To the chief editors of SRF, Sonntagszeitung, NZZ

We, as members of the ETH Women Professors Forum (WPF), are addressing this open statement to you regarding the recent articles in several Swiss newspapers[1] that are based on results of the study **"Leaky Pipeline in der Wissenschaft**", which was carried out under the leadership of Prof. Margit Osterloh and Prof. Katja Rost.

We are astonished at the representation of the results in your media outlets and newspapers in several regards.

First, it seems predictable that your articles would precipitate an intensive discussion among the public. For a transparent, open and fact-based discussion, it is necessary that the article or report and the underlying data be publicly available. We therefore encourage you to delay, in the future, the publication of such articles until the sources are available. In this particular case, this would have been a few months until the end of the review process (provided that this study successfully passes the peer review process). We are preparing a private letter to the authors of the study, where we urge them to openly publish their report and data immediately.

Second, we urge you to review information critically before publishing it. Not every study meets the minimum standards of academia, hence the importance of waiting until the study has been peer-reviewed or asking for outside expertise. Prioritizing rigorous peer review processes and encouraging critical evaluation of methodology and findings can safeguard against the perpetuation of biased studies or interpretations.

Third, while some findings of the study were certainly surprising, and also represented rather one-sidedly by Prof. Osterloh herself in several interviews with news media, we call on the media to draw a clear distinction between facts/data, on the one hand, and opinions/interpretations, on the other, and to seek only nuanced interpretations. We support the publication of controversial findings if they adhere to these principles. This approach is inherent to the advancement of science. The authors explicitly state in their study that they "cannot determine the direction of causality". In particular, the study does not determine whether study participants would answer otherwise, if gender stereotypes and norms were different. This essential limitation of the study is not reflected in the media contributions that were published by your houses. Best practices should have compelled you to seek expert opinions on the article from other scientists in Switzerland on the merits and validity of the article.

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[1] https://www.tagesanzeiger.ch/die-meisten-studentinnen-wollen-lieber-einen-erfolgreichen-mann-als-selber-karriere-machen-165723834136;
https://www.nzz.ch/meinung/ld.1737057?reduced=true;
https://www.srf.ch/audio/news-plus/studie-studentinnen-wollen-lieber-reichen-mann-als-karriere?id=12384079

We call for a multi-faceted and critical discussion of the subject. **In this regard, we appeal to you to offer ample space to such a discussion in your media as soon as the article and data are openly published by the authors by producing supplementary analyses of this study that review critically the methods applied and the complete results, strengthen the fact-based interpretation of the results, and set them in context with other research results on this subject.**

This statement was endorsed by a positive vote of 88 from 96 women professors, who participated in our voting survey.

Below you find the listing of ETH Domain professors, who form members of the WPF, and who chose to further explicitly undersign this letter.

Alessandra Iozzi	Donna Testerman	Juliane Hollender	Nina Buchmann	Sonia I. Seneviratne
Angelika Steger	Eilika Weber-Ban	Karen Scrivener	Núria Casacuberta Arola	Stefana Parascho
Anna Fontcuberta i Morral	Eleni Chatzi	Katerina Argyraki	Olga Fink	Suliana Manley
Anna Soter	Elizabeth Tilley	Katharina Gapp	Olga Sorkine-Hornung	Susanne Ulbrich
Annalisa Manera	Elli Mosayebi	Kathryn Hess Bellwald	Ozlem Imamoglu	Tamar Kohn
Annette Spiro	Elsbeth Stern	Katrin Beyer	Petra Schmid	Tanja Käser
Aude Gehrmann-De Ridder	Emily S. Cross	Kristin Schirmer	Rachael Garrett	Tanja Stadler
Carlotta Guiducci	Fadoua Balabdaoui	Kristina Shea	Rachel Grange	Ulrike Lohmann
Carmela Troncoso	Gretchen Bernasconi-Green	Kristy Deiner	Rima Alaifari	Ursula Keller
Carmen Sandi	Gudela Grote	Laura De Lorenzis	Rizlan Bernier-Latmani	Vally Koubi
Cathrin Brisken	Guillermina Ramirez-San Juan	Mackenzie Mathis	Sabine Süsstrunk	Véronique Michaud
Cécile Hébert	Hatice Altug	Marilyne Andersen	Sara Bonetti	Wenyu Gu
Cindy De Jonge	Irena Hajnsek	Marina Krstic Marinkovic	Sarah Springman	Whitney Maria Behr
Dagmar Iber	Janet Hering	Mikaela Iacobelli	Shana Sturla	Yiwen Chu
Daniela Rupp	Janneke Hille Ris Lambers	Nadia Mazouz	Simone Schürle	

with best regards, the WPF board