

E-MAIL CONTRIBUTIONS**Men should take an equal share of childcare**

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I have been enjoying reading the thoughtful discussions on the problems facing women in science but to me they seem very one sided. Women are quite rightly demanding equality in science, but why are we not also asking that all men take an equal share in child care? If only men would take career breaks and attend to school functions, sick children, etc. -- they would immediately become as "unreliable" as women and hence level the playing field significantly.

I appreciate that this sounds like utopia and is only likely to happen if women demand more of their men. I am frustrated to read so many articles explaining how women should get more support to enable them to have a family and a career with barely a mention of the fact that there is generally a second parent involved. There are many discussions of how women can take career breaks, retrain, take positions at an older chronological age than men -- why should we? I do not see that women should have to settle for a positions where their male peers are 10 years younger, to me this is still perpetuating inequalities by assuming that only women are biologically capable of rearing children, which is demonstrable nonsense

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