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Structural Change Promoting Gender
Equality in Research Organisations
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Dr. Maya Widmer

After graduating in German and English studies at the University of Zurich, she worked as an editor for a Swiss newspaper. She later returned to the University of Zurich as research assistant in the German Department. During this time she taught her own courses for undergraduates. From 1988 to 1992 Maya Widmer was engaged in a research project on women authors in Switzerland from 1800 to 1945. The project was financed by the Swiss National Science Foundation. As a result of this research, a bibliography with commentary concerning Swiss women authors was published and a national exhibition organized. The exhibition and the book received a special award. After 1995 Maya Widmer worked as an expert in education, among others for a newly established mobile communication company where she built up the apprenticeship program. From 2001 to 2004 Maya Widmer coordinated the Federal Gender Equality Program at Swiss Universities on the national level. 2004 she joined the Swiss National Science Foundation SNFS as Head of the unit Gender Equality in Research Funding. She has been a member of the steering committee of the Federal Gender Equality Program of Swiss Universities and of the Helsinki Group since 2004. In 2008 she chaired the expert group on “Women in Research Decision Making” established by the European Commission in 2006-2007, where she wrote the report “Mapping the Maze: Getting More Women to the Top in Research”. This year she was appointed a member of the Science Europe’s task force on gender and diversity. Maya Widmer has been invited to many international conferences or workshops on gender equality as a speaker or chair of sessions. She organized workshops and international conferences in Switzerland, i.e. “Mobility and Networks” (2011). She is the author of numerous publications on women writers and has also published on gender equality in higher education.