



# Women Scientists: Reflections, Challenges, and Breaking Boundaries

By Magdolna Hargittai

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## Women Scientists: Reflections, Challenges, and Breaking Boundaries By Magdolna Hargittai

Magdolna Hargittai uses over fifteen years of in-depth conversation with female physicists, chemists, biomedical researchers, and other scientists to form cohesive ideas on the state of the modern female scientist. The compilation, based on sixty conversations, examines unique challenges that women with serious scientific aspirations face. In addition to addressing challenges and the unjustifiable underrepresentation of women at the higher levels of academia, Hargittai takes a balanced approach by discussing how some of the most successful of these women have managed to obtain professional success and personal happiness.

Women Scientists portrays scientists from different backgrounds, different geographical regions-eighteen countries from four continents-and leaders from a variety of professional backgrounds, including eight Nobel laureate women. The book is divided into three sections: "Husband and Wife Teams," "Women at the Top," and "In High Positions." Hargittai uses her own experience to introduce her first section on the lives of prominent scientific couples and addresses the joys and disadvantages of husband and wife teams. The second section is a comprehensive exploration of the struggles and triumphs of "women at the top." Hargittai introduces women from countries where relatively little has been written about female scientists. The final section focuses on women scientists involved with science administration and leadership. Hargittai's biographical sketches role models for budding scientists. The book is a much needed account of female presence and influence in the sciences.

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#### Review

"Hargittai does an excellent job of presenting both the women's dedication and talents and their shortcomings. This book will be an inspiration for budding scientists. Recommended." --*Choice*

"The stories are upbeat and original... This book will be of interest to both upcoming and established women in science, their children and families, as well as historians." --*MRS Bulletin*

#### About the Author

Magdolna Hargittai is Research Professor at the Budapest University of Technology and Economics. She is a Member of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences and of the Academia Europaea (London).

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