



Equal opportunities for men: a perspective of an ERC grantee and father of three

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Equal opportunities is still regarded a “women’s issue” by many. Implicit to this notion is the assumption that men are made to work and make a career. However, if we agree that life consists of more than work and sleep, and if we agree that men have the right to be with their children, equal opportunities are of course equally important for men: it means to provide opportunities for men to spend time with their families and children. In this presentation, I would like to share my personal experience as ERC grantee, father of three children, and husband of a scientist. I will highlight the importance of personal choices, but also of policies and institutional structures that promote or impede equal opportunities for men. I will make the point that providing opportunities for men to be with their children, while they pursue an academic career, will be beneficial not only for them, but also for women, and therefore constitutes a key component in work towards equal opportunities.