

S06 : L'égalité des genres en A&A : point sur les jeunes

Impact of the Covid-19 crisis on the French Astronomy community

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The world-wide Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic spread in France from the beginning of 2020. This has led the government to implement lockdown and curfews and thus change work practices to limit the spread of the virus in the workplace and during commutes. In the field of research in astronomy and astrophysics and mainly during the first lockdown, researchers were encouraged or constrained to work from home, which impacted all their research activities (observations, conferences, experiments, teaching...). This unprecedented situation was likely to cause several negative side effects on the astronomical research community such as isolation, poor concentration, loss of motivation and meaning, mental health problems due to work-life imbalance and physical issues due to the inadequate home office space. On the other hand, the situation also had positive outcomes (reduction in the hectic pace of work, avoidance of travel time, increased family time, the convening of inter-laboratory seminars, access to international conferences for all...). In addition to these global effects, environmental and social factors may have also led to different sensitivities from the crisis. To quantitatively and qualitatively assess the impact of the covid-19 pandemic consequences on our activities, we conducted a survey intended for the members of the French Astronomical Society of Astronomy and Astrophysics (SF2A). We analyzed the outputs of this survey in a proceeding attached to last year (2021) conference, which we would like to present to the community during the 2022 conference. These outputs consist of an analysis of the 258 responses we received for this survey, specifically about the impact of the sanitary crises on the physical and mental health of individuals, professional relationships and workload, scientific production (e.g. publications and applications), and events that take place online (e.g. meetings and conferences). In particular, we identify groups of people particularly impacted by this crisis: women, precarious researchers, parents and expatriates. Based on these results, we also propose recommendations for the community to revive scientific interactions in the post-COVID-19 era while offsetting its most deleterious effects on vulnerable groups and maintaining its positive effects such as the consequent reduction of the carbon footprint of research.