

PREFACE

In the dynamic landscape of the 21st century, where technological advancements reshape our interactions, it becomes imperative to address the inclusion gap faced by communities with disabilities. This Proceedings of the III Workshop for Astronomy Beyond the Common Senses for Accessibility and Inclusion (3WAI), held in Montevideo, Uruguay, from November 29 to 30, 2023, stand as a testament to our commitment to bridging this gap at various societal levels.

Historically, individuals with disabilities have encountered barriers limiting their access to opportunities. The advent of new technologies, while holding great potential, also poses the risk of exacerbating inequality unless concerted efforts are made to counteract this trend. Unfortunately, inclusive frameworks are often inadequately implemented. However, encouragingly, there is a growing array of initiatives aimed at fortifying inclusive practices, recognizing them as integral to both social and scientific development.

Astronomy, with its profound historical, scientific, and cultural significance, emerges as a powerful tool in achieving inclusive goals. The notion of inclusive astronomy gains paramount importance in transforming the field to embrace diverse perspectives, ensuring inclusive participation in education, research, and outreach. The International Astronomical Union (IAU) has taken a significant step by establishing the Working Group on Astronomy for Equity and Inclusion, underlining the global importance of these endeavors. The 3WAI builds upon the foundation laid by its predecessors, the first held in Cartagena de Indias, Colombia, in 2016, and the second conducted virtually on November 17-18, 2021. These workshops showcased strategies, experiences, and initiatives that have emerged to make astronomy more inclusive, especially in the context of an increasing number of virtual initiatives spurred by the global pandemic.

The 3WAI aims to provide a platform for interdisciplinary dialogue, uniting astronomers, educators, disability specialists, students, and science communicators. With a focus on sharing strategies, working toward specific objectives, discussing recent applications, and participating in initiatives designed for audiences with disabilities, this event seeks to propel the trajectory of inclusive astronomy.

We express our gratitude to the International Astronomical Union, Universidad de la República, Planetario de Montevideo (Uruguay), and all the contributors and participants who have made this workshop possible. As we embark on this intellectual journey, we anticipate fruitful discussions, insightful presentations, and the forging of collaborations that contribute to the ongoing narrative of inclusive astronomy. The richness of our shared experiences and insights promises to chart a course towards a more accessible and inclusive future for the field.

In the realm of astronomy for inclusion, we pay tribute to the remarkable astrophysicist Stavros Katsanevas (1953-2023), a dedicated advocate for the democratization of science. His passion for promoting scientific knowledge to diverse audiences was evident through his roles, including serving on the jury for the Daniel and Nina Carasso Foundation since 2015. In 2019, he curated the exhibition “The Rhythm of Space” at the Museo della Grafica in Pisa, showcasing his commitment to making science accessible to all. As the coordinator of the European Horizon 2020 project REINFORCE, Stavros aimed to empower over 100,000 citizens, fostering awareness and a positive attitude towards science. Beyond his professional pursuits, Stavros embodied kindness and generosity, drawing inspiration from philosophy, literature, and poetry. His enduring legacy as a driving force in advancing science and fostering inclusivity will continue to inspire and resonate within our community.

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The 3WAI Scientific Organizing Committee was conformed by: Santiago Vargas, Chair (Universidad Nacional de Colombia, Observatorio Astronómico Nacional, Colombia), Beatriz García (Consejo Nacional de Investigaciones Científicas y Técnicas - CONICET), y Universidad Tecnológica Nacional, Facultad Regional Mendoza, Ciudad de Mendoza, Argentina), Johana Casado (Instituto de Bioingeniería, Universidad de Mendoza, Ciudad de Mendoza, Argentina), Breezy Ocaña (San Diego State University, Astronomy Department, and Caribbean Astronomy for Inclusion), and Angela Pérez (Planetario de Medellín - Parque Explora, Colombia). The Local Organizing Committee was coordinated by: Juan José Downes (Departamento de Astronomía, Facultad de Ciencias, Universidad de la República, Uruguay), Oscar Méndez (Planetario de Montevideo), Juan Pablo Moreira, y Daniel Gastelu.

For more details, accessing the Posters Exhibition and having the possibility to watch the recorded meeting, please visit the website: <https://tiny.cc/3wai>.

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Editors of the proceedings