

Inspiring conversations with women in science: Thomas Sudmeyer, from University of Neuchatel, discusses a new book aimed at providing role models for young

aimed at providing role models for young researchers.

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Main content

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Several years ago, as part of the UN's International Year of Light, the European Optical Society launched the Early Career Women in Photonics Award that recognises scientists who have rendered outstanding services to photonics. Highlighting female scientists provides young women with successful role models that represent a new generation of scientists.

Creating new female role models is an important task. Today, women are still rarely seen in academic leadership positions, as keynote speakers at conferences or as scientific experts on television and in newspapers. It is important for our research community to understand how existing norms can influence our image of reality and strengthen stereotypes. And, the lack of visibility of women in science can mean that women are less likely to start, or stay, in scientific careers (1).

Providing successful female role models can help to solve the 'leaky pipeline' problem: the increasing number of women leaving their careers before reaching senior positions.

In Switzerland, the share of women professors in natural sciences is only about 10 per cent.

Addressing this issue, Dr Anna Garry, a professor at ETH Zurich, started gathering stories and...

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Discrimination of women from womb to tomb is well known. There is continued inequality and vulnerability of women in all sectors and women oppressed in all spheres of life, they need to be empowered in all walk of life. In order to fight against the socially constructed

gender biases, women have to swim against the system that requires more strength. Their every working role influences the society by any means. Education is mentioned as the main key factor in overcoming the barriers and obstacles that women face and the basic tool for empowering women through take her decision and bringing them into the mainstream of development (Kritz et al, 1990;Marlize, 1995& Sundaram, 2014. Education and empowerment both are closely dependable to each other (Ahmed et al., 2006). Since women constitute a substantial part of the electorate, their interests cannot be neglected in political discussions. Therefore, the only reasonable discussion we can have is one that aims at maximizing societal well-being—maximizing the well-being of all men and women in our society. Feminism may be bad for men, but if it is not as bad for men as it is good for women, then men have no chance of winning rational arguments in their fight against feminism. “I want more male power” or “I feel unfairly treated as a man” is not an argument. It is an impotent expression of will and emotion, res