

EDI Reading Newsletter, 28 September 2020

As part of the Equality, Diversity and Inclusion team here at the IfA, we're introducing a newsletter to share readings that we've found inspirational and informative. Our hope (and expectation!) is that everyone takes a few minutes to engage with the shared writing. Agree or disagree with what's written, it is valuable to increase our literacy for informed discussions and decisions.

Writer: Mike Petersen

What we're reading this fortnight: I picked '#BlackInAstro: How Can We Support Black Astronomers?' by Astrobites:

<https://astrobites.org/2020/06/03/how-can-we-support-black-astronomers/>

Why we're reading it: Astrobites introduces their series #BlackInAstro with a post that provides concrete examples of how individuals can be allies for Black astronomers. The article applies both to people in academia as well as the general public, with recommendations that are valuable in daily life, even outside of the University setting.

What you should read: (In 10 minutes): the section of recommendations 'What can astronomers do?'; (in 30 minutes) the whole article.

Discussion question: In a recent EDI event, the group was asked whether the IfA has specifically asked BME members what they need. How can we empower minority voices while not placing the responsibility for seeking equality on BME people?

*The EDI Team is organising two types of meetings this fall: General EDI meetings and EDI coffees. We have a general EDI meeting of the fall **12 October, at 2.00pm** on Teams. We have an EDI coffee scheduled for **26 October at 2.00pm** on Teams. The EDI Team will soon also circulate a survey to seek input on efficacy and future directions.*