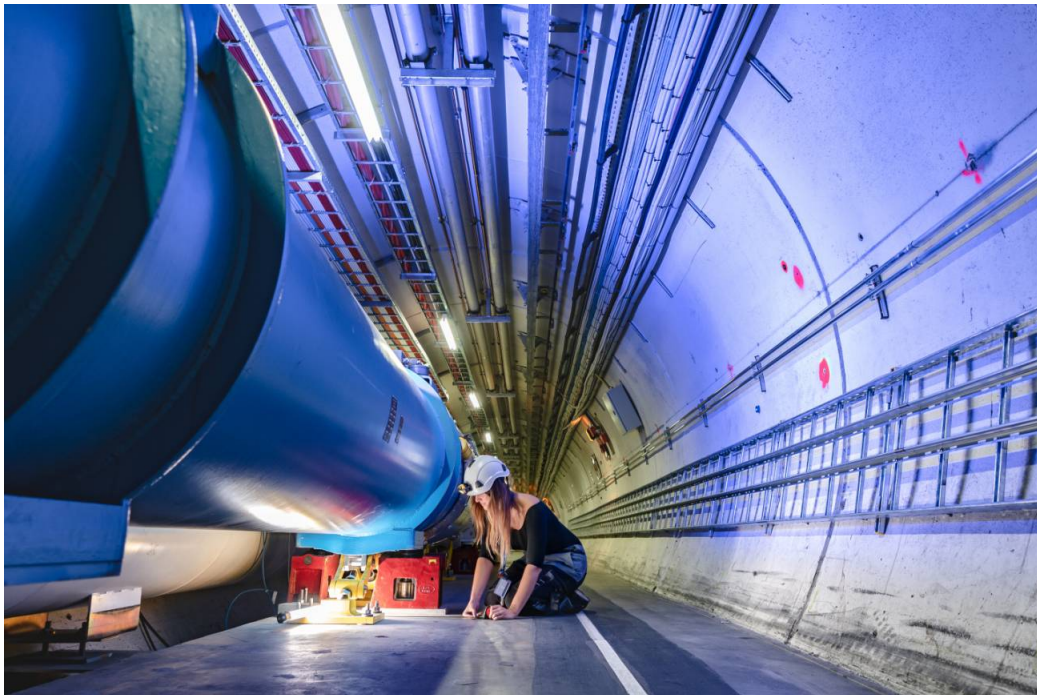


We're not going to remain silent about the Strumias of this world

A group of mostly Spanish male and female physicists and physicists have expressed their rejection of Alessandro Strumia's repeated statements on women's access to his discipline, which have been harshly criticised for their lack of rigour. This letter is an initiative of the Association of Women Researchers and Technologists (AMIT).

Pascuala García Martínez 'et. al'

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Physicists and engineers at CERN have also criticized Strumia's false and sexist claims. In the picture, engineer Cristina Bahamonde, a nuclear and chemical engineer, working on the protection systems of the Large Hadron Collider (LHC) / © CERN

Alessandro Strumia is an Italian physicist who has gained some notoriety, unfortunately, for his sexist comments on women who work in physics. In October 2018, [he gave a talk](#) at the scientific centre where he worked as a guest researcher, the European Organisation for Nuclear Research (known as CERN), in which he made a number of sexist, unfounded claims.

He claimed that physics had been invented by men; that women are not as

good at physics as men; that we are allocated more funds than we deserve for our quality as scientists; and that women obtain positions of power within the area of physics only because of our status as women.

Strumia said that physics had been invented by men and that we are allocated more funds than we deserve

He argued that there is no discrimination against us in the scientific area in which he and we work. Immediately, the networks were set on fire with comments from people, including many physicists, who were outraged by his words.

The Italian scientist then argued that his claims were based on his own **research** into the situation of women in **fundamental physics**. But those alleged gender studies he claims to have conducted, and from which he claims to have obtained the data to support his arguments, did not convince CERN, which, at the end of the research, withdrew his appointment as a visiting professor.

Before that, a letter, the [“High Energy Physics Community Statement”](#), signed by more than 4,000 male and female physicists from this area of science, had been published, strongly criticizing Strumia's claims.

Disinformation disguised as science

The alleged data on which the physicist bases his claims have been repeatedly criticised for their lack of scientific rigour, but recently the journal ***Quantitative Science Studies*** (QSS) has decided to publish Strumia's article containing the research information on which he bases his sexist conclusions.

Prestigious scientific outlets, such as [Science magazine](#), have echoed this story. One information scientist who has reviewed Strumia's article, **Cassidy Sugimoto** of Indiana University in the United States, says in *Science* that the article she has evaluated is “methodologically flawed” and “does not meet (scientific) standards.” But despite this, it will be published.

The alleged data on which the physicist bases his claims have been

repeatedly criticised for their lack of scientific rigor

This is not an isolated event. The publication of Strumia's article reminds us of other recent events, this time unrelated to physics but having the same origin. For example, the statements of Polish far-right MEP Janusz Korwin-Mikke who said in 2017: "Of course women should earn less because they are weaker, smaller and less intelligent." Or recent statements by groups denying the existence of gender-based violence.

Although they seem to be about different things, they all have one thing in common: they are fighting against feminism and progress in ending gender discrimination.

No matter how hard the Strumias of this world try, we will not remain silent about these attempts to discredit our efforts to end inequality, nor about the slanders that try to conceal reality. We will never remain silent again.

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[Email](#) para más información y adhesiones.

Nota: Este artículo ha sido editado para especificar que Cassidy Sugimoto es

una científica experta en información que ha revisado el artículo de Strumia.

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