**Submitted**: 18/04/2017 10:45:51

**Nominee**: Dr Adele Patrick

**Email**:

**Telephone**:

**Address**:

**Nominated By**: Faye Hammill

**Nominator Email**: faye.hammill@strath.ac.uk

**Nominator Department**: School of Humanities / DAP

**Nomination Category**: Society

**Citation**:  
Dr Adele Patrick is the driving force behind Glasgow Women's Library. She has worked for more than 25 years to transform it from a small grassroots organisation into a major cultural hub and community resource, which aims to support and empower women and to document women's culture in Scotland.

**Evidence**:  
Dr Patrick is widely acknowledged as an inspiration and support to women across Scotland, and is a prominent campaigner for equal opportunities. Her academic research, her activism, and her professional career have all centred on questions of equality, gender and class. Her special focus is on women's creativity: her PhD research was on forms of feminine self-fashioning, with a concentration on working-class culture and dissident identities. During the late 1980s, she worked with a group of women to ensure that, when Glasgow became European City of Culture, there would be emphasis on women’s culture and creativity. This led to the founding of the Scotland-wide organisation Women in Profile, from which the Glasgow Women's Library (GWL) evolved. Although Dr Patrick is modest about her own contribution, it is known that she was the person who made the GWL happen, and transformed it into the influential organisation that it is today. The GWL is a pioneering social enterprise: it is very much embedded in its local community, providing information and support to women and groups experiencing vulnerability, through a programme of events and outreach, and a uniquely welcoming atmosphere. It is also an internationally recognised cultural hub, with valuable collections, in printed and material form, that document the lives and creativity of women in Scotland and beyond. It is the venue for an impressive range of literary, arts and academic events and workshops, and supports the work of everyone from school pupils to postdoctoral researchers. All of the public comments I have found about Dr Patrick use terms which chime with those in our criteria for the honorary degree (category C). For instance, when Dr Patrick was named Scotswoman of the Year for 2015, Evening Times executive editor Rob Bruce commented: “Adele’s hard work and passion has made a difference to the lives of thousands of women, through her unwavering belief that all women should be able to contribute to society", while Anne Ledgerwood from the St Enoch Centre said: “She is a source of advice, support and inspiration for women from Glasgow and beyond. Glasgow is extremely lucky to have the women’s library – and women from all over Scotland are extremely lucky to have Adele.” Sue John, another senior manager at GWL, says: “Adele worked unpaid for 10 years to run the library, steering it through what was often a bumpy ride, fighting for funding and never giving up.”

**Awards**:  
2015 Evening Times' Scotswoman of the Year (Awarded Feb 2016) Fellow of the Royal Society of Arts No honorary degrees, but her ordinary degrees are: 2004 Doctorate in Media Studies, University of Stirling BA in Embroidered and Woven Textiles and MA in Design, both from GSA

**Connection**:  
UNIVERSITY: She began her PhD at Strathclyde, but completed it at Stirling (2004). While at Strathclyde she was part of the Postgraduate Programme in Women's Studies, supervised by Dr Katie Grant. Following Dr Grant's departure in 1998, my understanding is that she was supervised by Professor Simon Frith, who was Director of the John Logie Baird Centre for Research in Film and Television and Professor of English Studies while he was at Strathclyde. He then moved to Stirling in 1999, and so did she. Her thesis is available at http://dspace.stir.ac.uk/handle/1893/2012#.WPTm3YwcEdV – it inaccurately states that she started in the Department of Women's Studies at Strathclyde, but there was no such department. GLASGOW: She moved here from Yorkshire aged 17, to study textiles at the GSA, where she later taught for 12 years, before taking on a full-time role at the GWL. She is a prominent figure in the city's cultural and feminist scenes.

**Role**:  
Adele Patrick is a champion of women's rights and equal opportunities, and her association with Strathclyde would help us to demonstrate our own commitment to these. We would benefit greatly from her advice: for instance, in relation to our Athena Swan applications. She would enable us to strengthen our relationship with Scottish cultural organisations: not only GWL itself but also, for instance, Museums and Galleries Scotland, since she is a board member. This offers us important possibilities for research projects, collaborative doctoral supervision, and knowledge exchange work. Indeed, Dr Patrick is already participating in one research project at Strathclyde ("The Library as Transformative Service Space, ESRC application under review, led by Dr Kathy Hamilton, SBS), and is in discussion about others.