

# Girls Night Out

## at Jodrell Bank Discovery Centre

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Jodrell Bank Discovery Centre, University of Manchester

**Prof. Tim O'Brien (Co-I)**

Jodrell Bank Centre for Astrophysics, University of Manchester

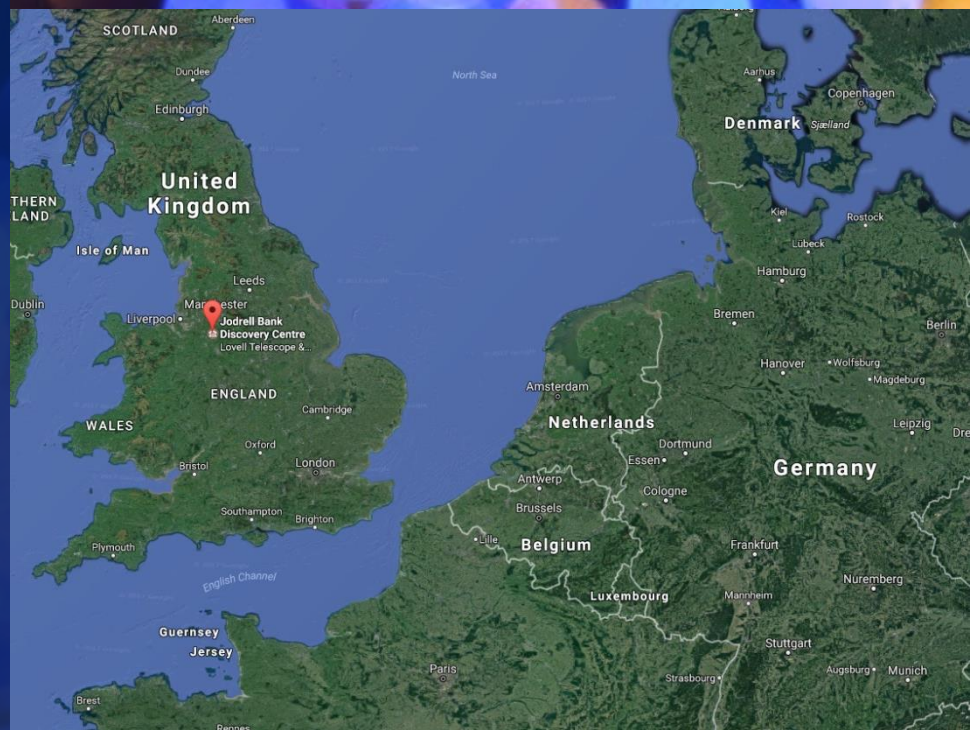
**MANCHESTER**  
1824

The University of Manchester  
Jodrell Bank Observatory

# Girls Night Out

## at Jodrell Bank Discovery Centre

Jodrell Bank Observatory



# Girls Night Out

## at Jodrell Bank Discovery Centre

### Jodrell Bank Observatory

The iconic **Lovell Telescope** - the first of its kind

It's **60 years old** this year!

Once the biggest telescope in the world. Now the **3<sup>rd</sup> largest fully steerable single dish telescope**



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#### Discovery Centre:

160 000 visitors per year

22 000 school children

Exhibitions, Workshops, Events





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**Why do we do this?**

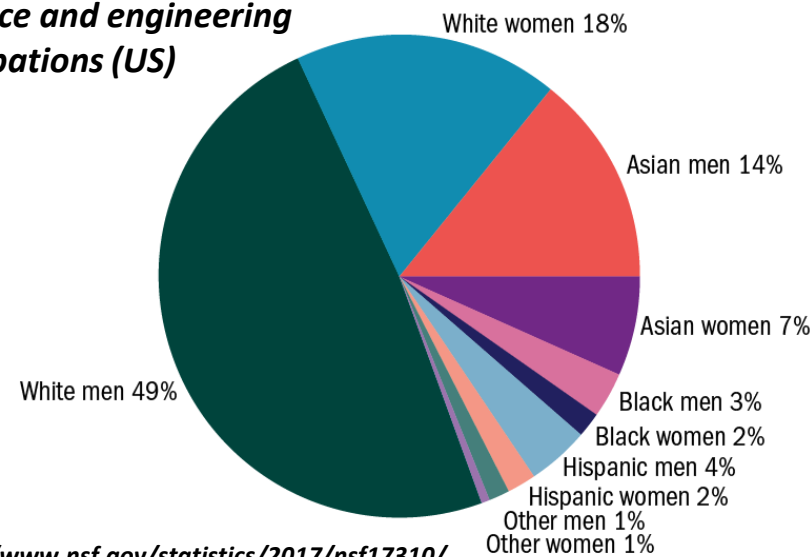
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### Why do we do this?

- Women underrepresented in STEM
- **Little difference in achievement but large difference in career choices**
- Gender specific expectations and feedback from infancy impact on confidence, risk-taking & response to challenges

**Science and engineering occupations (US) 2015**



Source:

<https://www.nsf.gov/statistics/2017/nsf17310/>

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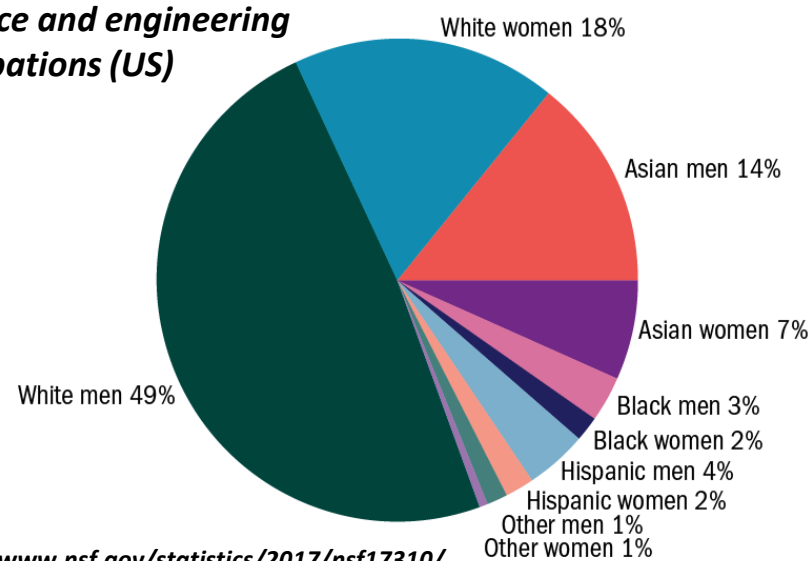
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### Why should we care?

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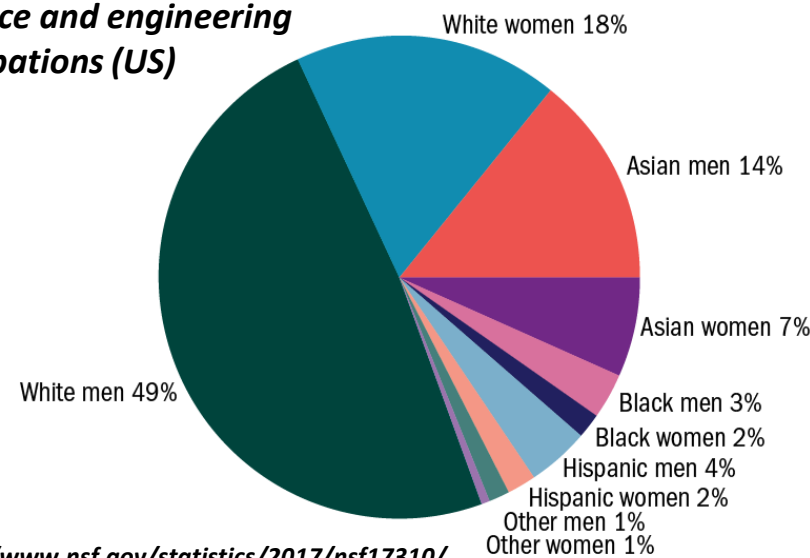
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### Why should we care?

- Unfair
- Waste of talent

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### Why should we care?

- Unfair
- **Waste of talent**
- **Diversity as a benefit**

**Companies with female board members outperform those without:**

<https://www.credit-suisse.com/uk/en/articles/articles/news-and-expertise/2015/06/en/diveristy-on-board.html>

**Papers with diverse authors have more citations:**

<http://www.nature.com/news/collaboration-strength-in-diversity-1.15912>

The background of the slide is a bokeh effect of out-of-focus lights in shades of blue, yellow, and purple. At the top, there is a light blue rounded rectangular box containing the main title and subtitle.

# **Girls Night Out**

at Jodrell Bank Discovery Centre

**What can we do?**



**Girls Night Out**  
at Jodrell Bank Discovery Centre

**What can we do?**  
Provide role models

# Girls Night Out

at Jodrell Bank Discovery Centre

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# Girls Night Out

## at Jodrell Bank Discovery Centre

What can we do?

Provide role models

Drawing on our own personal experiences –  
something we would have liked to attend ourselves.

An event that is enjoyable, informative, inspiring and empowering



# Girls Night Out

## at Jodrell Bank Discovery Centre

### Key features of each event:

- opening talk from a female scientist or engineer
- activities for attendees related to the evening's theme

*First event in 2012  
2 events per year*

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### Content?

- current astronomical events (Mercury transit, summer solstice...)
- connect to current research & involve female researchers

**Past themes:** solar physics, hunting for exoplanets, engineering the Square Kilometre Array (SKA)

**Past Activities:** telescopes, planetarium, science busking, soldering, tea light telescope arrays,...





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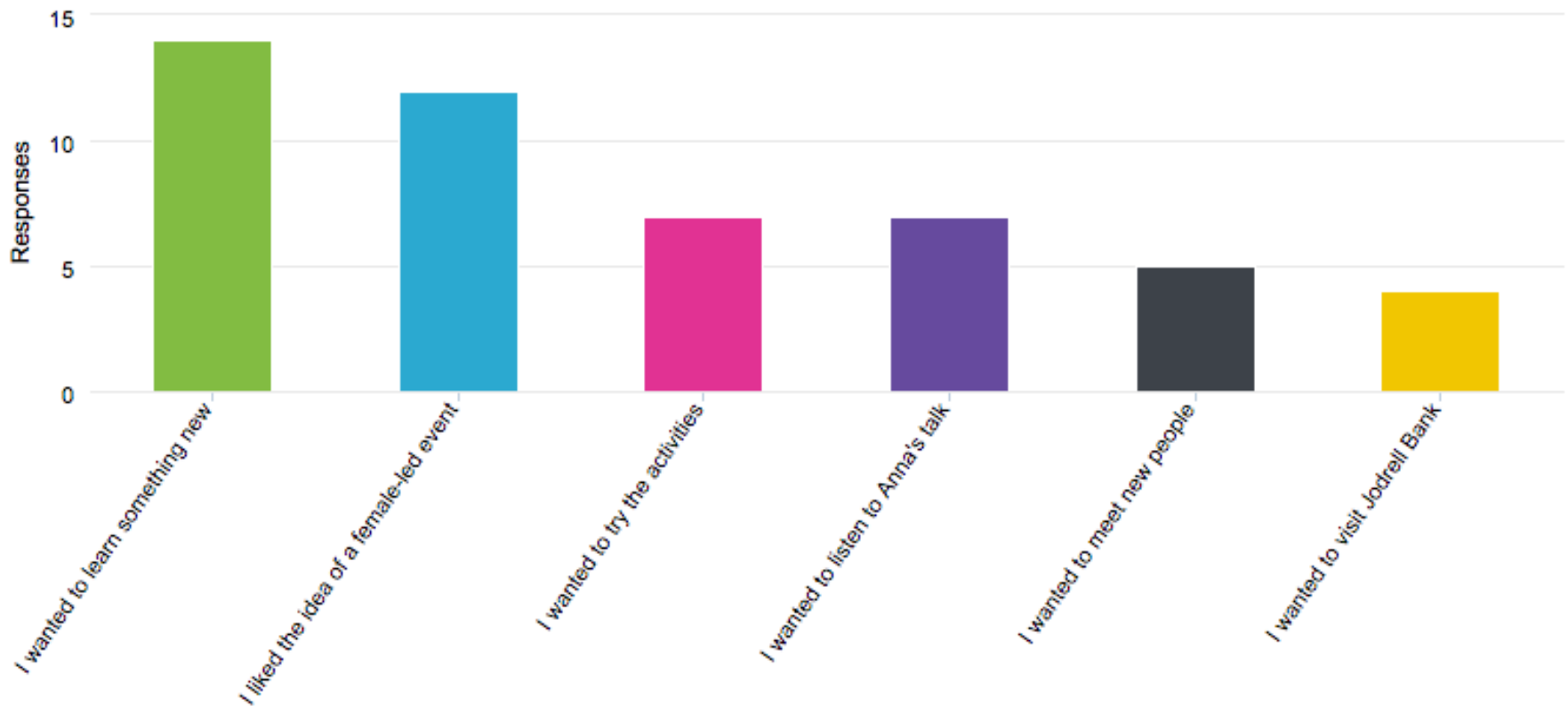
at Jodrell Bank Discovery Centre

**Why do people come to the event?**

# Girls Night Out

## at Jodrell Bank Discovery Centre

### Why do people come to the event?



# **Girls Night Out**

## at Jodrell Bank Discovery Centre

### **Why do people come to the event?**

- they want to learn something new
- they like the idea of a female-led event

### **Who do we reach?**

# Girls Night Out

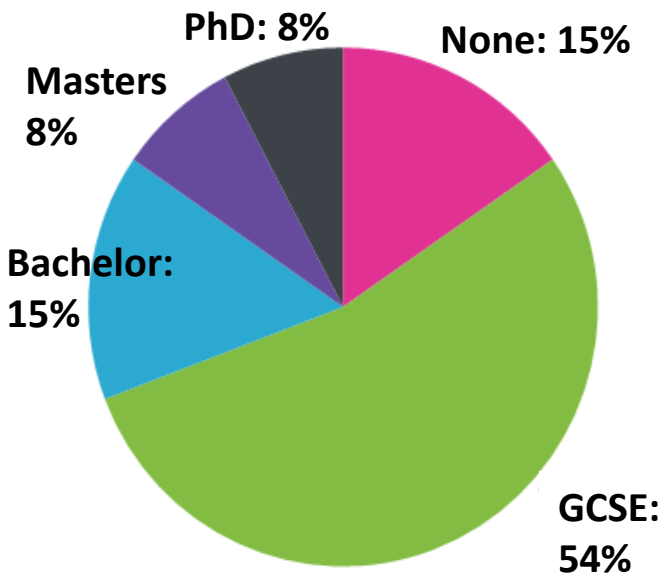
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## Who do we reach?

### Education



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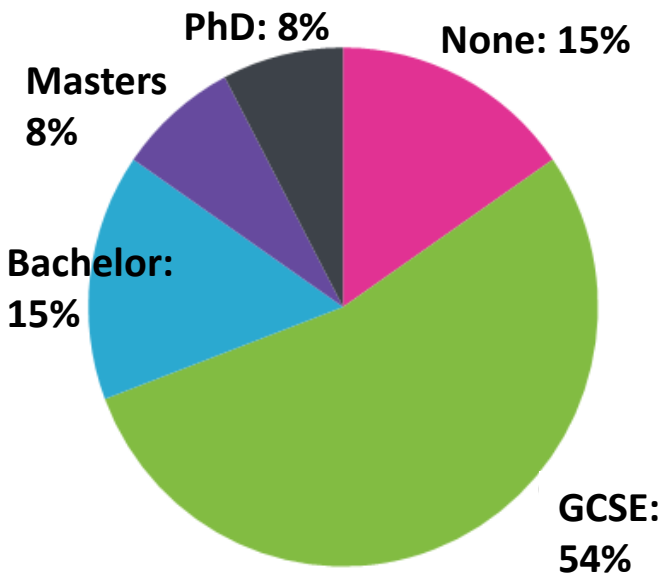
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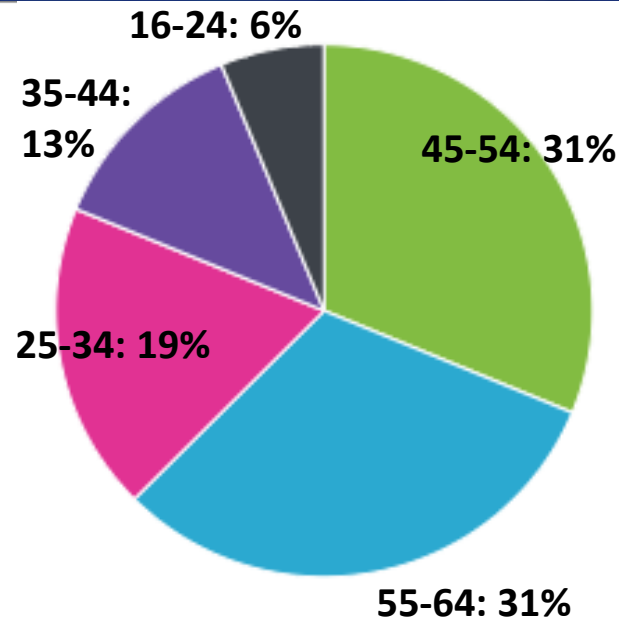
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## Who do we reach?

### Education



### Age range



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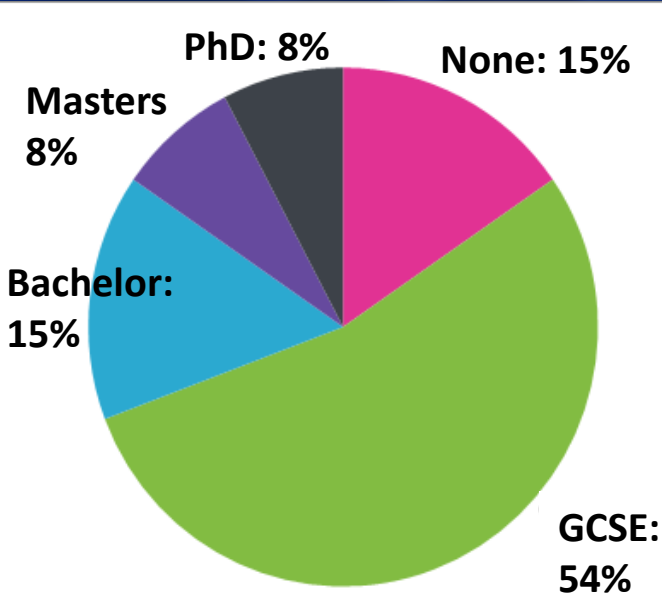
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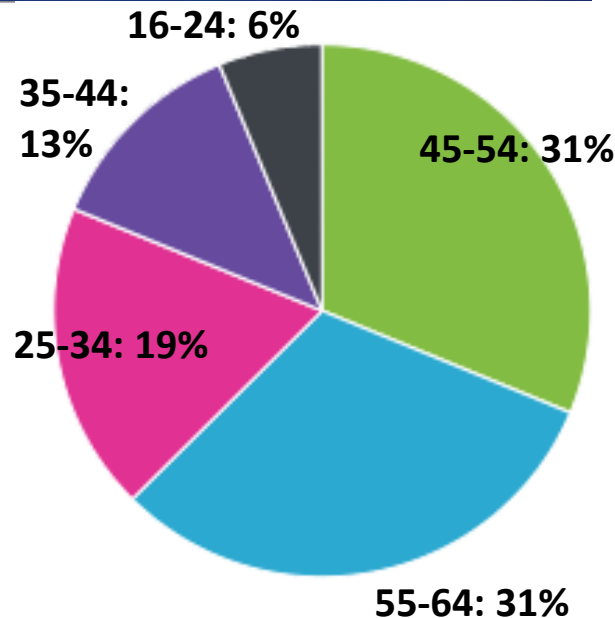
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## Who do we reach?

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### Age range



### Diversity



# Girls Night Out

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### Feedback?

- Testimonials speak of 'inspiration', a 'sense of belonging', finding 'people like me'
- "I am more interested in science now": 90% agree or strongly agree
- "I would like to study it": 64% agree or strongly agree
- "fantastic night out - even for the dads!"

# Girls Night Out at Jodrell Bank Discovery Centre

## Feedback?

 **melissa paxton**  
@melissapaxtonpr Follow

Thank you @jodrellbank Fantastic evening. Lots of fun, learning and accomplishments. First time at soldering for me and daughter.



RETWEETS: 3 LIKES: 14

 **wendymaria**  
@wendymaria100 Follow

@hhs4science all ready for the girls night out at @jodrellbank



LIKES: 2

 **Toni Procter**  
@angeI\_of\_blink Follow

Great night @jodrellbank for girls night! Thanks for having us!



RETWEET: 1 LIKES: 7



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### Challenges?

- Use of pink in advert, cupcakes, "girls" caused some negative feedback

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Jodrell Bank Discovery Centre  
**GIRLS NIGHT OUT**  
Thursday 9th March, 6:30pm

TICKETS  
JUST £12!



Join us for an evening celebration of women and girls in STEM.  
Jodrell Bank Discovery Centre, Macclesfield, Cheshire, SK11 9DW | [www.jodrellbank.net](http://www.jodrellbank.net)

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### Challenges?

- Use of pink in advert, cupcakes, "girls" provoked some negative feedback
- Low diversity and limited age range

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Thank you very much!

