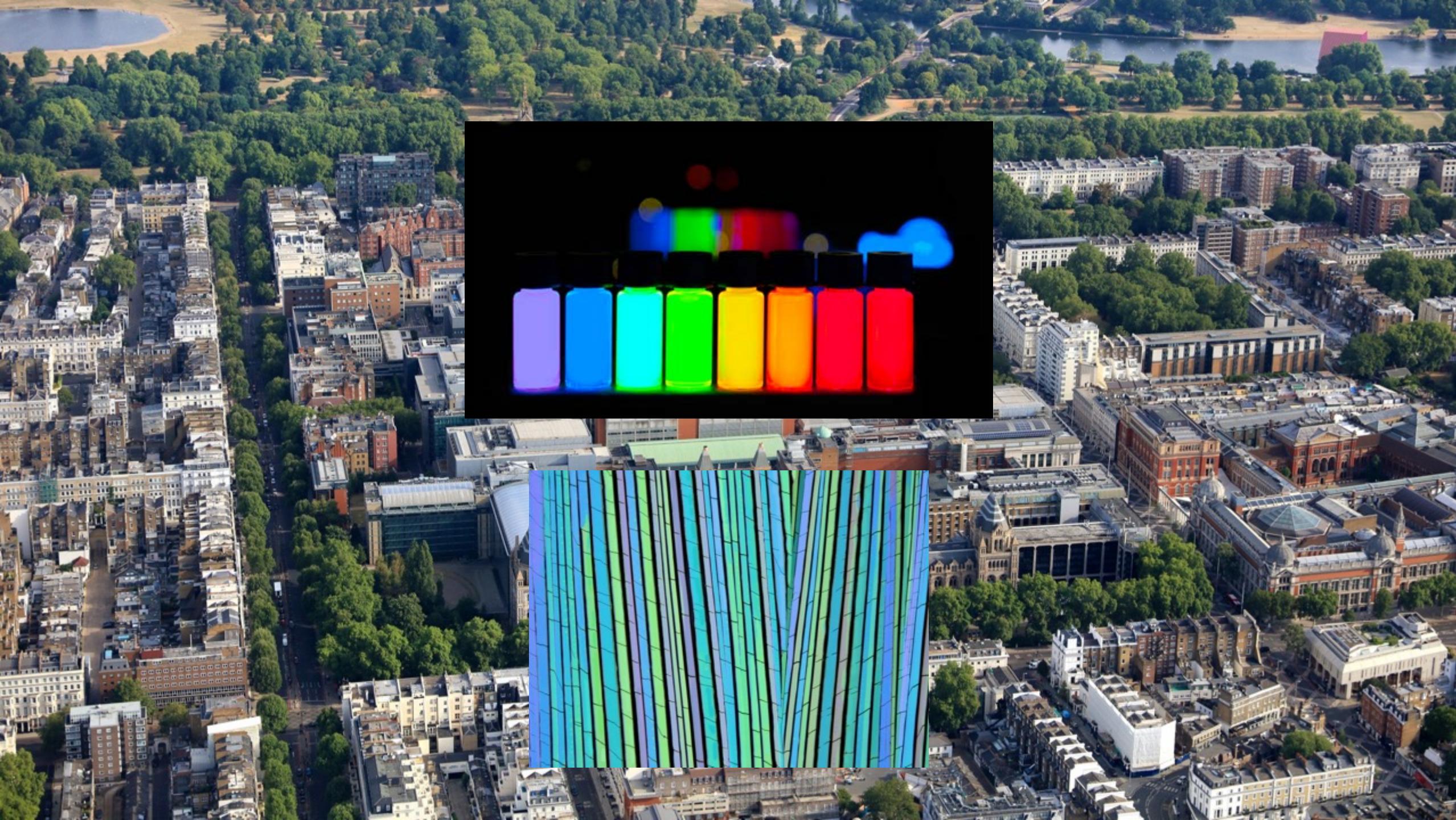
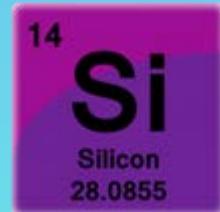


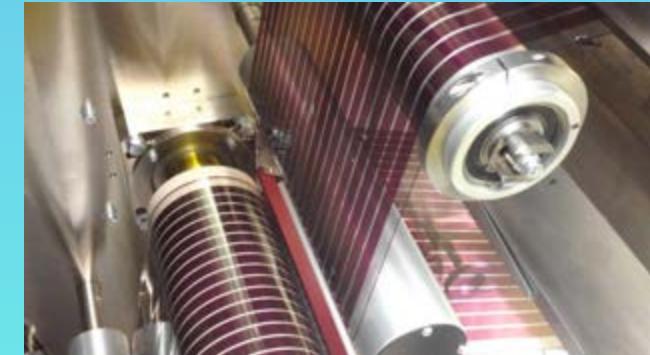
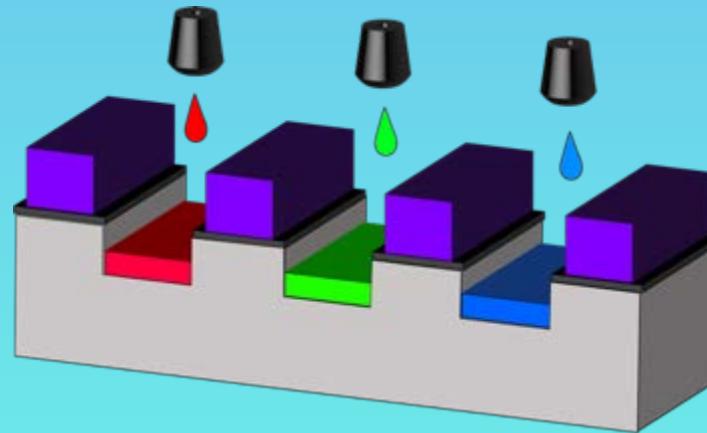
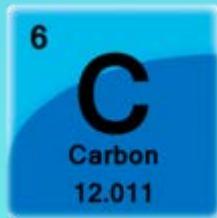
**why i'm writing women  
scientists back in to history.**

@jesswade  
wiki workshop 2020



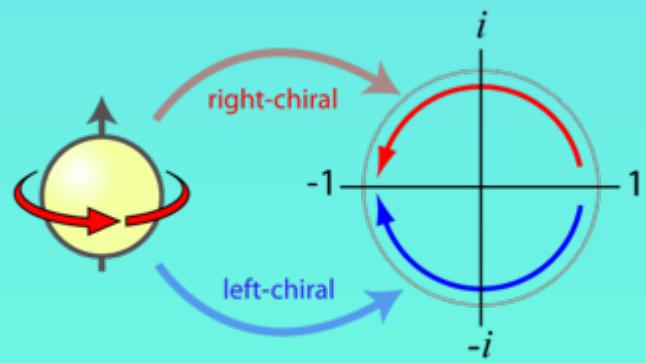


+



# chirality

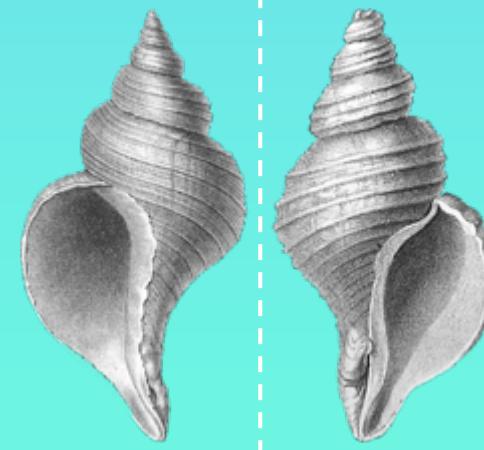
>non-superimposable mirror images



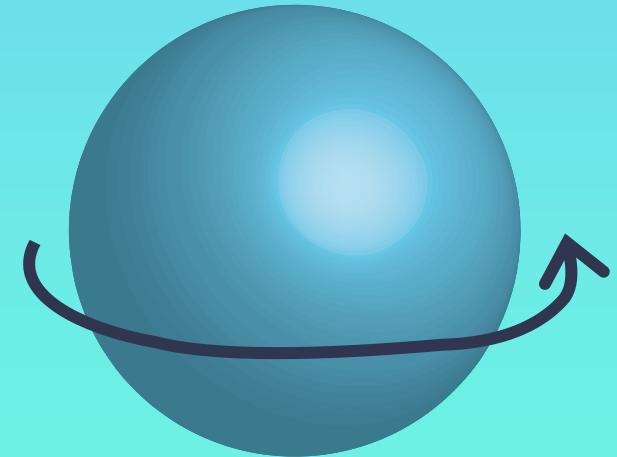
subatomic  
particles



molecules



macroscopic objects





what you are all doing/going  
to do is **very important.**



ILLUSTRATION: MICHAEL HADDAD

RICHARD COOKE

BUSINESS 02.17.2020 06:00 AM

## Wikipedia Is the Last Best Place on the Internet

People used to think the crowdsourced encyclopedia represented all that was wrong with the web. Now it's a beacon of so much that's right.

**“Wikipedia is built on the personal interests and idiosyncrasies of its contributors. You could even say it is built on love.”**

@rgcooke

# **why Wikipedia is \*super\* important during the pandemic:**

- \* the general public
- \* home schooling + education
- \* academics
- \* historians

# Why Wikipedia is winning against the coronavirus 'infodemic'

Against all odds, Wikipedia's eccentric volunteer editors are holding back the tide of coronavirus misinformation

By Laurence Dodds, US TECHNOLOGY REPORTER, SAN FRANCISCO

3 April 2020

♦ Premium

CORONAVIRUS | 11,045 views | Mar 18, 2020, 11:47am EDT

## Like Zika, The Public Is Heading To Wikipedia During The COVID-19 Coronavirus Pandemic



Farah Qaiser Contributor

*I like telling stories about science, especially genetics, and scientists.*



f

Twitter icon

in

NOAM COHEN

IDEAS 03.15.2020 07:00 AM

## How Wikipedia Prevents the Spread of Coronavirus Misinformation

A group of hawk-eyed experts operate on a special track to monitor medical information on the site.



## for the general public:

- \*non-partisan, up-to-date source of information on a trusted platform
- \*first pre-print pandemic: impact on journalism
- \*create, edit and improve pages about covid-19/ covid-19 researchers



SHARE

f 11K  
t 313  
in 313  
e 313

Researchers at the Pasteur Institute in Lille, France, at work on the new coronavirus on 20 February. SYLVAIN LEFEVRE/GETTY IMAGES

'A completely new culture of doing research.' Coronavirus outbreak changes how scientists communicate

By Kai Kupferschmidt | Feb. 26, 2020, 2:05 PM

A news article snippet from the New York Times. It features a photograph of two scientists in full-body white protective suits and masks working in a laboratory. To the left of the image is a 'SHARE' button with icons for Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn, and Email, each with a count of 11K, 313, 313, and 313 respectively. Below the image is a caption: 'Researchers at the Pasteur Institute in Lille, France, at work on the new coronavirus on 20 February. SYLVAIN LEFEVRE/GETTY IMAGES'. Below that is a bold headline: "'A completely new culture of doing research.'" followed by a subtext: 'Coronavirus outbreak changes how scientists communicate'. At the bottom is the author's name and publication date: 'By Kai Kupferschmidt | Feb. 26, 2020, 2:05 PM'.

### *The Rising Heroes of the Coronavirus Era? Nations' Top Scientists*

Scientists in Europe are becoming household names, fulfilling societies' emotional and practical need for the truth.



Dr. Christian Drosten, chief virologist at the Charité university research hospital in Berlin, researching the coronavirus in late January. Christophe Gateau/Picture Alliance, via Getty Images

# **As School Moves Online, Many Students Stay Logged Out**

Teachers at some schools across the country report that fewer than half of their students are participating in online learning.

By Dana Goldstein, Adam Popescu and Nik

Published April 6, 2020 Updated April 8, 2020

NEWS

Chronic absenteeism is a problem in the best of times, but now, with the school buildings closed and lessons more students than ever are missing checking in or not completing assignments.

Laura Fay | April 20, 2020

## **More than half of students are not tuning in to online classes, informal teacher survey shows**

**The Telegraph**

Coronavirus News Politics Sport Business Money



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Fre

UK news ▾ World news ▾ Royals ▾ Health Defence Science Education Investigations ▾ Global Hea

## **Two thirds of children have not taken part in online lessons during lockdown, study finds**

Sutton Trust poll results will fuel fears that poorest children will fall furthest behind in studies during lockdown

## **for education:**

- \* help design + deliver class projects for high school + university teachers to help with shift to online delivery (can be data related)
- \* improve educational resources for > 1/5<sup>th</sup> of world who are on lockdown
- \* improve offline access to content
- \* ensure content is representative

**for researchers:**

- \*lockdown writing/researching opportunities
- \*data sharing, data generation

## Open data and COVID-19: Wikipedia as an informational resource during the pandemic



Diego Sáez-Trumper [Follow](#)

Apr 16 · 8 min read



*Authors: Changwook Jung, Sun Geng, Science, South Korea & KAIST), Inho I Max Planck Institute for Human Development (Wikimedia Foundation).*

From the very start of COVID-19, when atypical pneumonia in China, people were sharing information about the virus on Wikipedia as a resource for medical information. The information on Wikipedia is shaped by the public, contributing to COVID-19 related pa

**Case Statistics of COVID-19 and English Wikipedia Views**

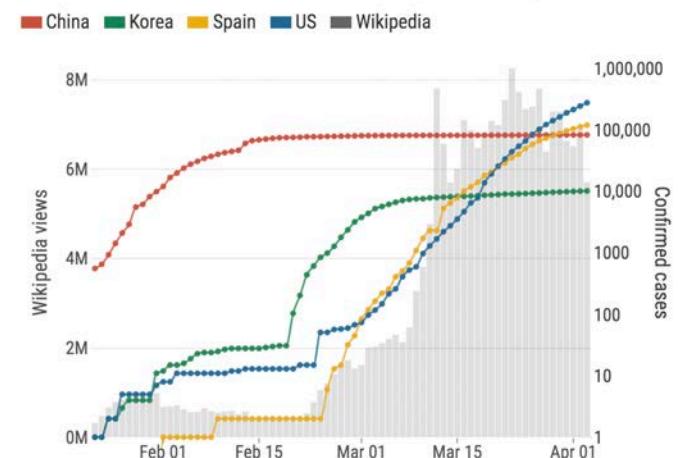
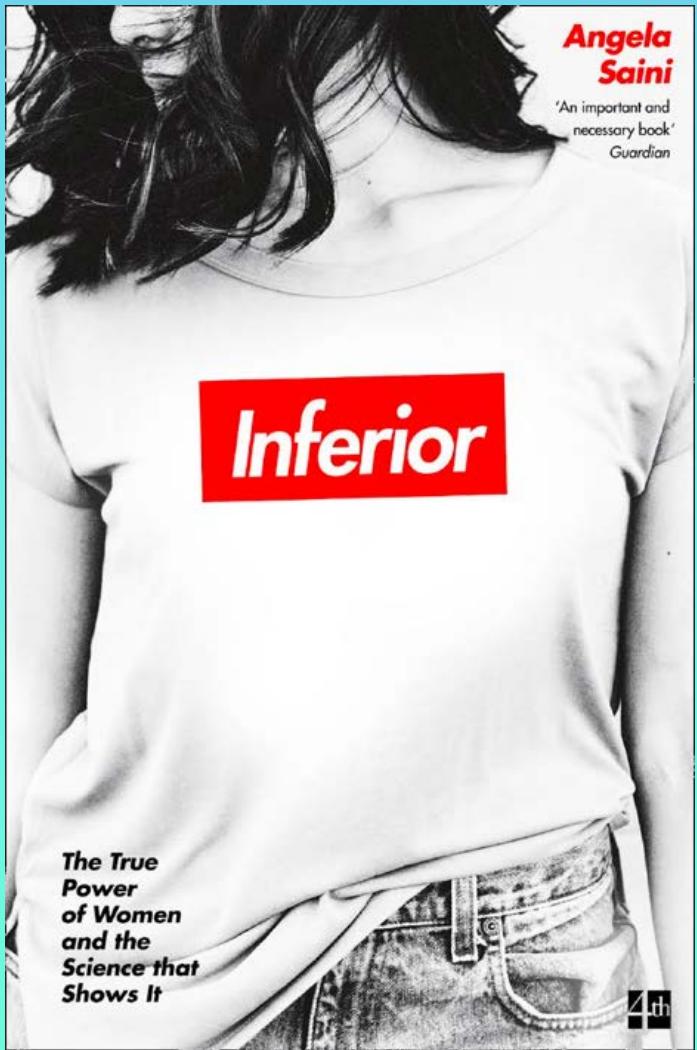
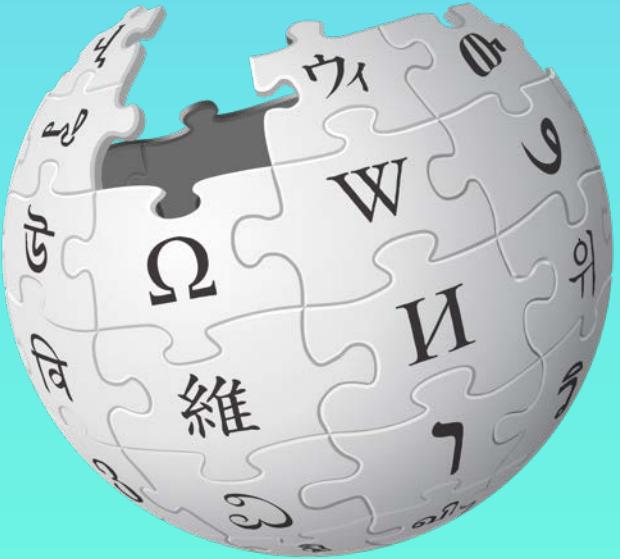


Figure 1 . Case Statistics of COVID-19 in China, South Korea, Spain, and the US (right axis — log scale). These countries have outbreaks at different times. While the patient count increases at a smaller rate for China and South Korea by early March, Spain and the US show a sharp rise. On gray the number of page views on English Wikipedia COVID-19 related articles (left axis — linear scale).







## Wikipedia shapes language in science papers

Experiment traces how online encyclopaedia influences research write-ups.

Mark Zastrow

26 September 2017



Rights & Permissions

Wikipedia is one of the world's most popular websites, but scientists rarely cite it in their papers. Despite this, the online encyclopedia seems to be shaping the language that researchers use in papers, according to an experiment showing that words and phrases in recently published Wikipedia articles subsequently appeared more frequently in scientific papers<sup>1</sup>.





# Barbara Rentler

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

#74

CEO, Ionis



This article has multiple issues. Please help [improve it](#) or discuss these issues on the [talk page](#). ([Learn how and when to remove these template messages](#))

- This biography of a living person **needs additional citations for verification.** (*February 2015*)
- This article may have been created or edited in return for undisclosed payments, a violation of Wikipedia's [terms of use](#). (*November 2017*)

**Barbara Rentler** (born between 1957 and 1958<sup>[4]</sup>) is a businesswoman, and the current CEO of Fortune 500 company, Ross Stores Inc.<sup>[5]</sup>

## Career [\[edit\]](#)

Rentler joined Ross Stores in February 1986<sup>[1]</sup>. She held a variety of merchandising jobs until February 2001, when she became Senior Vice President and General Merchandise Manager at Ross Dress for Less<sup>[1]</sup>. Rentler held those positions until January 2004, when she became Senior Vice President and Chief Merchandising Officer at dd's DISCOUNTS<sup>[6]</sup>.

From February 2005 until December 2006, Rentler served as Executive Vice President and Chief Merchandising Officer of dd's DISCOUNTS. Beginning in December 2006 Rentler took on the responsibility of Executive Vice President of Merchandising. She was responsible for all Ross Apparel and Apparel-related products.<sup>[7]</sup>

In December 2009, she was appointed the President and Chief Merchandising Officer at Ross Dress for Less. After less than five years, Rentler was promoted to Chief Executive Officer on May 7, 2014. On June 1, 2014, she took over as CEO upon the retirement of the previous CEO, Michael Balmuth.<sup>[5][8][9]</sup>

In 2019, Rentler was named to Forbes list of America's Most Innovative Leaders.<sup>[10]</sup> Although 99 men were included in the list, Rentler was the only woman named.<sup>[11]</sup>

<b>Barbara Rentler</b>	
<b>Occupation</b>	CEO, Ross Stores
<b>Years active</b>	1986–present
<b>Net worth</b>	\$69.9 million (estimated) <sup>[1]</sup>
<b>Spouse(s)</b>	James Tighe <sup>[2]</sup>

$\approx 10\%$



18.37 %





# Gladys West

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

**Gladys Mae West** (née [Brown](#)) (born 1930<sup>[1]</sup> or 1931) is an American mathematician known for her contributions to the mathematics underpinning [Global Positioning Systems](#). West was inducted into the [United States Air Force Hall of Fame](#) in 2018.

Gladys West



## 100 Women: Gladys West - the 'hidden figure' of GPS

By Amelia Butterly  
100 Women

© 20 May 2018

f [Share](#)



HANDOUT

From the sat nav in your car, to the tags on your social media posts, many of us use global positioning systems, or GPS, every day.

Gladys West is one of the people whose work was instrumental in developing the mathematics behind GPS.

Until now, her story has remained untold.

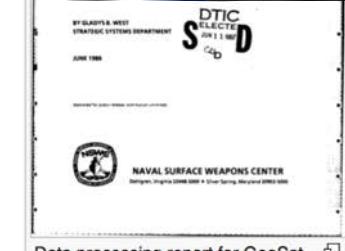
When Mrs West started her career at the Naval Surface Warfare Center in the US state of Virginia in 1956, just one other black woman and two black men worked alongside her.

"I carried that load round, thinking that I had to be the best that I could be," she says.

mathematical computing

### Personal life [edit]

She met her husband Ira West at the naval base and they married in 1957.<sup>[1][3]</sup> They have 3 adult children and seven grandchildren.<sup>[14]</sup> As of February 2018, West lives in [King George County, Virginia](#).<sup>[11]</sup> In 2018 she completed a PhD via a distance-learning program with [Virginia Tech](#).<sup>[13][15]</sup>



Article Talk Read Edit source View history More Search Wikipedia

**Katie Bouman**

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

*Not to be confused with Katie Bowman.*

**Katherine Louise Bouman** (/baʊmən/)<sup>[1]</sup> born 1989/1990<sup>[2]</sup> is an American computer scientist working in the field of Computer imagery.

She led the development of an algorithm for imaging black holes, known as Continuous High-resolution Image Reconstruction using Patch priors (CHIRP), and was a member of the Event Horizon Telescope team that captured the first image of a black hole.<sup>[3][4]</sup>

As of June 2019, she is an assistant professor of computing and mathematical sciences in California Institute of Technology.<sup>[5][6][7][8]</sup>

**Contents [hide]**

- 1 Early life and education
- 2 Research and career
- 3 References
- 4 External links

**Early life and education** [ edit source ]

Bouman grew up in West Lafayette, Indiana, and graduated from West Lafayette Junior-Senior High School in 2007. Her father, Charles Bouman, is a professor of electrical and computer engineering and biomedical engineering at Purdue University.<sup>[9]</sup> As a high school student, she conducted imaging research at Purdue University.<sup>[9]</sup> She first learned about the Event Horizon Telescope in school in 2007.<sup>[10]</sup>

Bouman studied electrical engineering at the University of Michigan and graduated summa cum laude in 2011. She earned her master's degree doctoral degree (2017) in electrical engineering and computer science from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT).<sup>[11]</sup>

At MIT, she was a member of the Haystack Observatory.<sup>[12][13]</sup> She was supported by a National Science Foundation Graduate Fellowship. Her master's thesis, *Estimating Material Properties of Fabric through the Observation of Motion*,<sup>[14]</sup> was awarded the Ernst Guillemin Award for best Master's Thesis in electrical engineering.<sup>[15]</sup> Her Ph.D. dissertation, *Extreme imaging via physical model inversion: seeing around corners and imaging black holes*, was supervised by William T. Freeman.<sup>[16]</sup> Prior to receiving her doctoral degree, Bouman delivered a TEDx talk, *How to Take a Picture of a Black Hole*, which explained algorithms that could be used to capture the first image of a black hole.<sup>[11][2][17]</sup>

**Research and career** [ edit source ]

After earning her doctorate, Bouman joined Harvard University as a postdoctoral fellow on the Event Horizon Telescope Imaging team.<sup>[18][19][20]</sup>

Bouman joined Event Horizon Telescope project in 2013.<sup>[21]</sup> She led the development of an algorithm for imaging black holes, known as Continuous High-resolution Image Reconstruction using Patch priors (CHIRP).<sup>[17][22][23]</sup> CHIRP inspired image validation procedures used in acquiring the first image of a black hole in April 2019,<sup>[24]</sup> and Bouman played a significant role in the project<sup>[3][25]</sup> by verifying images, selecting parameters for filtering images taken by the Event Horizon Telescope,<sup>[26]</sup> and participating in the development of a robust imaging framework that compared the results of different image reconstruction techniques.<sup>[27]</sup> Her group is analyzing the Event Horizon Telescope's images to learn more about general relativity in a strong gravitational field.<sup>[28]</sup>

Bouman received significant media attention after a photo, showing her reaction to the detection of the black hole shadow in the EHT images, went viral.<sup>[3][29][30][31]</sup> Some people in the media and on the Internet misleadingly implied that Bouman was a "lone genius" behind the image.<sup>[32][33]</sup> However, Bouman herself repeatedly noted that the result came from the work of a large collaboration, showing the importance of teamwork in science.<sup>[3][34][33]</sup> Bouman also became the target of online harassment, to the extent that her colleague Andrew Chael made a statement on Twitter criticizing "awful and sexist attacks on my colleague and friend", including attempts to undermine her contributions by crediting him solely with work accomplished by the team.<sup>[25][27][35][36]</sup>

She joined the California Institute of Technology as an assistant professor in June 2019, where she plans to work on new systems for computational imaging using computer vision and machine learning.<sup>[28][37][38]</sup>

**References** [ edit source ]

**Katie Bouman**

**Born** Katherine Louise Bouman 1989/1990 (age 29–30)

**Nationality** American

**Education** Massachusetts Technology University of M CHIRP algorithm

**Known for** Scientific ca Computer vision learning

**Fields** Harvard Universit Extreme Imag Model Inversio Corners and I Holes<sup>[2]</sup>

**Institutions** California Insti

**Thesis** William T. Freeman

**Doctoral advisor** www.cms.calte

**Website** /kbouman<sup>[2]</sup>

**External links**

How to take a hole<sup>[2]</sup>, Katie Bouman April 28, 2017, 12:12



**Katie Bouman**

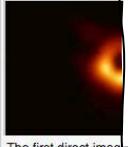
US Scientist

Katie led the development of an algorithm which resulted in the first-ever image of a black hole.

She started the project as a graduate student, and is now an assistant professor of computing and mathematical sciences at the California Institute of Technology.

“

**My ambition for the future is that we use artificial intelligence and machine-learning methods to design better scientists, who tell us how to go and discover the world around us.**



The first direct image of a black hole, imaged by the Event Horizon Telescope and published in April 2019

**From:** pmsuds@yahoo.com [mailto:pmsuds@yahoo.com]  
**Sent:** 12 April 2019 19:56  
**To:** Wade, Jessica A F <jessica.wade@imperial.ac.uk>  
**Subject:** Re: Elizabeth Sudmeier

Dr. W thank you so much for your so swift reply !! Fabulous to hear from you, and indeed you do have it right!!.

Have to say that it is interesting to read that you found her via Langley's featured story website, because you're right... not that many people read what the CIA has to say. But she was one of their hero's, better said heroine! And what she accomplished is amazing as one of the first women to blow a hole in the glass ceiling when her superior finally relented and advocated for her to go through covert officer training. As I understand it, she was his executive assistant, and convinced him to allow this training (unheard of for a woman to do this in the late 40's/early 50's) so that she would be able to better interpret reports from the field for him. One thing lead to another, and she was assigned to the Near East, where she ran agents, eventually securing sensitive, classified Soviet military hardware per the CIA article. There's more to her and most of the story remains within the vault.

One fascinating part of the story is the fact that no one in her immediate family, she's my 2nd cousin, of brothers and their families knew what she did as she told them she was a career typist for the Foreign Service. They didn't find out until the director of the CIA called her nephew a few Septembers ago to invite him to the Trailblazer Award ceremony. Which is a hilarious story unto it itself as he didn't believe the caller was actually who he said he was!!!

She never married, and instead, was ferociously dedicated to the agency and the mission. Which is fortunate for all the rest of us because the intelligence she obtained turned the tide of the cold war at the time. The KGB knew this was happening, and she barely escaped Baghdad. If you google "Baghdad 1950's", then click the images tab you'll get a sense of the environment she was operating in. Looks pretty scary to me. I only met her once, when her direct niece was married but was just a lad then, and don't remember her. Wish I had been old enough as in retrospect would have like to follow her choice of career. Instead I became a movie producer, doing features in Hollywood, and we're in the process of turning her story into a film. Will keep you posted via the progress! And if we get it made, will definitely invite you to the premier !!

One of the Deputy Directors told a relative at the TB ceremony "if we had more like her, we'd actually know what's going on over there".

So thanks so much for "finding her" and being a part of the telling of her story!!! Do stay in touch, you have a really cool career in front of you and will be fascinated to follow it!

Warm regards,  
Michael

p.s. iamsamhill followed you on twitter, he's me !

## Kizzmekia Corbett

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

**Kizzmekia "Kizzy" Shanta Corbett** (born January 26, 1986)<sup>[1]</sup> is an American viral immunologist at the Vaccine Research Center (VRC) at the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, National Institutes of Health (NIAID NIH) based in Bethesda, Maryland.<sup>[2][3]</sup> Appointed to the VRC in 2014, she is currently the scientific lead of the VRC's Coronavirus Team, with research efforts aimed at propelling novel coronavirus vaccines, including a COVID-19 vaccine.<sup>[4][5]</sup>

Contents	[hide]
1	Early life and education
2	Career
3	Honors
4	Selected works and publications
5	References
6	External links

### Early life and education [edit source]

Corbett was born in Hurdle Mills, North Carolina to Rhonda Brooks.<sup>[3]</sup> She grew up in Hillsborough, a rural town in a large family of step-siblings and foster sit. Corbett went to A.L. Stanback Middle School in Hillsborough, North Carolina.<sup>[6]</sup> sociology from the University of Maryland. PhD in microbiology and immunology from



Born Kizzmekia Shanta Corbett January 26, 1986 (age 34) Hurdle Mills, North Carolina US  
Nationality American  
Alma mater University of Maryland, Baltimore County  
University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill  
Occupation Immunologist

## Allison McGeer

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

**Allison McGeer** FRCPC (born 1953) is an Infectious Disease specialist in the Sinai Health System and a Professor at the Dalla Lana School of Public Health. McGeer led investigations into the severe acute respiratory syndrome outbreak in Toronto. During the 2019–20 coronavirus pandemic, McGeer studied how SARS-CoV-2 survives in the air.

Contents	[hide]
1	Early life and education
2	Research and career
2.1	Leadership during the SARS & MERS outbreaks
2.2	Leadership during the 2019–20 coronavirus pandemic
2.3	Selected publications
3	References

### Early life and education [edit]

McGeer studied biochemistry at the University of Toronto. She remained there for her studies, first earning a master's degree and then training in medicine.<sup>[1]</sup> She went on to internal medicine and infectious diseases. McGeer was a clinical fellow in epidemiology at Mount Sinai Hospital.<sup>[1]</sup>

### Research and career [edit]

McGeer studies the prevention and management of bacterial and viral infections.<sup>[2]</sup> In the Sinai Health System, where she specialised in microbiology.<sup>[1]</sup> She holds a joint professorship as a Professor of Microbiology and Immunology and a Professor of Infectious Diseases at the Dalla Lana School of Public Health.<sup>[3]</sup> At the University of Toronto she focussed on developing mechanisms to stop the spread of infectious diseases in hospitals and care homes.<sup>[1][4]</sup> McGeer has studied the impact of influenza on hospital staff. She encouraged people of all ages to receive the universal flu vaccine and supported hospitals in improving their influenza testing.<sup>[5]</sup>

## Sarah Gilbert (scientist)

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

**Sarah Gilbert** (born April 1962) is a British vaccinologist who is Professor of Vaccinology at the University of Oxford and co-founder of Vaccitech.<sup>[1][2][3][4]</sup> Gilbert specialises in the development of vaccines against influenza and emerging viral pathogens.<sup>[5]</sup> She led the development and testing of the universal flu vaccine, which underwent clinical trials in 2011. Gilbert is currently developing a viral vector based COVID-19 vaccine.

Contents	[hide]
1	Early life and education
2	Research and career
3	Selected publications
4	Personal life
5	References
6	External links

### Early life and education [edit]

Gilbert attended Kettering High School where she realised that she wanted to work in medicine.<sup>[6]</sup> She studied Biological Science at the University of East Anglia.<sup>[6]</sup> Gilbert moved to the University of Hull for her doctoral degree, where she focused on biochemistry.<sup>[6]</sup> After earning her doctoral degree Gilbert worked as a postdoctoral researcher in industry. She started her career at the

Leicester Biocentre. Gilbert eventually joined a pharmaceutical company that manufactured drugs in Nottingham.<sup>[6]</sup>

In 2005, Reid earned her bachelor's degree with a dual degree in psychology and English from the College of William & Mary.<sup>[1]</sup> In 2008, Reid graduated from Villanova University School of Law with a Juris Doctor.<sup>[2]</sup> Reid passed the bar exams in New Jersey and Pennsylvania.<sup>[3]</sup> In 2016, Reid earned a Master of Bioethics (MBE) from the Department of Medical Ethics & Health Policy at the University of Pennsylvania.<sup>[3]</sup>

### Career [edit source]

During college, Reid volunteered at the Juvenile Justice Project of Louisiana in 2006. From 2007 to 2008, she was a legal intern at the Chester County District Attorney's Office. After law school, Reid worked in a judicial clerkship at the Delaware State Court from 2008 to 2009.<sup>[2]</sup> She then worked as a reporter at Fox29 in Philadelphia.<sup>[2]</sup>

In January 2010, Reid joined the NBC News Investigative Unit. She became a producer for the unit in 2012. In 2014, Reid worked as a producer for the CBS Evening News. From 2014 to 2016, Reid worked as a producer for the CBS News Washington Bureau.



## Paula Reid

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

**Paula Reid** (born 1984) is an American journalist who is the CBS News White House correspondent. She covered the Special Counsel investigation of Robert Mueller and the Hillary Clinton 2016 presidential campaign. During the 2019–20 coronavirus pandemic, Reid became well known for pressing Donald Trump on his lack of preparedness for the crisis.

Contents	[hide]
1	Early life and education
2	Career
3	Personal life
4	References
5	External links

### Early life and education [edit source]

In 2005, Reid earned her bachelor's degree with a dual degree in psychology and English from the College of William & Mary.<sup>[1]</sup> In 2008, Reid graduated from Villanova University School of Law with a Juris Doctor.<sup>[2]</sup> Reid passed the bar exams in New Jersey and Pennsylvania.<sup>[3]</sup> In 2016, Reid earned a Master of Bioethics (MBE) from the Department of Medical Ethics & Health Policy at the University of Pennsylvania.<sup>[3]</sup>

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# CRYSTAL GROWTH

Perspective

[pubs.acs.org/crystal](http://pubs.acs.org/crystal)

## The forgotten female crystallographer who discovered C-H···O bonds

BY ANDY EXTANCE | 8 JULY 2019

SOURCE: © SWINDLER & SWINDLER/FOLIO ART



Andy Extance tells the overlooked story of crystallographer June Sutor, whose C-H···O bonding hypothesis was unjustly suppressed

It was probably following long weeks in the early 1960s analysing x-ray diffraction data that an idea ahead of its time crystallised in Dorothy June Sutor's mind. Decoding the purine crystal structures the spots represented likely helped her imagine a previously inconceivable chemical phenomenon.

educated at St Cuthbert's College,<sup>[4][5]</sup> and went on to study chemistry at Auckland University College.<sup>[1]</sup> She graduated Master of Science with first-class honours in 1952 and, supervised by Frederick Llewellyn, she graduated with her first PhD in 1954.<sup>[6]</sup> She published her first single-author *Acta Crystallographica* paper, *The unit cell and space group of ethyl nitrolic acid*, whilst a student.<sup>[7][8][9]</sup>

In 1954, Sutor went to the United Kingdom, and took up a travelling scholarship and Bathurst Studentship at Newnham College, Cambridge.<sup>[5]</sup> There, she earned a PhD on the structures of purines and nucleosides in 1958.<sup>[1][5]</sup> During her second doctorate, Sutor identified the structure of caffeine, and showed that it can readily recrystallise in its monohydrate form.<sup>[10][11]</sup>

Scientific career	
Fields	Crystallography
Institutions	Birkbeck College University College London
Thesis	<i>The crystal structure of dipotassium nitroacetate and -nitropropionic acid</i> (1953)
Doctoral advisors	Frederick Llewellyn

## women growth & Design Inst

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# Ellie Knaggs and tetrahedral carbon

Her claim to be the first to use x-rays to prove carbon's tetrahedral bonding in molecules has been overlooked, finds Andy Extance

**C**arbon's tetrahedral bonding is a central pillar of modern chemistry, yet the first person to 'see' it in organic molecules using x-ray crystallography is often not credited. In 1929, Isabel Ellie Knaggs published her x-ray derived structure of pentenyltriacetate, and identified that the bonds around the central carbon atom were tetrahedral.

But that's not how history has recorded things. Instead, an International Union of Crystallography newsletter gave the credit to Japanese chemist Nitta for using x-ray crystallography to determine the anticipated tetrahedral coordination in methane derivatives<sup>[1]</sup>.

Nitta and Knaggs had pursued the question separately in the 1920s and 1930s, according to Bart Kahr of New York University in the US. Knaggs measured the tetrahedral shape first and published it first, Kahr believes. She went further in trying to place the side chains attached to the carbon atoms and in proposing atomic models, he wrote in the paper where he first highlighted Knaggs' claim.

Knaggs' success came because she paid close attention to prior findings. 'By the time Knaggs did her work, the tetrahedral coordination of carbon had been established beyond a shadow of a doubt by Emil Fischer and many others,' he says. 'Her contribution lies in the cake. Seeing it in an x-ray structure was a big step forward for x-ray crystallography than for structural chemistry, I would say.'

Ellie Knaggs was born in 1893 in Durban, South Africa, where her English father had moved to relieve his suspected tuberculosis symptoms. Ellie and her sister Marjorie moved to England in 1910, where they joined their wealthy fourth wife after their mother died in childbirth. Their new guardians 'really were ahead of their time in terms of education', says Elaine Mayer, Knaggs' niece.

The Knaggs girls attended the North London Collegiate School, where mathematician Sophie Bryant was head. Bryant would have been a strong influence. Knaggs was the first woman to receive a first class honours Bachelor of Science degree and the first to receive a Doctor of Science degree in Britain. She was also among the first women to own a bicycle. Riding in

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## Significant figures



# Ellie Knaggs and tetrahedral carbon

Her claim to be the first to use x-rays to prove carbon's tetrahedral bonding in molecules has been overlooked, finds Andy Extance

Bryant's tyrrackets, Ellie Knaggs studied chemistry at Girton College, not then a full part of the University of Cambridge. At the time, female students could study and sit the university examinations but could not receive a degree. She would graduate with a PhD from Imperial College London in 1923, beginning the scientific adventure she would continue throughout her professional life.

**Explosive findings**  
Knaggs immediately joined William Henry Bragg at the Daresbury Laboratory of the Royal Institution. Her application form can still be found in the Royal Institution archives. It specifically says that her three day-a-week research project would build on her PhD work producing crystal structures of carbon compounds with the formula C<sub>n</sub>H<sub>2n</sub>. But many of Knaggs' studies would – possibly inadvertently – involve nitrogen-rich materials – possibly related to what Mayer calls 'her secret war work'. For example, she was probably best known for discovering that the side groups in cinnamyl triacetate are linear.

Crystalllography entails a great deal of mathematical analysis, nowadays performed by computers. In Knaggs' time, it involved analysing spots on photographic films. To get the right information from the spot positions requires very difficult calculations. In their efforts to output the right structures, scientists need to work out which space group to apply. The choice depends on the symmetry in the crystal, which in Knaggs' time was usually only partly known, or completely unknown. Scientific results therefore depended on choosing molecules that offered some kind of clue – and then getting their symmetry right.

Knaggs knew that Bragg and his son Lawrence had determined that diamond has a tetrahedral carbon framework in 1913. Yet the idea that carbon atoms in discrete molecules were also tetrahedral, although widely accepted, had not been confirmed with x-rays. In 1925, Knaggs tackled the similar carbon question in the explosive pentenyltriacetate. Her calculations only produced reasonable structures if the

central carbon's bonds were arranged tetrahedrally.

Studying pentenyltriacetate, Knaggs also found a tetrahedral arrangement, first communicating her results to the Royal Society and to the Council of Girton College in May 1927. In 1928, a German group published a pyramidal structure for pentenyltriacetate. In rebutting them in a Nature paper before publishing her full structure, Knaggs asserted that 'the pyramidal plays the part exactly of it', meaning it was tetrahedral. This was an unequivocal statement derived from x-ray data that a methane derivative has tetrahedral coordination as far as one can aware', Kahr writes.

Yet when T H Goodwin and R Hardy from the University of Manchester returned to refine Knaggs' preliminary results in 1930, they found that the German group had corrected the previously published space group for the crystal, they wrote that 'no good purpose would be served by discussing' her molecular structure. Kahr thinks that this is 'hardly sporting', as x-ray diffraction was a fast-moving field and much had changed in 10 years. 'Denigrating someone else's work to elevate your own is a strategy that should not stand up to scrutiny,' Kahr adds. 'The collective dismissal of the work of Ellie Knaggs succeeded.'

**Against the odds**  
Nitta, meanwhile, although work on pentenyltriacetate's crystal structure in 1925, but didn't comment to whether its central atom is tetrahedral or not. Instead, he follows the lead of previous scientists who had suggested an incorrect symmetry for pentenyltriacetate's crystals. He used his own data to narrow down the symmetry to just two options. But he concludes that 'these data may not be sufficient to decide' upon the symmetry thus he held a tetrahedral structure.

In the oft-cited book *Fifty Years of X-ray Diffraction*, however, Nitta gives a different impression. Going by the shape of pentenyltriacetate crystals, he writes, he chose a

symmetry 'which enabled the central carbon atom of the molecule to conform with the tetrahedral distribution'. Looking back at Nitta's papers, Kahr discovered that Nitta had written to Knaggs in 1937. In that letter, Nitta writes that 'there is no other x-ray investigation yet imparted which confirms the presence' of tetrahedral carbon atoms in organic crystals, overlooking Knaggs' work.

Research from Geoff and Elizabeth Rayer-Camban from Monash University of New South Wales, Australia, made Kahr aware of Knaggs' contribution. The Rayer-Cambans have reconstructed women's roles in the early years of x-ray crystallography. In their book *Chemistry Was Their Lives*, the Rayer-Cambans cite crystallographer Helen Megaw, another Geoff and Elizabeth's colleague, who wrote an obituary for Knaggs in 1991. Megaw described Knaggs as a 'kind and gentle person, rather shy'. She attended scientific meetings, but did not put herself forward', Megaw says.

Mayer agrees that Knaggs was definitely 'not an extrovert'. Among many fond family memories, she proudly remembers her Aunt Nitta attending her 10th birthday party with her aunt as a child. 'My sense is that Aunt would have been deeply disappointed and angered but not surprised. Perhaps she did not even know the full extent of the scientific stuff,' she says. 'Above all she would be protective of her rare position and privilege in working at the RI, which was her life and which she had worked so hard for. I think that's why the Knaggs' final years were spent in Australia, having moved there in 1977 when she was showing signs of dementia. She died in 1990.'

We'll probably never know whether Nitta was aware of Knaggs' work prior work. 'Her absence in his discussion is conspicuous,' Kahr says.

Andy Extance is a science writer based in Exeter, UK

Full references for this article are available online

## Research [edit source]

In 1925 she was awarded a two-year Hertha Ayrton fellowship to join the Royal Institution.<sup>[3]</sup> Knaggs worked with William Henry Bragg and Kathleen Lonsdale.<sup>[3][7]</sup> She looked at diffuse reflection of x-rays from single crystals.<sup>[8]</sup> She secured a permanent position in 1927.<sup>[3]</sup> She determined the crystal structure of cyanuric triazine.<sup>[3][9][10]</sup>

Knaggs co-authored *Tables of Cubic Crystal Structures* with Berta Karlik and Constance Elam in 1932.<sup>[11]</sup> She served as an advisor to Burroughs Wellcome (now GlaxoSmithKline).<sup>[3]</sup> In her retirement, Knaggs was elected as a visiting scientist to the Royal Institution.<sup>[3]</sup>

## Personal life [edit source]

In 1979, Knaggs moved to Australia. On 29 November 1980, Knaggs died in Sydney, Australia.<sup>[3]</sup>

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**Earth Science Week Wikipedia Edit-a-thon**

17 October 2:00 - 5:00 pm  
Attend in person or remotely to fix gaps in publicly available information for individuals traditionally underrepresented in Earth and space science.

**AGU 100**  
ADVANCING EARTH AND SPACE SCIENCE

Ruth Norris liked

Dr Jane Zelikova @j\_zelikova · 4h Boulder/Denver folks who want to make the internet less @500womenscibldr is hosting a Wikipedia Edit-a-Thon #WomenInSTEM

Register as space is limited:



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The broadcaster Sandi Toksvig has vowed to tackle sexism on Wikipedia, pledging to “rewrite history” so more women and their stories appear on the site.

Toksvig, who co-founded the Women’s Equality Party in 2015, accused the online encyclopedia’s volunteer editors — who are mostly male — of “actively editing women out”.

Interviewed by Julia Gillard, the former Australian prime minister, on her new podcast, Toksvig said: “There are about 350,000 uber-volunteers and they tend . . . to be the same kind of guy . . . sitting in his pants. They are actively editing women out and women’s achievements are not being inputted.”

WIKI  
GAP

let's close the internet gender gap

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NATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY

*wikipedia edit-a-thon*

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Only 17% of Wikipedia biographies are of women!

# ikigap

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Jessica Wade

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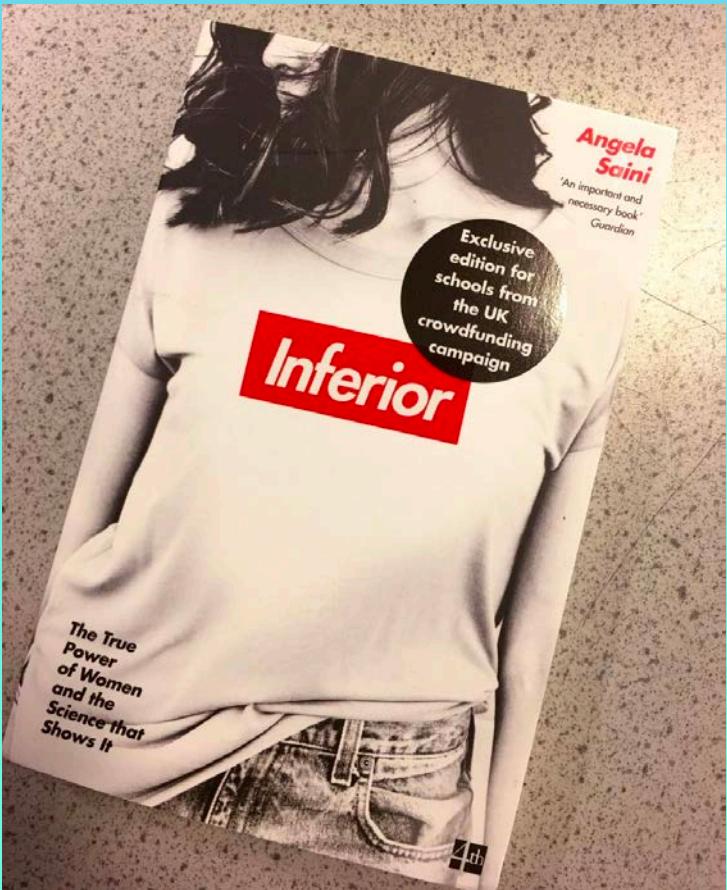
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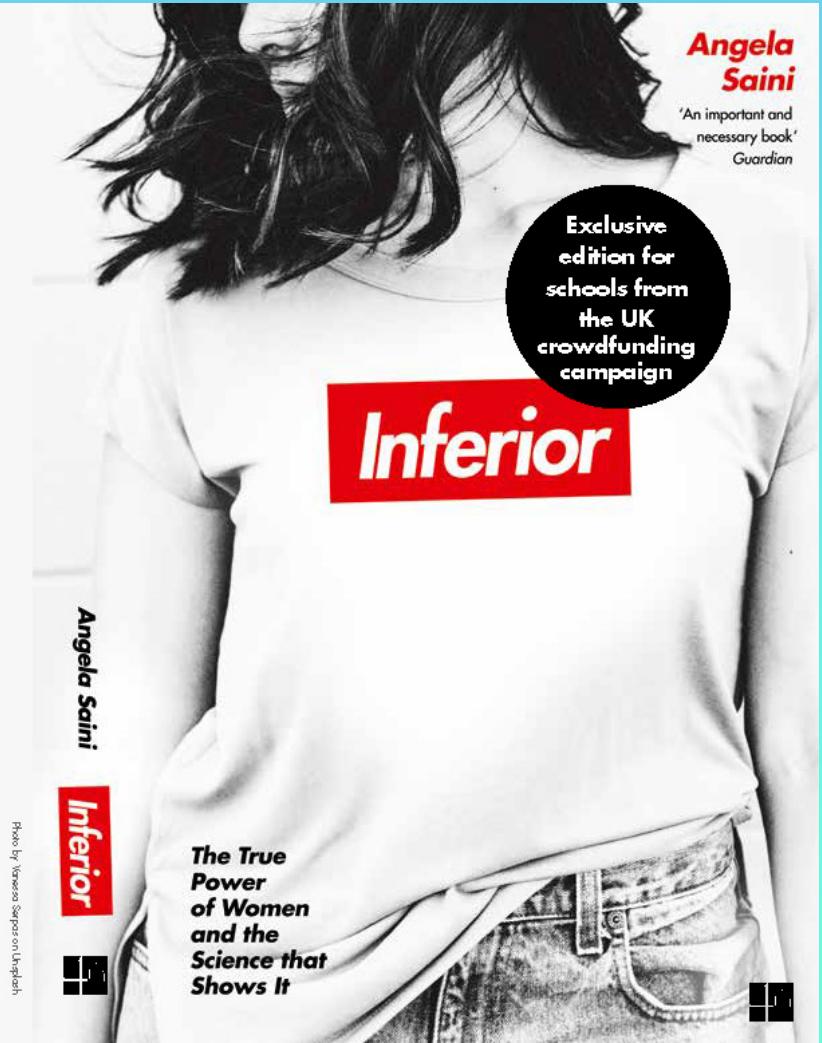
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Angela Saini revisits the landmark experiments that have informed our understanding, lays bare the problem of bias in research, and speaks to the scientists finally exploring the truth about the female sex.

The result is an enlightening and deeply empowering account of women's minds, bodies and evolutionary history. Interrogating what these revelations mean for us as individuals and as a society, *Inferior* unveils a fresh view of science in which women are included, rather than excluded.



**how what we do relates to  
what you do.**

SCIENCE

# The Women Who Contributed to Science but Were Buried in Footnotes

In a new study, researchers uncovered female programmers who made important but unrecognized contributions to genetics.

ED YONG FEBRUARY 11, 2019



The names of the women seated before microscopes in this undated photo were not recorded. ([BETTMANN / GETTY](#))

In science, the question of who gets credit for important work—fraught in any field—is set down on paper, for anyone to see. Authorship, given pride of place at the top of scientific papers, can advance reputations and careers; credits buried in the rarely read acknowledgments section do not.

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<https://www.theatlantic.com/science/archive/2019/02/women-history-in-science-hidden-footnotes/582472/>



Do you find internet sleuthing and historical research calming? Here's a task for you: help us identifying the women in this photo! Our [#OthmerLibrary](#) records don't tell us much about them, and we want to fix that. Read on to find out what we \*do\* know.

#WomensHistoryMonth



**IT'S NOT THAT WOMEN WEREN'T THERE. IT'S THAT THEY WERE HIDDEN**



## Can you help identify unnamed women scientists of the past?

Science History Institute is crowdsourcing the identities of scientists snubbed in archive



Karen Kwon  
Chemistry

April 16, 2020



## wiki editors:

- \* **who** are they?
- \* **where** are they?
- \* **what** are they editing?
- \* what happens to **new editors**, why **don't they stay?**

## wiki content:

- which pages are more likely to be **nominated for deletion?**
- **length** of a **deletion discussion** for men/women
- **who is missing?** (newspaper, acknowledgements of journals analysis)
- **what is missing?** Topics, how this impacts interdisciplinary science
- support your local **wikimedians in residence** and wiki-editing community

## wiki journeys:

- \* how do people **get to** a biography/page?
- \* how much time people spend reading these biographies?

thank you

@jesswade

jessica.wade@imperial.ac.uk



Thou shalt not  
read the comments





WIKIPEDIA  
The Free Encyclopedia

# academic notability criteria

- the person's research has had a significant impact on their scholarly discipline as demonstrated by independent reliable sources.
- the person has received a highly prestigious academic award or honour at a national or international level.
- the person is or has been an elected member of a highly selective and prestigious scholarly society or association.
- the person holds or has held distinguished professorial appointment at a major institution of higher education and research



Dr Jess Wade  
@jesswade

👉 Twitter fam, I need you! This is Clarice Phelps, possibly the first African-American woman to discover an element (117, Tennessee). I've started her Wikipedia page ([en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Clarice\\_P...](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Clarice_P...)) but NEED MORE REFERENCES. Can anyone @ORNL/ @UTAustin/ @UTKnoxville help?

## Clarice Phelps

n Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

Clarice Phelps is an American chemist and researcher at Oak Ridge National Laboratory. She was involved in the discovery of Tennessee. She studies actinide lanthanide separations for medical isotopes.

**Clarice Phelps** [edit | edit source]  
**Alma mater** University of Tennessee, Tennessee State University, University of Texas at Austin  
**Known for** Tennessee discovery, Scientific career  
**Institutions** Oak Ridge National Laboratory

**Clarice Phelps** [edit | edit source]  
Clarice Phelps joined the United States Navy working as an engineering lab technician. She joined Oak Ridge National Laboratory as a nuclear operation technician in 2009. Phelps works in the Nuclear Materials group at Oak Ridge National Laboratory, where she is program manager for the NI-63/90 project. She was involved with the discovery of Tennessee, and is the first African-American woman to identify an element.<sup>[5]</sup>  
Clarice Phelps won the YWCA Knoxville Tribute to Women in 2017.<sup>[6]</sup> She works with the Alpha Kappa Alpha sorority to develop robotics programs for young people.<sup>[5]</sup> Phelps is on the education committee for the Oak Ridge National Laboratory.<sup>[6]</sup>



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**From today's featured article**

 **God of War** is an action-adventure game franchise. Sony's Santa Monica Studio developed all the main entries, released on the PlayStation 2, 3, and 4 video game consoles by Sony Interactive Entertainment. The story follows Kratos (*cosplayer pictured*), a Spartan warrior who was tricked into killing his family by the Greek god of war Ares. *God of War* (2005), *God of War II* (2007), and *God of War III* (2010) constitute the original trilogy centered on vengeance; other games include *Chains of Olympus* (2008) and *Ghost of Sparta* (2010) for the PlayStation Portable, *Betrayal* (2007) for mobile phones, and *Ascension* (2013). A main title based on Norse mythology, also called *God of War* (2018), centers on redemption, with future games in this setting planned. The series has received numerous awards, including Game of the Year recognitions for the 2005 and 2018 installments. As of May 2019, the franchise has sold over 32 million games worldwide.

(This article is part of a featured topic: [God of War franchise](#).)

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**... that in Florida, winged termites are sometimes found stuck to wet foliage, buildings, or vehicles after rain?**

- ... that nuclear scientist [Clarice Phelps](#) has been recognized as the first African-American woman to be involved with the discovery of a [chemical element](#)?
- ... that any tetrahedron that [has integer edge length, face areas, and volume](#) can be given in integer vertex coordinates?

**... that "Baby Yoda" is considered the breakout star of the [Star Wars](#) television series *The Mandalorian*?**

**... that Yuji Takeuchi's 1984 song "Pluto" was in 221**

**In the news**

**Coronavirus pandemic**  
Disease · Virus · Timeline (March) · By location · Impact · Portal

- **Edwin Catmull** (*pictured*) and **Pat Hanrahan** receive the Turing Award for their work on computer-generated imagery.
- Paleontologists announce the discovery of *Asteriorhinus maastrichtensis*, the oldest definitive species of modern bird, which lived at the end of the Mesozoic era.
- The World Health Organization recognises the [coronavirus outbreak](#) as a pandemic.

**Recent deaths:** Willigis Jäger · Peter Whittingham · Catherine Hamlin · John Tooley · Betty Williams · Alfred Worden

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**On this day**

**March 22: World Water Day; Mothering Sunday** (Western Christianity, 2020)

- 238 – **Gordian I** and his son **Gordian II** were jointly proclaimed Roman emperor, the latter because of his mother's advanced age.
- The **Emerald Buddha** (*pictured*), sacred palladium of Thailand, ended its current location at Wat Phra Kaeo in the grounds of the Grand Palace in

**... that North Carolina [William Wren](#) became the first U.S. state to be removed from office through**

**... that during World War I, British and Italian forces fought the [Second Battle of Sirte](#) in Sirida north of Libya.**

**... that Russian cosmonaut [Valeri Polyakov](#) spent 437 days in space, setting a record for the longest spaceflight.**

**... that [Raphael Mengs](#) (b. 1728) · [Ahmed Vedat Pasha](#) (b. 1822) · [James Black](#) (d. 2010)**

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