


Astronomy for all - All for astronomy?

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The literature on equity, diversity and inclusivity within amateur astronomy is still sparse. This is the first [survey](#) aimed at gauging inclusion in UK amateur astronomy communities. Check out our [Method](#).



 We want to know the level of comfort of different groups of people when engaging with astronomy (online and in person). Check out [Acceptance and Comfort](#).

We want to tackle the barriers to wider involvement. Astronomy should belong to everyone, and everyone should feel like they belong. Check out [Barriers to participation](#).



 We aim to stimulate a wider discussion within the community and to facilitate a conversation on how to foster a more welcoming environment for everyone in astronomy. Check out our [Next Steps](#).



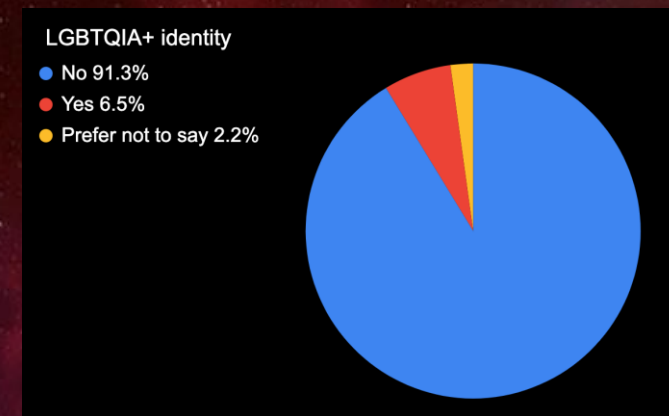
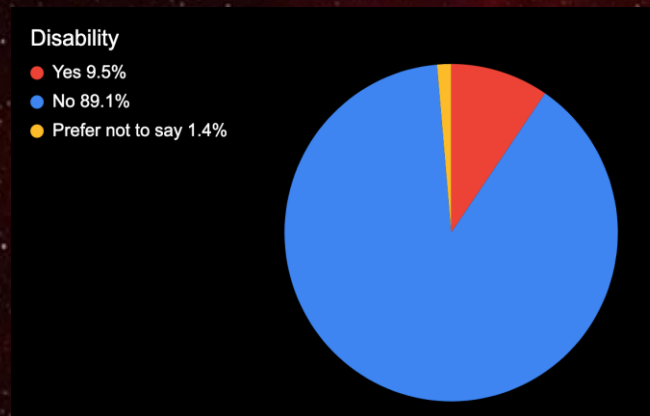
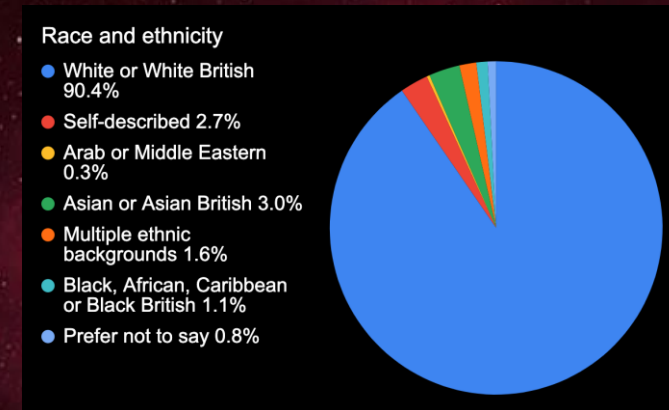
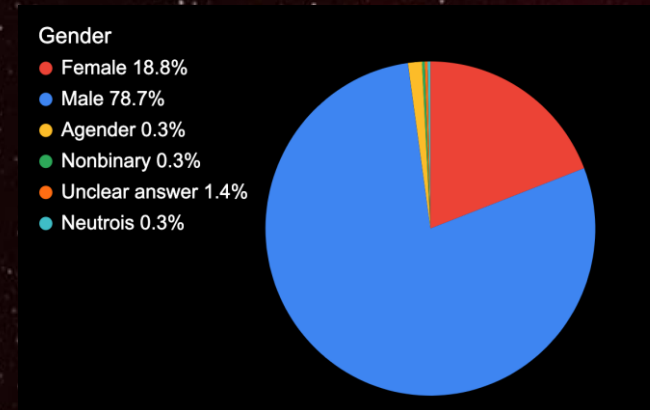
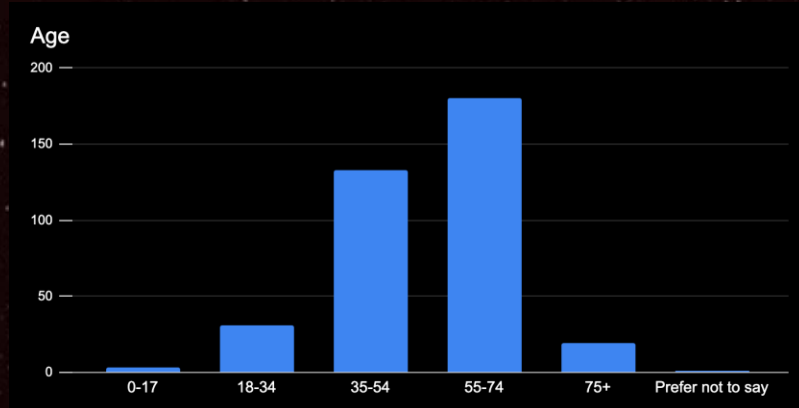
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Method

n = 367

- 31 multiple choice/open ended short answer questions
- Collecting emails for follow-up survey (optional)
- Null hypothesis: no harassment (one-way hypothesis testing)
- Fill in our [survey](#) and spread the word!



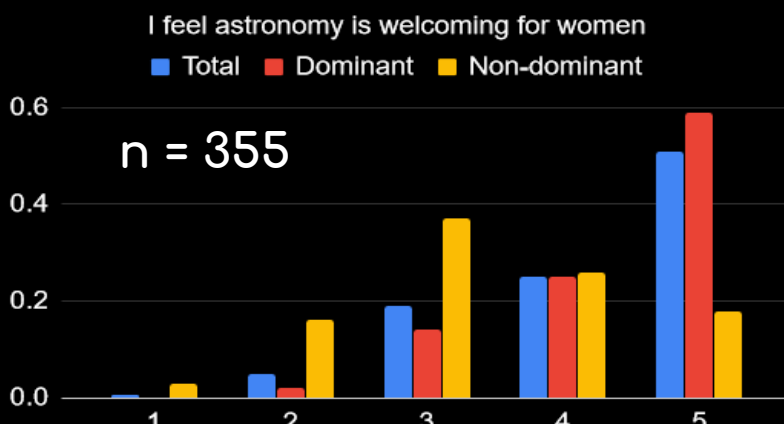
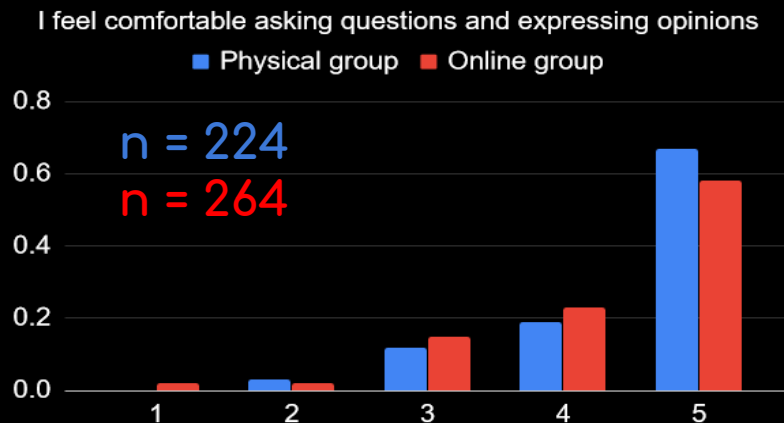
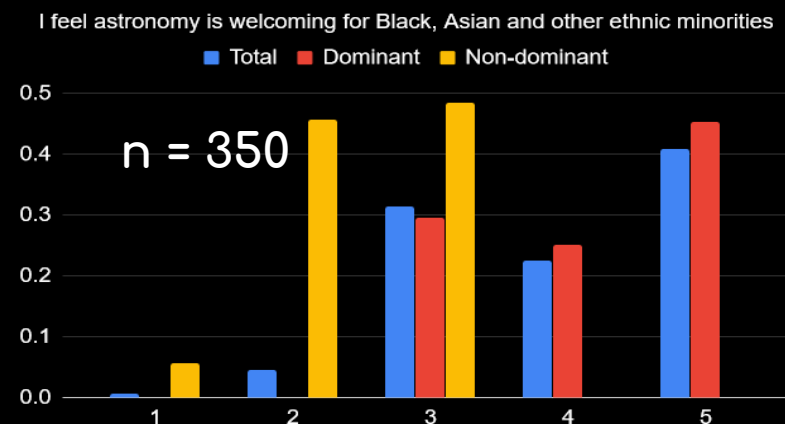
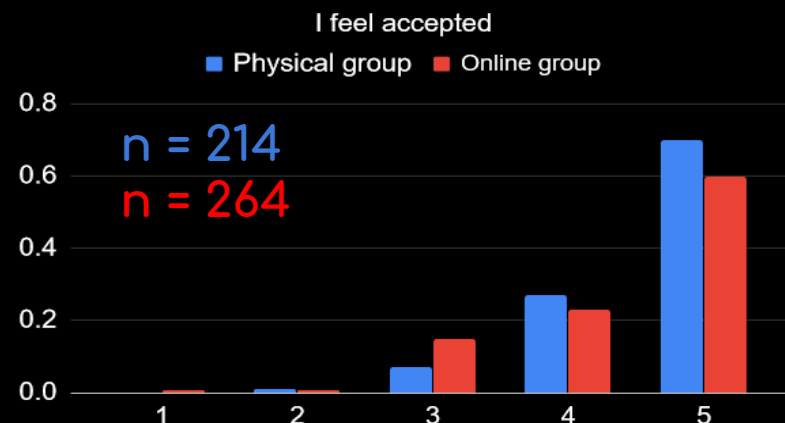
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Acceptance and comfort



Data
normalised for
number of
responses per
group

Dominant:
most abundant
demographics.
(left: white
people, right:
men)

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Barriers to participation



Most quoted barriers

Time availability (45.5%)

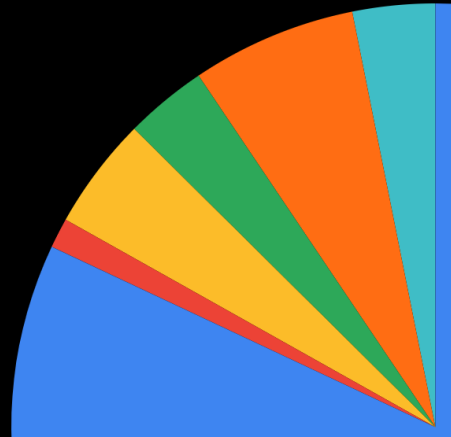
Inability to afford equipment (20.7%)

Feeling inexperienced (18.4%)



Have you ever witnessed or been the target of discrimination/bullying/harassment?

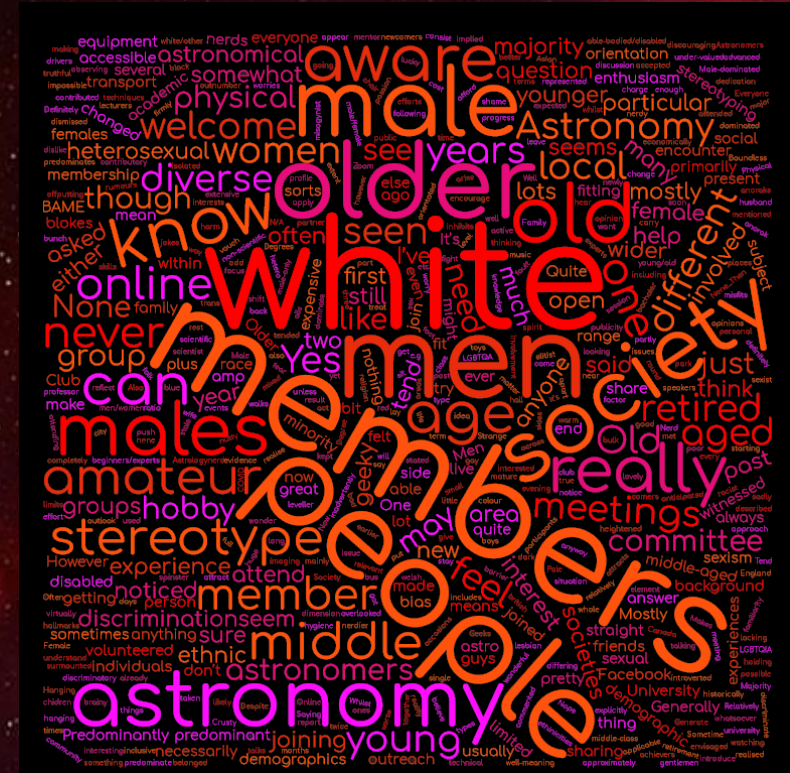
- No 82.0%
- Prefer not to say 1.8%
- I am not sure 4.3%
- I was a target 3.1%
- I witnessed it 6.3%
- Both 3.1%



1 in 8 witnessed or experienced harassment



Have any stereotypes about astronomy been upheld in your group?



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Next steps

-  Very enthusiastic response from the community
-  Several local and national societies want to hear about our findings
-  Consciousness of diversity issues and willingness to change
-  This study can help tackle the lack of a unified approach at a local and national level
-  Over 50% respondents want to be involved in the follow-up
-  Data collection until Spring 2021
-  Thematic analysis to be run
-  A lot more data that we could show here: we want to perform a more granular analysis of barriers for different groups
-  Final data will be published and distributed to societies
-  We aim to collectively draft better practices to address harassment, how to improve diversity, support to tackle discrimination in astronomy, how to make everyone feel welcome and safe
-  Given highlighted dissonances we are looking for co-authors from diverse backgrounds, especially disabled, trans/non-binary, Black people and ethnic minorities – please get in touch!

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