



# GenHET Newsletter

Issue 1

May 2020

---

## Welcome to GenHET-online!

GenHET is strengthening its online presence. To keep in touch, meet, and discuss the current issues in our busy academic lives, we plan to have a regular newsletter to keep you informed. Expect webinars, news, articles, useful information, and more!

If you have news or other information you would like to share via the newsletter, contact us at [GenHET.Admin@cern.ch](mailto:GenHET.Admin@cern.ch). Visit us at our website [genhet.web.cern.ch](http://genhet.web.cern.ch) where you can find out more about our activities and initiatives.

---

## About GenHET

GenHET is a permanent working group hosted by the CERN Theory Department, whose main objectives are to monitor the situation of women in High Energy Theoretical Physics, increase the awareness of gender issues in the field, improve the visibility and presence of women in decision making roles and providing networking, support and mentoring, particularly to early career researchers.

The group is open to all researchers in High Energy Theory, irrespective of their gender, across all career stages and nationalities. Interested researchers are welcome to subscribe and propose new ideas and initiatives.

---

# GenHET Newsletter

Issue 1, May 2020.

---

## Keep in touch with GenHET

Via GenHET website

To get future announcements, make sure you subscribe to our network [here](#).

Via Social Media

Follow us on Twitter! We are [@GenHET\\_](#)

---

## Corona Times

This section collects items related to the Covid-19 crisis and your reactions to it. Contact us by [e-mail](#) or via [twitter](#), and we will try to incorporate them in the next issue.

### Working from Home

Working from home poses new challenges for everyone. Some aspects might be better, while some are worse. What are the biggest challenges for you? Any tips?

[The pandemic and the female academic](#), from Nature.

### Employment and Contracts

There are many of us that have a fixed-term contract and its end is fast approaching. We would like to hear about your concerns, and discuss problems and solutions!

### Impact on Education

Several of us had to learn about online lectures, rethink assignments and evaluations, and explore new ways to communicate with our students online within a very short period of time. This requires creativity, flexibility, patience, and lots of energy! Share with us your experience.

Articles with resources for online teaching: [here](#) and [here](#).  
[Covid-19 and impact on gender equality in education](#).

---

# GenHET Newsletter

Issue 1, May 2020.

---

## GenHET members in the spotlight, May 2020

If you have a suggestion for a GenHET member to be included in our spotlight section, please email us at [GenHET.Admin@cern.ch](mailto:GenHET.Admin@cern.ch).

Congratulations to Natalia Pinzani Fokeeva (KU, Leuven) who earned a project part of the Excellent Science - Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions of Horizon 2020! Read more about it [here](#).

Congratulations to Madalena Lemos (CERN) and Charlotte Sleight (IAS) for their new assistant professor appointment at Durham University!

---

## Reading corner highlights

Some interesting articles, news and other information recommended by members of GenHET

“Happy Mother’s Day!” from GenHET.

[7 Leadership Lessons Men Can Learn from Women](#), from Harvard Business Review.

An excellent source for articles is [the international journal of gender science and technology](#). We recommend: “[Maybe These Fields Just Don’t Interest Them](#),” Gender and ethnic differences in attributions about STEM inequities, and [Cultural Stereotypes and Sense of Belonging Contribute to Gender Gaps in STEM](#).

---

## HET Seminars Online

Stay connected to your research community via online seminars series.

[HoloTube seminars on applied AdS/CFT](#)  
[CERN-TH mailing lists](#)  
[Nordic remote HET seminars](#)  
[Physics in the time of Coronavirus, Google calendar](#)  
[Theory Web Seminars](#)  
[ResearchSeminars.org](#)  
[Inspire Seminars](#)  
[BSM Pandemic](#)

# GenHET Newsletter

Issue 1, May 2020.

---

## Meet the GenHET working group: Prof. Silvia Penati, Milano-Bicocca U.

Every issue of the newsletter will include a short profile of one of our working group members.



**My career:** I studied Physics at Milano University and got my PhD there. Then I moved to the US for postdocs, primarily in the Boston area. I came back to Italy when I got a position as Assistant Professor at Milano University. When the Milano-Bicocca University was founded at the end of the nineties, I decided to move there. Working for its growth has been very challenging but also very rewarding. There I built up all my career, becoming an Associate Professor first and then Full Professor. Over the years I have benefited from many Italian and EU Grants as a member of renowned scientific groups. From 2013 to 2017 I have chaired the COST Action “The String Theory Universe”, a European scientific project in String Theory with a strong commitment towards the problem of the low percentage of women scientists in this area of research. As a member of the ABCD - Interdepartmental Center for Gender Studies - I am actively involved in the organisation of local and national activities aimed at addressing the problem of gender unbalance in the STEM disciplines. As a member of the GenHET group I work at the European level for the same scopes.

**My research:** I have spent my whole career working at the frontier of Theoretical Physics, investigating fundamental problems concerning the microscopic world of elementary particles and fundamental interactions. I am an expert in supersymmetric quantum field theories, gauge theories, string theory, and the AdS/CFT correspondence. I lead my own group of young people - PhD and postdocs - and collaborate with many colleagues from other institutions in and outside Italy. My main achievements are in the context of non(anti)commutative field theories, conformal field theories, amplitudes, and integrability in the AdS/CFT theory.

# GenHET Newsletter

Issue 1, May 2020.

---

**My journey:** I truly love Physics and Mathematics. I could not have been anything else in my life other than being a scientist. At any price. But reconciling this strong determination with the willingness to build up a family with my love was quite difficult. When I was in the US for my postdoc my husband - a physicist too - got a fellowship in Novosibirsk, Siberia, URSS. It was at the turn of 1989, when the e-mail era had just started, and making a phone call from USA to URSS was a challenge. But we managed to survive and got married when we both returned to Italy. We decided to have children only after I got a permanent position. We have always equally shared childcare and household. Being both in academia helped in this respect. We often managed to travel for work with children, we moved to the US with them for a sabbatical and we always reciprocally respected and accepted the personal commitments of each other. Nonetheless, I am not sure I can state that my children never suffered from a lack of attention from their mum. My little daughter was used to draw her family with the pa holding the two children at the center of the sheet and the mum at the edge of the sheet, in profile and with one leg out of the picture. What is mum doing? She is leaving...