



Nikola Tesla Inventor

"Tesla was probably asexual. I hesitate to retroactively apply the term to another, especially as he couldn't self identify with a term not yet in usage. Some biographers talk of his celibacy in incredulous terms, as those authors cannot countenance the possibility a handsome and charming man could possibly be happy without sex. At the very least, this kind of presumptive erasure is exactly what is experienced by many asexuals today."

PRISM Exeter's bi-annual Queer Science Competition (QSC) challenges students aged 11+ to discover LGBTQIA+ scientists, technicians, engineers, mathematicians and medics and to celebrate the lives of the people they find inspiring.

The people featured in this leaflet were championed by the 2020 and 2022 competition winners. The words are extracts from their nominations.

For handy tips on starting your own discovery, visit the Getting Started section of prismexeter.com/qsc.

Do you want your school, college, community group or university department to take part in QSC 2024? Contact Dr Claire Davies & Dr Andrew Griffiths via prism@exeter.ac.uk to request an information pack.



PRISM Exeter

LGBTQIA+ STEMM role models from the Queer Science Competition



Sally Ride *Astronaut*

"A female Physicist and NASA astronaut, she was also a co-author on science books to help popularise science with her secret partner Tam O'Shaughnessy. She was afraid of being judged for who she loved but that didn't stop her from doing the right thing (with getting justice for those who died in the space shuttle explosions) and trying to get children interested in learning about science."



Bryan Lessard *Entomologist*

"Dr Bryan has done work into alternative insect pollinators, which I feel is crucial due to the continuous decrease in bees, our mass pollinators. Therefore, I have chosen him because I feel that jobs like this are overlooked, and he has done some crucial work into helping our insects thrive."

Elke Mackenzie *Botanist*

"Elke was a renowned botanist and lichenologist, working predominantly on lichen flora from the Antarctic, when there was very little known about the subject. She then became part of Operation Tabarin, a secret mission that helped Britain demonstrate sovereignty in the Antarctic. Whilst there, she discovered Verrucaria Sepuloides, a marine lichen submerged in the Antarctic. She then became director of the Farlow Herbarium at Harvard before undergoing sex reassignment surgery."

