

CES Lecture

Topics in Gender Economics

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The lecture series aims at providing an overview of several topics in Gender Economics. In particular, different lectures focus on areas in which gender differences are critical: politics, top corporate positions and academic careers. Each lecture combines an overview of existing contributions in academic literature, a more in depth presentation of selected papers and a discussion of possible avenues for future research.

Lecture 1: Gender in Politics and Policy Making

Women are largely under-represented in political institutions, both at local and national level. Most important, the progress made in reaching a higher female presence in political bodies has been more sluggish compared to other spheres of economy (Global Gender Gap Report 2021, World Economic Forum). The lecture overviews the supply-side (e.g., gender differences in candidacy) and the demand-side factors (e.g., party selection of candidates, voters' preferences) that potentially contribute to determining such gender gaps and policy measures aimed at tackling this issue. Finally, the lecture presents some reviews the existing evidence on gender differences in policy-making.

Lecture 2: Gender in Running the Firm

Similar to political arena, visible gender differences in career trajectories persist in the corporate world. The lecture focuses on gender gaps in top positions, where women are remarkable few (Bertrand, 2018). After a brief overview of main research contributions on potential drivers of these patterns, the lecture concentrates on policy-action aimed at increasing female presence in leadership, with a particular attention to corporate gender quotas.

Lecture 3: Gender in Academia

The under-representation of women in academic ranks is widespread; the phenomenon is barely improving over time. Within the field of economics, women are a minority starting from the undergraduate level, and this gap widens when looking into the higher ranks of academia. The lecture overviews this “leaky pipeline” phenomenon, and then focuses on one of its steps: the transition from graduate program to work with a focus on potential gender differences in advisor support received by PhD students.

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