



electrical engineering. Also we started as 220 people at ETH, and we were about 20 girls. This was the record.

**They never had 20 girls at the same time?**

...or never this percentage.

**Did you have any support in this choice?**

Actually, it was basically my choice, but my parents were always supportive.

**Teachers too?**

Yes, teachers as well in the school. Since I was always good in the lectures, my teachers were like, "Yeah, sure, why not study engineering?"

**Did you have to face any sarcasm about this choice at the time?**

From the outside, when I said I was doing my PhD in electrical engineering, people would say: "As a woman, why do you do it?"

**What would they want you to do instead?**

I don't know... teach? I don't want to say that a teacher is a women's job, but in their minds it might be.

**How do you react to that?**

I find it actually weird because I think there are no gender jobs. All jobs should be for each gender.

**No gender jobs at all?**

No, I mean why should it be? Any woman or man has different aspects that they can bring to the job so why not use it?

**Is it more girls or boys who told you that?**

I think it is more usually girls because I think that boys maybe have something else in their minds. By the way, in Switzerland, there is also a foundation

of the city that there are no men or women's jobs. There is a webpage where you take a photo with normal clothes. Maybe there is a male nurse. Then you try to estimate who has that job. There are like 6 photos and 6 jobs, and you need to say who is doing what. This is actually for kids so there is no men's or women's jobs. Like a dancer... why should it be a woman's job?

**[laughs] I am a better footballer than dancer, I think.**

...or fireman or firewoman and so on...



**Does it anger you or do you just shake it off?**

It angers me of course, because I still wonder why.

**That means it touches a nerve.**

I think it is because you hear it all your life that girls should behave like this.