

Empowering Women, Empowering Girls – a continuum?

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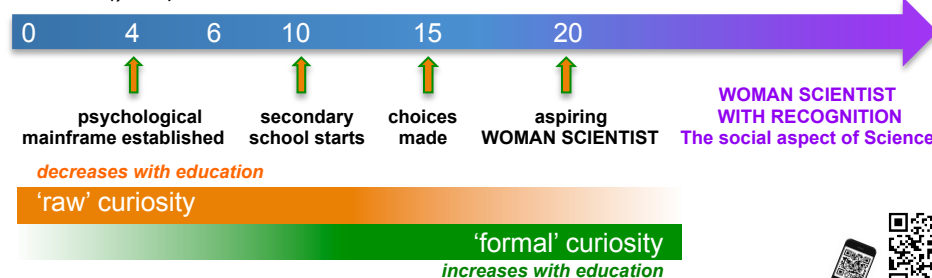
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Are women born scientists?

Yes, in as much as all young girls (and boys) are born with a sizable dose of curiosity, 'raw' curiosity, the starting point for any scientist (Timeline). Interest in the world around occurs even before proper schooling starts. A four year old has her psychological mainframe already established by that age, but as the child's education progresses 'raw' curiosity changes to 'formal' curiosity, which is now enriched with memories, facts, events and knowledge.

Timeline (years)



The kitchen can be our home lab.

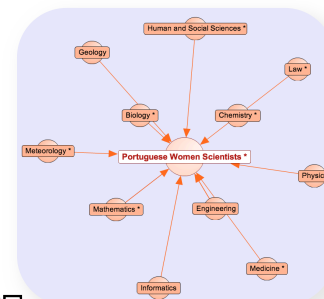


Performing a measurement has no gender.



Why do we hear so little about women scientists?

Because of the general invisibility of women in society,^[1-6] something that is very slowly changing in schools, media, politics and the scientific establishments. Girls' schools are in general a good place for girls to develop their independence and assertiveness.



Portuguese Women Scientists
AMONET E-Database



With some freedom girls network, cooperate, collaborate and discover...

A girl from Instituto de Odivelas (www.institutodivelas.com) discusses her work with a woman scientist from European Science Foundation during an AMONET International Symposium in Lisbon.



What are other key qualities of a good scientist?

- observation skills - truthfulness - thoroughness
- perseverance - social skills for collaboration
- creativity - love of the subject



Oh yes, girls have what it takes to be good scientists! So let us give them labs such as this one at IO.

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