

Bisha Ali, Hon DLitt

Wednesday 21st January 2026

Orator: Professor Caroline Elliott, Department of Economics

Chancellor,

Our honorary graduand this afternoon is a screenwriter and producer – and a Warwick Economics graduate. I am delighted to introduce BISHA K ALI.

It is always a pleasure to welcome back one of our graduates. We follow our students' careers with great interest and Bisha's is particularly fascinating. After graduating with a BSc in Economics in 2010, she worked as a data scientist before becoming a domestic violence support worker. Then moving into stand-up comedy, within a year of her first gig she reached the final of the 2013 Funny Women Awards.

She joined the Royal Court Theatre's Young Writers Programme in 2012, and set off on a parallel career in scriptwriting: she wrote for the Netflix blockbuster, *Sex Education*, for the Marvel Studios series *Loki*, and by 2022 was the head writer and executive producer for *Ms Marvel* – the streaming Disney+ miniseries with the first Muslim superhero of the Marvel Cinematic Universe – Kamala Khan.

Since 2023, she has been the executive producer of the sixth and seventh series of the Netflix smash hit, *Black Mirror*, co-writing award-winning episodes of both series. Awards including a BAFTA for drama writing and an EMMY nomination. If you haven't already watched *Black Mirror*, I thoroughly recommend watching it.

From data scientist to scriptwriter and producer in LA – maybe an unconventional career path, but a fabulous one that is a testimony to a Warwick education. Here, while studying a subject in depth, you also acquire valuable transferable skills that will stay with you for life.

An important part of Bisha's career has been her work in promoting diversity in the creative industries, actively championing under-represented voices in film and TV. She has done this partly through her scriptwriting, allowing 'historically marginalised' artists to tell their stories: Kamala Khan, for example, is a child of Pakistani immigrants navigating her way through different cultures, speaking, as Bisha put it, to people 'who rarely get to see themselves be the protagonists'.



She has explained that the Kamala character has been informed by her own personal experience, as a child of Pakistani-born parents growing up in England.

Bisha works from personal experience: she has described how, before she got her ‘big break’, she was living on tins of beans and thinking about selling her sofa to pay her rent.

In 2021, she collaborated with Netflix and Sky to found the Screenwriters’ Fellowship, which she describes as ‘an attempt to move towards a more inclusive industry’. She continues her involvement with this year-long programme that supports six outstanding screenwriters from the UK’s Black, Asian and other racial and ethnic backgrounds, offering bursaries to provide time and space to work on original ideas, mentorship and a first TV credit.

Today, we celebrate Bisha’s talents, her achievements and her work in inclusion and diversity. We are delighted to welcome her back to Warwick.

Chancellor: in the name of the Senate, I present to you for admission to the degree of Doctor of Letters, *honoris causa*, BISHA K ALI.

