



Name: Prof. Dr. Caren Sureth

Academic career:

- 1985 Abitur
- 1985 – 1988 apprenticeship at a major bank
- 1993 Diplom in Business Administration, Passau
- 1994 – 1999 Doctoral student and research assistant to Prof. Dr. Rolf König, Chair of Business Administration and Management (esp. Business Taxation), University of Bielefeld
- 1999 Award of title of Dr. rer. pol.
- 2003 Habilitation in Business Administration, Bielefeld
- Since 2004 Professor of Business administration (esp. accounting / business taxation), Paderborn
- 2003 – 2010 Calls to professorships at University of Graz, Humboldt University Berlin, University of Frankfurt/Main

Career

During my studies of Business Administration at the University of Passau (Germany) I knew rather early that I would like to do a doctoral degree. At this stage of my career I haven't had in mind becoming a professor. After my graduation, I worked as a doctoral student and research assistant for Prof. Dr. Rolf König, Chair of Business Administration and Management (esp. Business Taxation), at Bielefeld University from 1994 to 1999. At the end of my doctoral studies my supervisor encouraged me to continue an academic career and supported me on my way to become a professor.

Since 2004 I am the head of chair of business administration (especially business taxation) at the University of Paderborn. I am basically working on the influence of tax rules on entrepreneurial decisions. At this stage the existing tax law and its impact on decision making is examined as well as devise how regulations should be. These subjects attract public attention, e.g. if the influence of tax revisions is discussed.

Work and Life Balance

In my daily routine, I do not have a clear separation between work and private life. Since my last year as a graduate student I have to organize both, family and occupation. Because of this, my family is well organised and my three children at the age between 11 and 18 are practiced in many standard situations. Being a professor offers the big advantage of a high time autonomy and simultaneously the chance for high level career paths. For example I can visit the school party of my daughter in the afternoon or finish some of my professional duties in the evening when my youngest daughter already sleeps. Even if the challenge "family and professional life" claims a lot of time, I have felt

this always as an enrichment. Of course it can be stressful from time to time, but in the end, my family helps me to get out of the university. The double challenge requires a high degree of efficiency in time management. Eight years I had a half-time job to take care of my children and to stay in contact with the research environment at the same time. In my opinion stopping to work in academia for several years can hinder someone to have a successful academic career. Possibilities of child care are getting better and also universities expand their choice such that restarting work after a maternity leave becomes much easier.

Suggestions

There is no decision to take between getting ahead and having a family. A lot depends on how family life and childcare are structured and how well you can organize and improvise. Of course, the combination of family and career is challenging, but it may comprise a lot more: it can serve as a balance and motivation. Without my children I would not be a professor.

More important for women who aim at a scientific career is that they bring enthusiasm for research, teaching and supervising young researchers as well as enduringness. In science it can take very long, until first positive results are visible. A successful publication can take from three to five years. Therefore, being highly motivated is crucial. But the academic world is more than research: teaching and supervision must be as excellent as research. Besides this, networking, particularly internationally, university management and development are important as well. As a professor you have to join in these issues. Other requirements for the success are enjoying, curiosity and open-mindedness.