

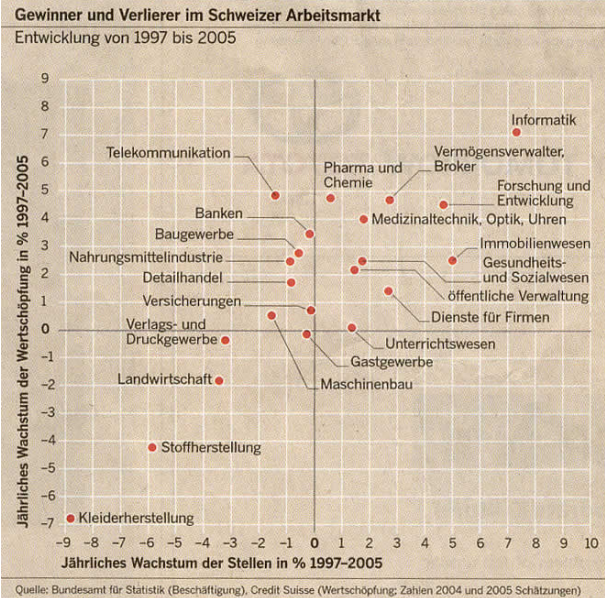
## Panel Discussion

### *Computer Science: a **Gender** Issue? How to increase the number of female students and faculty members?*

Michèle Courant (Uni Fribourg)  
Anita Lerch (Uni Basel)  
Orla Greevy (Uni Bern)  
Oscar Nierstrasz (Uni Bern)  
Sabine Süsstrunk (EPFL)

## Fact

- CS is an attractive field of study with large growth potential.



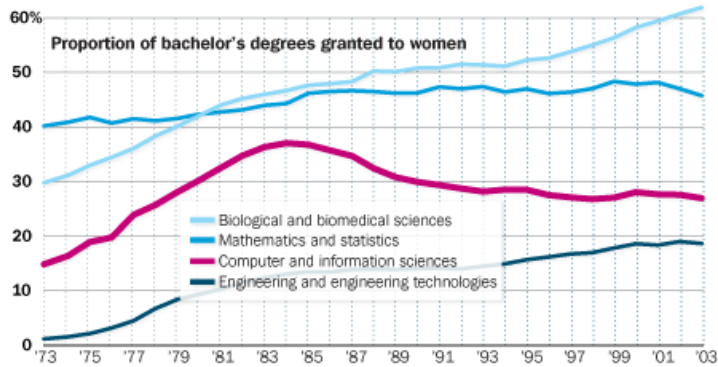
NZZ am Sonntag  
September 2005

## Fact

- In the US, the percentage of CS students is falling, the percentage of women CS students is falling even more.
  - Chronicle of Higher Education (Jan 13, 2006)
  - At EPFL, the percentage remained constant over the last 5 years (< 10%).

## Fact

- Computer Science is not an attractive career choice for women.

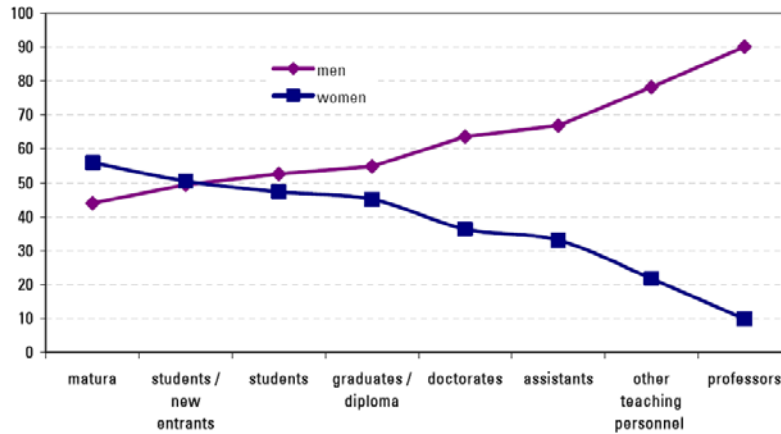


US Department of Education

## Fact

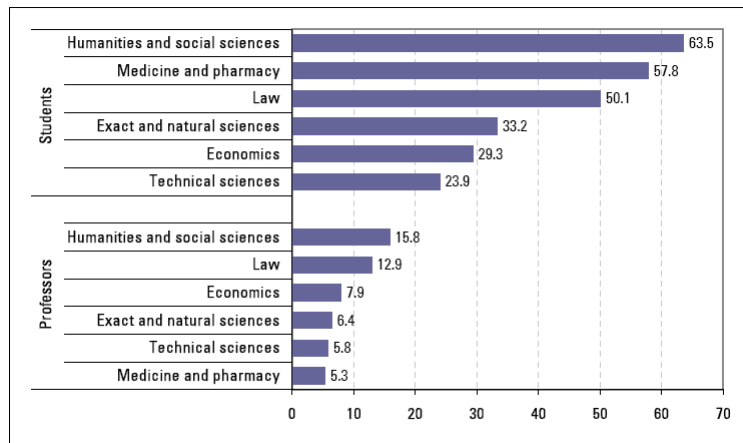
- In Switzerland, we are “loosing” qualified graduates along the academic pipline.

### Swiss university careers by level and gender (2002)



Source: Irene Rehmann. *Helsinki Group: Women and Science, Review of the Situation in Switzerland*. Swiss Federal Office for Education and Science (OFES), June 2004.

### % of women students and professors (2000)



Source: Irene Rehmann. *Helsinki Group: Women and Science, Review of the Situation in Switzerland*. Swiss Federal Office for Education and Science (OFES), June 2004.

## WEF (World Economic Forum) Report

- Published May 2005:
  - 58 countries (28 developed, 30 underdeveloped countries)
- 5 criteria:
  - Economic participation
    - Women in the workforce.
  - Economic opportunity
    - *Quality* of women's economic involvement.
  - Political empowerment
    - Equitable representation of women in decision-making structures.
  - Educational attainment
    - Access to well-paid jobs and advance within them.
  - Health and well-being
    - Access to sufficient nutrition, healthcare and reproductive facilities.

### Women's Empowerment: Measuring the Global Gender Gap



Augusto Lopez-Claros, World Economic Forum  
Sadia Zahedi, World Economic Forum



## Rankings...

### The Gender Gap Rankings

Country	Overall rank	Overall score*	Economic participation	Economic opportunity	Political empowerment	Educational attainment	Health and well-being
Sweden	1	5.53	5	12	8	1	1
Norway	2	5.39	13	2	3	6	9
Iceland	3	5.32	17	7	2	7	6
Ireland	16	4.40	37	51	12	9	12
United States	17	4.40	19	46	19	8	42
Costa Rica	18	4.36	49	30	9	14	30
Uruguay	32	4.01	36	26	36	2	56
China	33	4.01	9	23	40	46	36
Switzerland	34	3.97	43	42	17	49	7
Argentina	35	3.97	55	29	26	3	54
South Africa	36	3.95	39	56	16	30	21

Source: WEF Gender Gap Report

## Facts?

- Men are more attracted to the nuts and bolts of computers, while women are more interested in the social and culture applications...
- Scientifically, girls are not programmed to do math like guys could (their brain is smaller)...
- When choosing careers, daughters tend to identify or align themselves with their mothers...
- Everyone talks the talk, but who walks the walk?