

YORK UNIVERSITY – Winter 2009 – Department of Economics

Economics 4369 –Economics of Gender

Instructor: Prof. Berta Esteve-Volart (Vari Hall 1066, berta@econ.yorku.ca)

Office hours: Wednesday 2:30 pm – 3:30 pm or by appointment

Teaching Assistant: Nazmul Ashan

Course Description

The course develops the main economic theories of discrimination, examines evaluation bias by gender and other features such as missing women. The course examines empirical evidence from developed and developing countries.

Course Prerequisites

AS/ECON 1000 3.0/1010 3.0 or equivalents, AS/ECON 3210 3.0 or equivalent

Recommended completion: AS/ECON 4210 3.0

Required Readings

There is no textbook for this course. Papers from economics journals and any handouts will be available from the course website.

Grading Scheme

Midterm: Paper 35%; Midterm 25%; Final exam: 40%

Midterm and final exam

The midterm (April 13) will cover the first half of the course material. The final exam will cover the entire course with more emphasis on the second half of the course.

READINGS

****Note: this list is tentative and subject to change along the course****

1. Stylized facts and trends

- Goldin, Claudia (1990), Understanding the Gender Gap: An Economic History of American Women (Oxford University Press, New York), Chapter 1.

2. Discrimination

- Leonard, Jonathan S. (1989), Women and Affirmative Action, *Journal of Economic Perspectives* 3(1), pp. 61-75
- Baker, Michael and Nicole Fortin (2004), Does Comparable Worth Work in a Decentralized Labor Market? *Canadian Journal of Economics*, 37, pp. 850-878

3. Evaluation and hiring – testing for discrimination

- Goldin, Claudia and Cecilia Rouse (2000), Orchestrating Impartiality: The Effect of "Blind" Auditions on Female Musicians, *American Economic Review*, 90(4), pp. 715-41.

- Bagues, Manuel and Berta Esteve-Volart (2008), Can Gender Parity Break the Glass Ceiling? Evidence from a Repeated Randomized Experiment, FEDEA Working Paper
- Lavy, Victor (2004), Do Gender Stereotypes Reduce Girls' Human Capital Outcomes? Evidence from a Natural Experiment, mimeo, Hebrew University of Jerusalem

4. Female labour force participation

- Goldin, Claudia (1995), The U-Shaped Female Labor Force Function in Economic Development and Economic History, in P. T. Schultz, ed., *Investment in Women's Human Capital and Economic Development* (Chicago: University of Chicago Press)
- Mammen, Kristin, and Christina Paxson (2000), Women's Work and Economic Development, *Journal of Economic Perspectives*, 14(4)

5. Preferences, identity and social norms

- Akerlof, George, and Rachel E. Kranton (2000), Economics and Identity, *Quarterly Journal of Economics*, 115(3), pp. 715-33.
- Gneezy, Uri, Muriel Niederle and Aldo Rustichini (2003), Performance in Competitive Environments: Gender Differences, *Quarterly Journal of Economics*, 118(3), pp. 1049 – 1074.
- Gneezy, Uri and Aldo Rustichini (2003), Gender and Competition at a Young Age, *American Economic Association Papers and Proceedings*

6. Missing women

- Sen, Amartya (1990), More Than 100 Million Women Are Missing, *New York Review of Books* (available at <http://ucAtlas.ucsc.edu/gender/Sen100M.html>)
- Miguel, Edward (2006), Poverty and Witch Killing, *Review of Economic Studies*, 72.

7. Political participation

- Edlund, Lena, and Rohini Pande (2002), Why have Women Become Left-Wing: the Political Gender Gap and the Decline in Marriage, *Quarterly Journal of Economics*, 117
- Bagues, Manuel and Berta Esteve-Volart (2009), Are Women Pawns in the Political Game? Evidence from Elections to the Spanish Senate, mimeo, Universidad Carlos III and York University

8. Dowry

- Rao, Vijayendra (1993), The Rising Price of Husbands: A Hedonic Analysis of Dowry Increases in Rural India, *Journal of Political Economy*, 101(4), pp.666-77.
- Edlund, Lena (2000), The Marriage Squeeze Interpretation of Dowry Inflation: A Comment, *Journal of Political Economy*, 108(6), pp.1327-33.
- Botticini, Maristella and Aloysius Siow (2003), Why Dowries?, *American Economic Review*, 93(4)
- Anderson, Siwan (2003), Why Dowry Payments Declined with Modernization in Europe and Are Increasing in India, *Journal of Political Economy*, 111 (2), p.269-310.