

Diversity Statement

Pinak Mandal

January 2023

As a research scholar at the International Centre for Theoretical Sciences - TIFR, I have been privileged to interact with people from different backgrounds and ethnicities. India is known to have an enormous cultural diversity with over 700 spoken languages. And being part of an international institute in India naturally leads to a multicultural and colorful experience. As a part of the Neuromatch academy in 2021 I was assigned to a team of five belonging to four different countries, India, England, Germany and Iran, with backgrounds in neuroscience, engineering, mathematics and chemistry. It was a delightful experience to study together as a group and work on the final project after dividing our responsibilities, my favorite moment being all of us discussing the meanings behind our names. In 2022 I was selected to be a part of the Future Research Talent program at the Australian National University where I had a fun time explaining my research to again, people from different countries and ethnicities. It is paramount to protect diversity in academia since it naturally leads to new learning opportunities. I hope to continue meeting people from different backgrounds and learn about them since it makes my life richer in experience and lets me see the world around me from multiple perspectives otherwise inaccessible to me.