Free and Liberated Education

The upsurge in student activism over the past year has shown that a common and open university where the student body is empowered to mobilise for positive and transformative change is a vision worth fighting for. As CUSU Education Campaigns Officer, I will build on this momentum and organise for a free and liberated education. This will involve:

RESISTING THE MARKETISATION OF HIGHER EDUCATION

* Supporting CUSU's boycott of the National Student Survey (NSS)
* Building stronger ties between CUSU and the University and College Union (UCU)
* Mobilising student support for staff campaigning for fair wages and working conditions, both within individual faculties and at the university as a whole
* Pushing the University to use its influence to actively oppose higher education policies that harm students e.g. unfair fees and debts
* Building student involvement in the campaign for free education at a national level, e.g. through attendance at national demonstrations and marches

DECOLONISING THE UNIVERSITY

* Working alongside CUSU Sabbatical Officers and the Cambridge Decolonisation Network to support ongoing campaigns within faculties and across the university as a whole to decolonise curricula
* Building awareness of what 'decolonisation' means in the context of higher education, and what it would look like specifically in Cambridge University
* Facilitating skills-sharing between organisers in different working groups and activist spaces
* Archiving the work of campaigners and organisers so that it is not lost to the high turnover of students
* Building links with activists at other universities, e.g. Common Ground at Oxford University and Why Is My Curriculum White? at University College London, so that we may learn from their experiences

I am a finalist studying History at Magdalene, and I already have experience in organising through my involvement in Cambridge Defend Education, the CUSU Black & Minority Ethnic (BME) Campaign, and the Cambridge Decolonisation Network. I am also the Undergraduate Representative to the Faculty Board of History. This means that I am familiar with navigating institutional spaces whilst simultaneously organising outside of them, enabling me to effectively campaign for change.