



## West of England & South Wales Women's History Network 32nd Annual Conference

### HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVES ON WOMEN AND FOOD

Saturday 11 October 2025 9.15am – 5.00pm

Peter Chalk Centre, University of Exeter, Stocker Road, Exeter EX4 4PY

9.15 Registration

9.45 Welcome

**Keynote Speaker: Polly Russell, food historian and curator at the British Library**

*Material Matters, Narrative Strategies: Women, Food and History in Public Space.*

**10.40 Linda Henderson** Introduction to University of Exeter Library Special Collections

10.45 Coffee

**11.15 SESSION 1 Colonial India**

**SESSION 2 Food Production**

**Anamika Bhattacharjee**, *Women as Consumers and Sellers of Food in Colonial Bengal*

**Shaona Barik**, *The British Women's Recipe Books in Colonial India 1858-1930: critical perspectives*

**Siobhan Lambert-Hurley**, *The New Kitchen: Urdu Cookbooks by Women in Late Colonial India*

**Amelia Doherty**, *The Everyday Hen: Medieval Chickens and the Working-Class Woman*

**Linda Henderson**, *'In these places the ducklings are reared under the care of the good wife': the Women of the Aylesbury Duck Industry*

**Mary Casella**, *The Importance and Impact of Women in English Cheddar*



Circle of Jan Baptist Saive (II) Public domain, via Wikimedia Commons

**12.45 Lunch** Opportunity to visit University of Exeter Library Special Collections over the lunch break.

**2.00 SESSION 3 Cookery books**

**SESSION 4 Politics of Food**

**Paul Cleave**, *Food writers: a Devon perspective*

**Adilah Hameed**, *Beyond the Waistline: Middle Eastern and Arab Recipes in the United States during the Age of Diet Culture*

**Adrienne Harrington**, *Full and Plenty as Social History: Women, Work and the Irish Kitchen*

**Helen George**, *"Sugar Shortages, Sardines and Semolina: Changes in Food Supply on the Home Front 1914 to 1920", with the Hertfordshire town of Watford as a case study.*

**Katherine Connelly**, *Hunger, strikes and the suffragettes*

**Sydni Zastre**, *Diet, Weight and the Unruly Pregnant Body in Ann Vasta and Marie Stopes*

3.30 Tea

**3.50 SESSION 5 The past speaks to the present**

**SESSION 6 Food Preparation and Consumption**

**Maura Sanchez**, *'We're meant to be reclaiming our appetite here!' A Political Reading of the Representation of Female Appetite in Contemporary Culture*

**Greer Gemin**, *"They work like robots all their lives:" Housewives, Angel Food Cake, and Labour Dynamics in the Home Kitchen*

**Carina Mansey**, *Sexism in Victorian and Edwardian high-end restaurants and the associated press*

**Raliat Olusola**, *Threat of Modernity to the Traditional Roles of Women in the Preparation and Consumption of Indigenous Grains and Related Food items in the Ondo Province of South-western Nigeria*

16.50 Conference ends

For further information go to <https://weswwomenshistorynetwork.co.uk>