

Special Event			
29.09.	14.30 – 17.30	“Women in Science: Experiences of Academics in Switzerland” PRIMA Leadership Programme Participants’ book launch	Berne

In this celebrative event, we will reflect on the key learnings from the book **Women in Science: Experiences of Academics in Switzerland**. During the event, the book will be presented and there will be printed copies for all the participants interested in learning more about it (for more information about the book see below the synopsis and table of content). This event will bring together people who are working on an everyday basis to change research culture. We will discuss the impact of research culture on females’ careers with a core focus on ways forwards and innovative solutions. The main goal is to underscore strategies to overcome obstacles and highlight what allows building inclusive work environments. Some book authors will share their experiences as female researchers in Switzerland. We will also have the opportunity to hear key insights offered by an established professor who obtained the prestigious Latsis Price and exchange with experts seeking to build more inclusive working environments in academia.

Everyone who wants to learn more and be part of the change is invited to the event!

#### Agenda of the event

14h30 – Welcome words

14h40 – Keynote on cultural changes needed to make a more inclusive academia

15h10 – Book presentation and questions to the book authors

15h30 – Panel discussion with Hugues Abriel, Helene Füger, Elizabeth Mesok and Daniel Schaerer

16h10 – Questions from the audience to panel and keynote

16h30-17h30 – Closing aperitivo

#### Speakers and panel participants

- Keynote speaker: Ursula Keller – Professor at the ETH Zurich
- PRIMA book authors:
  - Catalina Pimiento – Professor at the University of Zurich
  - Petra Vetter – Assistant Professor at the University of Fribourg
  - Meike Ramon – Professor at the Berner Fachhochschule
  - Annalisa De Cia – Astronomer at the European Southern Observatory (ESO)
  - Sara Hellmüller – Research Professor at the Geneva Graduate Institute
- Panel participants:
  - Hugues Abriel – Vice-rector of research and innovation and professor at the University of Bern;
  - Helene Füger – Equal opportunities delegate at the EPFL;
  - Elizabeth Mesok – “Women in Science” co-editor and Lecturer in the Center for Gender Studies at the University of Basel;
  - Daniel Schaerer – Member of the equality and diversity commission of the Faculty of Science and professor at the University of Geneva.

**Moderator:** (tbc)

Please register for this event [here](#)

### **Book Synopsis and table of content**

This book delves into the experiences of female academics in Switzerland, featuring personal insights from twelve women across various universities and disciplines. Each author shares her unique journey on the pursuit of a professorship, illustrating the diverse paths these scholars have taken. The book not only highlights the rich diversity within the Swiss scientific community but also reveals common challenges faced by these women, shedding light on the persistent structural inequalities, highly competitive work environments, and at times toxic cultures within the academic field. At the same time, the book is a source of hope for those struggling with finding their place in science, showcasing the privileges of an academic career and the passion and perseverance of those pursuing it.

### **Part I. Navigating Adversity and Opportunities: Stories of Perseverance and Triumph**

1. A Dream of Faith – Catalina Pimiento
2. In Pursuit of Peace – Elizabeth Mesok
3. Navigating the Tides of Academia – Lucia Kleint
4. Chasing that Sparkle of Passion – Annalisa De Cia
5. History and Presence of Motherhood and Academia – Stefanie Mahrer
6. Mums, Academia Needs You! – Macarena Toll-Riera
7. Passion for Parasites – Stefanie Knopp

### **Part II. Be(com)ing a Scientist: Key Values and Traits of Academics**

1. Key Ingredients for Becoming a Scientist – Petra Vetter
2. Be less Curious about People and more Curious about Ideas – Camilla Jandus
3. Choosing the Game You Want to Play – Meike Ramon
4. Learning to Be a Leader – Gina Garland
5. Take Good Care – Sara Hellmüller