

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE WORKING GROUP OF JUNIOR MEMBERS

Co-chairs

Camilo Delgado-Correal
Hannah Stacey

Organising Committee

Anupam Bhardwaj
Hongwei Ge
Simone Ieva
Brianna Smart
Sabine Thater
Jeremy Tregloan-Reed
Stefan Wallner
Mustafa K. Yildiz

ANNUAL REPORT 2021–2022

1 Election of new OC

The new organising committee (OC) was elected in August 2021 by 191 Junior Members (21.4% turnout). The OC elected Camilo Delgado-Correal and Hannah Stacey as its co-chairs. The OC meets approximately every 2 months and have ongoing communication via the OC Slack space. In total, since August 2021 to April 2022, we had 5 meetings. A screenshot from the recent OC meeting is shown in Fig. 1.

2 Activities of OC in 2021–2022

2.1 Social Media

We have various social media channels to facilitate communication to our members and other early career researchers (ECRs). A summary of these channels are as follows:

- Slack space (346 members)
- Twitter (<https://twitter.com/IAUJuniorMember>; 237 followers)
- Instagram (<https://www.instagram.com/IAUJuniorMember>; 95 followers)
- YouTube (https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCZQsB5LY2Tv_tj9ddVdnPuw; 321 subscribers, 100–500 views per video)
- Facebook (<https://www.facebook.com/IAUJuniorMember>)

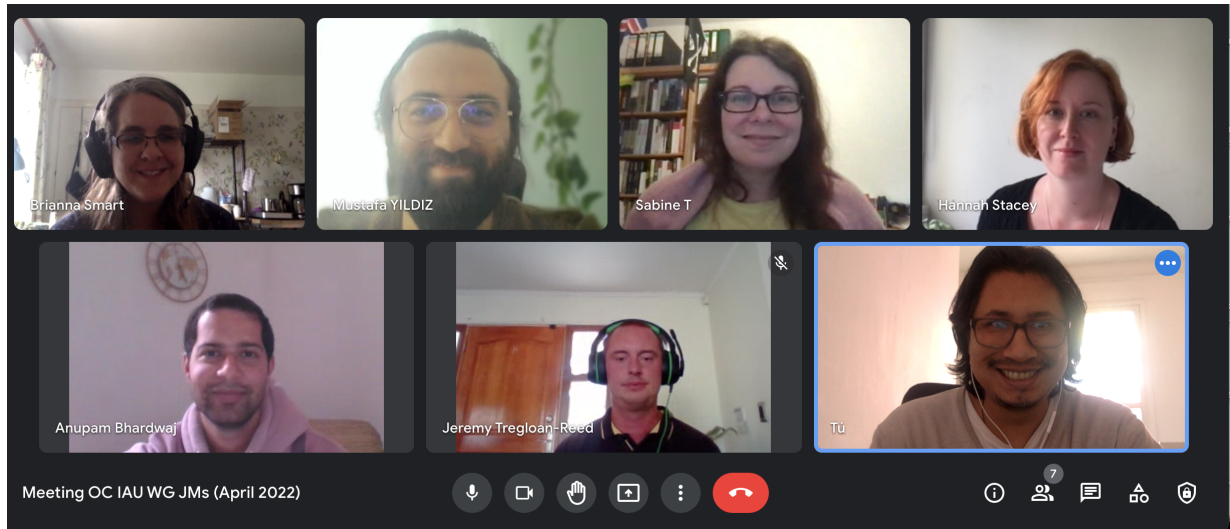


Figure 1: April 2022 meeting of the Organising Committee.

2.2 IAU General Assembly 2022

The working group has four sessions at the IAU General Assembly in Busan, Korea in August 2022. The topic and speakers of the sessions will be as follows:

- Managing mental health and wellbeing: Natalia Lewandowska (Swarthmore)
- Effective public engagement: Lina Canas (CAP WG), Matipon Tangmatitham (NARIT), Lars Lindberg Christensen (CAP WG)
- Writing successful grant proposals: Richard de Grijs (MPIA), Vincenzo Mainieri (ESO)
- Improving scientific writing skills: Ethan Vishniac (Editor in Chief AAS Journals), Johan Knapen (IAC), Nushkia Chamba (The Oscar Klein)

Website: http://www.iauga2022.org/program/program_06_7.asp?sMenu=abo6

We are also in communication with the Korean young astronomer community and Office for Young Astronomers to organise a social event for ECRs in the intermediate weekend.

2.3 Discourse series

We have resumed the Discourse Series of talks aimed at ECRs. These talks will cover topics including careers inside and outside astronomy, science highlights, public engagement, and professional development.

The recent talk on 8 April 2022 was given by Dr Vanessa Moss (CSIRO) with the topic “Beyond academia: observatory-focused career pathways in astronomy”. Our virtual talks are usually given in “traditional” virtual formats (e.g. Zoom), but do not necessarily draw optimal interaction and engagement from audiences. We collaborated with The Future of Meetings¹ initiative to host the meeting

¹<https://thefutureofmeetings.wordpress.com/>



Figure 2: Screenshots of the talk by Vanessa Moss in AltSpaceVR, featuring interactive exhibits and a giant model radio telescope.

within AltSpaceVR²: this platform simulates realistic interactions to allow participants around the world to interact more meaningfully. The event was also live-streamed on YouTube for those who could not access AltSpaceVR.

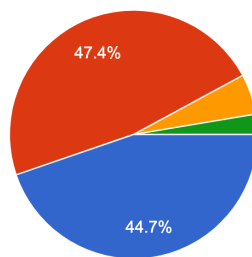
We had 82 registrants for the talk, the demographics of which are shown in Fig. 3. The breakdown by gender suggests a fair distribution of genders in the registrants. The most common country of residence was South Africa, demonstrating that these talks can be successful at reaching ECRs outside of Europe and in developing countries. Only one third described themselves as postdocs or junior researchers, with a large contribution from students. 63 of the registrants indicated that they would like to join our mailing list, representing a significant increase in our subscribers.

We estimated the actual number of attendees inside AltSpaceVR was 20, excluding organisers, and an additional 35 on the YouTube live-stream. We reached out for feedback on the talk to understand if there is interest in using this format for future talks or informal meetings: the overall response that participants were or might be interested in using VR platforms for future IAU JM meetings, although there were some technical issues with gaining access to AltSpaceVR.

²<https://altvr.com/>

What is your gender?

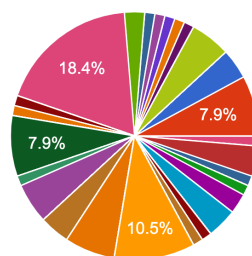
76 responses



- Male
- Female
- Prefer not to say
- Other

What is your country of residence?

76 responses

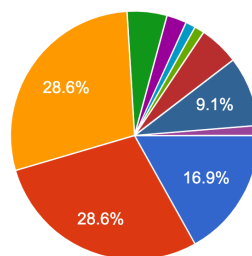


- Afghanistan
- Albania
- Algeria
- Andorra
- Angola
- Antigua and Barbuda
- Argentina
- Armenia

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How would you define your current position?

77 responses

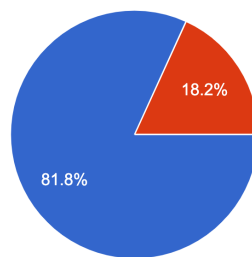


- Master/student
- Ph.D
- Postdoc
- Junior Researcher
- Senior Researcher
- Assistant Professor
- Associate Professor
- Professor

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Would you like to join our mailing list?

77 responses



- Yes
- No

Figure 3: Statistics of registrants of the recent Discourse talk. The most common country of residence for attendants was South Africa (18.4%).