



# CERN Colloquium

SPEAKER: Rachel Ivie (American Institute of Physics)

TITLE: **“The Effects of Limited Resources and Opportunities on Women’s Careers in Physics: Results from the Global Survey of Physicists**

DATE: Thu 03/05/2012 16:30

PLACE: Council Chamber

## ABSTRACT

The results of the Global Survey of Physicists draw attention to the need to focus on factors other than representation when discussing the situation of women in physics. Previous studies of women in physics have mostly focused on the lack of women in the field. This study goes beyond the obvious shortage of women and shows that there are much deeper issues. For the first time, a multinational study was conducted with 15000 respondents from 130 countries, showing that problems for women in physics transcend national borders. Across all countries, women have fewer resources and opportunities and are more affected by cultural expectations concerning child care. We show that limited resources and opportunities hurt career progress, and because women have fewer opportunities and resources, their careers progress more slowly. We also show the disproportionate effects of children on women physicists' careers. Cultural expectations about home and family are difficult to change. However, for women to have successful outcomes and advance in physics, they must have equal access to resources and opportunities.

Organised by: Ignatios Antoniadis/PH-TH & Pauline Gagnon/DG-CO.....\*\*Tea and coffee will be served at 16h00\*\*