

MARÍA TERESA LAGO

IAU-UAI SECRETARIAT

Email: IAU_GS_2018@iap.fr

BUROFAX ELECTRÓNICO

Fecha y hora de envío: Lunes, 6 de julio de 2020, 13:45 hs.

Remitente: Martín López Corredoira Instituto de Astrofísica de Canarias CALLE VÍA LÁCTEA S/N
38205 SANTA CRUZ DE TENERIFE (STA CRUZ DE TENERIFE)

Número de páginas: 4



TO: Prof. Maria Teresa Lago,
IAU-UAI Secretariat
98-bis Blvd. Arago
F-75014 Paris
FRANCE
E-mail: IAU_GS_2018@iap.fr

FROM: Martín López Corredoira
Instituto de Astrofísica de Canarias
C/.Vía Láctea, s/n
E-38205 La Laguna, Tenerife
SPAIN
E-mail: fuego.templado@gmail.com
URL: <https://corredoira.000webhostapp.com/>

La Laguna (Tenerife), 2020, July 6th,

Dear Prof. Lago,

I have written to you two e-mails with dates 2020, April 19th and May 29th and I have not received any reply. I wonder whether there was any technical failure in the e-mail sending, or there was not any will to reply. For any of the cases, I send you again the content of the e-mails by this *Burofax*, in order we have an official document certifying that IAU General Secretary has received this communication.

Through this communication, I require you send me some answer to the e-mails within the following 10 days after the receipt of this communication, as I understand that IAU General Secretary has the obligation to reply the queries of the members about IAU policy. Legal actions might be undertaken in case of lack of reply within the required dates or when the reply does not fit the international law and regulations of organizations like IAU.

Best regards,

Martín López Corredoira

----- Forwarded message -----

De: **Martín López Corredoira** <fuego.templado@gmail.com>
Date: vie., 29 may. 2020 a las 15:16
Subject: Re: About the WG's subWG on Ideological Inclusion
To: <IAU_GS_2018@iap.fr>
Cc: <IAU_AGS@iap.fr>, <jre@iac.es>

Dear Prof. María Teresa Lago
(cc: to Prof. Rodríguez Espinosa from my institute, Assistant General Secretary of IAU),

I have not received any reply from the e-mail I sent you on April 19th, from which I required some clarifications about IAU Policy. Just in case it was lost as Spam, I send you it again (attached below).

I would also like to add that I have revised the statutes and rules of IAU given at: https://www.iau.org/administration/statutes_rules/

In the point 22 of the rules, it is explicitly said: The Union strongly supports the policies of the International Council for Science (ISC) as regards the freedom and universality of science. Participants in IAU sponsored activities who feel that they may have been subjected to discrimination are urged, first, to seek clarification of the origin of the incident, which may have been due to misunderstandings or to the cultural differences encountered in an international environment. Should these attempts not prove successful, contact should be made with the General Secretary who will take steps to resolve the issue.

Within this context, I would understand that no scientist can be discriminated on political ideological grounds (within legal order, of course). Neither in the code of conduct I find justification for forcing astronomers to accept a given ideology different from their views.

Therefore, again, please clarify me (and justify) whether you find appropriate or not the statement of Prof. Amelia Valcarcel (Chair of Executive Committer WG Astronomy for Equity and Inclusion) "*The IAU has a clear ideology about Inclusion that has to be accepted by all its members*".

Explicitly speaking, should an astronomer be a feminist in order to be a member of IAU?

Looking forward to receive your reply.
Best regards,

[Martín López Corredoira](#) (active member of IAU)
[IAC](#). C/.Vía Láctea, s/n. E-38205 La Laguna, Tenerife, Spain

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El dom., 19 abr. 2020 a las 23:53, Martín López Corredoira (<fuego.templado@gmail.com>) escribió:

Dear Prof. Amelia Ortiz Gil (Chair of Executive Committer WG Astronomy for Equity and Inclusion) and dear Prof. María Teresa Lago (IAU General Secretary),

I respect your decision of rejection of my proposal for the creation of a subworking group within your Diversity and Inclusion Working Group on the discrimination of individuals due to ideological orientations (see e-mails below). However, I do not find appropriate your statement "*The IAU has a clear ideology about Inclusion that has to be accepted by all its members*". It means that:

1) IAU is not a neutral organization from a political point of view; because there are different points of view about the topic of inclusion in different political orientations. I wonder whether IAU has been declared as a political organization, or otherwise I wonder where the rights to establish an official political ideology stem from,

I do not know much about international law (I will ask a lawyer anyway), but at least in Spain this kind of organizations dedicated to research or education "cannot" be attached to any political ideology. It is not their mission. In particular, the mission of IAU is promoting astronomy, not promoting certain ideologies.

2) Even more surprising is that an ideology "has to be accepted by all its members". Do you mean that a member that does not follow this ideology should leave the organization? This would be against law in my country, as a case of discrimination of members because of ideological orientations. According to our Constitution in Spain, and according also to the Rules of Human Rights of United Nations, no individual may be rejected in an organization dedicated to research and education due to ideological orientations, and, of course, this member cannot be "forced" to change his/her ideology.

I would like that IAU General Secretary Prof. Lago replied me clarifying me these points of IAU Policy.

Best regards, and good health in these times of coronavirus,

[Martín López Corredoira](#)

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El jue., 9 abr. 2020 a las 11:50, amelia ortiz gil (<amelia.ortiz@uv.es>) escribió:
Dear Martin,

Thank you for your suggestion about setting up a subworking group on Ideological Inclusion.

We regret to inform you that the Working Group's OC has rejected the proposal. The IAU has a clear ideology about Inclusion that has to be accepted by all its members. In particular, its [Strategic Plan 2020-2030](#), states that "*The IAU strives to be an inclusive organisation within which all astronomers, regardless of nationality, ethnicity, religion, gender, sexuality, or disability, are welcome at all activities. Astronomy as a whole is enriched when there is a diverse body of astronomers, who bring a variety of perspectives, ideas, and approaches to the field. Gender equality is a particular focus of the IAU, since men have largely dominated the field of astronomy (...)The IAU will continue to promote gender parity in astronomy across the world.*"

Therefore, the IAU cannot include any ideologies that contradict these principles, and so we cannot approve the creation of an Ideological Inclusion subgroup whose goal is to include all ideologies.

Best regards,

Amelia & Lina (on behalf of the WG's Organising Committee)

----- Forwarded message -----

De: **Martín López Corredoira** <fuego.templado@gmail.com>

Date: mar., 10 dic. 2019 a las 18:32
Subject: Re: Setting up WG sub-groups
To: <amelia.ortiz@uv.es>

Dear Amelia (although we both speak Spanish, I write to you in English for the case you want to send this e-mail to some other person away from Spain),

I would like to propose the following subtopic within the Diversity and Inclusion Working Group: "**Ideological inclusion**". For this item, I propose to analyze within our astronomical community the cases of discrimination or exclusion for people with some political, religious, philosophical ideas away from the majorities. It is our moral and legal obligation to watch over the neutrality of our institutions against non-scientific ideologies that try to become dogmas. At present, indeed, there are many documented cases of ostracism/bullying in our community related to it. Paradoxically, extreme defense of "diversity and inclusion" programs carries implicitly sometimes "exclusion and lack of diversity" and lack of freedom of expression for individuals who do not share the political ideas usually associated to the first lemmas. But we pursue a society where everybody is welcome (within legality, of course), and in which only the merits of a CV and potentialities for research should be taken into account in the distribution of jobs, conferences,... in astronomy. Christian or Muslims or atheists, leftists or rightists, materialists or mentalists, feminists or non-feminists, etc. all of them should have a place in a plural society, and exclusion because of the ideology should be discouraged.

If nobody else is interested to lead this subtopic of "Ideological inclusion", I may offer myself to lead the sub-WG.

I am staff research at Instituto de Astrofísica de Canarias, and, apart from PhD in Physics, I also have a PhD in Philosophy, and I usually work with philosophers in topics related to Philosophy/Sociology of Science. I have also some experience in the topic of the discussion of ideologies within science.

Let me know whether my suggestion and my possible collaboration might be of interest for you.

Best regards,

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Remitente: Martín López Corredoira Instituto de Astrofísica de Canarias CALLE VÍA LÁCTEA S/N 38205 SANTA CRUZ DE TENERIFE (STA CRUZ DE TENERIFE)

Destinatario: María Teresa Lago IAU-UAI Secretariat Email: IAU_GS_2018@iap.fr

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06/07/2020 13:45:18	Notificación emitida	Acceso pendiente a la url de la notificación.
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