



Newsletter - June 2021

500 Women Scientists Bern-Fribourg

Entering now in the second half of 2021, we would like to take a moment to reflect on our achievements during these past six months. We have now 120 subscribers receiving our monthly Newsletter (Thank YOU!) and [20 regular members involved in the core organisation of projects and events](#). Ever since the year started, we have been involved in several discussion panels at the Universities of Bern and Fribourg, where we presented our pod and increased our networks. We wrote a letter with the 500WS Zurich launching a call to address gender inequalities in research institutions in Switzerland. The letter, signed by 357 academics, has been the starting point of an important discussion between the Bern and Zurich pods with Sarah Springman (rector of ETH Zurich), the University of Fribourg and Vetsuisse Bern. We also had discussions with Swiss universities.

We published two new profiles in **Paths through Science** (read them [here](#) and [here](#)) and an [opinion article](#) on the controversial declarations of the Nobel Prize recipient Prof. Reinhard Genzel about his co-recipient Prof. Andrea Ghez. Additionally, we held our third outreach event “**Online Extravaganza**”, with talks from **Dr. Nadia Maaroufi** and **Serafina Calarco**, and we actively participated in the Frauenstreik with a **Women in Science Flashmob** about which you can read more below.

The ease of Covid-19 restrictions are a promising start of the rest of the year when we hope to resume our network lunches, 500WS in the Pub and much more. Stay tuned and do not hesitate in contacting us if you have any suggestions and projects!

500 Women Scientists Bern-Fribourg Pod Coordinators

Claudia Kasper, Teresa Chávez-Capilla, Andrea Fortier and Ana I. Benítez-Mateos

TOP STORY

500WS Bern-Fribourg at the Frauenstreik - Women in Science Flashmob

By Silvia Crespo Pomar

On June 14th, we decided to join the Frauenstreik by organizing a **Women in Science flashmob**. This consisted of a series of short science talks given by female scientists who, using simple and concise terms, explained their research topics to a general audience. Our main goal



was to increase the visibility of women scientists and normalize women experts as well as to make a point about the gender inequalities that exist in academia. The coordination team formed by Dr. Silvia Crespo Pomar, Dr. Andrea Fortier, Dr. Claudia Kasper and Lucia Rotheray



could not be prouder as the event was a complete success, hosting almost 20 speakers from very different disciplines. The talks were organized at three different time slots and in three different locations, with 10 speakers per time slot. Although the presentations held in front of the University of Bern were widely followed, the success of the event at the Waisenhausplatz was particularly noteworthy. This performance was followed by several hundred women and was covered by several media outlets that you can read [here](#), [here](#), [here](#) and [here](#). Among them, it is worth mentioning the appearance in [Der Bund](#) and the interview given by Dr. Claudia Kasper and Lucia Rotheray to the [journal-b newspaper](#). Here, they talked about the dependency relationships in academia that can lead to sexual violence, the effect of childcare on women's careers, and the competitive work environment, among other topics. In conclusion, the event clearly helped Bernese society to see that there are still many improvements to be made in the academic world to achieve gender equality, but above all, that there are many women scientists at the forefront, working hard to bring about this change. We would like to thank all the female scientists who participated in the talks, the Frauenstreik collective and ACECH (Association of Spanish Scientist in the Helvetic Confederation) for their support with the logistics of the event. We will surely repeat next year!

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SAVE THE DATE

For the Trade and Gender Summer Course from the World Trade Institute, taking place from the 5-9 July. More details [here](#).

CHECK OUT

The [review of Lucia Rotheray](#) about the 500WS Flashmob at the Frauenstreik.

DON'T MISS

The opportunity to have coaching sessions for writing proposals, management of work-family balance etc. Did you know that the University of Bern pays 75% of up to 3 coaching sessions for female scientists? Contact Lilian Fankhauser (lilian.fankhauser@unibe.ch) for more information.

CONTACT US in 500wsbern@gmail.com

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