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Diversity in crystallography: fact or fiction?

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During the 20th century, the discipline of crystallography has attracted a number of outstanding female researchers, among them the publically famous Kathleen Lonsdale, Dorothy Hodgkin, Helen Megaw and Rosalind Franklin. In addition, many other women became card-carrying crystallographers, partly due to the 'gender blind' recruitment of researchers by the Bragg father and son [1]. What allowed this field to provide an environment in which women could significantly contribute, and how has this developed historically and up to the present time? Using observations from a variety of sources [e.g. 2], I will endeavour to present some thoughts on this question, and efforts to address the current imbalances in equity and diversity in the 21st century [3].

References

- [1] Maureen M. Julian, "Women in Crystallography," in Women of Science: Righting the Record, ed. G. Kass-Simon and Patricia Farnes (Bloomington: Indiana University Press, 1990), pp. 342
- [2] https://blogs.iucr.org/crystallites/2018/03/07/women-in-crystallography-we%E2%80%99re-not-just-historical/ [3] https://www.iucr.org/iucr/governance/advisory-committees/gedc