

Tackling inequalities on stage and backstage of science conferences

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**Conferences are
constituting spaces of
scientific fields**

**shaped by and shaping their
social and epistemic structure.**

(Koch/Matviichuk 2021; building on Henderson 2020)

Conferences reflect and reinforce inequalities

along the lines of gender, race and ethnicity, social class and caste, geographical location ...

(Blumen/Bar-Gal 2006; Casadevall/Handelsman 2014; Derudder/Liu 2016; Dubrow et al. 2016; Eden 2016; Ford et al. 2019; Sabharwal et al. 2020; Johnson et al. 2017; Timperley et al. 2020; and many more)

Case study from the field of forest science: an analysis of IUFRO World Congresses 2010, 2014 and 2019 with a focus on gender and geographical representation

→ number of women and scholars based in Southern world regions has increased, especially among key note speakers and presenters

→ dominance of male scholars affiliated with Northern institutions still striking and most pronounced among session chairs and members of scientific committees

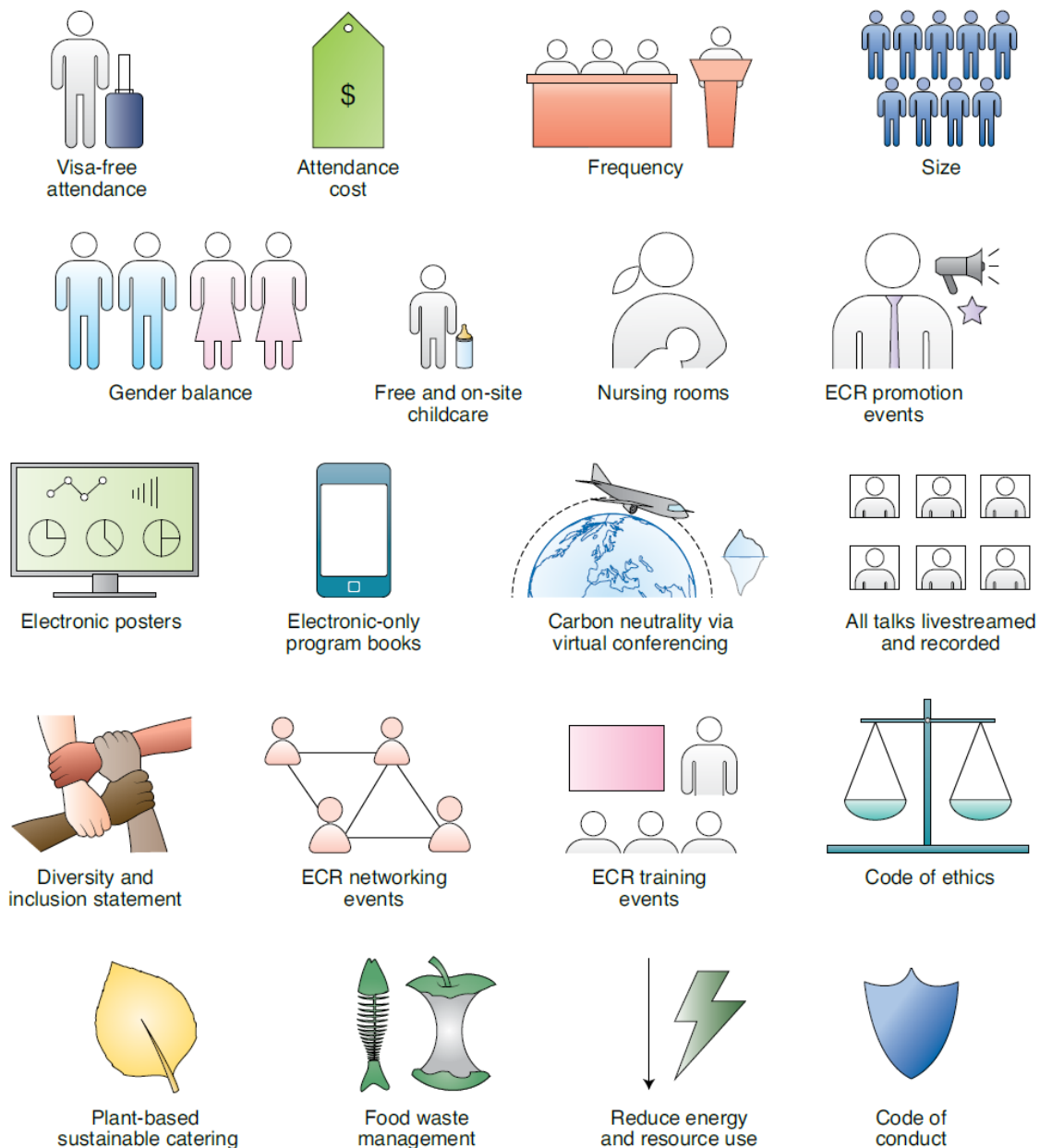
(Koch/Matviichuk 2021)

What to do?

Sarabipour et al. (2021): Changing scientific meetings for the better. Nature Human Behaviour (5), 296-300.

Recommended key considerations for conference organisation

Key considerations for every academic conference



Yes, but also:

**as scientific communities,
associations and organisations,
reflect on and reconsider
prevailing valuation practices
and their impact on social and
epistemic diversity in the
conference space**

Thank you!

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