

# Women and Sciences



**How is women's access to  
scientific fields  
representative of their  
visibility in society?**

# The Matilda effect

a historical phenomenon

The Matilda effect :

- attitude of men
- Claim the results of women's work
- Women's contributions reduced
- Also occurs in the case of simultaneous discoveries



# Mileva Einstein

- Wife of the famous physicist Albert Einstein
- In the winter of 1896, she began studying mathematics and physics at the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology in Zurich
- She was the only woman in her class
- She is considered as "relativity's forgotten child".



# ACCESS TO SCIENTIFIC STUDIES FOR WOMEN

Here we will study how women could access to scientific studies before Marie Curie, whose success led the break down of discrimination barriers

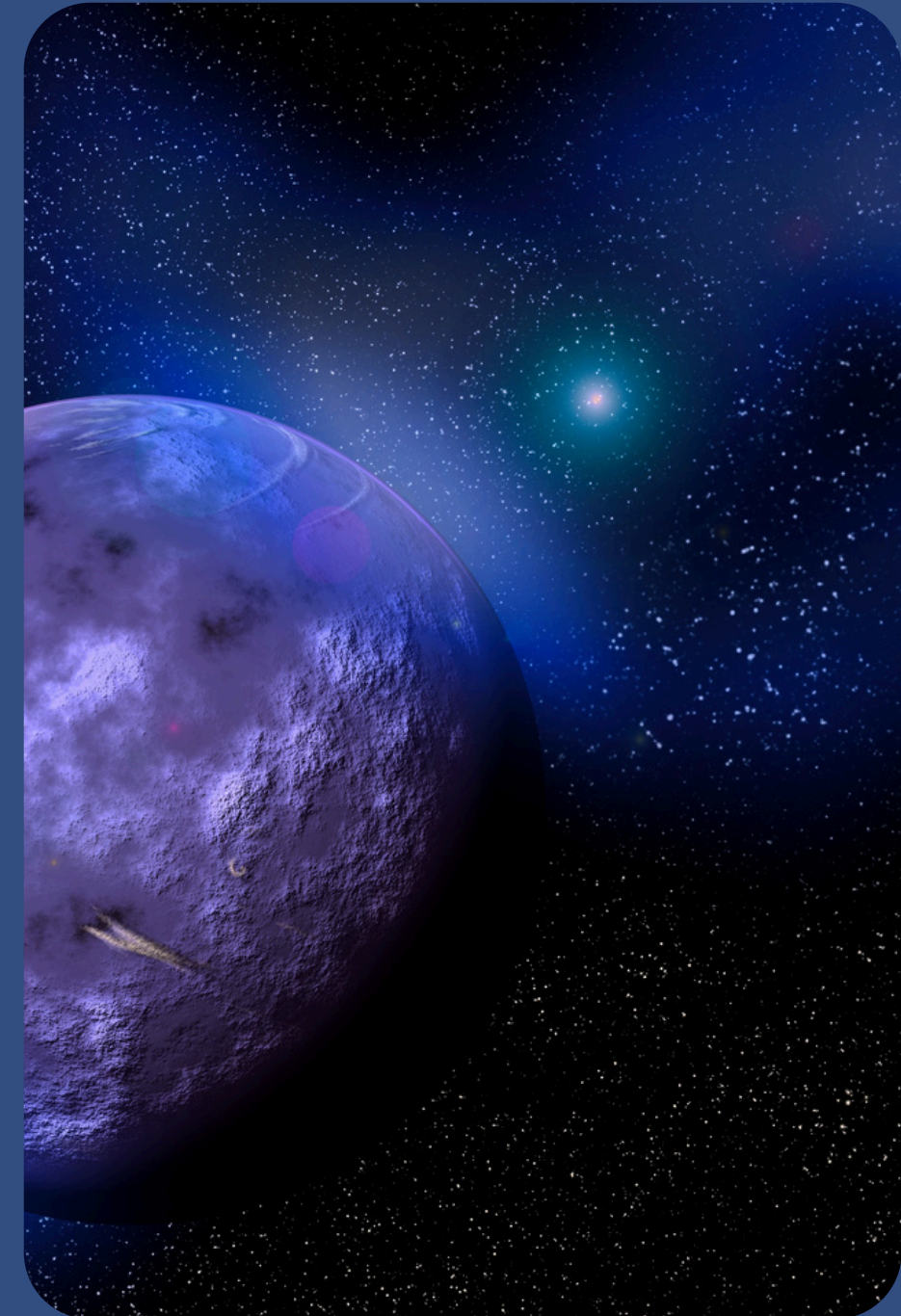
# The difficulty to study science

Social, cultural & institutional barriers :

- Academic institutions exclusively male
- Gender stereotypes → Women not suited for intellectual fields.
- Limited access to scholarships of funding
- Stereotypes → skepticism & resistance from men  
= challenging for women to gain acceptance in scientific circles

# Once they have entered the scientific world

Once she has reached her goal, the scientist can finally pursue the career of her dreams. However, this cannot happen without challenges for a woman in a predominantly male-dominated environment. Then, what situation does the scientist find herself in ?



# Historical examples

## Discrimination and gender bias,

In 2014, the "Shirtstorm" incident brought sexism in scientific culture to light when male scientists wore sexist shirts at an international scientific conference, sparking controversy and highlighting the challenges women face in the scientific field.



## Work-life balance

Astrophysicist Jocelyn Bell Burnell, who discovered pulsars in 1967, faced challenges in balancing her scientific career with her personal and family life, juggling professional responsibilities and housework.

## Historical examples

### Social and cultural pressure

Physicist Chien-Shiung Wu, nicknamed "the Queen of Experimental Physics," had to confront the traditional social expectations of her time, which expected women to focus on family first, despite her exceptional contributions to scientific research.

### Access to resources and funding:

In 2018, a study conducted by researchers at the University of California, Berkeley revealed that female scientists receive less research funding than their male counterparts, despite submitting grant proposals of equivalent quality.

# The Hidden Figures

Dress code : skirt above knees

At the end Katherine is getting married and is offered a pearl necklace (part of the dressing code but couldn't afford)

Same job -----> Not paid the same

70's, women not only staying at home anymore, can work but still have to take care of the children "I have to be mommy and daddy"

Men > Women in couple "Don't play the fool"

When women graduate, compulsory studies added in order to work

But universities only teach men

IBM, specialization in computer science, women not able to use computers ?

Katherine is given responsibilities, must take part in meetings but women are not allowed.



A vibrant, colorful view of the Milky Way galaxy against a dark starry background. The galaxy's spiral arms are visible, with a mix of blue, purple, and white light. The background is filled with numerous bright stars of various colors.

**Thank you  
very much !**

**Now, you can ask as many questions as you want**