

EDI Reading Newsletter #17, 6 August 2021

*Our next informal coffee discussion will take place on **Mon 9 August, at 2.00pm** on Teams.*

The newsletter project is a contribution toward improving our collective EDI (Equality, Diversity and Inclusion) literacy. We hope that everyone takes a few minutes to engage with the shared writing. We welcome any and all contributions or recommendations for readings! Please send any contributions or suggestions to michael.petersen@roe.ac.uk.

Writer: Mike Petersen

What we're reading this fortnight: A tweet thread from the RAS, summarising a study presented by Dr Claudia Antolini:

<https://twitter.com/RoyalAstroSoc/status/1418215633683030031>

Why we're reading it: At the National Astronomy Meeting (NAM) earlier this summer, there was a special 'Diversifying the future: opening astronomy and geophysics to all' session. This study (which is not yet available) demonstrates the importance of seeking input from all voices: in samples split by demographic groups, those in historically 'dominant' groups consistently rated the field as welcoming for 'non-dominant' groups, even as the 'non-dominant' groups were consistently more measured in rating the field as welcoming.

What you should read: (In 10 minutes): the twitter thread; (in 30 minutes): two additional links from the RAS looking forward towards the fall: a statement from the RAS on the results of a bullying survey to be released soon (<https://ras.ac.uk/news-and-press/news/survey-finds-bullying-and-harassment-systemic-astronomy-and-geophysics>), and the background of what the plan was for the survey (<https://ras.ac.uk/education-and-careers/ras-harassment-and-bullying-survey>). The School EDI group is working to invite the RAS Diversity Officer to speak on the results sometime this fall.

Discussion question: What kinds of questions can members of the 'dominant' group ask themselves to reduce the size of blind spots?

*Our next EDI programming meeting is schedule for **Monday 23 August at 2.00pm** on Teams. Please email michael.petersen@roe.ac.uk if you would like to be added to the email reminder list.*