

One example of female physicist career: from housewife to university professor

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What is the effects of interruption of a physics career?

Of course, it depends how long it is.

You may be afraid of

- 🌸 being unable to return to Physics
- 🌸 losing a chance to get a permanent position
- 🌸 losing chances to study many things, or to attend international conferences, to go abroad, etc.
- 🌸 losing ability as a researcher
- 🌸



My story as an example (1977 ~ 2004)

- ❁ I was graduated from the Dept. of Applied Physics at Tokyo Univ. but did not go to the graduate school because of my father's strong opposition. → **1st interruption**
- ❁ 2 years later, when I got married, I quitted my job as a company researcher of semiconductor technology in order to go to Germany with my husband. → **2nd interruption**
- ❁ I had a chance to do research of semiconductor physics at the University in Germany for one year. (**Returning to Physics**)
- ❁ After coming back to Japan, I could not find a job because I was pregnant. I was perfectly a housewife. → **3rd interruption**
- ❁ My former supervisor recommended me to attend the weekly seminar in his lab. (Research student for a half year)
My mother took care of my baby once a week when I went to the university. → **Returning to Physics???** (I cannot say so.)
Keeping only a very fine thread-like connection to academic community



- 🌸 A half year later, the professor recommended me to do experiment in his lab. (Employed as **a part-time research assistant**)

→ **Partially coming back to Physics community**

My mother took care of my baby in the daytime of **two days in a week**.

I did only experiments at the university and did all other works (analysis of data, reading and writing papers, etc.) at home.

I had the second baby, but continued my research with help of my mother and a nursery. **No plan for future but enjoying Physics**

- 🌸 4 years later, the professor recommended me to write **a doctor thesis**.

- 🌸 He also recommended me to become a full time job as an **assistant professor**. Then, I decided to let my sons enter a nursery.

→ **Completely re-entering a career in Physics**

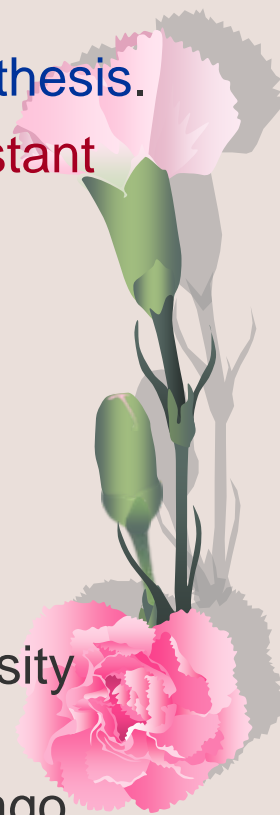
- 🌸 One year later, I was promoted to **a lecturer**.

- 🌸 2 year later, I moved from the Tokyo University to the Superconductivity Research Laboratory (SRL).

- 🌸 I worked there as **a researcher/ a division director** for 16 years.

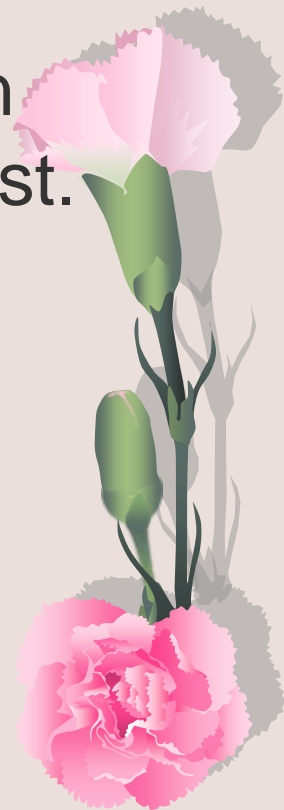
- 🌸 When my younger son started to live independently as a university student, I decided to apply a position at university.

The Osaka University accepted me as **a full professor** 6 years ago.



Key Points to Return

- 🌸 Have a strong intention to do research.
- 🌸 Keep a good relationship to your supervisors and friends in Physics community.
- 🌸 Never give up and believe that you can return as long as you continue to study with your best.
- 🌸 Be cheerful !
(A cheerful person can get more chances.)



What I learned from my experience

- 🌸 You can go back to Physics whenever you want.
- 🌸 Hot research subject is changing.
Even if you miss one subject because of your break, another interesting subject appears.
- 🌸 Three years are enough to become an expert in the relevant subject.
(Be not afraid of a break, or changing subject.)

Positive effects

- 🌸 Having a break strengthens your passion to Physics.
- 🌸 Having time to do other things (child care etc.) gives you a fruitful life. *Refreshing effect*
- 🌸 Concentrating on research in a limited time is very effective. (from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.)

Thank you for your kind attention!

