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Invisible Workers in Science

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Why do we remember some scientists while forgetting others who participated in the same scientific work? Moving away from prominent scientists and focusing on the invisible workers can highlight the role of gender, race, and class in scientific knowledge-making. Using Mount Wilson Observatory at the turn of the twentieth century as an example, I point out how scientists in positions of power, such as observatory directors, enforced gender division among the scientists. Through examples in modern science, I point out how taking into account the contribution made by these forgotten scientists can enrich our understanding of science and provide insights into creating a more equitable environment.

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