

Dimensions of Diversity

Room: Auditorium 1

Session chair: Margriet van der Heijden (TU/e)

Recent advances in physics diversity have concentrated on mitigating gender imbalances, yet authentic diversity encompasses various aspects beyond gender, including neurodiversity, ethnicity, religion, and others. This interactive focus session aims to spark discussions and initiatives to build an inclusive, equitable, and innovative physics community by embracing diverse perspectives. It will do so by first having two experts sharing their insights on the dimensions of diversity and equity.

Rachel Plak from Leiden University will discuss 'Neurodiversity and Autism in various contexts', and Iris Breetvelt, who, after retiring from the Kohnstamm Institute (UvA), was active in the WO&O sector council of the General Education Union (AOB), will address 'Social Safety and the academic climate'.

Their talks will be followed by a panel discussion on diversity in the Dutch physics community with Kees Storm (Dean Applied Physics TU/e) and Marieke Mulders (mother & master's student Applied Physics). The audience will be encouraged to take part in this discussion that will be moderated by Margriet van der Heijden (TU/e).

All attendees are encouraged to speak out their thoughts, talk about their experiences and about their ideas on how to contribute to inclusivity. It would be wonderful if it could help involve physicists in embracing diversity, increasing equity, and promoting inclusiveness.