

AAS Committee on the Status of Women

Issue of March 20, 2020

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

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1. CSWA Endorsement Policy Finalized

From: JoEllen McBride via [womeninastronomy.blogspot.com](http://womeninastronomy.blogspot.com)

The Committee on the Status of Women in Astronomy (CSWA) is charged with recommending actions to the AAS Board of Trustees that can improve the status of women in astronomy. One way that we accomplish this is to support individuals or groups that are working on or developing projects that align with our mission. The Committee recently adopted a policy clarifying our recommendations on proposals for projects or activities that we can endorse or support.

Read more at

<http://womeninastronomy.blogspot.com/2020/03/cswa-endorsement-policy-finalized.html>

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2. Women Are The Key To Scaling Up AI And Data Science

From: Alessandra Aloisi [[aloisi\\_at\\_stsci.edu](mailto:aloisi_at_stsci.edu) ]

By Mark Minevich

"In light of International Women's Day celebrations this past weekend, we acknowledged the beauty, essence and power of women to achieve and thrive in the global ecosystem. Yet in our modern digital age, women continue to be neglected on multiple fronts, especially that of the new workforce. It is society's role to ensure that all females are given equal opportunities to grow in this new age workforce, and we must understand that all of us have a stake in this mission. Women are the key piece to the puzzle of realizing the highest maturity levels of digital enterprises, but unless we realize this, our progress in AI and technology will remain stagnant. In order to close the gender gap in science, technology, engineering and math (STEM), and to accelerate advances in artificial intelligence and the sciences, we must encourage and support women on all levels, from government to enterprise, and establish equal employment opportunities for all."

Read more at

<https://www.forbes.com/sites/markminevich/2020/03/16/women-are-the-key-to-scaling-up-ai-and-data-science/#a6eff2c5ac8d>

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3. JKX Comics: Dr. Aomawa Shields

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

"Today JKX Comics honors the work of Aomawa Shields, an astrophysicist whose work revolves around the climate and potential habitability of extrasolar planets (planetary bodies that orbit stars)."

Follow JKX Comics on Facebook for more profiles!

See more at

[https://www.facebook.com/1877755905776867/posts/2586270994925351/?substory\\_index=0](https://www.facebook.com/1877755905776867/posts/2586270994925351/?substory_index=0)

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4. Hope Is Not a Strategy: What We Can Do in the Wake of Covid-19

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

Here are some tips for what you can do during this unprecedeted time from 500 Women Scientists.

Read more at

<https://500womenscientists.org/updates/2020/3/13/hope-is-not-a-strategy-what-we-can-do-in-the-wake-of-covid-19>

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5. Emmy Noether and the Myth of Genius

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

By Thomas Lewton

"Next to Albert Einstein, if anyone is a genius, Emmy Noether is. In fact, by her early thirties, Noether was spending a lot of time next to Einstein, particularly helping him understand general relativity. Einstein called Noether the "most significant mathematical genius thus far produced since the higher education of women began." Yet aside from her exceptional mathematical ability, Noether had "surprisingly few" of the stereotypical attributes of genius as Colva Roney-Dougal, a professor of Pure Mathematics at the University of St. Andrews, recently told BBC Radio Four's *In Our Time*. Unlike popular portrayals of genius—from the fictional Dr. Frankenstein to mathematician John Nash in *A Beautiful Mind*—Noether wasn't especially troubled, nor a loner, nor was she driven mad by her intellect."

Read more at

<https://www.ladyscience.com/essays/myth-of-genius-emmy-noether-gender>

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6. The Accusations Were Lies. But Could We Prove It?

From: Heather Flewelling [heather\_at\_ifa.hawaii.edu]

By Sarah Viren

"We were at a friend's doctoral graduation party on a Friday night at the end of March. I had a glass of wine in one hand and our toddler on my hip when Marta found me. "I got a really weird email," she said.

The moon hung full over our heads, and all of us were in short sleeves, holding beers or wine and licking barbecue off our fingers while our kids played hide-and-seek in the dark.

"What?" I said.

"Something about me sexually harassing students," Marta said, taking F. from my

arms."

Read more at

<https://www.nytimes.com/2020/03/18/magazine/title-ix-sexual-harassment-accusations.html?searchResultPosition=1>

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7. Better late than never

From: Heather Flewelling [heather\_at\_ifa.hawaii.edu]

By H. Holden Thorp

"Among the questions that have come up quite often during my first few months as Editor-in-Chief of *Science* are those that concern the Retrospectives that we publish on prominent scientists who have passed away. Does a Retrospective serve as a tribute? Do we run Retrospectives on individuals who made important contributions to science but had other well-known personal drawbacks? Why can't we feature more diverse members of the scientific community in Retrospectives? These have been passionate inquiries that made me wonder about whether we should just stop publishing these pieces to avoid any strife."

Read more at

<https://science.sciencemag.org/content/367/6484/1283>

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8. 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*

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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9. How to Subscribe or Unsubscribe to the *AASWOMEN* newsletter

Join AAS Women List by email:

Send an email to *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/aaslist.lists.aas.org> and enter the email address you wish to subscribe in the 'Your email address' field. You will receive an email from 'aaslist-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 *aaslist-leave\_at\_lists.aas.org* from the email address you wish to remove from the list. You will receive an email from 'aaslist-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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#### 10. 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)