

Dr. Lea Caminada about her daily work as a particle physicist

What's more

fun for you: teaching or doing research? I would say the research. There I am active myself and can develop new things.

What

do you not like in your job as a researcher? At CERN, I work in a collaboration with hundreds of researchers. As beautiful as that is: sometimes certain structures are formed, and sometimes there is a weird kind of competition.

Is an

atom in the eyes of a particle physicist something small or something big? Still something small, even if it is much bigger than the particles we work with.

Do wo-

men have the same opportunities in particle physics today as men? Sometimes you are confronted with prejudices. But if the environment is well and you have the will, you can achieve anything as a woman.

You can achieve anything!

How

does it feel to lecture at the University of Zurich? That's a nice feeling. I can pass on to young, interested people what I have learned myself.

Were

your parents excited when you told them you were studying physics? Yes, I think they were happy and proud that I study a science subject. Meanwhile, they were at CERN.

Which

would be the most spectacular physical discovery for you? To understand what dark matter is.

What

was your highlight as a CERN researcher to date? When at the CERN particle accelerator the CMS detector that I helped build delivered the first data in 2010. After years of development, we now had the certainty: It works!

How

many of your friends and relatives really understand what you are researching? In detail not many. But that is not so important. For me it's nice when people are interested in my work. The basics of my work you may explain very well.