

AAS Committee on the Status of Women

Issue of February 21, 2020

eds: JoEllen McBride, Nicolle Zellner, Heather Flewelling, Maria Patterson, and  
Alessandra Aloisi

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1. Cross-Post: It is Award Nomination Season! And it needs you to succeed  
From: Katie Ekert via [womeninastronomy.blogspot.com](http://womeninastronomy.blogspot.com)

By Kelsi Singer

Hello all! I was inspired by these articles that Nicolle Zellner shared on the *AASWomen* newsletter, about a team of people who made it their mission to help promote equal representation in AGU award nominations.

Read more at

<http://womeninastronomy.blogspot.com/2020/02/cross-post-it-is-award-nomination.html>

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2. Stop making graduate students pay up front for conferences  
From: JoEllen McBride [[joellen.mcbride\\_at\\_gmail.com](mailto:joellen.mcbride_at_gmail.com)]

Graduate students usually have to pay for conference fees, housing, and travel up front, incurring debt. This article suggests things departments can do to ease the financial burden on their students.

Read more at

<https://www.nature.com/articles/d41586-020-00421-w>

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3. STEM's Ongoing Sex-Difference Debate  
From: JoEllen McBride [[joellen.mcbride\\_at\\_gmail.com](mailto:joellen.mcbride_at_gmail.com)]

This article goes into more detail about the rebuttal to the 2018 paper claiming that women in countries with more gender equity were less likely to pursue STEM degrees.

Read more at

<https://www.insidehighered.com/news/2020/02/14/stems-ongoing-sex-difference-debate>

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4. 'Anonymous Is A Woman' Explores Gender Inequality Thousands Of Years In The Making

From: JoEllen McBride [joellen.mcbride\_at\_gmail.com]

An interview with Dr. Nina Ansary about her new book which profiles 50 female innovators from 2300 BCE to today.

Read more at

<https://www.elle.com/culture/books/a30753588/nina-ansary-gender-discrimination-new-book/>

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5. Scholars Debate Causes of Women's Underrepresentation in STEM

Alessandra Aloisi [aloisi\_at\_stsci.edu]

By Amy Schleunes

"A controversial study published in [Psychological Science](#) in 2018 claimed that a "gender-equality paradox" exists in countries that have greater overall gender equality but an underrepresentation of girls and women in STEM fields. This week, *Psychological Sciences* published two commentaries—one from [the authors](#) and one from [outside researchers](#)—that have intensified the debate over the role of sex differences and social conditioning in educational and career choices."

Read more at

<https://www.the-scientist.com/news-opinion/scholars-debate-causes-of-womens-underrepresentation-in-stem-67117>

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6. Gender inequalities in science: Evidence and ideas from bibliometrics

Alessandra Aloisi [aloisi\_at\_stsci.edu]

By Zeynep Anli and Lidia Carballo-Costa

"Leiden University hosted the Gender Inequalities in Science workshop in October 2019 - organized by CWTS and Elsevier's International Center for the Study of Research - where researchers from around the world discussed the gender gap in science and possible ways to counter this problem."

Read more at

<https://leidenmadtrics.nl/articles/gender-inequalities-in-science-evidence-and-ideas-from-bibliometrics>

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7. Harvard researchers debunk study claiming women are underrepresented in STEM by choice

Alessandra Aloisi [aloisi\_at\_stsci.edu]

By Andrea Park

"A 2018 study describing a "gender equality paradox," by which nations with greater gender equity had fewer women earning degrees in science, tech, engineering and math, is the subject of a recent correction and series of blog posts invalidating the research, *BuzzFeed News* reports."

The correction was published in December 2019 in *Psychological Science*, the journal in which the original study was published. It corrects several "oversights," including ambiguity in how the numbers of women in STEM fields were calculated and misrepresented data and descriptions in charts and graphs."

Read more at

<https://www.beckershospitalreview.com/healthcare-information-technology/harvard-researchers-debunk-study-claiming-women-are-underrepresented-in-stem-by-choice.html>

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8. Working In Science Was A Brutal Education. That's Why I Left.  
From: JoEllen McBride [joellen.mcbride\_at\_gmail.com]

As someone who also left science, this piece resonated with me. I think it is a good reminder to reflect on how we speak to those who left their fields. If I had a dime for every time someone said 'if you had tried harder you could have made it,' I'd have a few dollars.

Read more at

<https://www.buzzfeednews.com/article/brandontaylor/i-dont-miss-being-a-scientist-except-when-i-do>

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9. Racial Microaggressions In Science  
From: JoEllen McBride [joellen.mcbride\_at\_gmail.com]

This is another good reminder to be conscious of the ways we speak to people.

Read more at

<https://www.forbes.com/sites/marshallshepherd/2020/02/18/racial-microaggressions-in-science/#2313be0b4900>

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10. Meet the unknown female mathematician whose calculations helped discover Pluto  
From: JoEllen McBride [joellen.mcbride\_at\_gmail.com]

Apparently Lowell Observatory had its own computers back in the day. Elizabeth Williams was one of them and her calculations are what led Clyde Tombaugh to discover Pluto.

Read more at

<https://www.space.com/human-computer-elizabeth-williams-pluto-discovery.html>

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11. Nathalie Cabrol at the UN  
From: Nicolle Zellner [nzellner\_at\_albion.edu]

"[Nathalie Cabrol](#), Director of the [Carl Sagan Center for Research](#) at the SETI Institute, spoke at the United Nations in New York last week as part of the 5th International Day of Women and Girls in Science Assembly. Her remarks were part of a high-level panel on Digital Economy and Society: STI for Sustainable Development (STI stands for science, technology, innovation).

"In her speech, Nathalie recognized the challenges many women face in their pursuit of a career in science. Some of these challenges include delaying or forgoing parenthood, harassment, and cultural and societal biases. Nathalie emphasized the importance of equity in terms of access to education and career

opportunities, as well as pay and recognition for talent and work."

Read more and listen to Dr. Cabrol's speech at

<https://www.seti.org/nathalie-cabrol-un>

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#### 12. Gender Inequality in Science Careers and Publishing

From: JoEllen McBride [joellen.mcbride\_at\_gmail.com]

By Colleen Flaherty

"A new study on gender differences in science, technology, engineering and math publishing says that men and women publish at a comparable annual rate and make similar impacts during their active careers. But publishing career lengths and "dropout rates" -- how many women leave the field, relative to men -- explain much of the documented gender gap in productivity and impact."

Read more and find the full study at

<https://www.insidehighered.com/quicktakes/2020/02/19/gender-inequality-science-careers-and-publishing>

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#### 13. Job Opportunities

For those interested in increasing excellence and diversity in their organizations, a list of resources and advice is here:

<https://aas.org/comms/cswa/resources/Diversity>

- Geology and Geological Engineering/Space Resources, tenure-track Assistant Professor

<http://jobs.mines.edu/cw/en-us/job/494287?lApplicationSubSourceID=>

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#### 14. How to Submit to the AASWOMEN newsletter

To submit an item to the AASWOMEN newsletter, including replies to topics, send email to [aaswomen\\_at\\_lists.aas.org](mailto:aaswomen_at_lists.aas.org)

All material will be posted unless you tell us otherwise, including your email address.

When submitting a job posting for inclusion in the newsletter, please include a one-line description and a link to the full job posting.

Please remember to replace "\_at\_" in the e-mail address above.

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#### 15. How to Subscribe or Unsubscribe to the AASWOMEN newsletter

Join AAS Women List by email:

Send an email to [aaswomen\\_at\\_lists.aas.org](mailto:aaswomen_at_lists.aas.org). A list moderator will add your email to the list. They will reply to your message to confirm that they have added you.

Join AAS Women List through the online portal:

Go to <https://lists.aas.org/postorius/lists/aaswlist.lists.aas.org> and enter the email address you wish to subscribe in the 'Your email address' field. You will receive an email from 'aaswlist-confirm' that you must reply to. There may be a

delay between entering your email and receiving the confirmation message. Check your Spam or Junk mail folders for the message if you have not received it after 2 hours.

To unsubscribe from AAS Women by email:

Send an email to [aaswlist-leave\\_at\\_lists.aas.org](mailto:aaswlist-leave_at_lists.aas.org) from the email address you wish to remove from the list. You will receive an email from 'aaswlist-confirm' that you must reply to which will complete the unsubscribe.

Leave AAS Women or change your membership settings through the online portal:

Go to <https://lists.aas.org/accounts/signup> to create an account with the online portal. After confirming your account you can see the lists you are subscribed to and update your settings.

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16. Access to Past Issues

<https://aas.org/comms/cswa/AASWOMEN>

Each annual summary includes an index of topics covered.

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AASWomen Newsletter mailing list -- [aaswlist@lists.aas.org](mailto:aaswlist@lists.aas.org)  
To unsubscribe send an email to [aaswlist-leave@lists.aas.org](mailto:aaswlist-leave@lists.aas.org)