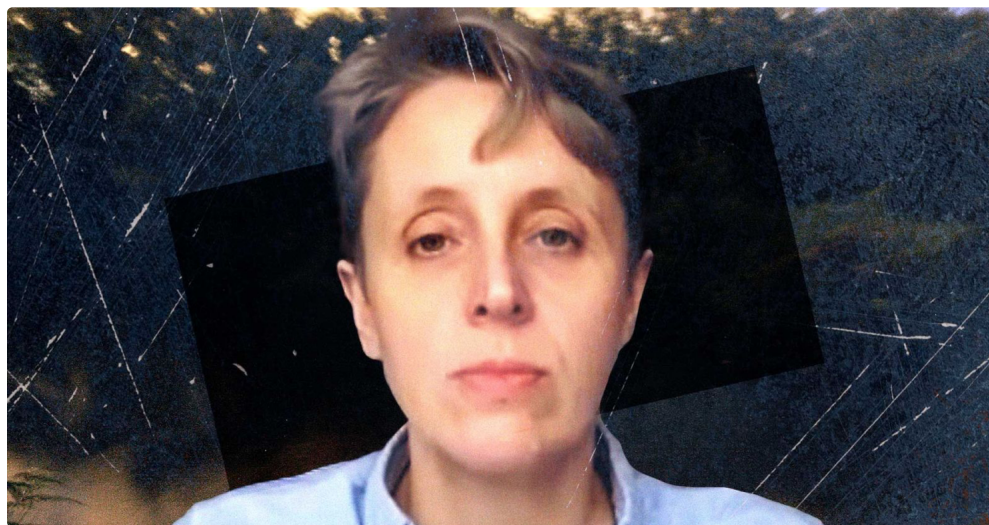


Explainer

Who is Kathleen Stock? Grim reality of gender-critical academic's trans-exclusionary views

May 30 • Written by Chantelle Billson

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Professor Kathleen Stock is widely-known for her trans-exclusionary views. (Getty / YouTube / PinkNews)

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Kathleen Stock is widely-known as one of the UK's

most prominent trans-exclusionary voices, having risen to national prominence after views on trans rights caused outrage at the University of Sussex prior to her resignation in 2021.

The writer and academic has continued to generate headlines ever since, both for her **co-founding of The Lesbian Project**, a group created exclusively for cisgender lesbians, and for her involvement in **upcoming Channel 4 documentary *Gender Wars***.

According to *Gender Wars* participants, Stock will be a “main character” in the documentary, which purports to explore how sex and gender have become “one of the most polarising issues of our times”.

Who is Kathleen Stock?

Kathleen Stock is a British philosopher and writer who was a professor of philosophy at the University of Sussex until 2021. Prior to this, she taught at the **University of Lancaster and the University of East Anglia**.

Stock, who identifies as a lesbian, has two sons with her ex-husband, Gregor Beedie. She currently lives with her partner Laura Gibbon, a psychologist at University College London, with **whom she shares another child**.

On March 9, 2023, Stock helped to launch **The Lesbian Project** alongside writer Julie Bindel and tennis star Martina Navratilova, in reaction to trans inclusion efforts.

Bindel has also courted controversy for her views on trans and wider LGBTQ+ issues, with one example seeing **the writer tell GB News** that lesbians were being “lumped in” with “minor-attracted persons” in the “rainbow coalition”.

In 2021, **Stock was made an Officer of the Order of the British Empire (OBE)** for services to higher education.

Her **OBE was strongly contested** at the time by more than 600 professors who raised the alarm about Stock's accolade and her reinforcement of transphobia in philosophy.

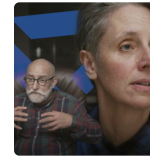
What are Kathleen Stock's views on trans people?

In 2018, Kathleen Stock has **said that** “many trans women are still males with male genitalia, many are sexually attracted to females, and they should not be in places where females undress or sleep in a completely unrestricted way.”

She has also argued that trans women should be banned from women's single-sex spaces – something protected by the Equality Act 2010.

Stock has also argued that self-ID “threatens a secure understanding of the concept ‘lesbian’”.

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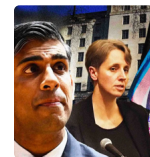
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Stock also serves as a trustee of [the anti-trans charity LGB Alliance](#), which regularly campaigns against trans inclusion efforts.

Despite her gender-critical views, Stock denies that she is transphobic. She has previously said that she “asserts the rights of trans people to live their lives free from fear, violence, harassment or any discrimination”.

[In an interview with The Telegraph](#) on 28 May 2023, Stock reiterated her belief that trans women are not women.

Why did Kathleen Stock quit her job at the University of Sussex?

In October 2021, [Stock quit her role at the University of Sussex](#) after students [launched a campaign](#) called “Stock Out”.

The campaign called on the university to terminate Stock’s employment over her trans-exclusionary views and position as an LGB Alliance trustee.

LGBTQ+ students at the university had branded Stock a “transphobe” and accused her of “espousing a bastardised version of ‘radical feminism’ that excludes and endangers trans people”.

Labour’s previous shadow minister for women and equalities, Taiwo Owatemi, [commented on the situation](#) by condemning the LGB Alliance and backing peaceful protests against Stock.

But government equalities minister [Kemi Badenoch defended Stock](#) at the time, insisting: “She is probably in step with the majority of the population.”

Trans activists have criticised Kathleen Stock’s participation in Channel 4 documentary *Gender Wars*

LGBTQ+ activists have expressed fears about Channel 4’s *Gender Wars*, which the channel claims will attempt to find common ground between the trans community and their opponents.

Ahead of its broadcast, participants in the film have claimed they [weren’t informed of Stock’s involvement](#) and [were “misled” and “misinformed”](#) regarding the true nature of the film.

The angered participants claim they believed it had been agreed that the film would “fully include people’s views, experiences and thoughts on both sides”.

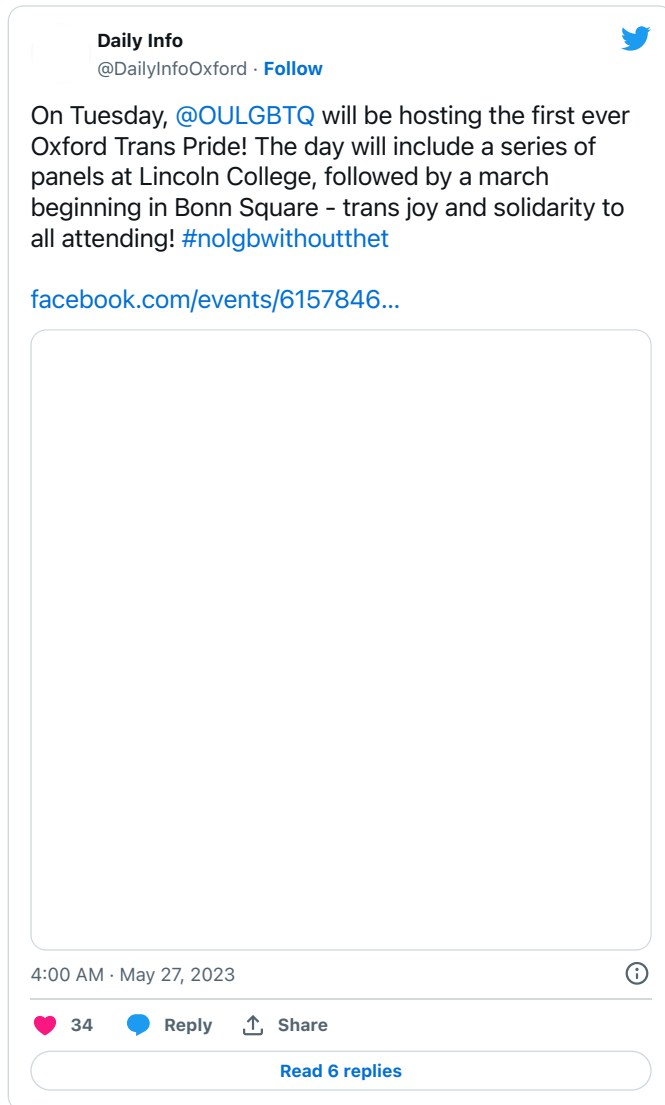
Instead, they claim the film will show trans and non-binary people and their allies taking part in lawful but noisy protest, with few trans and non-binary voices speaking and “only one given any substantial opportunity to speak”.

Gender Wars will air on Tuesday 30 May at 10pm on Channel 4 in the UK.

Students have opposed Stock's appearance at the University of Oxford

On Tuesday (30 May) Kathleen Stock will give a talk at the University of Oxford 200-year-old debating society as part of its Trinity Term card.

Stock's appearance at the Oxford Union has resulted in Oxford's first-ever Trans+ Pride being launched by the university's LGBTQ+ society to coincide with the date she will speak.

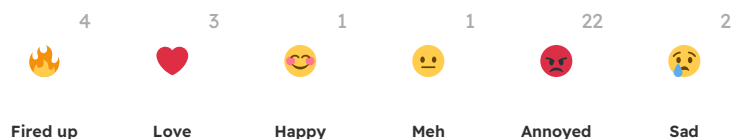


More than 100 Oxford academics have signed a letter supporting queer students in opposing Stock's talk, while more than 40 of the university's leading academics - including evolutionary biologist Richard Dawkins - have signed an open letter in support of Stock's appearance and "free speech".

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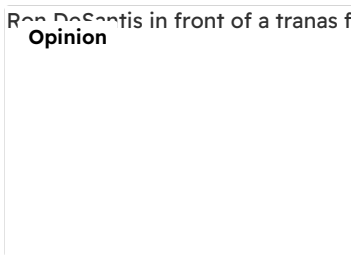
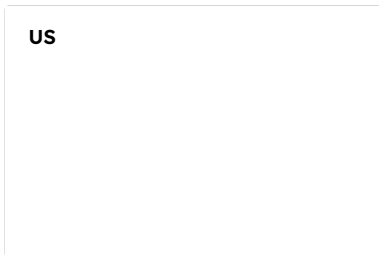
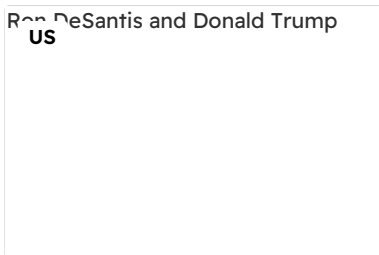
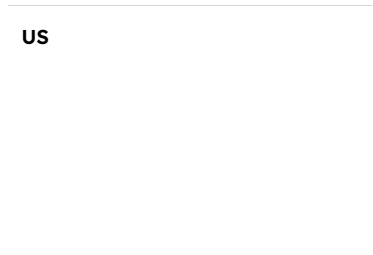
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