

An event
to celebrate
**Women in Tech
& Sciences.**

This event is supported by EDI and IAA

Date: 20th September

Time: 10:30AM-2:30PM

Location: Durham University, Physics,
Odgen Centre West, Durham, DH1 3LE.
Ground floor, OCW017

ESTRELLAS:

Women in Tech
& Sciences



Tell your story, it might inspire and support others.

In Spanish, 'ESTRELLAS' means stars and 'ELLAS' is the female, plural form for the pronoun "they". With this name Durham University and the Centre for Advanced Instrumentation (CfAI) would like to organise an event to celebrate Women in Tech and Sciences and address the challenges that female professionals in these fields have faced during their careers, as well as their important contribution.

Like the stars, which can be found grouped in constellations, we would like to strengthen collaborations and networking. This event is open to everybody interested in Technology and Sciences with an emphasis in the contribution made by women in this field.

Welcome (10:30 - 10:40 AM)

Block 1

Identifying Opportunities for Women in Tech & Sciences

Chaired by Meryem Dag, CfAI PhD student

10:40 - 10:55 AM: Johanna Waite: "TechUPWomen – Empowering the Underserved"

10:55 - 11:10 AM: Cyrielle Opitom: "My journey in astronomy: embracing opportunities and giving back"

11:10 - 11:30 AM: Andrea González Montoro: "PET imaging: Where we are and where we go"

Block 2:

The Path Towards Tech and Sciences

Chaired by Kathryn Barrett, CfAI PhD student and CfAI EDI representative

11:30 - 11:55 AM: Emma Meehan: "An Extraordinary Journey"

11:55 - 12:15 PM: Nikita Chiu: "SPACE-Gov: Towards a More Inclusive Space Future"

Block 3:

Celebrating Women who Support Women in Tech and Sciences

Presented by Ariadna Calcines Rosario, CfAI Head of Optical Design (12:15 - 12:25 PM)

Lunch Break (12:30 - 1:30 PM)

Block 4:

Panel - Working Together Towards Gender Equality (1:30 - 2:15PM)

Chaired by Anna McLeod, CEA/ICC Associate Professor and co-director of the Physics EDI committee

Paula Chadwick - Head of the Physics Department

Sharon Grant - Director of the North East Institute of Technology

Andrea González Montoro - President of MdC, Women of Sciences Spain

Kieran O'Brien - Head of CfAI

Alastair Edge - Head of Astronomy

Carlton Baugh - ICC Deputy Director and Director of Research

Closure and Final Remarks

By Lizzie Ranson, IAA Impact Programme Manager (2:15 - 2:30 PM)

Meet Our EstrELLAS



Johanna Waite

Johanna is a highly organised and innovative Programme Manager with over a decade of experience successfully delivering projects across the engineering, energy and nuclear, heritage, charity, higher education and tech sectors. Johanna has a passion for non-profit and community projects and has managed the multi-award winning TechUP initiative, based at Durham University, since its inception with the TechUPWomen programme. Training 100 women from minority groups from the North and Midlands into tech careers, TechUPWomen helps to address both the gender imbalance and skills gap in the sector whilst also empowering and supporting women to achieve their goals and unlocking untapped expertise for industry partners. In its pilot year TechUPWomen achieved some amazing results including a 96% retention rate, 64% graduation rate and over 50% of learners realising their dreams with new jobs, promotions or further education in a tech subject within 18 months. Under Johanna's care and direction TechUP has grown from this success and now boasts a portfolio of projects including two Skills Bootcamps, three Digital Skills courses reaching over 8,500 learners nationwide and most recently delivering three intakes of the Click Start by TechUPWomen programme over two years. Johanna also volunteers with the National Childbirth Trust running the Durham branch and coordinating fundraising events across the county to support local parents and parents to be.



Cyrielle Opitom

Dr Cyrielle Opitom obtained her PhD in Astronomy at the Université de Liège in Belgium in 2016 and then moved to Chile as a fellow at the European Southern Observatory (ESO), where she worked at Paranal observatory for 3 years. She joined the University of Edinburgh in 2019 and is currently a chancellor's fellow. She studies small bodies of the solar system and in particular comets. Her research focuses on both using and helping to develop the latest astronomical instrumentation, to investigate the composition of comets and understand what it can teach us about the history of the solar system. Cyrielle is also involved in projects aiming at developing astronomy in Africa and is interested in science policy.



Andrea González Montoro

Dr. González-Montoro works on the study and improvement of the instrumentation associated to Positron Emission Tomography (PET) detector blocks at the Institute for Instrumentation in Molecular Imaging (i3M, CSIC-UPV) in Valencia, Spain. Her current research focusses on implementing high efficiency TOF-PET detector blocks for total-body PET imaging that will make a qualitative leap in the sensitivity of PET scanners.

In parallel to her research, she is compromised with supporting the role of women in STEM. She is co-funder and president of 'Mujeres de Ciencia' a Spanish association deboted to promote and support the carrer of Women in STEM and to provide guidadance to young female researchers.

Meet Our EstrELLAS



Emma Meehan

Emma's journey at Boulby Underground Laboratory began nearly 15 years ago when she joined as a part-time cleaner, seeking a stable income to complement her work as a self-employed horse riding instructor. Drawn by the lab's fascinating environment, Emma's curiosity led her to pursue further education and training alongside her job.

She transitioned from a cleaner to a laboratory technician and then to a senior science technician, where she played a pivotal role in developing and operating the BUGS lab, a world-class assay facility that provides material screening for particle physics detectors used globally.

Today, as the Facilities and Operations Manager, Emma is part of the leadership team, overseeing the lab's daily operations. She continues her growth by focusing on leadership development, understanding the importance of Equality, Diversity, and Inclusion, and fostering a positive and innovative workplace culture.



Paula Chadwick

Paula Chadwick was appointed to a lectureship in Durham in 1989, having completed her PhD in Durham in 1987. Her area of research is astroparticle physics, specifically gamma-ray astronomy, and she is involved in building the Cherenkov Telescope Array Observatory and the Southern Wide-field Gamma-ray Observatory. She is interested in all sorts of high-energy emitting objects, particularly active galactic nuclei, and in the fundamental physics that can be revealed using gamma-rays, including possible axion(like) particles. She is now Head of Physics in Durham and sits on far too many committees.



Nikita Chau

Dr Nikita Chiu is Associate Professor in Space Innovation and Technology Governance at Durham University. In 2019, she was named Ad Astra Distinguished Fellow in Robotic and Outer Space Governance by the Space Engineering Research Center at USC. Previously, she served as Senior Lecturer in Innovation Policy at the University of Exeter. She was also the Research Fellow in Robotics and Outer Space Technologies at the Department of Politics and International Relations at the University of Oxford, and is a former Research Affiliate at the Centre for the Study of Existential Risk at the University of Cambridge. An International Relations scholar by training, Dr. Chiu taught Foreign Policy and Global Governance first in Hong Kong, then in Tallinn and the UK. Prior to her career in Technology Governance, she read Technology Policy at St Edmund's College at the University of Cambridge, and gained her PhD from the Graduate Institute of International Studies in Geneva.

Meet Our EstrELLAS



Sharon Grant

With over 19 years of experience in education and training, including 17 years at Durham High School, I began my teaching career as a newly qualified Chemistry teacher and became Head of Science and Chemistry. My passion for promoting women in STEM has been a central focus throughout my career. During this time, I worked to raise the profile of women in STEM, advocating for opportunities for young women across various sectors and helped to develop a pipeline of confident, competent scientists. Building networks and establishing relationships with academic and commercial institutions was crucial for inspiring and raising students' aspirations. Personally, Teaching and Learning was fundamental to motivating the learners, which eventually led me to take the role of Chair of the Teaching and Learning Committee.

My current role Director of North East Institute of Technology (NEIoT) really appeals to me as it aligns perfectly with two of my greatest interests: the promotion of STEM and enhancing awareness of the routes and roles across different sectors. It is such an exciting time for the North East as a region with significant advancements in STEM, and through effective collaboration between the NEIoT education partners and local businesses, we are creating a talent pipeline that is increasingly work ready. Diversity and inclusion are central to my drive, and I remain committed to addressing the under-representation of women in Advanced Manufacturing & Engineering, Digital, and Construction & Built Environment.

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Ariadna Calcines Rosario

Meryem Dag

Kathryn Barrett

Lizzie Ranson

Rachel Murphy

Christina Munn

Lindsay Bell

Rebecca Scarr