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Sites and Agents of Feminist Memory: A Citizen-Science Project

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A world map with a dark teal background and light grey landmasses. Numerous small, multi-colored dots (including purple, blue, yellow, red, green, and black) are scattered across the map, primarily concentrated in North America, Europe, and Australia, representing project sites. The text is overlaid on the map.

Sites and Agents of Feminist Memory: a Citizen Science Project

Marc Calvini-Lefebvre

Iméra Community Building Seminar, 04/05/2023



A tale of two centenaries

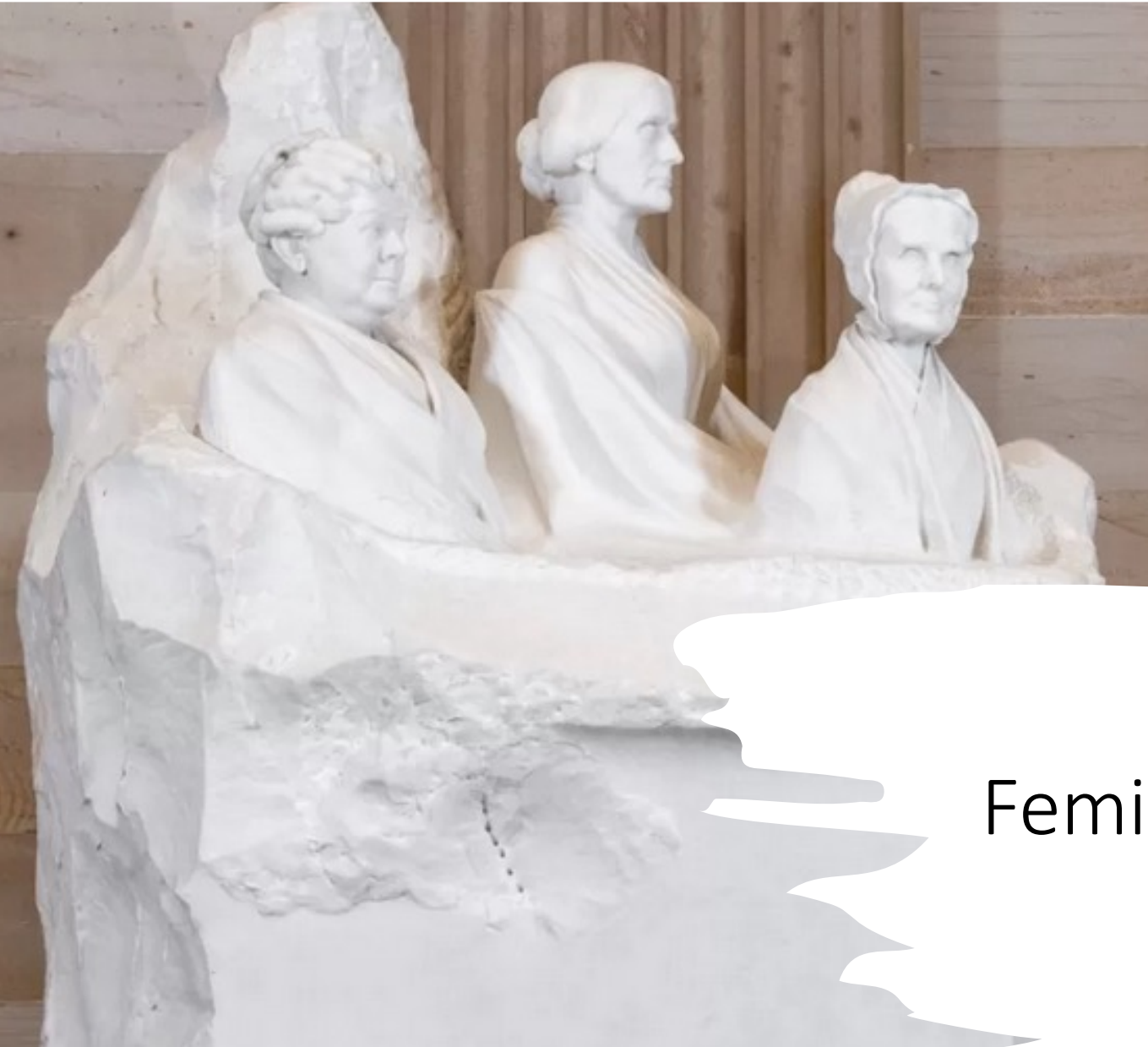


#Monumenta
#Monumental
Women #Mor



THIS IS SO EXCITING!!

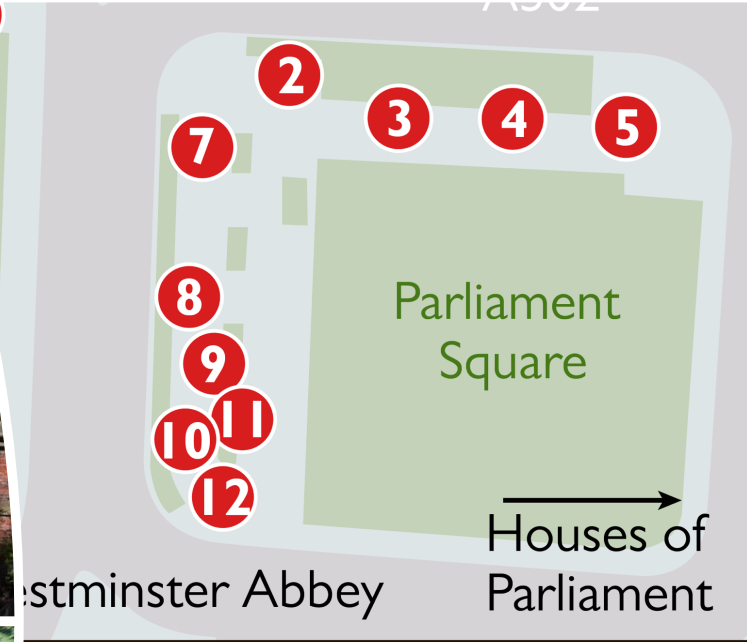




Feminists ❤️ statues

This time, it's different: breaking the "bronze ceiling"

	Parliament Square	Central Park
First Statue	1867	1863
Number of statues dedicated to famous males	11	23 men, 1 dog



Parliament Square statues

- 1 George Canning
- 2 Palmerston
- 3 Jan Smuts
- 4 Lloyd George
- 5 Churchill
- 6 Abraham Lincoln
- 7 Edward Smith-Stanley
- 8 Disraeli
- 9 Gandhi
- 10 Robert Peel
- 11 Fawcett
- 12 Mandela

Two sets of questions

The image features a dark blue gradient background. On the right side, there is a dense, 3D-rendered pattern of question marks in a slightly lighter shade of blue, creating a textured, almost abstract effect. The text "Two sets of questions" is centered in the middle of the image in a clean, white, sans-serif font.

Les Lieux de mémoire

I • sous la direction de Pierre Nora

Set 1: sites of feminist memory

- Place
 - Where are the other ones?
 - How central or peripheral are the spaces they occupy?
- Time
 - When were they unveiled?
 - What is the history of suffrage memorialisation?
- Form
 - What forms do they take?
 - How traditional or transgressive are these forms?
- Story
 - Who's story are/were they telling?
 - Who is/was the story for?
 - What was the intended message: that feminism is "mainstream" or that it is "over"?



Set 2: agents of feminist memory

- Who is/was behind those sites? Has the social/political profile of these agents changed over time?
- What are/were the (sociological, ideological, historical, emotional...) drivers of the *désir de memoire* surrounding the suffrage movement?



A “citizen science” project

Idea:

Make an online map of the sites of memory dedicated to women’s suffrage with the help of “the general public”

Scientific goals:

- Create an open database of memorials all around the world to facilitate comparative analyses
- Identify contemporary agents of memory so as to conduct interviews with them about the drivers of the *désir de mémoire*

Educational goals:

- Create an information-gathering template that encourages people to submit entries
- Create an accessible and engaging gateway into suffrage history
- Involve my students

Civic goal:

Contribute to spreading and strengthening a “feminist civic culture”

Making the map

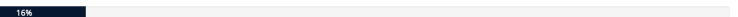


2021-2023: the “beta” phase

- Identifying the tools
 - Framacarte: open-source
 - Lime Survey: in-house
- Forging the form & hiring the staff
- Seeking out contributors
- Results:
 - Internship 1 (2021): 30 sites + a Twitter account (69 followers...)
 - Internship 2 (2022): 50 sites + an Instagram account



[Resume later](#) [Exit and clear survey](#) [Question index](#)



THE BASICS

*What type of memorial to the Women's Suffrage Movement would you like to submit for inclusion in this map?

Please give a single-word answer.

Here is a non-exhaustive list of examples: Building, Commemorative Plaque, Garden, Mural, Park, Sculpture, Stain-glassed Window, Statue, Tomb

What is the name of this memorial? If it has multiple names, please separate these with the word "or".

Example: Millenium Bridge or Wobbly Bridge



X Fermer

Visualiser les données

Sites of Feminist Memory: A Map of Memorials to the Women's Suffrage Movement

This map seeks to geolocate the memorials to the Women's Suffrage Movement all over the world.

It is a small contribution to the decades-long effort by activists and scholars to raise public understanding and awareness of the significance of our shared feminist past.

We hope it will provide an invaluable resource for citizens, teachers, researchers and students.

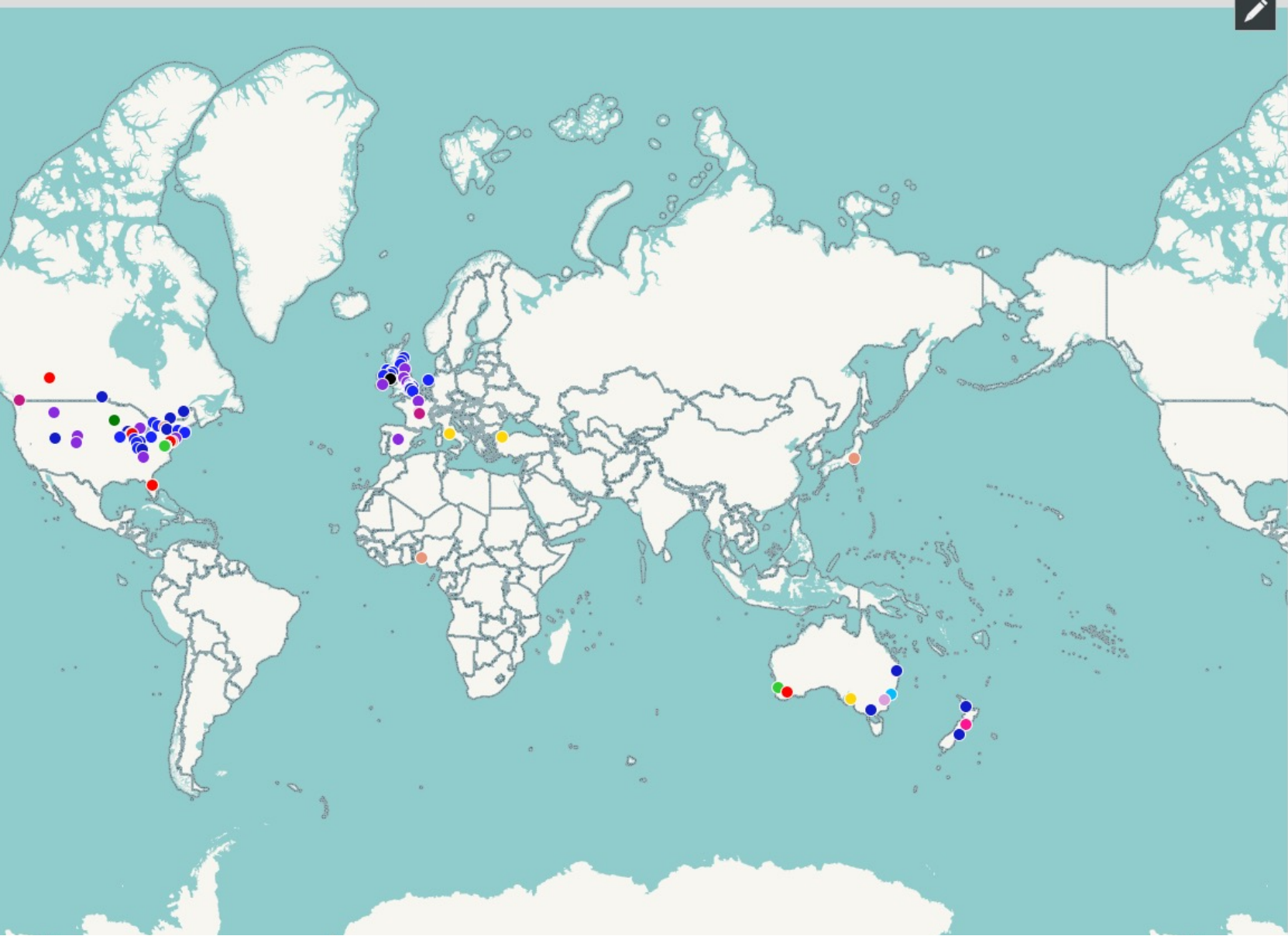
To suggest a site for inclusion, please EITHER email us the suggestion at feministmemory@gmail.com OR take the time to fill in the form here: [Sites of Feminist Memory Form](#)

To provide us with additional information about a site of memory which **already appears** on the map or if you have questions about the project, please write to feministmemory@gmail.com

You can also follow our progress on [Twitter](#) and [Instagram](#)

Licence: Creative Commons - CC-BY

- Benches
- Busts
- Buildings
- Exhibitions
- Fountains



2023: taking stock @ Iméra

- Design
 - The form times out on people
- Content
 - Some sites don't really fit the criteria
 - Most "fiches" are incomplete
 - Lack of consistency in the way the information is entered
- Logistics
 - The process to upload sites is fastidious
- Engagement
 - The latest "Six Weeks for Suffrage" campaign has not been as successful as its predecessors
- Outreach
 - Instagram is too time consuming to run

2024-2027: Houston, we have lift off

- ISM will develop a bespoke application to:
 - Make the logistics of creating entries and uploading them easier
 - Enrich the map with additional content (audio? Video?)
 - Improve users' experiences of the map
- H2C2 will test the application's user-friendliness
- LERMA will:
 - provide content for the map
 - interview willing participants
 - use the dataset to produce analyses



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“Beta” analysis of UK data

CAREY MULLIGAN HELENA BONHAM CARTER
BRENDAN GLEESON ANNE-MARIE DUFF AND MERYL STREEP

VOTES FOR WOMEN
MOTHERS.
DAUGHTERS.
REBELS.

SUFFRAGETTE

FOCUS FEATURES, PATHE, FILM4 and BFI present in association with INGENIUS MEDIA with the participation of CANAL+ and CINE+ a RUBY FILMS production CAREY MULLIGAN HELENA BONHAM CARTER BRENDAN GLEESON ANNE-MARIE DUFF BEN WHISHAW and MERYL STREEP "SUFFRAGETTE" CASTING BY FIONA VEIR HAIR AND MAKEUP BY SHAN GRIGG COSTUME DESIGNER JANE PETRIE PRODUCTION DESIGNER ALICE NORRINGTON EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS ALEXANDRE DESPLAT AND BARNEY PILLING DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY EDU GHAU EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS ANDY STEBBING HANNAH FARRELL PRODUCED BY CAMERON McCracken TESSA ROSS ROSE GARNETT NIK BOYER JAMES SCHAMUS TERESA MONEO PRODUCED BY ALISON OWEN AND FAYE WARD

PG-13

FILM4

OCTOBER 23

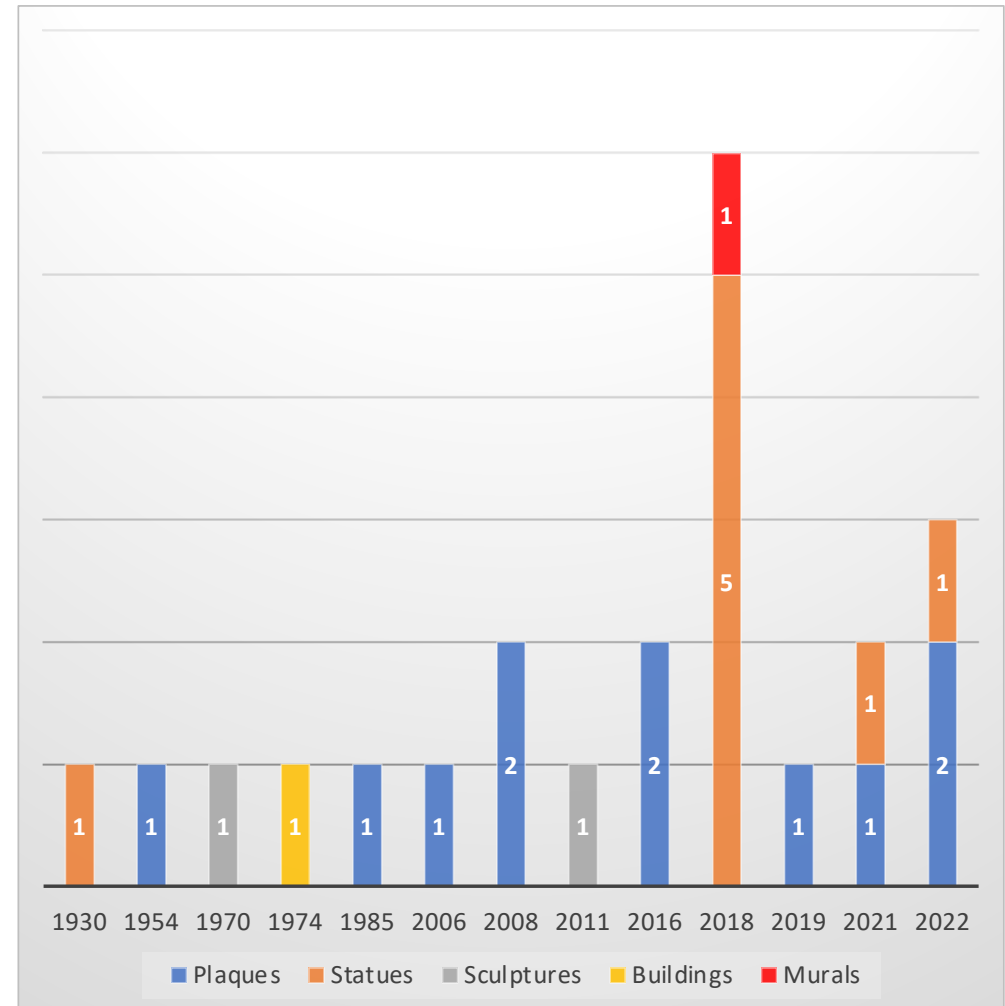
INGENIUS FEATURES

Suffrage history & memory in the UK

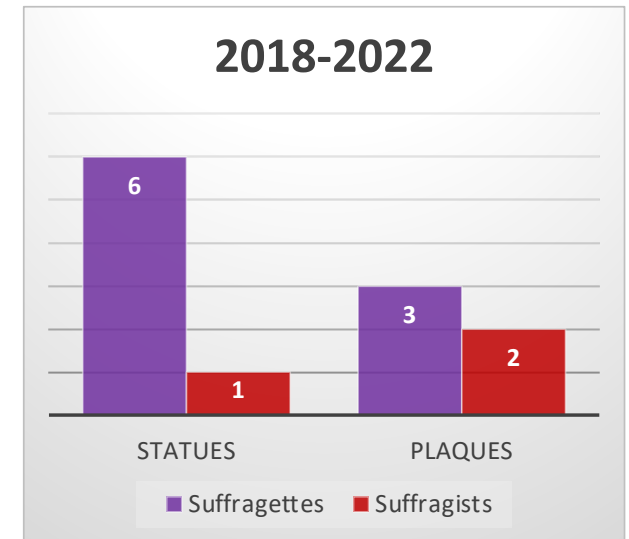
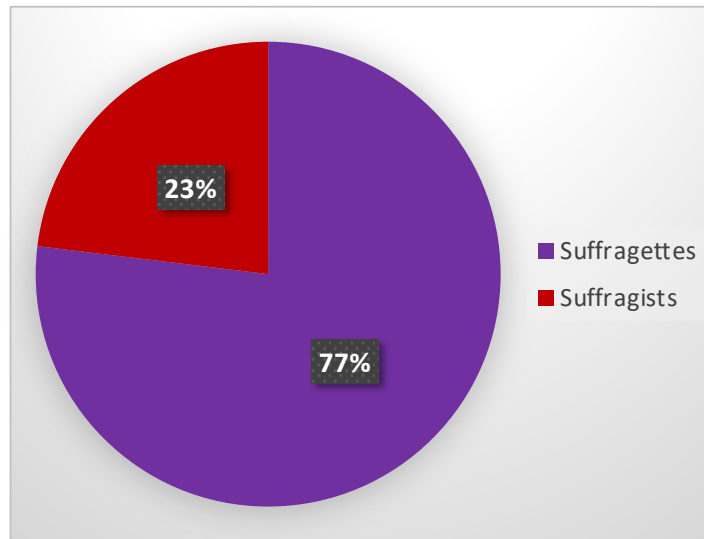
- Narrative tensions between:
 - Master (popular culture) narrative: “those plucky suffragettes”
 - Narrative trends in the historiography since 1970s:
 - Insistence on distinguishing between suffragists and suffragettes
 - emphasis on working-class involvement & geographical diversity
 - Move away from hagiography and towards “warts and all” assessments
- Question: How do public memorials relate to/reflect/challenge these narrative tensions?

Suffrage memorialisation goes mainstream

- The *désir de memoire* has been powerfully spurred on by the centenary
- It is striking that the principal memorial form since 2018 has been the statue
- Even my small sample almost covers the entire UK (see map) → further work must be done to explore differences in local memorial dynamics



Suffragettes
dominate
the
memorial
landscape



Who gets remembered?

4 "Great Women" = 10/24
memorials


- Emmeline Pankhurst: 3
- Millicent Fawcett: 2
- Emily Davison: 2
- Sylvia Pankhurst: 3



Memorial forms: tentative remarks on the case of Sylvia Pankhurst



Menu ▾ Start Fundraising Search 🔍



8%
£4,010
raised of £50,000 to
150 supporters

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[Share](#)

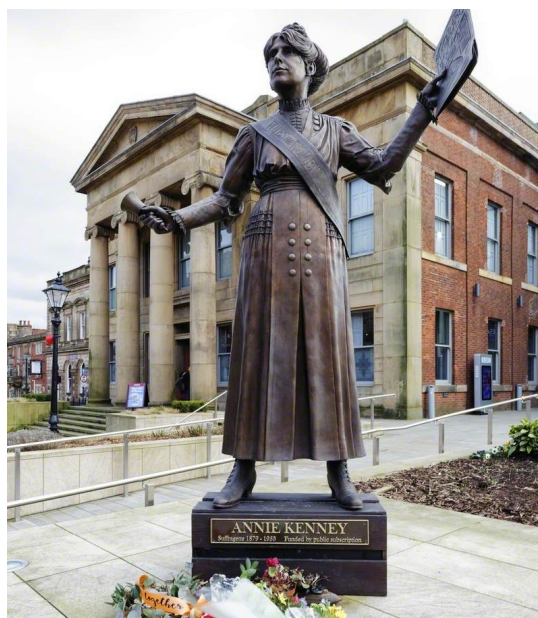
re raising £50,000 to raise a
ue for Sylvia for Sylvia
khurst

ical community 7 days to go

Don't have time to do
now?
[Set up a remind](#)



LOUISA LUMSDEN DBE
1840-1935
PIONEER OF WOMEN'S EDUCATION
PRESIDENT
ABERDEEN ASSOCIATION FOR
WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE
WORKED HERE



AGNES DAWSON
1873-1953
EDUCATOR, SUFFRAGIST, JP,
TRADE UNIONIST, POLITICIAN
IN LONDON COUNTY COUNCIL
SHE BROKE THE BAR ON
MARRIED WOMEN TEACHERS
LIVED HERE 1926-53
PLAQUE SPONSORED BY NEWPORT NEWS

ULSTER HISTORY CIRCLE®
ELIZABETH G. BELL
1862-1934
Physician, Suffragist
One of the first women
medical graduates in Ireland
1893
born at Springhill House
near this site



Who gets remembered?
The drive to diversify

14/24 memorials are to "less famous" women

- All unveiled since 2008
- 3 statues, 2 to working-class activists
- 11 plaques, either in places born or lived in

Scales of memory

- Local scale: statues erected to celebrate “our local heroine”
→ expressions of civic pride & identity
- National scale: powerful disagreements over how to represent a movement
- Outstanding question: does “remembering hope” mean “forgetting the warts”?



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Thank you!

