31st International Symposium on Lepton Photon Interactions at High Energies



Contribution ID: 139 Type: Talk

Particle Physics Masterclasses for the Public: Finding the Scientist in Everyone

Tuesday 18 July 2023 14:00 (15 minutes)

The International Particle Physics Outreach Group (IPPOG) is a network of scientists, science educators and communication specialists working across the globe in informal science education and public engagement. Its flagship educational program, International Particle Physics Masterclasses, reaches thousands of students each year around the world, turning them into scientists for a day. The participants meet scientists from local institutes and laboratories, learn about current research, then try their hand at analysing real data from particle physics experiments.

Recently, IPPOG members have explored bringing this masterclass formula outside of the classroom to the public. Masterclasses have been held at music festivals, for business management training, and for non-scientific personnel working at the CERN laboratory. These attempts have been very popular and highly successful. Participants have learned valuable lessons on scientific methodology, the goals of current research, and have gained an appreciation for the relevance of the field for society. We present the results of these pilot efforts and discuss plans for the future.

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Session Classification: Diversity, Inclusion, Equity and Outreach

Track Classification: Diversity, inclusion, equity and Outreach