



Panel session on “Women and underrepresented groups”

Session Chair

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Panel

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Abstract

Beyond Gender

It was at the 1999 IUPAP General Assembly that a resolution was passed to set up a working group to survey the situation for women in physics in IUPAP member countries, with the mandate to analyse and report on data collected, and suggest how to improve the situation. WG5 has continued to pursue the original mandate and evolve beyond it. In recent years the equalities landscape has also evolved across the globe such that consideration is given to other under-represented groups and gender is just one aspect of that. At the most recent IUPAP General Assembly in 2021 the Gender Champion was mandated to look into how IUPAP should evolve its diversity remit.

While there may be little opposition to the proposal that physics should be more inclusive, there are different ideas as to who is considered “under-represented” and how to go about achieving that inclusivity. So there are arguments for retaining the individual identity of often long established women in physics groups and also for combining efforts to create a single diversity group. In this session we aim to discuss some of the issues, factors involved and pros and cons of different approaches to diversity beyond gender.