

AAS Committee on the Status of Women

Issue of July 12, 2019

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

[AAS has migrated their email system to Microsoft Exchange, so please check your spam folder if you did not receive the newsletter this week. It is no longer possible to subscribe or unsubscribe to the AASWomen newsletter by means of Google Groups. We have updated our subscribe and unsubscribe instructions below. Please follow us on social media for updates and thank you for bearing with us as we work out all the kinks.

Twitter @AAS\_Women, Facebook <https://bit.ly/2PkU9of>]

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1. Crosspost: Pre-registration Open for the Inclusive Astronomy 2 Conference  
From: JoEllen McBride via [womeninastronomy.blogspot.com](http://womeninastronomy.blogspot.com)

It has been four years since the 2015 Nashville Inclusive Astronomy meeting, an event that brought astronomers together with sociologists, policy makers, and leaders in the field to discuss issues affecting underrepresented groups in astronomy. The [Nashville Recommendations](#), which emphasize equity and intersectionality, build upon a rich history of work to broaden participation and improve climates.

We now have the opportunity to bring together the astronomy community to discuss the current state of the profession and make recommendations for the 2020s and beyond.

Read more about the Inclusive Astronomy 2 Conference at

<https://womeninastronomy.blogspot.com/2019/07/crosspost-pre-registration-open-for.html>

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2. Register now to watch the first Astro2020 steering committee meeting!  
From: Nicolle Zellner [nzellner\_at\_albion.edu]

The first Astro2020 steering committee meeting will take place on July 15-17, 2019 at the Keck Center in Washington, D.C. You are invited to watch the open sessions of the meeting remotely.

The open sessions will take place on:

Monday, July 15, 2019 from 10:30am to 6:00pm ET

Tuesday, July 16, 2019 from 8:30am to 3:15pm ET

Register at

[https://www.eventbrite.com/e/astro2020-steering-committee-meeting-1-registration-63397359208?utm\\_campaign=52acd926ec-EMAIL\\_CAMPAIGN\\_2018\\_11\\_28\\_05\\_46\\_COPY\\_01&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_source=NASEM+Physics+and+Astronomy&utm\\_term=0\\_6f3f7595c9-52acd926ec-519802389](https://www.eventbrite.com/e/astro2020-steering-committee-meeting-1-registration-63397359208?utm_campaign=52acd926ec-EMAIL_CAMPAIGN_2018_11_28_05_46_COPY_01&utm_medium=email&utm_source=NASEM+Physics+and+Astronomy&utm_term=0_6f3f7595c9-52acd926ec-519802389)

Find the meeting agenda at

<https://www8.nationalacademies.org/pa/projectview.aspx?key=51398#MeetingId11211>

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3. Education Professional Development Mini-Grant Opportunity Now Open  
From: Kim Coble [kcoble\_at\_sfsu.edu]

The [AAS Education Committee](#) invites proposals from US-based AAS members to provide education-related professional-development experiences for fellow members. Suitable venues for such experiences include (but are not limited to) AAS and Division meetings, college and university campuses, museums, planetariums, observatories, and online webinars and hangouts. The AAS-EPD mini-grant program will provide direct funding and logistical support for these experiences but will not pay any indirect costs (e.g., overhead). Individual grants will range from \$1,000 to \$10,000, with a typical amount of approximately \$3,500 or less. The application deadline is Sunday, 4 August 2019, at 11:59 pm Eastern time.

For more information, email [epd@aaas.org](mailto:epd@aaas.org) or see the call at

<https://aas.org/education/aas-epd-mini-grant-program>

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4. Women are less supportive of space exploration -- getting a woman on the Moon might change that  
From: Nicolle Zellner [nzellner\_at\_albion.edu]

By Wendy Whitman Cobb

"From my perspective as a space policy analyst, this is an important message [to send a woman to the Moon] for NASA to send. Women have been historically excluded from the space program, especially early on. While women have made inroads both as astronauts and more generally within the NASA ranks since, there remains a significant gender gap in support for space exploration."

Read more at

<https://www.fairfieldcitizenonline.com/news/article/Women-are-less-supportive-of-space-exploration-14081406.php>

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5. Astronaut Barbie has landed, and it's one giant leap for women in STEM  
From: JoEllen McBride [joellen.mcbride\_at\_gmail.com]

By Hollie Richardson

"It's been 50 years since man first stepped on the moon, but it was only recently that [NASA confirmed it would finally be sending a woman up there.](#)

"It was also [announced in 2015](#) that the Mars One mission will send four women to Mars by 2024, along with one male astronaut."

To celebrate these opportunities for women space explorers, Mattel modeled their latest version of Astronaut Barbie after real astronaut Samantha Cristoforetti, who holds the record for the longest uninterrupted spaceflight of a European astronaut.

Read more at

<https://www.stylist.co.uk/life/astronaut-barbie-has-landed-and-its-one-giant-leap-for-women-in-stem/278929>

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6. How a decision-analysis tool helped one scientist couple make some tough career choices

From: JoEllen McBride [joellen.mcbride\_at\_gmail.com] and Jessica Mink [jmink\_at\_cfa.harvard.edu]

By Rachel Katz & Sean Sterrett

"When our postdocs finished, Sean was keen to stay in academia, but I wanted more of an applied 'on the ground' job helping to make conservation decisions (working for the government or a non-profit organization, for example). Sean was invited for academic interviews at several universities where there were few conservation-related government opportunities for me. We began feeling paralysed about the seemingly inevitable choice we would have to make: my career or his.

"In 2016, I was offered a job as a biometrician at the US Fish and Wildlife Service in Massachusetts.

"We used a structured decision-making (SDM) process called ProACT (short for: frame the problem, identify objectives, explore alternatives, predict consequences, evaluate trade-offs) to help us decide whether this was an opportunity we couldn't pass up."

Read more at

<https://www.nature.com/articles/d41586-019-02106-5>

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7. These young scientists will shape the next 50 years of Moon research  
From: Clive Neal [cneal\_at\_nd.edu]

The future looks bright!! *Nature* magazine has highlighted investigations of young scientists from around the world who are "shaking up lunar exploration".

Read more at

<https://www.nature.com/articles/d41586-019-02086-6>

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8. Queer voices in palaeontology  
From: Nicolle Zellner [nzellner\_at\_albion.edu]

Riley Black came out as transgender and non-binary this year. In this article, Riley "describes the challenges of cultivating diversity in a discipline with an 'Indiana Jones' image", including how the "lack of inclusion, and understanding, has real consequences".

Read more at

<https://www.nature.com/articles/d41586-019-02113-6>

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9. How I lost my identity -- and embraced a new one  
From: Nicolle Zellner [nzellner\_at\_albion.edu]

by Lia Paola Zambetti (University of Sydney)

"It took me months, but I finally woke up one morning knowing what I was doing in a professional world that was immeasurably broader and more diverse than the

labs in which I had worked. That first move away from the bench also smoothed and facilitated my subsequent job changes and moves into different professional roles. I realized that whatever my title would be (and I've changed it since that first position), I was going to be a scientist forever..."

Read more at

<https://www.nature.com/articles/d41586-019-02123-4>

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10. Why Men Thought Women Weren't Made to Vote

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

By Marina Loren

'William T. Sedgwick believed that no good could come of letting women vote.

"It would mean a degeneration and a degradation of human fiber which would turn back the hands of time a thousand years," Sedgwick said in 1914. "Hence it will probably never come, for mankind will not lightly abandon at the call of a few fanatics the hard-earned achievements of the ages."

Read more at

<https://www.theatlantic.com/science/archive/2019/07/womens-suffrage-nineteenth-amendment-pseudoscience/593710/>

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11. Who gets grant money? The (gendered) words decide.

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

By Meredith Somers

"Blinded reviews for scientific research grants -- in which all identifying information on the applicant is removed -- are designed to remove gendered outcomes, among other biases.

"They may not be working.

"Female scientists are 16% less likely than men to get a high score on their grant proposal, and new research suggests word choice might be the reason why."

Read more at

<https://mitsloan.mit.edu/ideas-made-to-matter/who-gets-grant-money-gendered-words-decide>

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12. How to Submit to the *AASWOMEN* newsletter

To submit an item to the *AASWOMEN* newsletter, including replies to topics, send email to [aaswomen\\_at\\_aas.org](mailto:aaswomen_at_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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13. How to Subscribe or Unsubscribe to the *AASWOMEN* newsletter

Join AAS Women List by email:

Send an email to [aaswomen\\_at\\_aas.org](mailto:aaswomen_at_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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14. Access to Past Issues

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

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)