

Dear participant,

We are asking you to participate in a research study entitled “Parenting While Publishing in Europe: How Parenthood Policies and Support Networks Shape Career Paths in Academia” This study is being led by Dr. Lisette Espín-Noboa, postdoc at the Complexity Science Hub Vienna (CSH), and Central European University (CEU). The Faculty Advisor for this study is Dr. Fariba Karimi, Professor at Graz University of Technology and Team Lead at CSH.

What the study is about

The project investigates the crucial intersection of academic careers and parenthood in the European context. It will analyze how family-oriented policies, both at institutional and national levels, either enable or constrain the career advancement of academic parents. Furthermore, the project will explore how parenthood itself influences academics' career trajectories, including decisions about job mobility, research output, and overall professional experiences. The project aims to identify specific policy areas and support structures that would promote a more inclusive and equitable academic landscape for parents.

What we will ask you to do

We will ask you to answer three types of questions: (1) demographics about yourself, your parents, your partner, and children (if applicable); (2) your views on current policies and inequalities in academia; (3) your experience as a postdoc/faculty in academia. The survey has no time constraint, thus, once you start, you can fill the form at your own pace. Nevertheless, we estimate a duration of approximately 18 minutes to finish the entire survey.

Why you were selected

You were selected to participate in this survey because you are a corresponding author of at least one scholarly paper published between 2010 and 2023 that is indexed by SCOPUS. Our study focuses on research trends within Europe, and your affiliation with a European institution during the time of publication makes your insights particularly valuable.

Risks and discomforts

The survey includes a question about whether you have considered leaving academia or have already left. You will be asked to briefly discuss your reasons for doing so or considering it. The intent of this question is to better understand the factors that influence decisions to leave academia, including the potential impact of parenthood. While this information is valuable to our research, we recognize that it might touch on sensitive experiences. Please feel free to share only as much as you are comfortable with, and please ensure you omit any identifying names or details of third parties to protect your privacy.

Benefits and incentives for participation

Your contribution to this survey is invaluable. The findings from this study have the potential to make a real difference. By sharing your experiences, you can help us shed light on the challenges faced by parents in academia, particularly regarding gender parity in higher positions. This research can inform policy briefs and influence institutional and government policies to bridge the gender gap in academia. Ultimately, our goal is to dismantle the stigma often attached to parenthood in

academic careers. By understanding these challenges, we can work towards creating a more supportive environment that empowers current and future generations of scientists, both women and men, to pursue both fulfilling careers and families.

Privacy

In this survey, we will collect three types of data for each participant: (1) consent form (*this document*), (2) questionnaire responses, and (3) academic achievement and networks.

1. After accepting this consent form (also shown at the beginning of the survey), you can immediately proceed to the survey questionnaire.
2. The questionnaire will be anonymized from the beginning of the survey (i.e., we will not store any information in these questions that could potentially identify you). This means that you will have an anonymous ID which cannot be linked to your true identity.
3. The academic achievements and networks refer to your CV and publications. While this information is public (e.g., via digital libraries, or authors' websites) we will treat them anonymously to keep the questionnaire anonymous. We will provide three options that you can choose from to provide your networks:
 - a. **CV**: Where you can upload your CV as a PDF or WORD file.
 - b. **Online profile**: Where you can provide the link (or URL) of your preferred academic online profile, e.g., Google Scholar, ORCID, Research Gate, etc.
 - c. **Stats**: Where you can provide metrics such as your number of publications, number of citations, h-index, i10-index, number of unique collaborators, etc.

Confidentiality

Your confidentiality will be kept to the degree permitted by the technology being used. We cannot guarantee against interception of data sent via the internet by third parties. Only the four members of this research team will have access to the data in either form: raw responses or aggregates.

Data security

The survey is being conducted with the help of the IT infrastructure of the Central European University (CEU). We anticipate that your participation in this survey presents no greater risk than everyday use of the Internet.

Please note that email communication is neither private nor secure. Though we are taking precautions to protect your privacy, you should be aware that information sent through email could be read by a third party.

Sharing de-identified data collected in this research

De-identified data from this study may be shared with the research community at large to advance science. We will remove or code any personal information that could identify you before files are shared with other researchers to ensure that, by current scientific standards and known methods, no one will be able to identify you from the information we share. Despite these measures, we cannot guarantee anonymity of your personal data.

Taking part is voluntary

Your participation in this study is completely voluntary. You may refuse to participate before the study, discontinue at any time, or skip the optional questions with no penalty to you. Note that if you choose to “discontinue at any time,” we will not consider any of your responses for the study.

If you have questions

The main researcher conducting this study is Lisette Espín-Noboa, a postdoc at the Complexity Science Hub Vienna, and Central European University. Should you have any questions, please contact Dr. Espín-Noboa at espin@csh.ac.at.

By clicking on “I have read and understood the consent form and given my permission to participate in this study” in the main survey, you will be giving us your consent to be part of this study, and will be able to continue the survey. By not clicking the above mentioned button, you will not be contacted again for this study. If you take no action, we will send you a reminder via email after two weeks.

Statement of Consent

I have read the above information, and have received answers to any questions I asked. I consent to take part in the study.