

# *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**

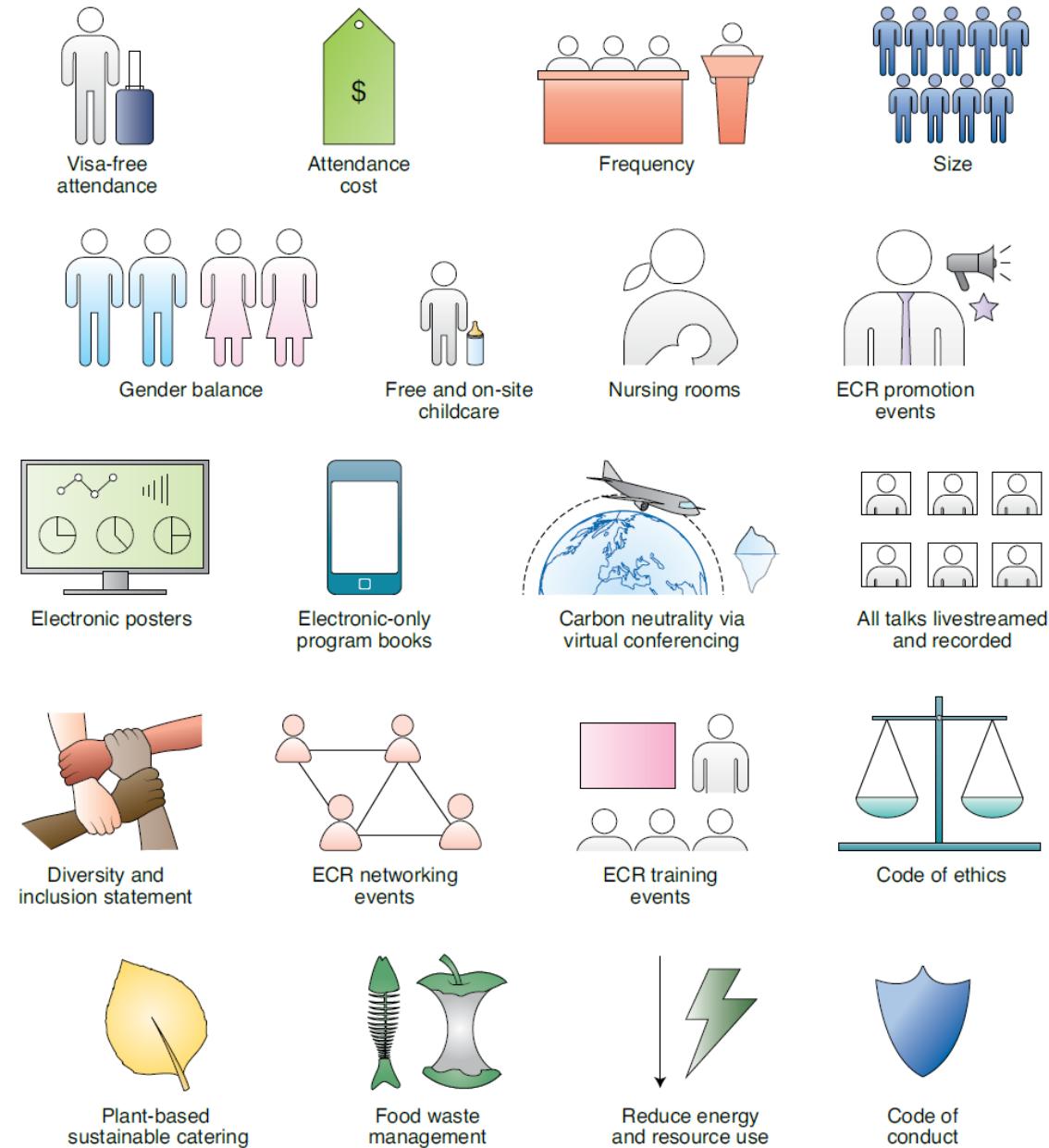
- number of women and scholars based in Southern world regions has increased, especially among key note speakers and presenters
- dominance of male scholars affiliated with Northern institutions still striking and most pronounced among session chairs and members of scientific committees

(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**



# **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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