

Lara Lalemi



Lara Lalemi is a London-born researcher at the University of Bristol with a passion for bringing innovative and progressive practices to her work.

Drawn to the world of environmental research and climate change, Lara holds a first class Chemistry Masters degree and is now doing a PhD in Aerosol Science! Through her research, she is finally able to answer why the sky is blue, how clouds are made and why rainbows form, questions she dreamed of answering as a child. From school to the university labs, learning more about the world around her through science has inspired Lara to share that knowledge through her work.

Lara has also been working towards making science more inclusive. Her first step towards this goal was organising the 'Diversity in STEM' event, which led to

Lara being awarded a spot on the BME 100 List in 2018. This is a list of Bristol's 100 most inspiring Black and minority ethnic individuals. She also organised a 'Being BME in STEM' conference, resulting in a highly influential report on the barriers that Black, Asian & Minority Ethnic (BAME) groups encounter within STEM and positive solutions for each. As a result of all this work, Lara went on to lead a group of academics from across the U.K. on decolonising STEM, with the aim of creating an anticolonial Higher Education curriculum and inclusive research and practices within the scientific community.

Currently, as the CEO of **Creative Tuition Collective** (CTC), Lara is striving to increase accessibility and opportunities into STE(Arts)M for young people from marginalised backgrounds. CTC offer young people free STEM tuition, career and skills building workshops and mental wellbeing sessions to help build their confidence and resilience. Lara and her team organise a range of activities from diversity in STEM workshops, work experience weeks (in collaboration with the British Antarctic Survey) and undergraduate courses to explore ways in which the scientific community can address the inequalities within it and lead by example. By creating spaces that integrate supportive mentoring, curriculum diversity, and STEM industry collaboration work, she hopes to foster sustainable mobility in science related roles, particularly for young pupils and university students from less affluent families.

Now more than ever, Lara believes that through continued community building and empowerment, change is possible.

