

California State University, Northridge



FINAL PAPER

Women in Mathematics, Science & Engineering

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NOVEMBER 1, 2020

The Nobel Prize started in the early 19th century because of a gentleman by the name of Alfred Nobel who had substantial worth due to his many inventions. His interests in physics, chemistry, physiology, literature, and peace work are the reasons why the Nobel Prize is divided into five different categories. As one of his wills before he passed away, his wish was to give out his fortune as prizes to those who can bestow the greatest among humankind in the five categories he was most interested in. This prestigious ceremony overtime has been awarded to 950 people and organizations, however, there is a significant difference in the number of women laureates compared to men laureates.

I had the impression that without a doubt the Nobel Prize always goes to the scientist with the most groundbreaking discovery for the advancement of humanity. It turns out there's more than just pure science, politics and fame has fallen into the mix of this prestigious prize, which seems to be the main reasoning why women are underrepresented in the Nobel Prize awards. In the case of both Marie Curie and Lisa Meitner, they are both known to be reserved in their temperament. Even with fame, Marie Curie did not view her discoveries as a means to make money, but rather they "must belong to science." [Kop06]

References

- [Kop06] The Path to Nuclear Fission Kopie van PBS. *The Story of Lise Meitner and Otto Hahn*. 2006. URL: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OVT0su1lzXQ&feature=youtu.be>.