



UNIVERSITÄT  
LEIPZIG

Fakultät für Physik und  
Geowissenschaften

Gleichstellungsbeauftragte

Prof. Dr. Claudia S. Schnohr

## **Beyond participation: Sense of belonging and the impact of the physics stereotype for women in STEM**

**Amy Smith**

Imperial College London, UK

The underrepresentation of women in STEM is often painted as a participation and uptake issue, with most efforts centring around recruiting more women into higher education. However, research shows that women in STEM courses continue to face barriers in creating a successful STEM identity long after their admission to higher education. Identity creation within the physical sciences can be particularly difficult as stereotypes in these fields continue to favour characteristics which are more readily associated as 'masculine'. This then leads to women frequently having to negotiate between their dual identities as women and scientists in order to gain recognition within their field. In their inability to be their authentic selves, women are disallowed from belonging fully to the field they hope to study and work in, and this is significant. Belonging to your department increases student and staff wellbeing, guides success rates and ultimately determines continuation in the field. This talk will highlight research that places sense of belonging at the forefront of the women in STEM movement and discuss potential routes for increasing it.

**Thursday, 27 May 2021 at 17:00**

**<https://uni-leipzig.zoom.us/j/61082925632?pwd=ZDJrYmVVZIRIOGV0djg5dVF3UmMzdz09>**

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