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Equality for Women in Science: Sometime, Now or Never?

Lecture by Prof. Dr. Paul Walton
University of York/UK

Wednesday, 25 January, 2017, 7–9 p.m.

**Lecture Hall, Freiburg Institute for Advanced Studies – FRIAS,
Albertstr. 19, 79104 Freiburg**

Words of Welcome

Prof. Dr. Dr. h.c. Hans-Jochen Schiewer
Rector of the University of Freiburg

Over nearly all scientific organisations, across every country and across time one finds that the progression of women in science is significantly hindered when compared to men. Such a universal truth represents an enormous loss of talent from science, one that can ill be afforded. Recent years have seen some progress in understanding the principal factors behind this phenomenon and there has been some progress in new schemes which are designed to address the lack of women in senior scientific positions. These schemes have also met with some resistance which, in itself, has been revealing of the reasons why there is such a difference in the progression rates of men and women in science. This presentation discusses some of those resistances, why they arise, what can be done about them, and what they reveal about gender (in)equality in science.

Paul Walton obtained his PhD in 1990, followed by two years as a NATO postdoctoral fellow at the University of California, Berkeley, USA. He joined the Department of Chemistry at York as a faculty member in 1993. Between 2004 and 2010 he was chair of department. He is the recipient of multiple awards which extend across the full range of his work, including: the Royal Society of Chemistry's Higher Education Teaching Award, the RSC's Joseph Chatt Award for outstanding multidisciplinary research, the IChemE's Global Award for energy research, the Royal Society's inaugural Athena Prize for gender equality work (runner up) and was shortlisted for the Women in Science and Engineering "Man of the Year" award. He is an internationally-known advocate of gender equality and lectures widely on the subject.