

Code of Conduct for attendees of Royal Astronomical Society Meetings/Events in Burlington House and elsewhere

The Royal Astronomical Society Fellows and staff value the participation of everyone at events and want all attendees to have an enjoyable experience. Accordingly, all attendees are expected to show respect and courtesy to other attendees and staff. Any RAS meeting/event (including those sponsored by the RAS) will be a discrimination and harassment-free environment for everyone. Discrimination on the basis of, for example, sex, sexual orientation, marital or civil partner status, gender reassignment, race including colour, nationality, ethnic or national origin, religion, belief, disability, being pregnant or having a child, age, physical appearance and level of intellectual/professional achievement will not be tolerated.

The Society does not tolerate harassment of attendees in any form. Harassment includes offensive verbal comments related to gender, sexual orientation, disability, physical appearance, race or religion; sexual images in public spaces; deliberate intimidation, stalking, or following; harassing photography or recording; sustained disruption of talks or other events; inappropriate physical contact, and unwelcome sexual attention.

Expected behaviour of participants/attendees at RAS meetings

Participants/attendees should:

- Be on time for the start of a session.
- Refrain from loud conversations outside the door of the lecture theatre/meeting room switch off mobile phones.
- Sit at the rear of the lecture theatre if using a lap-top computer, where possible.
- Remember that lecturers give their time freely. Some are very distinguished; some are early career scientists giving a lecture at this level for the first time. All deserve a fair and encouraging hearing.
- Be kind to others.
- Not insult or put down other attendees.
- Respect RAS staff.
- Behave professionally.

All communication (given by lecturers, organisers and attendees) should be appropriate for a professional audience. Sexual language, sexist, racist, or exclusionary jokes and imagery is not appropriate for any event. Participants/attendees asked to stop any discriminatory or harassing behaviour are expected to comply immediately. Attendees violating these rules may be asked to leave the event, without a refund of any charge that may have been levied. Participants/attendees are entitled to raise a complaint. The Code of Conduct for RAS Members will apply if those involved are Members. Otherwise the matters should be raised with RAS staff who will involve the Executive Director if required.

Thank you for helping to make all RAS meetings and events welcoming for all.