HER+Data MCR Initiative

HER+Data MCR (https://www.meetup.com/HER-Data-MCR/, https://twitter.com/herplusdatamcr) is a Meetup group which brings together anyone who identifies as a woman and has a connection to data - whether they work with data, would like to work with data, and/or simply have an interest in data. The scope is intended to be broad to include as many women within STEM as possible while also maintaining a focus on the topic of data - we talk data science, analytics, research, visualisation, software and applications. Members’ backgrounds range from academia to industry, students to CEOs, neuroscientists to idea implementers. We meet once a month, provide ample time for networking, and showcase 2-4 women in data speakers who talk about their career paths, role models, challenges faced and data projects that they work on. HER+Data MCR promotes active engagement of women in STEM by removing many of the barriers that may otherwise prevent them, by providing a safe environment and building a community where women can share their experiences, find role models, support each other, empower confidence in ourselves, reduce imposter syndrome and learn more about how to overcome the structural and cultural obstacles within STEM.

How Rachael has made a difference

STEM events are normally dominated by male speakers, male panels and male organisers. Rachael founded HER+Data MCR when she first arrived in the UK in 2017, after being inspired by the women in data meet-up in Dublin and eager to improve the culture in STEM to be more inclusive. The group now has 550 members from across Manchester, and consistently attracts 30-50 attendees to each monthly event. HER+Data MCR showcases women in data as STEM role models, conducts masterclasses to empower women for promotion within STEM, and breaks down gender barriers to make STEM a more inclusive place.