

How male is science? Film screening and panel discussion

Who does science? And why is it still the male scientist in our imagination? The documentary **PICTURE A SCIENTIST** tackles this question. In it, a biologist, a chemist and a geologist take the audience on a journey through the experiences of their academic careers - as women in science. In their careers, they were exposed to discrimination and violence from the very beginning. The female scientists have to fight a constant battle for recognition, respect and equality.

The FEM POWER network showed the film on 23.6. in an online event organized by the FEM POWER team from LIN Magdeburg. 130 interested people took advantage of the offer and saw the film. Afterwards, five scientists from Magdeburg and Saxony-Anhalt discussed together with the moderators Dr. Sarah Czerney and Anna Gebhard and more than 60 participants how male science (still) is and what all of us can do to make science more equal. The panel included Prof. Dr. Anne Lequy, Rector of Magdeburg-Stendal University of Applied Sciences, Prof. Dr. Gerald Warnecke, Faculty of Mathematics, OVGU Magdeburg, Dr. Sanja Bauer Mikulovic, Group Leader at LIN Magdeburg, Dr. Franziska Appel, Equal Opportunities Officer at IAMO Halle, and Katrina Deane, PhD student at LIN Magdeburg.

Currently, about half of the students and doctoral candidates in Germany are women, but only 20.5% of W3 professorships are held by women, in STEM subjects even only 12.7%. Based on these figures, the participants exchanged views on the reasons for this leaky pipeline, talked about career obstacles for women in science, addressed sexism in science and the (in)compatibility of motherhood and scientific activity. The participants particularly benefited from the personal experiences of the panelists.

More diversity in decision-making bodies, increasing awareness of structural injustices and sexism in science, and courage to address existing problems - these were the main demands that emerged from the discussion. In summary, the panelists noted that there are still many obstacles on the road to equal opportunities in science. But if we ally and empower each other (which is what FEM POWER works for), we can create a more equitable science for all. Because equal opportunity, the event concluded, affects everyone who works in science.

