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# Meet an #ActualLivingScientist from the Nordics

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Today is the UN International Day of Women and Girls in Science. Meet some of the female scientists from around the Nordics who have taken to twitter to introduce themselves and their science to the world.

Scientists around the world have been taking to twitter using the hashtag [#ActualLivingScientist](#) [6] to introduce themselves and their science to the rest of the world.

Twitter is flooded with messages from men and women of all fields of research, from biology, ecology, mathematics, climate science, geology, and more.

Many are tweeting in response to political developments in the US following the now infamous “[alternative facts](#) [7]” of US President Trump’s counsellor, Kellyanne Conway.

The hashtag is also building momentum in the run up to the [Scientists March on Washington](#) [8] on April 22 and [sister marches](#) [9] confirmed for the same day in cities around the US and elsewhere in [Sweden](#) [10], [Norway](#) [11], [New Zealand](#) [12], [Australia](#) [13], and the [UK](#) [14] to name a few.

But many are simply hoping that the hash-tag will serve as [a virtual meet and great](#) [15] to reach people who may not otherwise have the chance to get to know scientists within their circle of friends.

## Science communication in a hash-tag

For Helle Astrid Kjær, a glaciologist from the Niels Bohr Institute in Denmark, the hashtag is a great excuse to showcase research from far and wide.

“To my understanding it was initially a response to the Trump government statements on “alternative facts.”. But I like it just because it shows how much great research is being done today,” says Kjær, who regularly uses twitter to communicate her research to colleagues around the world.

“I hope that regular people will check out the hashtag and be intrigued. The format of a short text saying what you work on and some nice pictures could help [scientists] reach a wider community without going into lots of detail. Maybe this is a good way to give them an idea of the ongoing research,” she says.

## Meet the #ActualLivingScientists

To celebrate [UN International Day of Women and Girls in Science](#) [16], we have collated tweets from female #ActualLivingScientists.

All of whom work or study at universities and research institutions throughout the Nordics.

[Helle Astrid Kjær](#) [17], a glaciologist and post doc at the Niels Bohr Institute, University of Copenhagen, Denmark:

Im an [#actuallivingscientist](#) [18] [#DressLikeAWoman](#) [19] ask me about [#icecores](#) [20] , chemistry , [#climatechange](#) [21] and [#paleoclimate](#) [22] [#ice2ice](#) [23] [pic.twitter.com/7UIStyZ3WP](http://pic.twitter.com/7UIStyZ3WP) [24]

— Helle Astrid Kjær (@H\_A\_Kjaer) [February 7, 2017](#) [25]

**[Kristin Aleklett](#) [26], a postdoc in microbial biology at Lund University, Sweden:**

When you're an [#actuallivingscientist](#) [18] studying [#fungi](#) [27] in [#microfluidicsystems](#) [28] you know you'd better [#DressLikeAWoman](#) [19] [pic.twitter.com/mfiXHX0kYY](http://pic.twitter.com/mfiXHX0kYY) [29]

— Kristin Aleklett (@KAleklett) [February 7, 2017](#) [30]

**[Anja Rösel](#) [31], a postdoc in sea ice physics at the Norwegian Polar Institute:**

Studying sea ice in the Arctic. Or call me climate scientist. [#actuallivingscientist](#) [18] [#DressLikeAWoman](#) [19] [pic.twitter.com/B9uTC0nvYD](http://pic.twitter.com/B9uTC0nvYD) [32]

— Anja Rösel (@anja\_rose) [February 5, 2017](#) [33]

**[Chloé Yeung](#) [34], a postdoc studying ageing processes at the Institute of Sports Medicine, University of Copenhagen, Denmark:**

Me: [#actuallivingscientist](#) [18] who studies how to reset the [#tendon](#) [35] [#circadianclock](#) [36] to improve [#musculoskeletal](#) [37] [#ageing](#) [38] and I [#DressLikeAWoman](#) [19] [pic.twitter.com/m0GIBwc6ni](http://pic.twitter.com/m0GIBwc6ni) [39]

— Chloé Yeung (@ccstorytime) [February 8, 2017](#) [40]

**[Erika Rosengren](#) [41], curator at Lund University Historical Museum, Sweden:**

I curate the bones of ancient people and animals from southern Sweden, with a particular fondness for large bovines [#actuallivingscientist](#) [18]

— Erika Rosengren (@RosengrenErika) [February 4, 2017](#) [42]

**[Hanna Kauko](#) [43], a marine biologist from Finland, working at Norwegian Polar Institute:**

Studying [#light](#) [44] and [#algae](#) [45] on [#Arctic](#) [46] pack ice - requires proper field gear! [#DressLikeAWoman](#) [19] [#actuallivingscientist](#) [18] [pic.twitter.com/OY19W1Z5T6](#) [47]

— Hanna Kauko (@HannaKauko) [February 6, 2017](#) [48]

**[Frances Deegan](#) [49], a geologist from Ireland working at Uppsala University, Sweden:**

Hello, I'm Frances, an [#actuallivingscientist](#) [18]. I study volcanoes old and young in places like the Arctic and Indonesia using geochemistry. [pic.twitter.com/jGjdXkh84r](#) [50]

— Frances Deegan (@FMDeegan) [February 5, 2017](#) [51]

**[Aga Nowak](#) [52], biochemist based at The University Centre in Svalbard (UNIS), Norway, and Sheffield University, UK:**

I'm a hydrologist, biogeochemist, oceanographer. I research Arctic & Antarctic climate change impacts. I'm [#actuallivingscientist](#) [18] & a woman [pic.twitter.com/KZYuRvQoAY](#) [53]

— Aga Nowak (@\_AgaNowak) [February 5, 2017](#) [54]

**[Ruth Mottram](#) [55], climate scientist at The Danish Meteorological Institute (DMI):**

I'm an [#actuallivingscientist](#) [18] modelling [#Arctic](#) [46] [#climate](#) [56] + [#greenland](#) [57] [#icesheet](#) [58]. Used to be mostly field, today mostly computer [#ice2ice](#) [23] [pic.twitter.com/NygprxDyOm](#)

[59]

— Ruth Mottram (@ruth\_mottram) [February 9, 2017](#) [60]

**[Hermoine Jean Venter](#) [61], staff scientist at GenØk – Centre for Biosafety, UiT the Arctic University of Norway:**

I am an [#actuallivingscientist](#) [18] currently studying environmental sources of antibiotic resistance, while I [#DressLikeAWoman](#) [19] [#GenØk](#) [62] [pic.twitter.com/SQdKAEXByD](https://pic.twitter.com/SQdKAEXByD) [63]

— Hermoine Jean (@hermoine\_venter) [February 4, 2017](#) [64]

**[Pinja Kettunen](#) [65], a PhD student studying physiology at the University of Helsinki, Finland:**

Hi! I'm an illustrator, biology major and an [#actuallivingscientist](#) [18]. I study the development of the inner ear in the [#universityhelsinki](#) [66]. [pic.twitter.com/ZnkiMKTY6O](https://pic.twitter.com/ZnkiMKTY6O) [67]

— Pinja Kettunen (@bigartisteArt) [February 7, 2017](#) [68]

**[Lena Rubensdotter](#) [69], a geologist at the Norwegian Geological Survey:**

[#actuallivingscientist](#) [18]..- yes, that is me.. lover of [#landslides](#) [70] -maker of [#maps](#) [71], Outside summer - computers in winter.. allways curious! [pic.twitter.com/P8nb17gSxi](https://pic.twitter.com/P8nb17gSxi) [72]

— Lena Rubensdotter (@LenaRubensdoter) [February 10, 2017](#) [73]

And last but not least is this author.

**[Catherine Jex](#) [74], a palaeoclimatologist now a science journalist at ScienceNordic.com and Videnskab.dk, in Denmark:**

I'm Cath an [#actuallivingscientist](#) [18], once studying cave formations to investigate how climate changed in the past, now a sci journalist! [pic.twitter.com/epLxdjnWxW](https://pic.twitter.com/epLxdjnWxW) [75]

— Catherine Jex (@CathJex) [February 10, 2017](#) [76]

But is this virtual meet a scientist working? Well it has made one twitter user happy at least:

Thanks to the [#actuallivingscientist](#) [18] hashtag, I've started following a ton of scientists. I recommend everyone do the same. Such positivity!

— Blake Corbishley (@blakecorbishley) [February 8, 2017](#) [77]

#### Join in and share your own tweet

If you are an #ActualLivingScientist then feel free to add a link to your own tweet in the comment feed at the end of this article.

And if you are an #ActualLivingScientist in Denmark then be sure to sign up for the [Danish Science Festival Book a Scientist Scheme](#) [78] for an opportunity to meet and greet with interested citizens in real life.

*Read more about the Book a Scientist Scheme: [Danish Scientists go back to School](#) [78]*

 [To celebrate UN International Day of Women and Girls in Science, we have collated tweets from female #ActualLivingScientists working or studying at universities and research institutions throughout the Nordics. \(Photos collated from twitter\)](#) [79]

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[Catherine Jex](#) [74]

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[7] <http://www.nbcnews.com/meet-the-press/video/conway-press-secretary-gave-alternative-facts-860142147643>

[8] <https://twitter.com/ScienceMarchDC>

- [9] <http://www.sciencemag.org/news/2017/02/european-researchers-spin-sister-marches-science-least-eight-countries>
- [10] <https://twitter.com/SciMarchSthlm>
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- [16] <http://www.un.org/en/events/women-and-girls-in-science-day/>
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- [18] <https://twitter.com/hashtag/actuallivingscientist?src=hash>
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