

WHY WORRY ABOUT CROSS-REACTIVITY?

[Find out more](#)

Thermo SCIENTIFIC

Science AAAS.ORG | FEEDBACK | HELP | LIBRARIANS All Science Journals **SEARCH** ADVANCED

ALERTS | ACCESS RIGHTS | MY ACCOUNT | SIGN IN

AAAS NEWS SCIENCE JOURNALS CAREERS BLOGS & COMMUNITIES MULTIMEDIA COLLECTIONS JOIN / SUBSCRIBE

Science The World's Leading Journal of Original Scientific Research, Global News, and Commentary.

Science Home Current Issue Previous Issues Science Express Science Products My Science About the Journal

Home > Science Magazine > 10 July 2015 > Science Express > Getting noticed is half the battle > Comments

- Article Views**
- Summary
 - Full Text
 - Full Text (PDF)

Science 10 July 2015:
Vol. 349 no. 6244 pp. 206-206
DOI:10.1126/science.349.6244.206

[Back to Article](#)

Terms and Conditions

By posting a comment to this article, you agree to our [Terms and Conditions](#).

- Most Commented**
- My trek back to science
 - When science fails a scientist
 - Iran, science, and collaboration
 - How science fairs shaped my career
 - Spherical nucleic acids start rolling
 - How crickets communicate by sound
 - Interfering with time
 - A Trial for the ages
 - The distributional preferences of an elite
 - Research fraud as tort

WORKING LIFE

Getting noticed is half the battle

Eleftherios P. Diamandis | [47 Comments](#)

Add a new comment

First Name *

Last Name *

E-mail *

Email addresses are kept private and will not be shown publicly.

Website

Comment *

Content limited to 2500 characters, remaining: 2500

* I agree to the commenting [Terms and Conditions](#). Also, to identify and limit spam, Science uses a third-party system, [mollom.com](#), which may store data about your post for several months. In submitting your comment, you give us consent for use of that service and agree to [mollom.com's privacy policy](#).

A copy of your comment will be emailed to you, for your records

These postings do not necessarily represent the views/opinions of Science.

S Hyder

As a successful scientist, the author should be more careful with words of wisdom.

Submitted on Tue, 08/25/2015 - 10:17

[Reply](#)

Deepak Khattry

Contrary to this author's experience, my wife and I did everything concurrently and shared equally in all

ADVERTISEMENT

Post Your Jobs

Reach Scientists. Fill Positions.

Science Careers Start posting today

ADVERTISEMENT

Download free career advice booklets.

- Networking
- Industry or Academia
- Job Searching
- Non-Bench Careers
- And More

Science Careers AAAS

hardships as well as joys and rewards along the way. We both started and completed our PhDs at the same time (our PhD thesis defenses were only 4 days apart.) Because the academic hiring does not generally accommodate married couples equally, we went the other route--private and non-profit. We have both succeeded in our respective careers (recognized as experts in our fields and continue to produce high-impact scientific publications). Together, we raised a daughter who is currently excelling in Dartmouth and has turned out to be a fine, well-balanced human being. The non-academic career model worked for us, despite some ups and downs along the way. It can work for others too. My point: one spouse does not have to sacrifice his/her career, especially after investing in a PhD degree. There are plenty of rewarding opportunities for well-trained scientists outside of academia.

Submitted on Fri, 08/14/2015 - 14:11

[Reply](#)

Edgar Pick

Working Life or Visible Life

Eleftherios Diamandis offers the young scientist an unusual recipe for success ("Getting noticed is half the battle", Working Life, 10 July, p. 206). We expected and got from Working Life descriptions of a variety of careers of scientists representing a mosaic of tastes, expectations, gender, nation, family structure, levels of fulfillment, and happiness. The choice of those who told their story was carefully balanced, resulting in a mixture of the conventional and the unusual, the "square" and the frivolous, the adventurous and the careful. There was, however, one attribute shared by most: the conviction that talent, hard work, persistence, and honesty will ultimately lead you to the desired goal, even if, occasionally, you have to make compromises. The other uniting trait was in the ethical dimension expressed in the honest and fair pursuit of your professional fulfillment. All of us met scientists who acted differently in order to advance their careers and no human enterprise is free of moral blemishes. We do not expect Working Life to present only examples of perfect behavior but we should expect it to be more discerning in its choice. Participating in seminars independently of the subject matter being of interest or not, making oneself noticed by those who matter, and asking questions not out of true curiosity but just to make an impression, are acts which can hardly be admired. Dr. Diamandis is free to feel that this was beneficial to his career but I do not think that this is a pattern of behavior to be emulated.

Edgar Pick Julius Friedrich Cohnheim Laboratory of Phagocyte Research Department of Clinical Microbiology and Immunology Sackler School of Medicine, Tel Aviv University Tel Aviv 69978, Israel E-mail:

epick@post.tau.ac.il

Submitted on Sat, 08/01/2015 - 04:26

[Reply](#)

U.S. Rao

Don't follow this advice. Be yourself.

Submitted on Tue, 07/28/2015 - 17:07

[Reply](#)

graduate student

I agree with the point of the entire story but don't agree with "Each time I entered the lecture room, I made a point of passing in front of the department chair before sitting down." Good scientists like to ask questions in the seminar anyway and good scientists will more likely to be noticed by the peers. But do not perform the way so as to be noticed. If you are a good scientist who also happens to like to socialize with people, you will be noticed and more likely to be successful in academia.

Submitted on Sun, 07/26/2015 - 22:19

[Reply](#)

Luciano Beheregaray

Is this really a Science article? Am I reading the year correctly, 2015? Editors: please explain yourselves the reasons why a text about male chauvinism and anti family values gets published.

Submitted on Sun, 07/26/2015 - 06:22

[Reply](#)

Pratik Chhatbar

What is the point of this article?

Submitted on Sat, 07/25/2015 - 16:05

[Reply](#)

R S

As a Ph.D. student I had the privilege to help host a famous scientist that eventually won the Nobel Prize for work in the field of Immunology. When we asked him about his work/life balance, he admitted he had not been a good father, choosing work over family. It was clear to all of us in the room scientific results should not come at the expense of more important responsibilities.

Submitted on Fri, 07/24/2015 - 14:37

[Reply](#)

Melinda Duncan

I guess I can only think "how sad" that someone did this to themselves instead of actually enjoying his young family. While few successful scientists work 40 hour weeks always, there are plenty very successful scientists that do a much better job at balancing things and even "gasp" take vacations. Note to young scientists out there... Please do not drink this flavor of koolaid. Science is something that you can be passionate about, but in the end, it will not care about you when you are wrapping up your career. However, your family will.

Submitted on Thu, 07/23/2015 - 15:59

[Reply](#)

Sherry Keller

So what you're saying is . . . I need a wife.

Submitted on Tue, 07/21/2015 - 18:20

[Reply](#)

NJ P

Unfortunately, science magazine doesn't need to perpetuate the stereotype. The men that run the academic department across the US can play along too. It was the department chair that choose Dr. Diamandis for his long days of work and published results. I bet he completely ignored his wife's contributions to the department. I REALLY hope the next generation of department chairs and committee heads decide to hire WELL-rounded people that do much more than work at the lab bench. Or are they afraid of people that can think of things other than science?

Submitted on Tue, 07/21/2015 - 15:22

[Reply](#)

Monica Zop

Besides the sexist attitude, which has been commented at length, and with which I substantially agree, I find the general careerist attitude quite disturbing. It seems that the effort of being noticed by the powerful is the most important driver of the author. Forget about collaborations, sharing with colleagues, helping younger colleagues, discussing ideas.. Intervening in lectures with the only purpose of being noticed, sounds machiavellian (not a compliment), and takes space and time form other interventions, which might have had a more scientific scope. This kind of 'suggestion' will only serve to discourage those who are in science for the love of knowledge, those who follow a (possibly naif, but certainly honest and generous) idea of contributing to making this world a better place, to the advantage of those who are, like the author suggest, hyper-competitive, self-centered, egoistic (and sexist).

I share the question already asked: why did Science publish this?

Submitted on Mon, 07/20/2015 - 05:35

[Reply](#)

Anon nymous

It would seem, then, that his wife should have been chosen to write an article on career success since she had to take care of all his domestic chores and she still became a senior scientist at a major teaching hospital.

Submitted on Fri, 07/17/2015 - 14:20

[Reply](#)

Anonymous--don't want to jeopardize m...

This is really an American story--coming from a disadvantage, working really hard to achieve success, and passing it on to the next generation-- not by any means limited to the realm of academic science. One often

hears stories like this, particularly from recent immigrants, in the realm of business, athletics, you name it. That anyone is capable of working so hard is an inspiration, and the fact that many people are has made this the standard in certain fields. But why is everyone up in arms about sexism? Would Dr/Mrs. Diamandis (or any average person at all!) *rather* have been working towards a faculty position herself, with this culture? As a future female PhD scientist myself, I can attest that I would much rather be "taking on the bulk of domestic responsibilities" than being in the lab for 16 or 17 hours a week. Sounds to me like it's our poor male partners who are at a disadvantage:some of them, like the author and my PhD advisor, are cut out for this kind of competition, but some of them aren't. I'm glad there are plenty of women out there who are eager to compete on this playing field, because I'm sure that there are male counterparts to myself who would much rather marry these women, have a normal job, and hang out at home and raise kids.

Submitted on Wed, 07/15/2015 - 18:03

[Reply](#)

anony mous

The problem with your confusion over why people are "up in arms" is rooted in the fact that you have an opinion and apparently don't even realize it. You WANT the domestic chores (which could be 16 or 17 hours per day *or more*). Not everyone feels this way.

Obviously this works in reverse for our "poor male counterparts," as some do not want to bear the career-burden, but often feel as though that is their role. However, and I read this in the tone of the article, the author *prefers* to be the breadwinner.

Much like I, not male, also would. That I will have a harder time doing so than the author is justified? No? Then that is why the complaints of sexism.

Submitted on Thu, 07/16/2015 - 19:28

[Reply](#)

Science [Anyways](#)

I have read many of the comments below and found the discussion very interesting. It actually made me write a lengthier commentary on this article, which you are very welcome to read (and comment on!) here: <https://scienceanyways.wordpress.com/2015/07/15/why-getting-noticed-is-h...>

What I wanted to remark on is the presumable gender bias promotion. I think we should not judge too fast Here are a few thoughts on the topic, while more is available in my blog post:

I would like to point out that at no point does the author note that he has in any way forced his wife to take on this burden. While the paragraph could've been crafted to express more gratitude or clarify it better, we cannot exclude that it was a mutual agreement. And we must admit it is still the reality around us.

Note the two-body problem in academia – the difficulty for 2 researchers to find a job in the same place. Well, let's be honest: even in close enough proximity to each other. Dual career couples struggle hard. And I do not think it is an uncommon solution that one partner decides to take a different, more relaxed or simply non-academic career path.

We need to let people make their choices, independently of gender. Gender equality doesn't mean all women HAVE to pursue challenging careers. It means they can ALWAYS CHOOSE to do it. They should be allowed to choose otherwise. As much as men should be allowed to choose otherwise too, and e.g. stay home with their children when they want to!

Submitted on Wed, 07/15/2015 - 17:40

[Reply](#)

Warm Neutron

I don't think Prof. Diamandis needs to apologize for this at all. He was merely pointing out that his wife had to handle everything at home so that he could work 16 hour days. I have no doubt he is grateful to her for shouldering this burden and I did not see him say that women should always do this. If there is a minor flaw in what he said, it's the statement that his wife worked "far less" than he did. By "work" he presumably means work in the lab, but he probably should have clarified that she is doing a lot of work at home.

In fact his question is spot on and points to the double standards often displayed by these people: if his wife had written this article and he had been the one staying at home, he would no doubt be praised by every one of these critics as the model example of a feminist man.

The real point of the article is to point out the inequities in a system that forces one spouse or another to work 16 hour days so that the other spouse is forced to sacrifice his or her career. I hope that people focus on this issue instead of derailing it with sexist red herrings.

Submitted on Wed, 07/15/2015 - 10:38

[Reply](#)

a mw

Does anyone besides the author actually read and think about Science Career articles before they are posted? The number of pathetically out of touch articles that have been featured here of late suggests not. It would be almost funny if it weren't so sad.

Submitted on Wed, 07/15/2015 - 09:18

[Reply](#)

BethAnn McLaughlin

This abridge version of my response found here <https://www.edgeforscholars.com/index.html?action=view&id=355> Dr. Diamandis attributed his success to decades of consistently working 16-17 hour days, every day. He goes on to say.... "My wife—also a Ph.D. scientist—worked far less than I did; she took on the bulk of the domestic responsibilities." Sure....we've all pulled crushing hours as grant deadlines loom, but to have sleep as your only outside activity? I frankly find this unimaginable. Even if I did have a stay at home spouse, I wouldn't work 16-17 hour days. My mind simply can't function with these hours. I have no enthusiasm, creativity or balance when I'm working non-stop for more than a few weeks. I feel like death, eat poorly and don't work out. I miss my pillow. I miss my kids. (Not necessarily in that order.) A post today from Bryan Gaensler provided balance to this work-as-life narrative. While incredibly successful by all accounts, Gaensler is also committed to leaving work between 5-6pm and taking full advantage of vacation time. He says, "If you're trying to impress people and move up the ranks, the solution isn't to work longer, but to work smarter. Learn to manage your time, to limit the endless spiral of emails and meetings, and to improve your efficiency." Science, Nature and other journals feature yet another 'successful man' who has a stay at home wife, a wife who puts her career second or wife who works for her husband in his lab feels like sandpaper on my psyche. Why do journals persist in holding up these workaholic men as THE standard of success? I frankly don't know. But I do know this advice isn't just damaging to women, it's frightening to men and arguably off-putting to incredibly bright, talented minds that have a more rounded set of life ambitions than being a slave to science. While I'm disappointed to see variants of Diamandis' narrative published repeatedly in high profile journals, these people have little in common with my aspirations or my reality. Holding myself to their standards is right up their with getting my beach body back 3 months after having a child. I can read about it in a magazine and it's do-able. I'd prefer to share thoughts with scientists who don't get asked to write about their career paths in Science and won't be ready for be ready for an itsy-bitsy swimsuit for a good decade after their kids go to college. At which point, none of us will care.

Submitted on Tue, 07/14/2015 - 16:03

[Reply](#)

anon nymous

I don't find anything wrong with this piece. The author admits it's difficult to advance without the support of a spouse, friends, and family.

What if the spouse of the author was a man?

Submitted on Tue, 07/14/2015 - 10:07

[Reply](#)

A C

It'd be just as bad.

I don't know why that's mysterious to you.

So many people who're fine with sexism against women are so deeply invested in the idea that women want to abuse and discriminate against men. They drag it out time and time again to resist cleaning up sexism of any kind.

Submitted on Tue, 07/14/2015 - 12:47

[Reply](#)

anon nymous

I agree it would be just as bad from a "family standpoint" - the child spending little time with one parent and asymmetry in terms of spousal responsibilities.

But would this article still be sexist if the spouse of the author was a man? I honestly don't think so. We're talking about gender roles here And not about the ideal way to raise a family.

I think you are trying to obfuscate my point - I never said or implied women want to abuse men. In my scenario the author and his spouse are a couple consisting of two men.

Submitted on Wed, 07/15/2015 - 11:47

[Reply](#)

anony mous

If the author was a man, he would have the opposite problem: societal pressure to "be a man," to be the breadwinner. Not because he wants to be, but because stereotypical gender roles are still around.

Is that still sexism? (my answer is yes.)

According to this stereotype, men work really hard in the office, women tarry in the kitchen and raise the children. Men are "supposed" to make more money than women. (If the wife makes more than the man, there is automatically something wrong with him.)

Anyone that wants to do things differently is suspicious. If you are the opposite gender for your role, you are automatically assumed to be less competent in it. Women are more nurturing, men cannot as effectively raise kids. (Just ask several states that allow children to stay with abusive mothers rather than give custody of even sons to fathers.) Men have more endurance (for those hours in the office), women are more frail and less book-smart intelligent. (Just ask the callers I got at the helpdesk who would refuse to talk to me - just because my voice was higher pitched; not even realizing that I was a server admin filling in at the helpdesk!)

And so I ask again: Why would it NOT be sexist if the partner staying home were male? In a different way, sure; but with no less societal pressure and degradation.

Submitted on Fri, 07/17/2015 - 01:40

[Reply](#)

Rick Stanbough

Leaders in science that were willing to sacrifice a healthy family life by working 16-18 hours a day and having their kids play in a lobby might explain why working in academia as a young family is so toxic and damaging, since they expect the same of their young colleagues.

If anything, this piece is a cautionary anecdote for anyone considering a family life and pursuing a career in academia. It's definitely why I decided to leave this business to the people whose real spouse and children are science itself.

Submitted on Tue, 07/14/2015 - 10:03

[Reply](#)

Xing Chen

"My wife—also a Ph.D. scientist—worked far less than I did; she took on the bulk of the domestic responsibilities."

I assume, of course, that Dr Diamandis is a woman, with a devoted lesbian partner. Lucky her!!

Submitted on Tue, 07/14/2015 - 07:50

[Reply](#)

Alicia Montecinos

What is wrong with you, Science?

Be kind and remove this offensive piece. Have you learned nothing about gender issues?

Submitted on Tue, 07/14/2015 - 07:34

[Reply](#)

Martin K

Beyond the lines, this is such an excellent article why to leave academia. Unless you want to make the sacrifice to go through the system as described in the article and change it in your microcosm from top? Perhaps humanoid robots are solution, replacing the 50's midset house wife a successful scientist probably needs.

Submitted on Tue, 07/14/2015 - 03:47

[Reply](#)

Michael Taffe

The world has changed and academics are less likely to see this person's careerist behavior as admirable or even acceptable. I am disappointed to see Science publishing such backward-looking career advice pieces of late. How about some essays on how modern scientists are struggling to make careers work without treating their families like servants or neglected appendages?

Submitted on Mon, 07/13/2015 - 22:45

[Reply](#)

Virginia Sapiro

"I worked 16 to 17 hours a day, not just to make progress on the technology, but also to publish results in high-impact journals. How did I manage it? My wife — also a Ph.D. scientist — worked far less than I did; she took on the bulk of the domestic responsibilities."

There are so many things wrong with this, but let me stick to the gender issues.

First, it doesn't sound like she "worked far less" than he did; it just sounds like whereas he got to devote most of his work time to science, she devoted a lot of hers to caring for him, their children, and their residence.

The brief abstract at the top of the article summarizes the advice on how to be successful in getting noticed, hired, and advancing the career: "Be an excellent scholar. Publish well. Work hard. Communicate with the public and your peers. But a well-planned, long-range effort to ensure your visibility among those who have hiring responsibilities can be the deciding factor."

The abstract doesn't reflect the actual content of the piece. It seems it should have said, "But a well-planned, long-range effort to ensure your visibility among those who have hiring responsibilities — which may depend on having a wife who is willing to defer her scientific achievements to yours — can be the deciding factor."

What year is it, Science?

Submitted on Mon, 07/13/2015 - 16:34

[Reply](#)

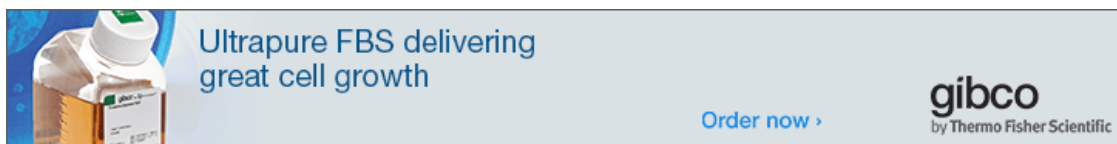
Cecilia L

I hope your daughter "works less" on her PhD to make sure her husband follows this recipe of success.

Submitted on Sun, 07/12/2015 - 19:38

[Reply](#)

1 2 [next ›](#) [last »](#)



Science AAAS.ORG | FEEDBACK | HELP | LIBRARIANS All Science Journals SEARCH ADVANCED

ALERTS | ACCESS RIGHTS | MY ACCOUNT | SIGN IN

AAAS NEWS SCIENCE JOURNALS CAREERS BLOGS & COMMUNITIES MULTIMEDIA COLLECTIONS JOIN / SUBSCRIBE

Science The World's Leading Journal of Original Scientific Research, Global News, and Commentary.

Science Home Current Issue Previous Issues Science Express Science Products My Science About the Journal

Home > Science Magazine > 10 July 2015 > Science Express > Getting noticed is half the battle > Comments

- Article Views
- Summary
 - Full Text
 - Full Text (PDF)

Science 10 July 2015:
Vol. 349 no. 6244 pp. 206-206
DOI:10.1126/science.349.6244.206

[Back to Article](#)

Terms and Conditions

By posting a comment to this article, you agree to our [Terms and Conditions](#).

Most Commented

- My trek back to science
- When science fails a scientist
- Iran, science, and collaboration
- Research fraud as tort
- New human species discovered
- Spherical nucleic acids start rolling
- How science fairs shaped my career
- How crickets communicate by sound
- Interfering with time
- A Trial for the ages

WORKING LIFE

Getting noticed is half the battle

Eleftherios P. Diamandis | [47 Comments](#)

Add a new comment

First Name *

Last Name *

E-mail *

Email addresses are kept private and will not be shown publicly.

Website

Comment *

Content limited to 2500 characters, remaining: 2500

* I agree to the commenting [Terms and Conditions](#). Also, to identify and limit spam, *Science* uses a third-party system, [mollom.com](#), which may store data about your post for several months. In submitting your comment, you give us consent for use of that service and agree to [mollom.com's privacy policy](#).

A copy of your comment will be emailed to you, for your records

These postings do not necessarily represent the views/opinions of *Science*.

David Blake

This is why I left academia.

There are many interesting businesses that will hire you to a permanent position after a straightforward 30 minute interview. The wages will be higher than academia and in my experience you may have more freedom to pursue interesting projects and develop your professional skills without the drag factors of teaching and grading. You can make management rank by simply showing up long enough, or senior management/equivalent with a little bit of work.

ADVERTISEMENT

STAY PLUGGED IN



Breast Cancer—
20 Years
After *BRCA1*
and More

with *Science* PODCAST

ADVERTISEMENT

Webinar

**Advancing
neuroimmunology**



Untangling
biomarkers in
the brain

October 28, 2015
12 noon ET, 9 a.m. PT,
5 p.m. UK, 6 p.m. CEST

Register!

Science

AAAS

Sponsored by EMD Millipore

Or, you can burn out on 16-17 hour days for many years, treating even the way you walk across the room and every word you speak as a moment to be optimised, letting your children grow up in the lobby of your workplace, putting the many burdens of family life onto your partner for many years, and if you're one of the lucky ones you may get a permanent position out of it. Heck, a few decades of hard work like that and you might even make it to a senior position.

I congratulate the author on his success (and happiness with his choices), and commiserate his many competitors for the faculty job that foolishly engaged in academia without being prepared to sacrifice a healthy, varied, family-oriented lifestyle (or who did make that sacrifice but were simply unlucky).

It demonstrates how badly broken academia has become if articles like this are a model of what you must do to have a chance at a somewhat-secure job with bad wages.

Submitted on Sat, 07/11/2015 - 20:39

[Reply](#)

Sarah Jordan

Aaaaannd here we have Exhibit A for why women disproportionately drop out of the pipeline post-PhD. If getting noticed is half the battle when you have the luxury of dumping all your family responsibilities on your wife, exactly what proportion of the battle do you think it might be for *her* career?

Seriously Science? What an utterly tone-deaf piece to publish without comment. Hopefully I'm not the only reader that will do it for you.

Submitted on Sat, 07/11/2015 - 16:39

[Reply](#)

Heidy Myers

So, in order to be noticed, I need to be married to a woman who is willing to forego advancing her own career and stay home to take care of all domestic duties. Great. Way to promote gender bias, heteronormativity, and a financial model straight out of 1955, Science.

Submitted on Sat, 07/11/2015 - 02:40

[Reply](#)

S Sheridan

This is the definition of narcissistic misogyny. Let's leave the little woman (with a PhD) at home while I abandon her and the kids to work 16 hours a day to advance my career at all costs. Not exactly a formula for success for everyone in the equation. What is Science doing publishing something like this?!

Submitted on Sat, 07/11/2015 - 02:14

[Reply](#)

Dr. Y. Balaban

According to the distinguished writer, getting noticed and smiling to the head of the department is half the battle. The other half is - again, according to the writer of this post - to be a man and have your wife give up HER professional ambitions and postpone HER becoming a senior scientist until the husband gets where HE wants. Than, if she likes, she can go on to pursue her less important career. Very inspiring indeed.

Submitted on Sat, 07/11/2015 - 01:18

[Reply](#)

Jonatha Eisen

I am unclear on just what the advice is here.

Is it "Get a wife who will do the domestic work and compromise her career?" Is it "Work really hard and ignore your children?"

Is this really the type of advice AAAS and Science want to be giving out to junior scientists?

Submitted on Fri, 07/10/2015 - 23:18

[Reply](#)

Eleanor Dunwoodie

"My wife—also a Ph.D. scientist—worked far less than I did; she took on the bulk of the domestic responsibilities."

Yes, that helps. Fortunately I live in Canada so I've been able to marry a wife to take on the bulk of the domestic responsibilities for a decade now.

Submitted on Fri, 07/10/2015 - 17:53

[Reply](#)

L C

Do you realize how sexist your advice is? Your wife took a back seat so that you could get ahead! I wonder what she would have to say about this...

Submitted on Fri, 07/10/2015 - 16:57

[Reply](#)

Daniel Lowe

Do you know of any single women who'd be willing to take on domestic duties around my house? I'm trying really hard to win a Nobel Prize, or something, and I'm single and I just don't see how it's going to happen without a dedicated woman doing the dishes...

Thanks in advance!

/sarcasm

Submitted on Fri, 07/10/2015 - 15:14

[Reply](#)

Katherine H. Freeman

I congratulate the author on the success of his career, and that of his partner and children. His tale includes gendered domestic and career roles that are all-too-familiar for women who came to science in the fourth quarter of the 20th century. I hope that we can move (well) beyond this pattern now that we are three decades later and firmly in the 21st century. The author's advice to work hard, publish good science, and build professional networks is timeless and sound. The remainder of his suggestions (unsustainable work hours, sycophantic behaviors, gendered career expectations), are not things I would advise scientists of any age.

Submitted on Fri, 07/10/2015 - 14:15

[Reply](#)

Frank TheTank

What a depressing story of brown nosing, abandoning your kids to achieve success, and failing to recognize how much work your wife did to prop you up. Did the author write this thinking, 'I'll pass on my wisdom so other people can be like me?'

Submitted on Fri, 07/10/2015 - 13:27

[Reply](#)

Potnia Theron

So what happened to the wife who didn't work as hard?

Submitted on Fri, 07/10/2015 - 10:39

[Reply](#)

Jennifer Glass

"My wife—also a Ph.D. scientist—worked far less than I did; she took on the bulk of the domestic responsibilities." This article is propagating sexist stereotypes of highly trained female partners working far less than men. I'm appalled, particularly after Alice Huang's column in ScienceCareers and Tim Hunt-gate, that Science would publish this. Please remove and apologize for yet-another Science Magazine PR nightmare that discourages young women from entering science and wastes the time of women already in science who have to constantly fight these battles.

Submitted on Fri, 07/10/2015 - 09:39

[Reply](#)

Peter Hook

That was one of the most self-centered and self-gratulatory pieces I've read in a long time.

Submitted on Fri, 07/10/2015 - 09:21

[Reply](#)

martin mcdonagh

Probably true but a sad indictment of those in senior academic positions. I thought science was about the joy of unravelling the mysteries of nature not just climbing the greasy poll.

Submitted on Fri, 07/10/2015 - 03:14

[Reply](#)

Kulbhushansingh Suryawanshi

I do not agree with the author. I have a good job at a respectable Scientific institute without stooping so low. I will not encourage young scientists to follow this advice which is clearly stealing them of their self respect. It is this behavior of people in powerful positions in Science that pushes away young talent. It is also one of the causes of why there are so few women in science at the top positions.

Submitted on Thu, 07/09/2015 - 23:52

[Reply](#)

Sarah Glaser

"I worked 16 to 17 hours a day, not just to make progress on the technology but also to publish our results in high-impact journals. How did I manage it? My wife—also a Ph.D. scientist—worked far less than I did; she took on the bulk of the domestic responsibilities. Our children spent many Saturdays and some Sundays playing in the company lobby. We made lunch in the break room microwave."

Based on the storyline, I take it this was occurring in the late 1980s and early 1990s. I hope that, 20-30 years later, we're beyond this model. Does one partner always have to take on the bulk of the domestic duties? And, isn't it disproportionately the wife? Are we really comfortable bringing our kids to play at the office on weekend? I hope a legacy of the current generation of young scientists and recently-minted PhDs is a move towards real work-life balance.

Submitted on Thu, 07/09/2015 - 23:28

[Reply](#)

[« first](#) [← previous](#) [1](#) [2](#)