**The Enchanted View**  
— Thinking About Systems —

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**Not For Women Only**  
*Heidi Hahn, Los Alamos National Lab*

As my Future Female Leaders in Engineering students are arriving in Los Alamos and the summer professional development program is beginning, the topic of inspiring young women to pursue careers in engineering is on my mind and in my heart. Here are a couple of presentations on that topic that I’m finding useful. I hope you do, too.

**Inspirng the next generation of female engineers** | Debbie Sterling | TEDxPSU  
www.youtube.com/watch?v=FEcTLopLkEo

Close your eyes and picture an engineer. You probably weren’t envisioning Debbie Sterling. Debbie Sterling is an engineer and founder of GoldieBlox, a toy company out to inspire the next generation of female engineers. She has made it her mission in life to tackle the gender gap in science, technology, engineering and math.

**Pushing Boundaries - Women in Engineering** | Dawn Bonfield  
www.youtube.com/watch?v=LKVEnjGvxxw

Follow Dawn Bonfield on her journey looking at some incredible and inspiring stories of female engineers - could the next one be you?

**Books recommended by TED speakers.**

*Inferior: How Science Got Women Wrong — and the New Research That’s Rewriting The Story* by Angela Saini

I very much appreciated Saini’s challenge of popular stereotypes around women in science. From Darwin onwards, male scientists have often brought their own gendered expectations into understanding women. This book challenges many myths, like the idea of the female brain and man as hunter, and pays tribute to the work of female scientists who fight sexism in their fields. — Deeyah Khan

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**Lessons From Women Scientists**  
*Amanda Phingbodhipakkiya, TED Resident*

Excerpts from IDEAS.TED.COM

Research has found that having a backup plan might actually sabotage your efforts toward Plan A. Before you set up your safety net, read these lessons from women scientists.

Having a backup can alleviate some of the psychological discomfort associated with uncertainty and help us feel better about the future. But by and large, having a backup plan comes with a cost—as shown in these stories from the history of science, matched with the latest research on how our minds work.

- A backup plan can make you less excited about your main plan.
- It could also water down your motivation.
- Another lesson in Plan A thinking: Stay focused on your goal, so you know how best to reach it.
- Before you set out to pursue your goal, remember this: being risky doesn’t mean being reckless.
- Anticipate adjustments to your plan. These lives of women scientists can provide inspiration for sticking to your Plan A: Nobel prize winner YouYou Tu, nuclear physicist Chien-Shiung Wu, and neurobiologist Rita Levi-Montalcini.

So, the next time you find yourself worried about not having a backup plan, ask yourself this: is making a Plan B worth the risk to your Plan A?

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**A System Designed by a Fish?**  
*Watch Here*

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