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Women in Academia

“Giving women a voice is to respect that voice that they are going to give you”

Fletch Williams

Williams notes how so many women drop off so rapidly after PHD level and therefore very few of them consider academia afterwards. Signalling, such as when all your teachers are male, is a strongly dissuasive force. Having been to five schools, Williams thinks that for an all-female education environment is “not great”. Time is a huge issue and women’s time burdens are much higher than men’s – this needs to be analysed when exploring women in academia. The ‘university network’ internationally has not been good at seeing what has been working well and what has not.

Professor Fiona Karet

Only 13% of clinical professors are women. Those who say that ‘it’s all a matter of time’ “could not be more wrong”. She went to a girl’s school and had been taught there that the world was their oyster and they could do anything they wanted to do. The university is “awake” to the problem of childcare and helps to launch people into seniority. You cannot parachute people in at a senior level so we must “train up the next generation”, that is the task of the academic community now. “Giving women a voice is to respect that voice that they re going to give you”

Nina Ansary

You have a vibrant feminist movement for the first time in Iran and high female education standards. One of the laws the Islamic Regime initiated was to implement single-sex schools for all schools. Many women bypassed in positions in academic because of the patriarchy. Because of the “male-dominated society” women suffer twice as much from unemployment than men. At the beginning of the revolution, women were barred from certain fields of profession, seen by the ruling entity as ‘male-appropriate’. There is much that we take for granted in the West. There’s a law in Iran that a husband may man a wife from a job that seems to be conflicted with her life at home. Further, women equality is an issue that must be addressed by men as well as women.

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For footage of the event go to <https://www.youtube.com/user/cambridgeunionsoc>