

3 minutes ago

# The pros & cons of pro/am collaboration in astronomy new

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By  [astronomyjc](#) with          ...

The transcript of the 24th meeting of the Astronomy Twitter Journal Club. We discussed professional / amateur collaboration in astronomy. There's some more details about the meeting at <http://astrojournalclub.wordpress.com/2012/03/14/this-weeks-meeting-the-pros-cons-of-proam-collaboration/>



In about five minutes, the Astronomy Twitter Journal Club will be discussing pro-am collaboration. <http://t.co/8B2X3hqj> [#astroJC](#)

**SamHawkins** 3 days ago



To take part, open this: <http://t.co/kTmVhost> and include [#astroJC](#) in your tweets. Please direct them to [@\\_atjc](#) to avoid spamming followers.

**SamHawkins** 3 days ago



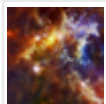
[#astrojc](#) starts in ~5 minutes. Tonight's guest host [@SamHawkins](#) has written a short intro to the discussion topic: <http://t.co/Yi8EfAxC>

**astronomyjc** 3 days ago



[@\\_atjc](#) Hello and welcome to the Astro Twitter Journal Club! Before we discuss tonight's topic, please introduce yourselves... [#astrojc](#)

**SamHawkins** 3 days ago



MT [@SamHawkins](#) Hello & welcome to the Astro Twitter Journal Club! Before we discuss tonight's topic, please introduce yourselves... [#astrojc](#)

**astronomyjc** 3 days ago



[@astronomyjc](#) I'm Emma, astronomy postdoc, currently trying to finish JCMT telescope proposal! [#astrojc](#)

**allinthegutter** 3 days ago



[@\\_atjc](#) I'm actually a linguistics undergrad from Herts, England, but I won't shut up about astronomy. Amateur for a decade. [#astrojc](#)

**SamHawkins** 3 days ago



[#astrojc](#) Do you think there's a difference in how the astro community sees 'amateurs' since [@galaxyzoo](#) & the Zooniverse came along?

**allinthegutter** 3 days ago



[@\\_atjc](#) Thilina here, [#AstroComm](#) guy and a Project Manager (Astr/Sci/Edu) from Colombo, Sri Lanka. [#astrojc](#)

**ThilinaH** 3 days ago

[@allinthegutter](#) Not sure but I'd like to think that pro community was already aware of



amateur ability. Lots of collabs before Zoo. [#astrojc](#)

**SamHawkins** 3 days ago



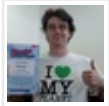
[#astrojc](#) I think the perspective of an "amateur" has changed for better due to [#citizenscience](#) efforts / [@SamHawkins](#) [@allinthegutter](#)

**ThilinaH** 3 days ago



[@ThilinaH](#) [@allinthegutter](#) Success of [@galaxyzoo](#) and rapid expansion of the Zooniverse perhaps show greater interest from pros. [#astrojc](#)

**SamHawkins** 3 days ago



I'm a big fan of citizen science! Not just because we've found loads of pulsars thanks to [@EinsteinAtHome](#) volunteers! [#astrojc](#)

**evanocathain** 3 days ago



oh ya, i'm evan, postdoc in bonn BTW [#astrojc](#)

**evanocathain** 3 days ago



Hi - sorry I'm late, only just remembered! Karen, Research Fellow from Portsmouth - I work with [@galaxy](#). [#astrojc](#)

**KarenLMasters** 3 days ago



I've written so far 4 papers (and counting) which couldn't been done wo citizen scientists in [@galaxyzoo](#) - so I'm obviously a fan [#astrojc](#)

**KarenLMasters** 3 days ago



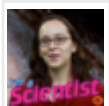
[@KarenLMasters](#) [@evanocathain](#) Welcome! [@ThilinaH](#) [@allinthegutter](#) Thilina, care to elaborate? Who's perspective? [#astrojc](#)

**SamHawkins** 3 days ago



As scientists in [@galaxyzoo](#) we're seeing more and more acceptance from the "traditional" professionals who were skeptics at first. [#astrojc](#)

**KarenLMasters** 3 days ago



Or that's my perspective. Some ppl still remain to be convinced we can do real science with [@galaxyzoo](#), but we're working on them! [#astrojc](#)

**KarenLMasters** 3 days ago



By the way terrible timing for [#astrojc](#). Do you realise how many telescope deadlines are today...! ;) Lots of [@galaxyzoo](#) followup ideas in.

**KarenLMasters** 3 days ago



[#astrojc](#) From the pros' perspective. Of course the pro's were aware of amateur ability before. But the recent developments in (cont)

**ThilinaH** 3 days ago

[#astrojc](#) (cont) citizen science contributed number of published (quality) papers which is a



good sign.

**ThilinaH** 3 days ago



I think [@imascientist](#) has spoiled me for [#astrojc](#). This seems so slow compared to live chats! ;)

**KarenLMasters** 3 days ago



[@\\_atjc](#) We must remember that the first professionals were in fact employed by wealthy "amateur" scientists. [#astrojc](#)

**SamHawkins** 3 days ago



RT [@astronomyjc](#): [#astrojc](#) starts in ~5 minutes. Tonight's guest host [@SamHawkins](#) has written a short intro to the discussion topic: <http://t.co/Yi8EfAxC>

**5p4c3net** 3 days ago



[@\\_atjc](#) [#astrojc](#) What would describe the pros? "Usually can't find constellations beyond Orion/Plough, or planets, or name Apollo crews." ;)

**StephenSerjeant** 3 days ago



[@\\_atjc](#) [@KarenLMasters](#) Ha! Do you feel Zoo citizen scientists receive fair recognition? [#astrojc](#)

**SamHawkins** 3 days ago



[@\\_atjc](#) Here's a good definition of ProAm - <http://t.co/IFkF8Vy1> [#astrojc](#)

**ThilinaH** 3 days ago



[@allinthegutter](#) [#astrojc](#) there are a lot of very well equipped amateurs out there who make important variable star & asteroid contributions

**nialldeacon** 3 days ago



[@SamHawkins](#) within [@galaxyzoo](#) we try hard to make sure they do - but with the data going public (and public forums) it's tough. [#astrojc](#)

**KarenLMasters** 3 days ago



[@\\_atjc](#) [#astrojc](#) Astro's always had proam collaboration. I remember as a kid hearing about amateur SNe discoveries (I'm 39 and 11 quarters).

**StephenSerjeant** 3 days ago



[#astrojc](#) bunch of M dwarf eclipsing binaries found by amateurs went in to this paper <http://t.co/rT4hUerE>

**nialldeacon** 3 days ago



[#astrojc](#) With public data & citizen science training eventually the gov't can stop funding astronomy altogether & just encourage zooites!

**allinthegutter** 3 days ago



[@allinthegutter](#) that's unlikely. More tax payers who care about astronomy more likely means more funding for astronomy. [#astrojc](#)

**KarenLMasters** 3 days ago



Bye everyone - it's late and I'm tired from typing [@imascientist](#) live chats and questions! ;) [#astrojc](#)

**KarenLMasters** 3 days ago



[#astrojc](#) Should there be a central-go-to place for ProAms? A common platform to share, discuss, download, etc? (re: <http://t.co/QhZunhqV>)

**ThilinaH** 3 days ago



[@ThilinaH](#) [@\\_atjc](#) I think so. A central org would be part. useful for collabs coordinated across time zones. Eg <http://t.co/YHyIzdg3> [#astrojc](#)

**SamHawkins** 3 days ago



[@SamHawkins](#) [@\\_atjc](#) Exactly. Also, it will probably help to raise the standards of ProAm efforts. [#astrojc](#)

**ThilinaH** 3 days ago



[@ThilinaH](#) [@\\_atjc](#) Perhaps there ought to be an umbrella organisation that somehow unifies ALPO, BAA, RAS, AAS, AAVSO etc [#astrojc](#)

**SamHawkins** 3 days ago



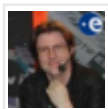
[@SamHawkins](#) [@ThilinaH](#) [@\\_atjc](#) [#astrojc](#) This could be a role best played by the IAU - perhaps via the OAD run by [@govender](#) ?

**StephenSerjeant** 3 days ago



[#astrojc](#) Sure, OAD would be a great platform for that. In fact [@pruss](#) has a good plan in progress <http://t.co/1f3kdZrK> / [@govender](#)

**ThilinaH** 3 days ago



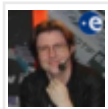
[#astrojc](#) Hi, sorry I am late in, Nick Howes currently working with Faulkes Telescope Project and ESA, space science as a writer

**NickAstronomer** 3 days ago



[@NickAstronomer](#) [@SamHawkins](#) [@\\_atjc](#) Yes, plus this will help to get more recognition for (serious) amateurs. [#astrojc](#)

**ThilinaH** 3 days ago



[@ThilinaH](#) [@SamHawkins](#) [@\\_atjc](#) [#astrojc](#) organisations like the BAA already manage and handle some great projects, but would be good to have ..

**NickAstronomer** 3 days ago



[@NickAstronomer](#) [@\\_atjc](#) Correct. But I'm referring to a global effort. [#astrojc](#)

**ThilinaH** 3 days ago



[@ThilinaH](#) [@\\_atjc](#) [#astrojc](#) yes, see my last tweet...exactly and OAD could be the way forward..

**NickAstronomer** 3 days ago



[@NickAstronomer](#) [@\\_atjc](#) Sorry, didn't see the rest of your tweet. Yes, exactly like that. [#astrojc](#)

**ThilinaH** 3 days ago



[#astrojc](#) amateurs have so much time and energy to help with pro projects, just feed them ideas plans and they'll happily contribute

**NickAstronomer** 3 days ago



[@\\_atjc](#) [#astrojc](#) IMO the most memorable [#astrofest](#) talk this year was [@hannyvanarke](#)'s - so wonderful it's almost a Pro-Am fairy story :)

**StephenSerjeant** 3 days ago



[@\\_atjc](#) [#astrojc](#) ...especially how genuine Am involvement in Pro can extend even to co-authorships. A model for how to do it well.

**StephenSerjeant** 3 days ago



"[@StephenSerieant](#) [@\\_atjc](#) Yes, a nice example being <http://t.co/xrCYXeh7> [#astrojc](#)

**NickAstronomer** 3 days ago



RT [@nialldeacon](#): [#astrojc](#) bunch of M dwarf eclipsing binaries found by amateurs went in to this paper <http://t.co/rT4hUerE>

**Nighthawk\_Black** 3 days ago



I'm uselessly late, but what about Am contributions to communicating astronomy + public perception? good and bad stories there. [#astrojc](#)

**ritatojeiro** 3 days ago



Absolutely, [#iya2009](#) was a success due to the AM contributions [@ritatojeiro](#): but what about Am contributions to EPO? [#astrojc](#)

**pruss** 3 days ago

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