

1 Map created by Douglas Boubert, ECN vice-chair, showing all the countries (blue) from which participants entered the poster exhibition. (Created with mapchart.net)



Pandemic posters

The **RAS Early Career Network** announces the winners of its 2020 poster exhibition.

With the National Astronomy Meeting cancelled in the RAS's 200th anniversary year, the Society wanted to give early-career researchers the opportunity to share their work in a format freely available to all: an online poster exhibition. Led by the new RAS Early Careers Network (ECN), 272 students, postdocs, graduates and young professionals uploaded their digital posters to the online exhibition in September.

The project made an impression on social media and the number and breadth of entries meant that the team of more than 20 senior judges spanning astronomy and geophysics took eight weeks to read all the submissions. "After an awesome two weeks of tweets and interactions, and an intense period of judging, we are now delighted to announce the winners and honorable mentions," said Aine O'Brien, ECN chair. These are the five winners, all of whom are postgraduate students:

- **Shannon Jones** (Reading University, UK): The visual complexity of coronal mass ejections
- **Heidi Thiemann** (Open University, UK): Red novae candidates: an investigation of long-period near-contact giant eclipsing binaries
- **Isobel Romero-Shaw** (Monash University, Australia): Searching for eccentricity: signatures of dynamical formation in the first gravitational-wave transient catalogue of LIGO and Virgo
- **Núria Jordana-Mitjans** (Bath University, UK): What is the role of the magnetic fields in GRB outflows? The case of GRB 190114C
- **Soheb Mandhai** (University of Leicester, UK): Extragalactic wanderers: migration of compact binaries from their host galaxies

Honorable mentions

The ECN also extends congratulations to the runners up, whose posters also impressed the judges:

- **Nathan Adams** (Oxford University, UK): Population studies of galaxies in the early universe
- **Maeve Doyle** (University College Dublin, ROI): Building

The ECN Meet the team

The RAS Early Career Network (ECN) was founded in 2020, as part of the Society's bicentennial celebrations. Its role is to provide support, networking and advice for early-career Fellows, and to act as a voice for this community within the RAS.

The network is run by a committee of five people, all early-career researchers. Aine O'Brien (University of Glasgow) is the chair, with vice chair Douglas Boubert (Oxford University) and secretary Dominic Bowman (KU Leuven, The Netherlands). Two of the committee have responsibility for specific areas: Fred Richards (Imperial College) is the Events Team lead and Megan Maunder (University of Exeter) is leading the Advocacy Team. Read more at bit.ly/2JeGhNU.

Ireland's first satellite

- **Ezequiel Gonzalez** (recent graduate, Leanspace/ISU, France): Atmosphere spectroscopy of gas giant exoplanets
- **Mara Leite** (Westminster University, UK): Analysis of human-commensal microbes at a Mars analogue habitat
- **Anne Buckner** (postdoc, Exeter University, UK): INDICATE: a novel tool to robustly study the star formation history of a cluster.

"The standard of posters was exceptionally high and we were amazed by the vast number of topics covered, from CubeSats to education and outreach, from black holes to seismology of the Earth," said O'Brien. "We are so grateful to everyone who took the time to participate." The posters came from all over the world as well as across all the RAS subjects. Douglas Boubert, ECN vice-chair, said: "We had entrants from 47 countries, which is the fantastic bonus of holding an online poster exhibition. We were especially pleased that 65% of our entrants were students, with 24 of them being undergraduates."

You can view the posters at ras.ac.uk/ras-2020-posters. You can search by research area or by author's name; it's an impressive array! It is hoped that this will become an annual event, so look out for details later this year. ●

AUTHORS

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 chair **Aine O'Brien** (University of Glasgow, UK);
 vice chair **Douglas Boubert** (Oxford University, UK);
 secretary **Dominic Bowman** (KU Leuven, The Netherlands);
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