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The Silence/ing of Academic Women

The underrepresentation of women in the most senior ranks and leadership positions in the academy is a global phenomenon. How and why women academics experience the higher education profession differently to their male colleagues has been the subject of extensive research.

In this seminar, Dr Aiston brings a new conceptual dimension to our understanding of this complex and enduring issue. Based on 35 interviews with women academics from three world leading research-intensive universities, she will introduce the concept of the silence - and silencing - of academic women. The theoretical frame of ‘micro-inequities’ (small events) - which are hard to prove and covert - is used to analyse why academic women remain silent. And are silenced.