

Where are (women) planetary scientists on Wikipedia?

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*Click on the **blue text** and the **Figures** to have additional information!



Background

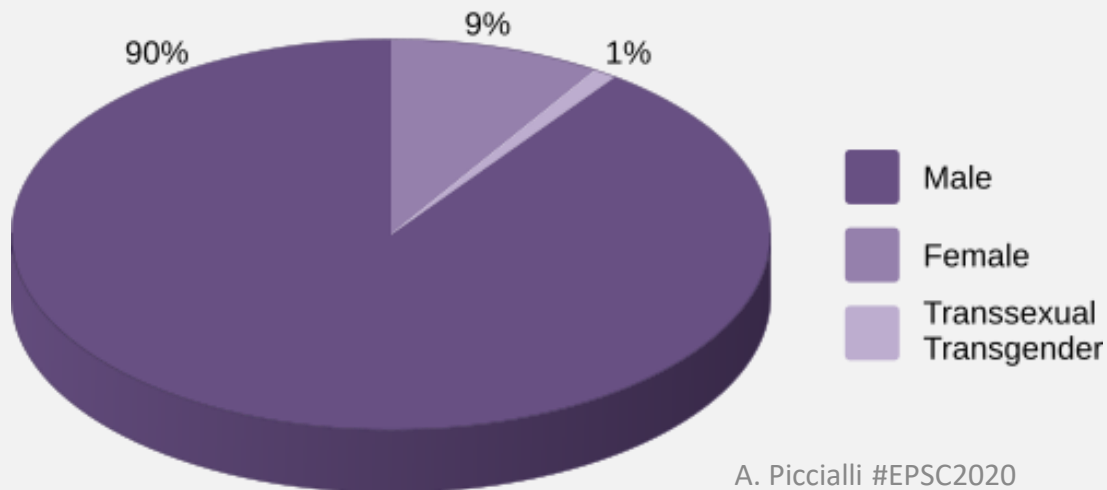
Wikipedia is an open source, web-based encyclopedia, and allows anonymous and registered users to edit and create articles. This means that anyone can create, edit and improve articles.

However, several studies have shown the **most of Wikipedia editors are male** (See Fig. below). In addition, there are fewer and less developed articles about women, especially in STEM [\[1\]](#).



WIKIPEDIA
The Free Encyclopedia

Wikipedia editors are predominantly male





My experience

In May 2020, I was selected to participate in the [500 Women Scientists Wiki Scholar](#) program May-June 2020.



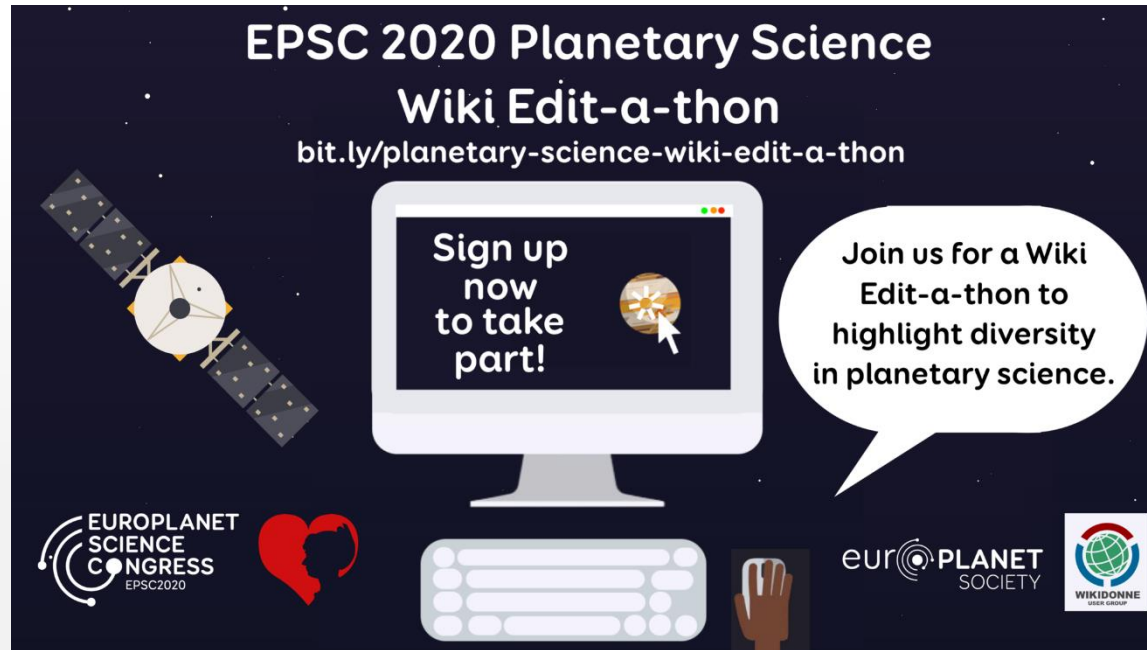
My initial objective was to promote and contribute to biographies of **women planetary scientists**. It was a surprise then to discover that the total number of [planetary scientists](#)' articles on the English Wikipedia is only **192**, of which **52 women (25%)**. This percentage is in agreement with the percentage of women in the International Astronomical Union from all ESA's Member State (24%), which can give us an indication of the percentage of women in the field [\[6\]](#).

Today, Wikipedia is within the 20 most popular website [\[3\]](#) and every month it attracts more than 1 billion unique visitors [\[4\]](#).

Wikipedia can therefore give a huge contribution to change the perception the general public has about who is doing science and how a scientist looks like.



Let's organize an Edit-a-thon!



An **Edit-a-thon** (edit marathon) is an organized event where editors edit and improve a specific topic. I would like to encourage the planetary community as a whole to organize an Edit-a-thon focusing on creating content regarding **(women) planetary scientists' biographies**. This could be done both as a live or virtual event. Special attention should be devoted to minorities or under-represented groups of people.



The 1st EPSC Wiki Edit-a-thon!

Join us for the [Planetary Science Wiki Edit-a-thon](#) splinter meeting
on **22 September 2020 at 18:00 (CEST)**

Camelia Boban (WikiDonne), **Jessica Wade** (University of London, Wikipedia veteran), **Maryam Zaringhalam** (500 Women Scientists), **Rosie Stephenson-Goodknight** (Women in Red) will also take part to the event.

The [Diversity Committee](#) of the Europlanet Society, in collaboration with [Women in Red](#), [WikiDonne](#), and [500 Women Scientists](#) are organising an Edit-a-thon during EPSC2020 to highlight diversity within the planetary science community.

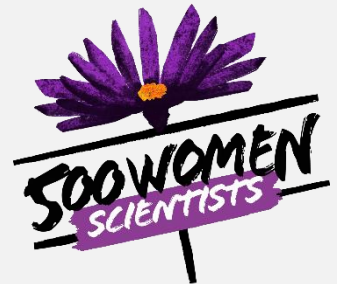
The EPSC 2020 Planetary Science Wiki Edit-a-thon will take place from
21 September – 9th October



Acknowledgment

I would like to express my gratitude to **500 Women Scientists Wiki Scholar** for the opportunity they gave me. A special thank you goes to **Ryan McGrady**, **Ian Ramjohn** and **Elysia Webb** from the Wiki Education Foundation to let me discover the “world” of Wikipedia.

An additional thank you goes to **Anita Heward** and to the **Europlanet Diversity Committee**, who very enthusiastically embarked on this project.



Last but not least, a special thank you to **Camelia Boban** (WikiDonne), **Jessica Wade** (University of London, Wikipedia veteran), **Maryam Zaringhalam** (500 Women Scientists), **Rosie Stephenson-Goodknight** (Women in Red): without them the Edit-a-thon could never take place!

