

E-MAIL CONTRIBUTIONS**Could part-time work solve the problem?****ELLY SCHEERMEYER**

After finishing a PhD many women want to advance their careers but find it hard to consolidate a demanding full time job with a young family. And, if a full-time job is pursued, it may cause personal difficulties later on. So many successful women either married late, or had no children to care for.

Casual and part-time research assistant work seems the only option for many, with women choosing to earn a small wage rather than leaving the family to fend for itself. Women are asked to fill in equity forms on gender for the job position, but often these forms fail to address the fact that the position the woman has taken is below their qualifications.

I have a special needs child and decided on a career change as a consequence of these difficulties. I am still awaiting a response to my efforts to redirect my career. Re-entry in the world of science after such a break is especially difficult.

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