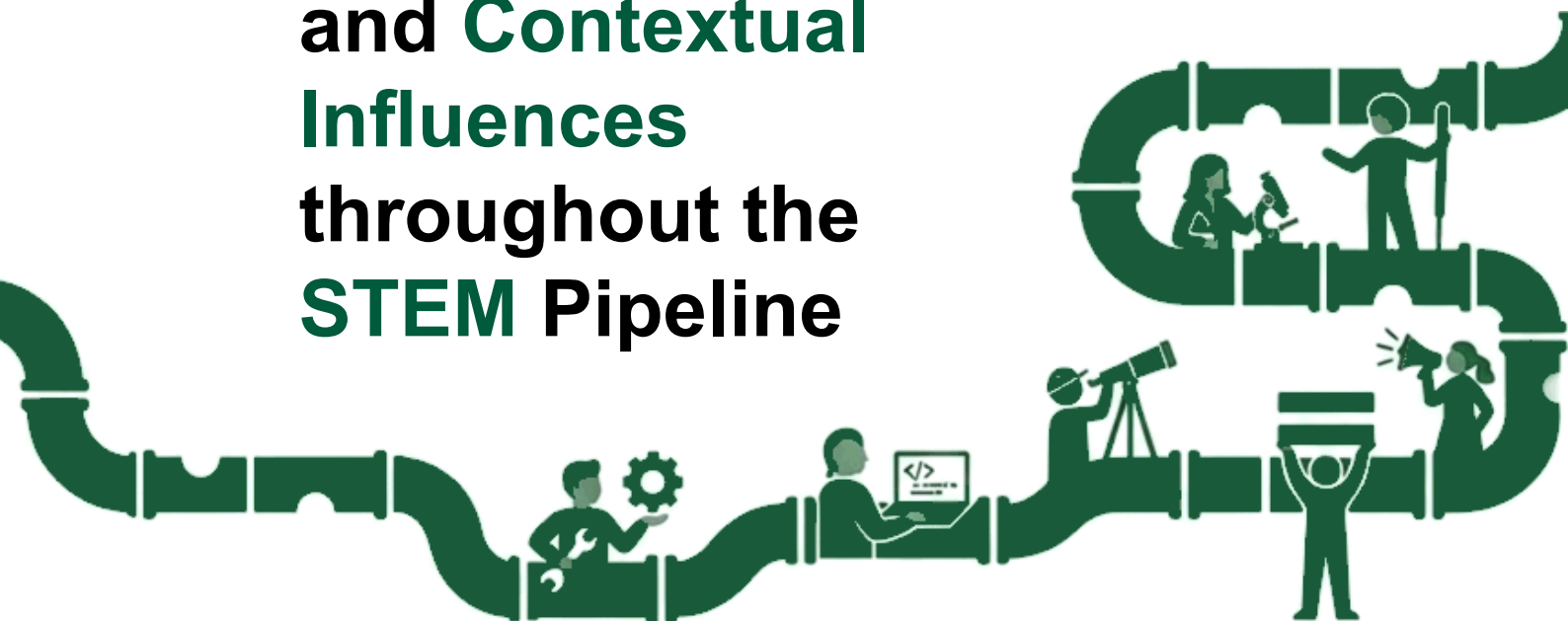


Gender & STEM Conference 2026

**Gender, Diversity,
and Contextual
Influences
throughout the
STEM Pipeline**



9 to 11 July 2026

University of Salzburg, Austria

gstem26.erz-salzburg.at

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Welcome

This is the **8th biennial conference of the international Network Gender & STEM**. The conference will take place from **9 to 11 July 2026**, at the **University of Salzburg, Austria**.

Under the theme “**Gender, diversity, and contextual influences throughout the STEM pipeline**,” the conference aims to advance understanding of the multifaceted and interrelated factors that shape gendered educational and career pathways in STEM - Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics. These issues are of growing importance across a range of disciplines, each contributing distinct theoretical and methodological perspectives.

The conference brings together researchers, policy workers, and practitioners from fields such as psychology, education, sociology, and the various STEM disciplines. It seeks to foster theoretical and empirical dialogue, inform educational and organizational practices, and support evidence-based policymaking. The conference also provides a forum for exchanging ideas on diverse approaches, methodologies, findings, and intervention strategies related to gender and STEM.

Among others, the conference will address the following questions:

- What factors shape the educational and vocational choices of girls/women and boys/men, such as course selection, apprenticeships, or fields of study?
- How do significant influencers in young people’s environments — such as parents, peers, and teachers — impact these choices?
- What roles can schools, socializing agents, and employers play in fostering girls’ and women’s interest in STEM education and careers?
- In what ways do broader societal systems, such as cultural norms, economic structures, or policy frameworks, contribute to the persistence or reduction of gender disparities in STEM?

The conference programme will include **three keynote lectures, a tandem talk, a panel discussion, symposium presentations**, individual paper presentations, and poster presentations, offering ample opportunities for interdisciplinary exchange and discussion.

Network Gender & STEM

Network background, aims and evolution

From the late 1970s, the underrepresentation of girls and women in STEM fields in many countries has been considered problematic and the subject of research, policies and intervention programs (see OECD, 2006). It is still the case that fewer girls and women are retained in particular STEM pathways through secondary schooling and university, and into professions and working life. Gender differences in STEM participation and associated factors continue to occupy researchers who are concerned about gender equity. Opting out of STEM careers has an impact on income potential and social mobility of women and their families; in addition, societies are losing needed STEM workforce talent.



**NETWORK
GENDER
& STEM**

educational and
occupational pathways
and participation

The international [Network Gender & STEM: Educational and occupational pathways and participation](#) was formalised in 2010, and since then it has gained more than 400 members (including researchers, scientists, policyworkers and education practitioners), set up a website and a dedicated [Facebook group](#), published regular newsletters, and organised seven biennial conferences with associated journal special issues. The aim of our Network is to gain deeper insight into the various, closely connected aspects of career choices and professional careers of girls/women and boys/men in the broad field of STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) and connected specialisms.

There is an urgent need to integrate complementary perspectives addressing the question of how pathways into STEM can be facilitated at various points along students' and young adults' educational and occupational development. Additionally, it is important to move beyond results which highlight only single aspects. For example, often it is important to acknowledge that gender is intertwined with other social categories such as race and socioeconomic background in its effects on young adults' career aspirations and choice behaviours.

Against this background, members of the Network share the objectives of:

- gaining greater insight into the various connected aspects of career choices and professional careers of girls/women (and boys/men) in the direction of STEM;
- detecting new approaches to improve and address the underrepresentation of girls/women in STEM.

Network Gender & STEM

By drawing together international researchers from diverse disciplinary perspectives, alongside policymakers and practitioners, an important aim of the Network biennial conferences is to stimulate new research and findings to reshape future inquiry, by formulating advances in future research, policy and actions concerning the promotion of girls and women (and boys and men) in STEM fields through connecting theoretical, methodological, and empirical issues. There is large surplus value to interrelate relevant research results to gain a coherent interdisciplinary account concerning gender and STEM from childhood to labor market. We need multidisciplinary perspectives combining psychological, economic, sociological, social policy and educational approaches among others, to enrich an holistic understanding of the processes that shape individuals' gendered pathways. The inclusion of cutting-edge research from diverse disciplines where there is relevant scientific and scholarly expertise, their integration with each other and also with inputs from STEM professionals, policymakers and educators, can collectively break new ground and stimulate new lines of study on issues that have been largely unexplored concerning the persistent issue of gender and STEM participation, to understand the state of the knowledge and chart directions for future research.



**NETWORK
GENDER
& STEM**
educational and
occupational pathways
and participation

The Network Initiator was motivation researcher Professor Helen Watt (University of Sydney) together with policyworkers Gertje Joukes and Noortje Jansen then at the VHTO when Cocky Booy was Director, during 2007. Professor Jacque Eccles (University of California at Irvine) is the 'Network Patron', whose research guided much of the Network conceptualisation. Since 2022, motivation researcher Professor Rebecca Lazarides (University of Potsdam) joined Helen as Network co-Convenor, and Sahar Yadegari is the Director of the VHTO. As the Network has become established during the last two decades, in 2024 we set up a Steering Group to help plan the continuing evolution and future envisioning of the Network, constituted by Professors Judy Harackiewicz (University of Wisconsin-Madison, USA), Sandi Simpkins (UC-Irvine, USA), Birgit Spinath (Heidelberg University, Germany) and Lysann Zander (Hannover University, Germany). For further details please refer to the Network website: www.genderandSTEM.com. We look forward to our ongoing collaboration in this shared endeavour.

Network Gender & STEM

Network outreach and initiatives

The conferences and associated journal special issues are an initiative of the Network. The Network conferences have marked the beginning of a more coherent way of exchanging information, as collectively we work to find new ways to implement research findings in both policy and practice. Selected proceedings of previous conferences are published in themed special issues of the 'International Journal of Gender, Science and Technology' (open access):



**NETWORK
GENDER
& STEM**
educational and
occupational pathways
and participation

2024 conference (Heidelberg):

'Gender and STEM - Future Directions in Theory, Research, Policy and Practice'

Part 1: Vol 17 No 1 (2025)

Part 2: Vol. 18 No. 1 (2026)

2022 conference (Munich):

'Gendered Pathways - Identifying Barriers and Building Bridges to STEM Education and Careers'

Part 1: Vol 15 No 3 (2023)

Part 2: Vol. 16 No. 1 (2024)

2021 conference (Sydney/online):

'Addressing gender inequities in STEM through interdisciplinary perspectives'

Vol 14, No. 2 (2022)

2018 conference (Oregon): 'Re-imagining who does STEM':

Part 1: Vol. 11, No. 3 (2019)

Part 2: Vol. 12, No. 1 (2020)

Network Gender & STEM



NETWORK
**GENDER
& STEM**

educational and
occupational pathways
and participation

2016 conference (Newcastle UK):

'Girls' and women's participation in STEM: Past lessons and possible futures'
Vol. 10, No. 2 (2018)

2014 conference (Berlin):

'Gender and STEM: What schools, families, and workplaces can do?'
Part 1: Vol. 7, No. 2 (2015)
Part 2: Vol. 8, No. 1 (2016)

2012 conference (Amsterdam):

'Gendered pathways towards (and away from) STEM fields'
Vol. 5, No. 3 (2013)

References

Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development [OECD] (2006). *Evolution of student interest in science and technology studies: Policy report*. Paris: OECD Global Science Forum.

OECD (2017). *OECD Skills Outlook 2017: Skills and global value chains*. Paris: OECD Publishing. <http://dx.doi.org/10.1787/9789264273351-en>

World Economic Forum (2014). *Global Gender Gap Report 2014*.
<http://reports.weforum.org/global-gender-gap-report-2014/>

Organization Committee

Local team:

in alphabetical order



Prof. Burkhard Gniewosz



Prof. Gerda Hagenauer



Dr. Michaela Katstaller



Philipp Lindmayr, MA



Christina Stubler

Organization Committee

International team:
in alphabetical order



Prof. Burkhard Gniewosz



Prof. Gerda Hagenauer



Dr. Mellissa Hardtke



Sanja Hersche Atanasova



Dr. Michaela Katstaller



Prof. Ravinder Kaur



Prof. Robert Klassen



Prof. Johan Korhonen



Prof. Hanke Korpershoek



Prof. Rebecca Lazarides



Prof. Elena Makarova



Prof. Ingrid Schoon



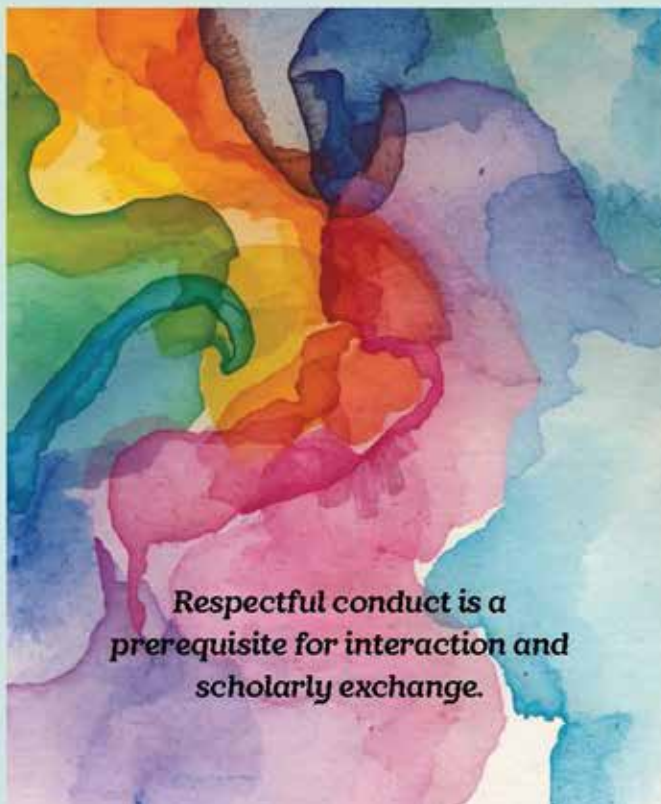
Prof. Helen Watt

8th International Gender
& STEM Conference

AWARENESS

Get in Touch

awareness.gstem26@gmx.at



Welcome to the 8th International Gender & STEM Conference. This conference brings together researchers, policymakers, and practitioners from a wide range of fields, including psychology, the educational and social sciences, as well as STEM disciplines. Drawing on participants' diverse horizons of knowledge and experience, the conference brings together different social perspectives, experiences, and opinions. We value the diversity that emerges from this and the shared space for learning. This makes it all the more important that the conference provides a discrimination-aware framework, creating an atmosphere in which all participants can feel comfortable and safe. We all share responsibility for this! 'Everyone is responsible.' In concrete terms, this means paying attention to one's own boundaries and those of others, and respecting those boundaries. It also entails recognizing, naming, and critically questioning discrimination, and subsequently taking a clear stand against discriminatory behavior and supporting those affected.

Based on this understanding, the organizing team has developed the present Code of Conduct and the awareness concept.

Code of Conduct

So that everyone feels comfortable and safe, we use this Code of Conduct to create and safeguard an actively shaped, discrimination-aware and inclusion-oriented framework—based on shared responsibility for respecting our own and others' boundaries, for recognizing, naming, and reflecting on discrimination, and for showing solidarity with and supporting those affected.

PURPOSE OF THE CODE OF CONDUCT

- Creating a respectful, discrimination-aware atmosphere across all program components.
- Protecting participants from harassment, discrimination, and boundary violations.
- Reflecting on power structures and privilege.
- Providing a basis for open, constructive, and subject-matter-focused discourse.



Is this already harassment?

Harassment and discriminatory behavior are not permitted at this conference (regardless of intent).

HARASSMENT

- Derogatory, discriminatory, or stereotypical remarks about gender, origin/language, religion/belief, socioeconomic status, age, disability/neurodivergence, body, identity, and other characteristics
- Sexualized language, sexually suggestive innuendo, sexualizing depictions
- Unwanted physical contact
- Systematically ignoring or sidelining people — e.g., through misgendering, deadnaming, mansplaining or maninterrupting
- Disrupting talks or discussions
- Demeaning or aggressive forms of communication (including subtle ones)

Harassment is unacceptable both in the formal context of the conference and in informal settings.

Violations will result in appropriate consequences.

INCLUSION

Our aim is to enable participation regardless of individual circumstances and to create conditions that meet participants' needs.

We ensure:

- Barrier-free access to the event venues
- Clearly visible signage to the designated event rooms
- A retreat and awareness room (safe space)
- A confidential awareness team as a low-threshold point of contact for challenges, problems, and specific needs

Note: Participants are warmly encouraged to share their needs ahead of or during the conference. All requests will be handled respectfully and confidentially.

Awareness

In German-speaking contexts, 'awareness' refers to a practice and attitude that counters (sexualized) violence and discrimination, and that grounds its actions in consent. As a safeguarding concept, awareness focuses on helping people recognize structural discrimination and, in connection with this, take a stand for the perspectives of those affected. Awareness work should not be top-down, but on an equal footing, encouraging those affected to act autonomously again.

A critical stance toward power and the structures that uphold it is necessary to counter discrimination. Reflecting on one's own social position is central to showing solidarity and taking a clear, ally-oriented stance for those affected by discrimination.

AWARENESS ROOM (RETREAT/SAFE SPACE)

Room 2.242 serves as a safe space. It is expressly designated for individuals who contact the awareness team, providing a quiet environment for retreat. All key information about the visibility and availability of the awareness team can also be found on posters displayed throughout the conference building. If you have a general message for the awareness team, please contact us at awareness.gstem26@gmx.at.

It is possible to send a completely anonymous message to the awareness team or the conference organizer. To do so, please open the link below or scan the QR code.



AWARENESS-TEAM

The awareness team is easily recognizable by its colorful pins and, in addition to awareness-raising efforts, provides active support against any form of discrimination and violations of personal boundaries. The awareness team can be approached directly at any time during the conference or reached by phone at the number, and serves as a point of contact for affected individuals. In addition, we ensure that at least one member of the awareness team is available at the reception desk in the foyer of the conference building at all times. If, for any reason, no member of the awareness team is present at the reception desk, the other members of the organizing team on site are informed and will promptly contact the awareness team.

awareness.gstem26@gmx.at

In the event of a violation of the Code of Conduct—especially in cases of boundary violations or discrimination—the conference leadership is authorized to exclude participants from further participation in the conference.

FURTHER SUPPORT SERVICES

Further information—whether you are an affected person or an active bystander—can be found on the dedicated website of the University of Salzburg. Under +Respekt at the University of Salzburg, you will find information on various internal and external support services and contact points, a toolbox for active bystanders, as well as specific information on discrimination, bullying, sexual harassment, and the relevant legal frameworks (University of Salzburg, 2026).

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Friedrich-Alexander-Universität Erlangen-Nürnberg (n.d.). *Definitionsmacht*. Available at: <https://www.gender-und-diversity.fau.de/glossary/definitionsmacht/>

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Universität Salzburg (2026). *Gender & STEM Conference 2026*. Available at: <https://www.plus.ac.at/erziehungswissenschaft/fachbereich/abteilungen-und-arbeitsgruppen/abt-empirische-sozialisations-und-lehr-lern-forschung/quantitative-forschungsmethoden/forschung-qm/laufende-forschungsprojekte/gender-stem-conference-2026/>

Getting to the Venue

The conference will take place at the University of Salzburg, Unipark Nonntal.

Venue Address:

University of Salzburg
Unipark Nonntal
Erzabt-Klotz-Straße 1
5020 Salzburg
Austria

Further information about the conference is available on the conference website:

<https://gstem26.erz-salzburg.at/>

Access to the Venue:

The venue is located at Unipark Nonntal, one of the University of Salzburg's central campus buildings. Visitors can access the building via the main entrances. Registration details and exact room information will be provided in the conference program.

Arrival by Car:

Travelling by public transport is recommended, as parking options in the surrounding area are limited. The **Unipark Nonntal underground car park** is located directly at the venue and is available for a fee. It offers approximately **30 parking spaces** and has a maximum entry height of **2.00 metres**. Please note that entering the general Unipark Nonntal address into a navigation system may lead to a dead-end street. For direct access to the underground car park, please use the following address: **Ulrike-Gschwandtner-Straße, 5020 Salzburg**

Additional paid parking options can be found within walking distance, but they are very limited.

Arrival by Taxi:

Please ask your taxi driver to take you the venue's address.

Getting to the Venue

From Salzburg Main Station:

From Salzburg Main Station / Salzburg Hauptbahnhof, Unipark Nonntal can be reached conveniently by public transport. The venue is well connected by bus.

Bus lines **5** and **25** stop near **Justizgebäude (Nonntaler Hauptstraße)**, while bus line **6** serves the stop **Justizgebäude (Rudolfsplatz)**. From the nearby stops, the venue is only a short walk away.

Depending on your route, you may also use connections to the stops **Justizgebäude**, **Erzabt-Klotz-Straße**, or **Unipark Nonntal**.

Tickets can be purchased at ticket machines, via local public transport apps, or through Salzburg public transport services.

For route planning, please use:

<https://salzburg-verkehr.at/en/>

From Salzburg Airport:

From Salzburg Airport, Unipark Nonntal can be reached by public transport or taxi.

One possible public transport connection is bus line **10** towards **Justizgebäude (Rudolfsplatz)**, followed by a short walk to Unipark Nonntal. The journey takes approximately 20 minutes, depending on traffic and connections.

For route planning, please use:

<https://salzburg-verkehr.at/en/>

Getting to the Venue

Guest Mobility Ticket:

All overnight guests staying in officially registered accommodation in the Salzburg region receive the Guest Mobility Ticket, which allows unlimited free use of public transport throughout Salzburg Province for the entire duration of their stay.

This includes the complete Salzburg city transport network, regional buses, all S-Bahn and regional trains, long-distance trains, and Salzburg Verkehr shuttle services.

The ticket is usually sent electronically by the accommodation on the day before arrival, either as a PDF or directly to a mobile wallet. If you receive the ticket in advance, for example via pre-check-in, you may already use it for free travel from Salzburg Main Station or Salzburg Airport to your accommodation.

If you do not receive the ticket before arrival, we recommend purchasing a short-term ticket, such as a one-hour ticket, for your initial journey. Please ask for your Guest Mobility Ticket at the hotel reception when checking in.

Please note that this benefit applies only to stays in officially registered hotels, guesthouses, or similar accommodation providers. It is not available for private rentals such as Airbnb.

Further information about the **Salzburg Guest Mobility Ticket** is available at the following link:

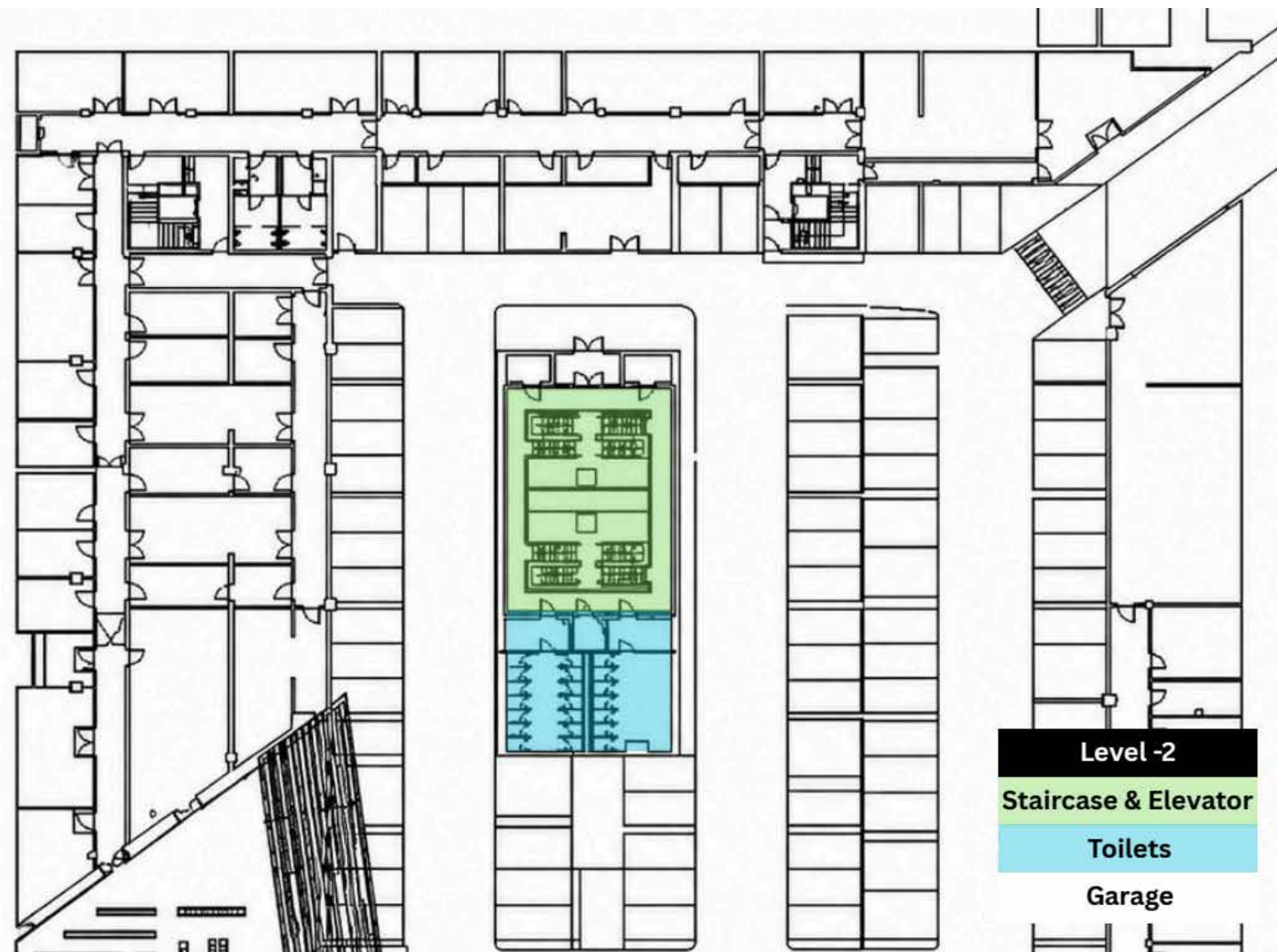
https://www.salzburg.info/en/travel-info/arrival-traffic/guest_mobility_ticket

Map Unipark

Rooms and Levels	
Library Level Foyer -1	
Campus Level Foyer 0 Reception Desk	
E.003 Poster Session -1 0	
E.001 Main Lecture Hall -1 0	
Room 1.003 1	
Room 1.004 1	
Room 1.005 1	
Room 1.006 & 1.007 1	
Room 2.407 2	
Room 2.337 2	
Room 2.206 2	
Luggage Room 2.205 2	
Work & Catch-Up Space Room 2.217 2	
Computer Pool Room 2.209 2	
Safe Space Room 2.242 2	
Staircase & Elevator	
Toilets	

Map Unipark

Level -2



Map Unipark

Level -1



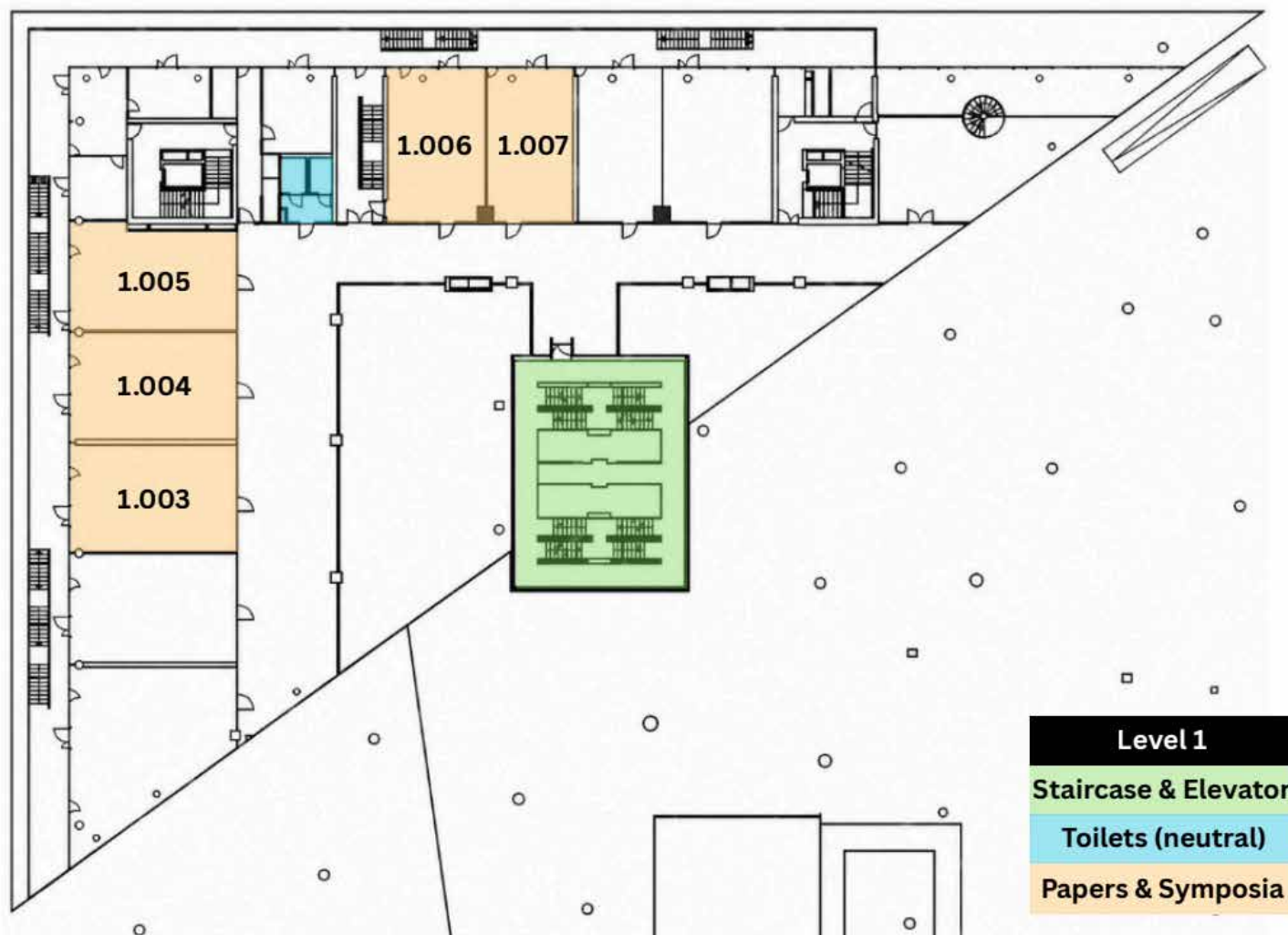
Map Unipark

Level 0



Map Unipark

Level 1



Map Unipark

Level 2



Registration Desk – Opening Hours

Location: Unipark Nonntal, Erzabt-Klotz-Straße 1, 5020 Salzburg

Registration Desk: Campus Level Foyer | Level 0

Opening Hours:

Thursday, 9 July 2026:

6:30 p.m. – 9:30 p.m.

Friday, 10 July 2026:

7:30 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.

Saturday, 11 July 2026:

7:30 a.m. – 8:00 p.m.



Welcome Reception

Day: Thursday, 9 July 2026

Time: 7:00 p.m. – 10:00 p.m.

Location: Rooftop Terrace, Unipark Nonntal

In case of bad weather: Library Level Foyer | Level -1, Unipark Nonntal

All participants who have registered via [Salzburg University's Administration & Payment System](#) are warmly invited to join us for the Welcome Reception. Before the official opening on Friday morning, we look forward to an informal get-together over drinks and snacks. Weather permitting, the reception will take place on the beautiful rooftop terrace of Unipark Nonntal; in case of bad weather, we will meet in the foyer on the library level (-1).



Conference Dinner

Day: Friday, 10 July 2026

Time: 7:30 p.m. – 11:45 p.m.

Location: Stieglkeller, Salzburg



Meeting point for the joint walk:

7:00 p.m., foyer of the main entrance, Unipark Nonntal

The **Conference Dinner** will take place on **Friday, 10 July 2026, from 7:30 p.m. to 11:45 p.m.** at the **Stieglkeller in Salzburg**. This social evening is one of the highlights of the conference and offers a relaxed opportunity to continue conversations, meet colleagues in an informal setting, and enjoy the unique atmosphere of Salzburg together.

The Stieglkeller is located in the heart of the city, just below Hohensalzburg Fortress, and offers impressive views over Salzburg in a traditional Austrian setting. After a full conference programme, participants can look forward to a convivial dinner in one of Salzburg's well-known historic venues.

The Stieglkeller is within walking distance of the conference venue. Participants can reach the venue on foot from **Unipark Nonntal** via Salzburg's Old Town and Festungsgasse. For those who would like to walk there together, we will meet at **7:00 p.m. in the foyer of the main entrance of Unipark Nonntal**. As the route leads through the historic city centre and slightly uphill towards the Stieglkeller, comfortable shoes are recommended.

Alternatively, participants wishing to take a taxi are advised to check with the taxi driver in advance whether they can drive to the Stieglkeller, as not all taxis may go directly there. Participants planning their return journey late in the evening are advised to check current public transport options or arrange a taxi in advance.

For more information on public transport options in Salzburg, especially for late-evening travel, please visit the official website of Salzburg Verkehr:

<https://salzburg-verkehr.at/en/>

Lunch Recommendations

LUNCH FOR ALL TASTES

We're happy to share a selection of lunch, dining, and café options near the conference venue, located close to the Unipark in Salzburg. Whether you're looking for a quick bite, a relaxed meal, or a place for coffee, you'll find plenty of choices within walking distance.

Pizzeria & Ristorante Grande – Casaantonio e piccolo e Giò – Italian cuisine
 Nonntaler Hauptstrasse 24, 5020 Salzburg | 5

Aroma – mediterranean cuisine restaurant
 Erzabt-Klotz-Straße 21, 5020 Salzburg | 5

Restaurant Paradoxon – traditional austrian cuisine
 Zugallstraße 7, 5020 Salzburg | 6

ARGEkultur – international cuisine
 Ulrike-Geschwandner-Straße 5, 5020 Salzburg | 4

Toriko Nonntal – japanese restaurant (sushi, ramen & asian fusion dishes)
 Nonntaler Hauptstrasse 9, 5020 Salzburg | 2

UNCLE VAN – Nonntal – vietnamese restaurant (pho, rice & noodle dishes)
 Nonntaler Hauptstrasse 8, 5020 Salzburg | 3

Le Nimba – african restaurant (tapas & creative dishes)
 Petersbrunnstraße 9, 5020 Salzburg | 3

Eden Café Skybar – excellent coffee, drinks & small snacks
 in the house, 4th floor, closed on saturday

220GRAD Nonntal – café (specialty coffee & light meals)
 Nonntaler Hauptstrasse 9A, 5020 Salzburg | 3

d'Olivia – Foodtruck – Pizza & Panuozzi
 Josef-Preis-Allee, in front of Unipark Nonntal, only Saturday

Lakhi – Foodtruck – indian cuisine
 Josef-Preis-Allee, in front of Unipark Nonntal

Hotel Recommendations

HOTELS

To help you find the recommended hotels more easily, we have prepared a map showing their locations near the conference venue. The map provides an overview of the selected hotels and their distance from the Unipark Salzburg, making it easier for you to choose suitable accommodation for your stay.

Restaurant Stiegl-Keller – location of the conference dinner
Festungsgasse 10, 5020 Salzburg

Amadeo Hotel Schaffenerath
Alpenstraße 115-117, 5020 Salzburg

Austria Trend Hotel
Rainerstraße 31, 5020 Salzburg

Altstadthotel Kasererbraeu
Kalgasse 33, 5020 Salzburg

Hotel Hohenstauffen
Stauffenstrasse 18, 5020 Salzburg

Best Western Plus Amedia Art Hotel / Plaza Premium Salzburg
Linzer Bundesstraße 6, 5020 Salzburg

St. Virgil
Ernst-Grein-Straße 14, 5026 Salzburg



Program Overview

Time	Thursday, 9 July, 2026	Friday, 10 July, 2026	Saturday, 11 July, 2026
8:30 a.m.		8:30 a.m. – 9:00 a.m. Conference Opening	8:30 a.m. – 9:30 a.m. Keynote: Catherine Riegler-Crumb
8:45 a.m.			
9:00 a.m.		9:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m. Keynote: Heidrun Stöger	9:30 a.m. – 9:45 a.m. Room Change
9:15 a.m.			
9:30 a.m.			
9:45 a.m.			
10:00 a.m.		10:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. Poster Session with Integrated Coffee Break	9:45 a.m. – 10:45 a.m. Individual Papers
10:15 a.m.			
10:30 a.m.			
10:45 a.m.			10:45 a.m. – 11:15 a.m. Coffee Break
11:00 a.m.		11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. Panel Discussion	11:15 a.m. – 12:15 p.m. Individual Papers
11:15 a.m.			
11:30 a.m.			
11:45 a.m.			
12:00 p.m.		12:00 p.m. – 1:30 p.m. Lunch Lunch with Professors	12:15 p.m. – 1:45 p.m. Lunch Early-/Mid-Career Networking Event
12:15 p.m.			
12:30 p.m.			
12:45 p.m.			
1:00 p.m.			
1:15 p.m.			
1:30 p.m.		1:30 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. Symposia / Individual Papers Make a Pitch	1:45 p.m. – 3:15 p.m. Tandem Talk
1:45 p.m.			
2:00 p.m.			
2:15 p.m.			
2:30 p.m.			
2:45 p.m.			
3:00 p.m.		3:00 p.m. – 3:30 p.m. Coffee Break	3:15 p.m. – 3:45 p.m. Coffee Break
3:15 p.m.			
3:30 p.m.		3:30 p.m. – 4:30 p.m. Keynote: Prajval Shastri	3:45 p.m. – 5:15 p.m. Symposia / Individual Papers
3:45 p.m.			
4:00 p.m.		4:30 p.m. – 4:45 p.m. Room Change	
4:15 p.m.			
4:30 p.m.			
4:45 p.m.		4:45 p.m. – 5:45 p.m. Symposium / Individual Papers	5:15 p.m. – 5:30 p.m. Room Change
5:00 p.m.			
5:15 p.m.			
5:30 p.m.			
5:45 p.m.			
6:00 p.m.			5:30 p.m. – 7:00 p.m. Network Meeting & Book Presentation & Closing
6:15 p.m.			
6:30 p.m.			
6:45 p.m.			
7:00 p.m.	7:00 p.m. – 10:00 p.m. Welcome Reception	7:30 p.m. – 11:45 p.m. Conference Dinner	
7:15 p.m.			
7:30 p.m.			
7:45 p.m.			
8:00 p.m.			
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11:00 p.m.			
11:15 p.m.			
11:30 p.m.			

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the current detailed
program in ConfTool



Keynotes

Keynote 1:

10 July 2026, 9:00–10:00 a.m.

Prof. Heidrun Stöger

Professor of School Pedagogy, University of Regensburg (Germany)

Title: Unlocking Potential: How Mentoring and Networking Drive Girls' Engagement in STEM

Keynote 2:

10 July 2026, 3:30–4:30 p.m.

Prof. Prajval Shastri

Indian Institute of Astrophysics (retired)

Adjunct Professor, University of Western Australia (Australia)

Title: Degendering Physics: Why So Slow?

Keynote 3:

11 July 2026, 8:30–9:30 a.m.

Prof. Catherine Riegle-Crumb

Professor of Sociology, and Director for the Center of Research on Educational Opportunity (CREO), Notre Dame University (USA)

Title: Constructing (and Disrupting) Gender Inequality in STEM Fields

Keynote 1

Day: Friday, 10 July 2026

Time: 9:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.

Location: E.001 Main Lecture Hall | Level 0



Prof. Heidrun Stöger

Professor of School Pedagogy, University of Regensburg (Germany)

Unlocking Potential: How Mentoring and Networking Drive Girls' Engagement in STEM

Despite decades of initiatives to promote gender equity in STEM, the underrepresentation of girls and women remains a persistent global issue. Research shows that mentoring and structured networking can play a transformative role in addressing this gap—offering guidance, role models, and long-term support that shape educational and career trajectories.

This keynote explores how digital mentoring and online communities can foster sustained STEM engagement among girls. Drawing on findings from large-scale, longitudinal research—including evidence from CyberMentor, Germany's most extensive online STEM mentoring program for girls—this talk illustrates how structured mentor-mentee relationships and digitally facilitated peer interactions contribute to increased self-efficacy, stronger STEM identity, and career intentions. Crucially, these changes are shown to influence actual study and career choices in STEM.

The presentation highlights the mechanisms that make mentoring effective: authentic role modeling, accessible communication, and digital communities and projects that enable ongoing STEM-related exchange. Particular emphasis is placed on how the quality and frequency of interaction – both with mentors and within peer networks – shape developmental outcomes. The integration of online mentoring with in-person, hands-on STEM experiences (as in hybrid models such as CyberMentor Plus) emerges as a promising direction for increasing impact.

By synthesizing empirical insights and practical strategies, this keynote offers evidence-based guidance for educators, policymakers, and program designers seeking to build inclusive, scalable frameworks for engaging the next generation of women in STEM. It makes the case for mentoring and network-building not as add-ons, but as core components of effective STEM education and equity efforts.

Keynote 2

Day: Friday, 10 July 2026

Time: 3:30 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.

Location: E.001 Main Lecture Hall | Level 0



Prof. Prajval Shastri

Indian Institute of Astrophysics (retired)

Adjunct Professor, University of Western Australia (Australia)

Degendering Physics: Why So Slow?

Among the STEM disciplines, physics has been long-known to exhibit among the most skewed of gender gaps. It has been over a quarter of a century since attention has been drawn to the evidence that the over-representation of men at multiple levels in the physics enterprise is significant and global, though to varying degrees. The evidence also has pointed to the cause being societal patriarchy leaching into academia and causing gender-based discrimination within, a trend not tempered by the „objectivity“ that is attributed to the physics discipline. Progress towards a more equitable physics enterprise has been slow, however. I will argue that the slowness is because several mitigative interventions seek to address only the symptoms, besides also being moulded by patriarchy, and that it is important to explicitly step away from the all-too-common “Fixing-the-women” approach. Instead, the focus needs to be on addressing the root causes of gender inequity. Interventions need to be interrogated on whether they will bring about long-term cultural transformation, whether they exclude anyone and whether they could cause harm, and whether as physicists we have really constructed „merit“ in a way that actually promotes understanding our universe. Specific examples from across the globe will be discussed.

Keynote 3

Day: Saturday, 11 July 2026

Time: 8:30 a.m. – 9:30 a.m.

Location: E.001 Main Lecture Hall | Level 0



Prof. Catherine Riegler-Crumb

Professor of Sociology, and Director for the Center of Research on Educational Opportunity (CREO), Notre Dame University (USA)

Constructing (and Disrupting) Gender Inequality in STEM Fields

Using the framework of gender as a social structure, this talk will discuss research examining how gendered messages in the local contexts of educational spaces, as well as individuals' understandings of gender, contribute to creating inequality; and whether and how they could be utilized to disrupt it. Additionally, the importance of considering variation in patterns and experiences by race and social class will be highlighted. The talk will cover a range of large-scale quantitative studies, as well as qualitative studies.

Panel Discussion

Day: Friday, 10 July 2026

Time: 11:00 a.m. – 12:00 a.m.

Location: E.001 Main Lecture Hall | Level 0

Gender, Diversity, and Opportunity Across the STEM Pipeline

This panel discussion brings together international researchers from fields such as molecular immunology and psychology, alongside university leadership and regional practitioners, to examine gender, diversity, and contextual influences across the STEM pipeline. Aligned with the overarching conference theme, the discussion will explore how educational, academic, and career pathways in STEM are shaped by individual, social, institutional, and societal factors.

The panel will address how young people's interests, choices, and opportunities in STEM develop over time, and how parents, peers, teachers, schools, universities, employers, and policy frameworks may either reinforce or help reduce gender disparities. By combining research-based perspectives with insights from university strategy and regional MINT/STEM coordination, the discussion aims to connect empirical evidence, educational practice, and policy-oriented approaches.

A particular focus will be placed on the development of sustainable support structures across the STEM pipeline — from school education and study choices to academic and professional careers. The panel will also consider how interdisciplinary collaboration can contribute to more inclusive STEM learning environments and career pathways.

Moderation

Prof. Burkhard Gniewosz

University of Salzburg

Burkhard Gniewosz is Professor of Educational Science with a focus on quantitative research methods at University of Salzburg, where he also heads the Department of Educational Science. His research focuses on childhood and youth development, empirical educational research, motivation, academic and political socialization, and the role of family and school contexts in students' development and educational pathways.



Panel Discussion

Participants:

in alphabetical order

Prof. Jacquelynne S. Eccles

University of California, Irvine | University of Michigan

Jacquelynne S. Eccles is Distinguished Professor of Education at the University of California, Irvine, and Professor Emerita of Psychology and Education at the University of Michigan. Her research focuses on achievement, motivation, identity, gender, and the role of family and school contexts in students' educational pathways. She is internationally recognized for her work on expectancy-value theory and stage-environment fit.



Prof. Jutta Horejs-Höck

Vice Rector for Research | University of Salzburg

Jutta Horejs-Höck is Professor of Molecular Immunology and Vice Rector for Research at the University of Salzburg. She leads a research group in the Department of Biosciences and Medical Biology. Her research focuses on molecular signaling and regulatory mechanisms in human immune cells, particularly in the context of chronic inflammation, infectious diseases, and cancer. She is internationally recognized for her contributions to the study of immune signaling pathways, inflammasomes, and inflammation-driven disease processes.



Panel Discussion

Participants:

in alphabetical order

Dr. Carmen Wageneder-Schmid **MINT Salzburg**

Carmen Wageneder-Schmid has been an active member of Salzburg's STEM network since 2022. She currently leads the Coordination Office for MINT Salzburg, an initiative dedicated to inspiring young people to explore and engage with STEM fields. Her professional journey began in early childhood education as a kindergarten teacher, followed by studies in genetics at the University of Salzburg. She later moved into science communication, where she combines her passion for research, creativity, and equality to make science accessible, engaging, and inclusive.



Prof. Allan Wigfield **University of Maryland**

Allan Wigfield is Professor Emeritus at the University of Maryland and an internationally recognized scholar in educational and developmental psychology. His research focuses on the development of motivation in childhood and adolescence, with particular attention to STEM and reading. He has conducted extensive research on how students' motivation develops over time and how it can be supported through educational interventions.



Tandem Talk

Day: Saturday, 11 July 2026

Time: 1:45 p.m. – 3:15 p.m.

Location: E.001 Main Lecture Hall | Level 0



Prof. Judith Harackiewicz

Professor of Psychology, University of Wisconsin–Madison (USA)

Prof. Hanna Gaspard

Professor of Educational Data Science / Learning & Instruction, University of Konstanz Germany)

Utility Value Interventions: Theoretical Underpinnings, Evidence from Prior Studies, and Remaining Questions

Many students struggle to see the value in what they are learning. Grounded in expectancy-value theory, utility value interventions (UVIs) have been developed to help students see the value in class material and have shown great potential to foster students' motivation and achievement, particularly in the field of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (Hulleman & Harackiewicz, 2021). Judith Harackiewicz will discuss recent studies testing a new version of the UVI, aimed at helping students appreciate the prosocial value of course topics, in addition to personal value, compared with the “standard” UVI that emphasizes personal values, with students in introductory chemistry classes. Her team has been testing this new prosocial UVI at three different universities across the US (with diverse student populations) and results reveal considerable treatment heterogeneity, both between the different versions of the UVI (e.g., the prosocial UVI has proven particularly effective for first-generation students in some contexts) and across universities. Considered across studies, these recent results suggest more complex understandings of UVI effects across contexts. Hanna Gaspard will present evidence from two large cluster-randomized trials in mathematics secondary classrooms. In these studies, she could show that students' motivation and achievement can be fostered through a 90-min UVI until 5 months later. When the intervention was implemented by trained master's students or the regular math teachers instead of researchers, thus testing the effectiveness of the intervention under conditions closer to educational practice, however, only some of the positive effects could be replicated and the overall effect pattern was rather mixed. In her current work, Dr. Gaspard therefore aims to test whether personalizing UVIs can help to make them more effective.

Following their individual presentations, Judith Harackiewicz and Hanna Gaspard will engage in a joint discussion of remaining questions related to these interventions for research and practice.

Make a Pitch

Day: Friday, 10 July 2026

Time: 1:30 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Location: Room 2.206 | Level 2

Moderated by Dr. Mellissa Hardtke

This 90-minute moderated session invites participants to briefly present a project, idea, initiative, or collaboration proposal. The format is not intended as a scientific presentation, but as an opportunity to share ideas, receive feedback, encourage exchange, and initiate potential collaborations. Each pitch may last a maximum of 5 minutes.

Participants are asked to prepare a concise pitch outlining the core idea, its relevance, current stage of development, and the type of feedback or collaboration they are seeking. Slides are optional and should be limited to a maximum of three. The session will include a pitch round, moderated feedback, and time for networking and identifying potential collaborations.

Early-/Mid-Career Networking Event

Day: Saturday, 11 July 2026

Time: 12:15 p.m. - 1:45 p.m.

Location: Room 1.003 | Level 1

This informal networking event is designed to bring together **early- and mid-career researchers** from different disciplines, institutions, and professional backgrounds. It provides **a welcoming space to connect with peers, exchange ideas, and build lateral networks** beyond one's immediate research environment.

Participants will have the opportunity to share experiences from their research and career paths, discuss common challenges, and reflect on questions related to **career development, collaboration, visibility, funding, mobility, work-life balance, and navigating institutional structures**. The event encourages **open conversation in a relaxed and supportive atmosphere**, allowing participants to learn from one another and identify shared interests or complementary expertise.

Rather than focusing on formal presentations, the session emphasizes peer-to-peer exchange and meaningful interaction. Participants are invited to engage in **spontaneous conversations, broaden their professional networks, and explore potential opportunities for future collaboration across disciplines and institutions**.

Meeting of the Network 'Gender & STEM'

Day: Saturday 11 July 2026

Time: 5:30 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.

Location: E.001 Main Lecture Hall | Level 0

Click here to find all
posters in the
detailed program



The meeting will cover the following topics:

(1) Student Poster Award for the Best Research Poster

(2) History, Vision, and Evolution of the Network

(3) Planned Special Issue of a Journal

(4) The VHTO Connection and Vision

(5) Pressing Issues and Considerations for the Network

(6) Book Presentation

Presented by Prof. Jacquelynne S. Eccles and Prof. Allan Wigfield:

Eccles, J. S., Wigfield, A., Simpkins, S. D., & Lauermann, F. (2026). *Motivation, achievement, and situated expectancy-value theory: Making one's future*. The Guilford Press.

(7) Network Steering Group: Open Floor for Delegates' Comments and Suggestions

(8) Conference 2028

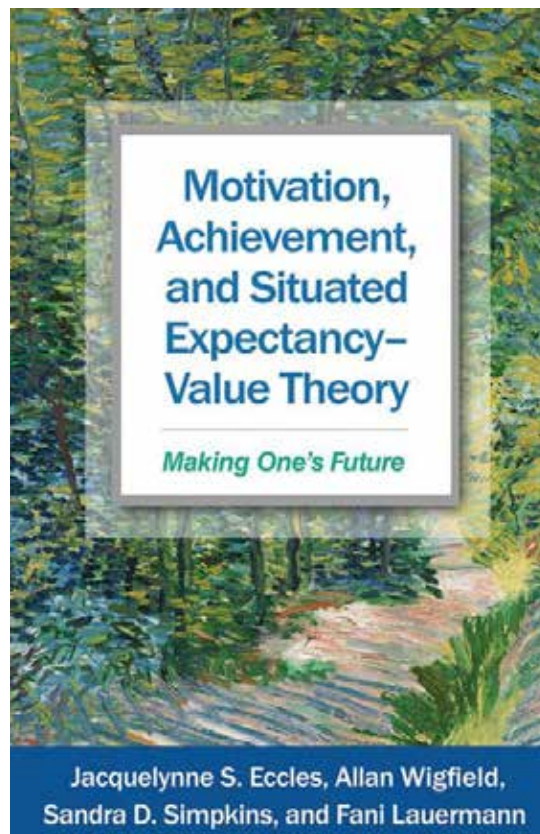
(9) Votes of Thanks

Book Presentation

Day: Saturday 11 July 2026

Time: 5:30 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.

Location: E.001 Main Lecture Hall | Level 0



“As a motivation researcher, this is the book I’ve been hoping for throughout my career. SEVT remains extraordinarily influential for explaining academic achievement and related behaviors, and the authors skillfully weave their personal stories into the theory’s decades-long development. What makes this volume especially strong is its rare combination of accessibility and rigor; it is readable for practicing educators while still offering the depth and scope that advanced undergraduate and graduate students will appreciate.”

—Eric M. Anderman, PhD, College of Education and Human Ecology, The Ohio State University

Book Presentation

Prof. Jacquelynne S. Eccles

University of California, Irvine

University of Michigan



Jacquelynne S. Eccles is the Distinguished Professor of Education at the University of California, Irvine, and the McKeachie/Pintrich Distinguished University Professor Emerita of Psychology and Education at the University of Michigan. Her research focuses on achievement, motivation, personal and social identities, gender, and the influence of family and school on student motivation. Her expectancy-value theory of motivated choices and her concept of stage-environment have greatly influenced research in the educational and developmental sciences. She has been either the main or assistant editor for *Developmental Psychology*, *Journal for Research on Adolescence*, *American Psychologist*, *AERA OPEN*, and *Child Development*. She is a past president of Divisions 7 and 35 of APA, the Society for Research on Adolescence (SRA), and has served on the faculty at Smith College, the University of Colorado, the University of Michigan, and the University of California, Irvine. She won many awards and honorary doctoral degrees for her work, including five lifetime achievement awards, three honorary degrees from Canadian and European universities, and is a member of the National Academy of Education. She collaborates with faculty from all over the world. You can find more information about her research at GARP.education.UCI, including all of the questionnaires talked about in this book.

Book Presentation

Prof. Allan Wigfield
University of Maryland



Allan Wigfield is Professor Emeritus in the Department of Human Development and Quantitative Methodology, and Distinguished Scholar-Teacher, at the University of Maryland. He also is Honorary Professor of Psychology at the University of Heidelberg, Germany; Distinguished International Guest professor at the University of Tübingen, Germany; and K-Club Adjunct Professor, Department of Education and the Brain & Motivation Research Institute (bMRI) at Korea University in Seoul, Korea. He studies the development of motivation during childhood and adolescence and has conducted numerous studies of the development of motivation during the elementary and secondary school years. He has also conducted multiple intervention studies to assess various ways to improve children's motivation in STEM fields and in reading. Dr. Wigfield has authored 180 peer-reviewed journal articles and book chapters on the development of children's motivation and how to improve it. He has also edited six scholarly books and nine special issues of different journals devoted to the understanding of students' motivation. During the period 2015 to 2024 he was the 14th most productive educational psychologist in the world. He is a Fellow of the American Educational Research Association, the American Psychological Association, and the Association for Psychological Science, and is a member of the National Academy of Education. Dr. Wigfield has won numerous awards for his research, including the 2019 Sylvia Scribner Award from Division C of the American Educational Research Association.

About VHTO



Since the early 1980s, VHTO – the Dutch national expert centre on gender diversity in STEM has been working to increase the participation of girls and women in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM). Over the years, VHTO has built extensive knowledge on the systemic factors that shape educational and career choices, and translates this knowledge into practical, evidence-based interventions.

In the Netherlands, women remain underrepresented in STEM: only around 16.6% of technical jobs are filled by women. This is not due to a lack of talent or ability. Research consistently shows that girls perform just as well as boys in STEM subjects. The gap is shaped by systemic factors, such as gender stereotypes, expectations in education and the workplace, limited visibility of diverse role models, and organisational cultures that do not fully support inclusion.

At VHTO, we therefore focus on changing the system, not the girls.

We address gender stereotypes and barriers at three interconnected levels:

- **Structural:** influencing policy, targets and organisational frameworks
- **Relational:** improving interactions between teachers and students, and employers and employees
- **Mental:** challenging underlying beliefs, such as who belongs in STEM

Our work spans the entire learning and career pathway, from early education to the labour market. We collaborate with schools, companies, policymakers and professionals in STEM to create lasting change.

VHTO operates through four key roles:

- **Knowledge sharing:** providing research-based insights and practical guidance
- **Advocacy:** contributing to structural policy change
- **Innovation:** developing and scaling effective interventions
- **Inspiration:** working with role models and practitioners to make change visible

About VHTO



Our programmes include guest lessons with over 2,000 STEM professionals, Girls' Day, training programmes for teachers and employers, gender scans, and tools for inclusive practices in education and the workplace.

Our ambition is clear: **40% women in STEM and IT in the Netherlands by 2040.** Because technology is for everyone

Links

- <https://www.vhto.nl/vhto-english/>
- <https://www.vhto.nl/about-vhto/>
- <https://www.vhto.nl/network-gender-stem/>
- <https://www.vhto.nl/article/unmasking-stem-neutrality-why-queer-identities-matter-in-science-education/>
- <https://www.linkedin.com/company/vhto/>

Sightseeing

Discover Salzburg

Make the most of your stay in Salzburg and explore the city beyond the conference venue. From guided walks through the historic centre and scenic boat trips on the Salzach to themed excursions in and around Salzburg, a variety of tours offers an enjoyable way to discover the city's culture, history and landscapes. Tours can be booked individually; please check current schedules, availability and prices directly with the respective providers.

Below is a selection of city tours for your reference. These examples are provided for informational purposes only and do not constitute a recommendation or endorsement.

Guided Tours

Discover Salzburg on foot, by bus or as part of a themed city tour.

[Explore Guided Tours](#)

Boat Tours

Enjoy Salzburg from the water with a sightseeing cruise on the Salzach or a combined boat and cultural experience.

[Explore Boat Tours](#)

Special Tours

Choose from themed tours and excursions, including cultural and historical tours, trips into the surrounding countryside and Sound of Music experiences.

[Explore Special Tours](#)

Featured Tour: The Original Sound of Music Tour

Visit famous filming locations in Salzburg and the surrounding Lake District on this four-hour guided tour.

[Discover the Original Sound of Music Tour](#)

Special Thanks

We would like to express our sincere gratitude not only to all board members, but also to the many helpful hands who have generously contributed their time, energy, and support to the organization and realization of the Gender & STEM Conference 2026.

Our special thanks go to all those who supported the conference in so many valuable ways, including:

Nicole Berger, Selina Busse, Annalena Fritzenwallner, Katharina Fritzenwallner, Josef Größinger-Neumayr, Sarah Jetzinger, Caroline Kirchmaier, Lisa Kriechbaum, Haliemah Mocevic, Martina Papp, Marion Reindl, Isabella Thalmann, Isabella Unterauer, Annika Wastl, Angelika Vetro, Christina Weißenbach, and Lingjuan Zheng.

We are deeply grateful for everyone's dedication, collaboration, and commitment.





**NETWORK
GENDER
& STEM**
educational and
occupational pathways
and participation

vhto Expertisecentrum voor
haar technische ontwikkeling

Network Gender & STEM Conference 2028 Sydney | Australia

SAVE THE DATE | Thursday 13th – Saturday 15th July, 2028

