



Karen SCRIVENER

Karen Scrivener, was born in England, she graduated from University of Cambridge in 1979 in Materials Science. She went on to do a PhD on « The Microstructural Development during the Hydration of Portland Cement » at Imperial College, remaining there until 1995 as Royal Society Research Fellow and then lecturer.

In 1995 she joined the Central Research Laboratories of Lafarge near Lyon in France. In March 2001 she appointed as Professor and head of the Laboratory of Construction Materials, Department of Materials at EPFL, Ecole Polytechnique Fédérale de Lausanne, Switzerland. The work of this laboratory is focussed on improving the sustainability of cementitious building materials.

She is the founder and co-ordinator of Nanocem, a Network of industry and academia for fundamental research on cementitious material and Editor in Chief of Cement and Concrete Research, the leading academic journal in the field.

Présence et compétences féminines dans les sphères dirigeantes : Universités / EPF – Comment valorisent-elles les compétences féminines ? Témoignage et perspectives.

(if wished I can speak in French, but my written French is not good, so support slides will be in English, please advise)

In this presentation I will first review the facts about the under representation of women in academia and particularly. Why this situation is slow and difficult to change. Then I will speak about my own experience of an international career, spanning academia and industry. Here I will emphasise that the role of a scientist/researcher is very far from the public perception of the lone (male) scientist in his laboratory. Success also involves dealing with people and most successful scientific and technological development involve integrating the contributions of several people – something women are often very good at. Young girls are often put off studying science by the « geeky » image of their male peers at school, we need to present them more positive and diverse images. Finally I will talk about the setting up of the EPFL – WISH foundation, which has the aim to encourage women to follow scientific careers.

Contact numbers for week 44

Monday I will be in the office (021 693 5843 and could be contacted 12.00-13:15; 14.00-15:00 or 16:00-19.00

Tuesday – Thursday I will be at meetings Berne and Zurich and difficult to contact – mobile number 079 251 7262

Friday 30th I will be back in the office and available all morning until 14.00