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NEWS RELEASE

Motherhood in Science – How children change academic careers

Halle (Saale), Germany – A new publication from the [Women in Science](#) working group at the Global Young Academy (GYA) sheds light on the challenges of motherhood in the science sphere and academia. These challenges range from biased working environments and cultural and traditional expectations, to underdeveloped or missing support systems and feelings of self-guilt in a working parent.

The 18 fascinatingly personal stories presented in “[Motherhood in Science - How children change our academic careers](#)” highlight the situations of working mothers from Panama and the United States, to Turkey, Ethiopia and India. Most stories recognise the need to find a balance between being a mother and a scientist.

As former working group co-lead [Roula Inglesi-Lotz](#) (University of Pretoria, South Africa) says about scientist mothers in her story, “We can do anything we want to, but we cannot do everything we want to.” Or, as [Özge Yaka](#) (University of Potsdam, Germany) argues in her chapter, “It is not fair that two ticking clocks pressure academic women: our biologic clock of fertility and the career clock of securing a permanent position.”

The determination to succeed in a scientific career, while also having a family runs as a common thread through the book. From this, the authors identify clear actions that societies, institutions, and families can take to make it easier for women to succeed in what is still a male-dominated arena. At the same time, these stories act as a sign of courage and bravery that will inspire emerging women scientists by showing that while definitely not easy, combining career and family is possible in the end.

The publication is available [here](#).

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About the Global Young Academy

The vision of the GYA is science for all; science for the future, and its mission is to give a voice to young scientists and researchers around the world. The GYA, founded in 2010, is an independent science academy of 200 outstanding early- to mid-career researchers from six continents who are selected from across

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disciplines based on their academic excellence and commitment to engage with society. GYA members serve five-year terms, and the GYA presently counts members and alumni from 86 countries. The GYA administrative Office is publicly funded and hosted at the German National Academy of Sciences Leopoldina. The wide array of GYA activities are supported by a range of international public and private funders.