



**Universitat
Pompeu Fabra**
Barcelona

Topics in Applied Economics I: Gender and Economics

2021-2022 Academic Year
Master of Research in Economics, Finance and Management

1. Description of the subject

- Topics in Applied Economics I Code: 32086
- Total credits: 3 ECTS Workload: 75 hours
- Term: 2nd
- Type of subject: Optional
- Department of Economics and Business
- Teaching team: Libertad González

2. Teaching guide

Course description

This course uses economic analysis to explore gender differences in economic outcomes, in both households and the labor market.

We will walk through the recent developments in the area of Gender Economics. We will discuss recent research in the field, framing it around the big questions. The goal is to understand what drives gender inequalities in the labor market and the economy more broadly. Why do women earn less than men, on average? Why do men work more in the market while women do most of the household work? Has there been convergence over time? Has it stalled? Why? Do these inequalities represent a problem? Is there a role for policy? We will go through what we have learned about these questions from economics research, and discuss the remaining open questions.

Course requirements

The course is organized around ten lectures. Attendance is required. I expect that students will come to class prepared to discuss the day's readings. This means you should have done the reading, and you should have questions about and reactions to that reading. You should always bring required readings and any notes you take on the readings with you to class. The students will be evaluated based on a **final exam** (50%), plus a **research proposal** (50%). Students are expected to have previous knowledge of microeconomics and econometrics. The **final exam** will take place on XXX.

Course materials

There is one required book for this course:

Blau, Francine D. and Anne E. Winkler. *The Economics of Women, Men, and Work*, 8th Edition. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2018. (Referred to as BW)

There are also research papers and additional sources, listed under each topic.

Schedule and readings

The content is structured around ten topics:

1. Introduction and outline
2. Covid-19, economics, and gender
3. Becker's household production model
4. Couple formation, fertility, and divorce
5. Gender around the world
6. Gender gaps in labor market outcomes
7. Human capital and discrimination
8. Psychological traits and non-cognitive skills
9. Children and social norms
10. Policy

Main readings

Overview of the field

Bertrand, Marianne (2020) "Gender in the Twenty-First Century" *AEA Papers and Proceedings* 110: 1-24.

Sevilla, Almudena (2020) "Gender economics: an assessment" *Oxford Review of Economic Policy* 36(4): 725-742.

Documenting gender gaps

Claudia Olivetti and Barbara Petrongolo (2016) "The evolution of the gender gap in industrialized countries." *Annual Review of Economics* 8: 405-434.

Blau, Francine, and Lawrence Kahn (2017) "The gender wage gap: Extent, trends, and Explanations" *Journal of Economic Literature* 55(3), pages 789-865.

Kunze, Astrid (2018) "The gender wage gap in developed countries", in The Oxford Handbook of Women and the Economy, edited by Susan L. Averett, Laura M. Argys, and Saul D. Hoffman.

Influential recent papers (child penalty and social norms)

Burzstyn, Leonardo, Thomas Fujiwara and Amanda Pallais (2017) "'Acting Wife:' Marriage Market Incentives and Labor Market Investments" *American Economic Review* 107(11): 3288-3319.

Bertrand, Marianne, Emir Kamenica and Jessica Pan (2015) "Gender Identity and Relative Income within Households" *Quarterly Journal of Economics* 130(2): 571-614.

Henrik Kleven, Camille Landais and Jakob Egholt Sogaard (2019) "Children and Gender Inequality: Evidence from Denmark" *American Economic Journal: Applied Economics* 11: 181-209.

Lundborg, P., Plug, E., & Rasmussen, A. W. (2017) "Can women have children and a career? IV evidence from IVF treatments" *American Economic Review* 107(6): 1611-1637.

Nikolay Angelov, Per Johansson, Erica Lindahl (2016) "Parenthood and the Gender Gap in Pay" *Journal of Labor Economics* 34(3).

Olle Folke and Johanna Rickne (2020) "All the Single Ladies: Job Promotions and the Durability of Marriage" *American Economic Journal: Applied* 12(1): 260-287.

Family policy

Claudia Olivetti and Barbara Petrongolo (2017) "The Economic Consequences of Family Policies: Lessons from a Century of Legislation in High-Income Countries" *Journal of Economic Perspectives* 31(1): 205-30.

Rossin-Slater, Maya (2017) "Maternity and Family Leave Policy" NBER Working Paper No. 23069.