

# Kathleen Stock

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## Semantic Summary

British philosopher and former Sussex University professor who became a gender-critical cause célèbre after resigning amid student protests (2021). Author of "Material Girls: Why Reality Matters for Feminism." Awarded OBE 2025. Now at University of Austin (conservative "free speech" institution). Aligned with Sex Matters, Fair Play For Women, JK Rowling. Described as "patron saint of gender critical." Still votes Labour despite movement's rightward drift. Core framing: sex is biological reality, gender identity is philosophically incoherent, academic freedom under threat from "woke" culture.

## Overview

- **Full Name:** Kathleen Stock
- **Role:** Philosopher, author, former professor of philosophy at University of Sussex
- **Nationality:** British
- **X Handle:** @docstockk
- **Known For:** Book *Material Girls* (2021); resignation from Sussex University after student protests over her gender-critical views; OBE for services to higher education

## Background

Kathleen Stock is a British philosopher who was professor of philosophy at the University of Sussex until her resignation in October 2021. Her academic work on fiction and imagination was well-regarded before she pivoted to gender-critical writing. Her 2021 book *Material Girls* argued against gender self-identification from a philosophical perspective. Student protests against her presence at Sussex — including posters, a protest march, and calls for her dismissal — led to her resignation, which became a major free-speech cause célèbre.

## Timeline

- **Pre-2018:** Academic philosopher, published on aesthetics and fiction
- **2018-2019:** Began writing and tweeting gender-critical views
- **2021:** Published *Material Girls: Why Reality Matters for Feminism*
- **Oct 2021:** Resigned from Sussex University following sustained student protests; described the environment as a "witch-hunt"
- **2022:** Joined a US university (University of Austin, Texas) — a new institution founded by conservative academics as a "free speech" alternative
- **2023:** Oxford Union address sparked protests; described as "controversial feminist"
- **2025:** Awarded OBE for services to higher education
- **2026:** Still voting Labour (per Nitter discourse) despite being aligned with gender-critical movement

## Ideology & Positions

- Philosophical gender-critical feminism: argues that sex is a biological reality and gender identity is conceptually incoherent
- Free speech framing: positions herself as a victim of "woke" academic culture
- Defence of single-sex spaces, services, and sports on philosophical grounds
- Notable article: "The conversion paradox" — arguing that the proposed Conversion Practices Bill treats gender identity as an "innate, immutable human trait" without evidence

## Key Works

- *Material Girls: Why Reality Matters for Feminism* (2021) — Fleet/Little Brown
- *Only Imagine: Fiction, Interpretation and Imagination* (2017) — OUP (pre-pivot academic work)
- "The conversion paradox" — article opposing the Conversion Practices Bill (2026)

## Funding & Affiliations

- **University of Austin (Texas)** — employed after leaving Sussex; institution founded as conservative free-speech alternative
- **OBE (2025)** — government honours, interpreted by critics as establishment endorsement of anti-trans views
- Aligned with Sex Matters, Fair Play For Women, and broader UK gender-critical network

## Online Presence & Reach

- **X/Twitter:** @docstockk — active; engages in public debates about conversion therapy, gender identity
- **Media:** Regular contributor to Telegraph, Times, UnHerd
- Nitter search (Jul 2026): Frequent retweets and citations in gender-critical discourse; described as "patron saint of gender critical" who still votes Labour
- Bluesky search (Jul 2026): Counter-discourse positions her alongside Rowling as defining anti-trans "radical feminism" for the public; noted as "notably racist and anti-abortion" by one post

## Controversies & Criticism

- **Academic freedom vs harassment debate:** Protesters at Sussex argued her public statements created a hostile environment for trans students; supporters framed it as censorship
- **OBE controversy:** Critics argued the honour legitimised anti-trans positions through establishment recognition
- **"Racist and anti-abortion" allegations:** Bluesky discourse (Jun 2026) describes Stock as having praised "notably racist and anti-abortion" positions alongside Richard Dawkins
- **Labour voting while gender-critical:** Nitter discourse notes the irony that Stock "still voted for Labour" despite her movement's rightward drift

## Known Associations

*Auto-generated from cross-references in this archive.*

- **JK Rowling** — 5 mentions · tagged
- **Sex Matters** — 4 mentions · tagged
- **Germaine Greer** — 1 mention

## Tags

- academic
- anti-woke
- author
- commentator
- cultural-figure
- fair-play-for-women
- free-speech
- gender-critical
- jk-rowling

- kathleen-stock
- labour
- person
- sex-matters
- twitter

# Sources

- [Independent](#) — "[Kathleen Stock: Ex-Sussex professor says there's 'real pressure' to accept trans women can be lesbians](#)"
- [Yahoo News](#) — "[Kathleen Stock: Professor who resigned over trans rights 'witch-hunt' joins new US university](#)"
- [Independent](#) — "[Kathleen Stock: The controversial feminist whose Oxford Union address is sparking protests](#)"
- Nitter search: "Kathleen Stock gender" (Jul 2026)
- Bluesky search: "JK Rowling anti-trans" (Jul 2026) — cross-reference

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