SCIENTIFIC EXCELLENCE AND EQUALITY – A CONTRADICTION?

The goals of this conference are to discuss current academic, structural and institutional challenges universities face today to promote equality while assuring that a high level of scientific excellence is maintained. It is hoped that the active discourse amongst the attendees not only stimulate a higher awareness for unconscious bias and gender differences but also result in the identification of promising measures of success to reach a true state of equal opportunity.

AGENDA

Wednesday November 4 2020

13:30 - 13:40 Welcome address by MBA, MA Hala Helmy, NCCR MSE, Managing Director

13:40 - 15:10 Session 1: Plenary session, open for all

Keynote: Prof. Dr. Tom Welton, OBE FRSC FCGI, Imperial College London
Chair: Prof. Dr. Thomas R. Ward, NCCR MSE, Director
- Meaning of equal opportunity and diversity
- Structural university barriers and benefits of diversity
- Involvement and influence of the younger generation
- Ways and examples of best practice

15:30 - 17:30 Session 2: Round table discussion with NCCR MSE members, by invitation

Keynote: Dr. Andrea Zimmermann and Fleur Weibel, University of Basel, Gender Studies
Co-Chair: Prof. Dr. Andrea Maihofer, Emerita, Gender Studies
Co-Chair: Prof. Dr. Thomas Ward, NCCR MSE, Director
Moderator: Dr. Ralf Stutzki, NCCR MSE, Head Ethics
- Current cooperation project between the Center for Gender Studies, University of Basel and NCCR MSE. Presentation and discussion of the research findings “Gender & Science: Analysing Gender Structures in the NCCR MSE”.

Thursday November 5 2020

13:30 - 15:10 Session 3: Round table discussion with University decision makers, by invitation

Chair: Prof. Dr. Jens Gaab, University of Basel, Associated Vice President for Diversity and Sustainability
Moderator: Nicole Kälin, University of Basel, Head of Diversity
With Prof. Dr. Tom Welton, Imperial College London
- How to bring about cultural change and build a university environment of diversity
- Identification of required resources, partners, networks and commitments
- Pros and cons of established policies
- Ways and examples of best practice

15:30 - 17:30 Session 4: Round table discussion with NCCR EO and SNSF officers, by invitation

Chair: Dr. des. Simona Isler, SNSF, Gender Equality in Research Funding
Moderator: MBA, MA Hala Helmy, NCCR MSE, Managing Director
With Prof. Dr. Tom Welton, Imperial College London
- Furthering scientific excellence and equal opportunity
- The benefit of programs such as Athena SWAN
- Ways and examples of best practice for resource and financial investment