ECON 460: Women, Work, and the World Economy

Reading Guide: "The Ms. Allocation of Talent"

Read the abstract and the introduction carefully first. After reading the introduction, you should be able to answer the following questions:

1. What is the big-picture question this paper is exploring, and why is it important?

2. How will they seek to explore that question? What is their lever?

3. What is the context of their research? What time(s) and place(s) are they studying?

4. What is their main empirical (or identification) strategy?

5. What are their main findings?

Now read Sections 1 through 6 of th article carefully and skim Sections 7 and 8. After reading the article, you should be able to answer the following questions:

1. What is the economic argument suggesting that a gender gap in patents might be inefficient?

2. What sources of data do they authors use, and what variables do they construct from each data source?

3. What empirical approach do the authors use to study the gender innovation gap?

4. How and why might World War II have impacted women's involvement in science?

5. What is their instrumental variables strategy? What instrument do they use, and what do they instrument for? What do you think of their approach?

6. What are their main results?