

Fall 2022 Reading List

Updated September 6, 2022

1. Gender Norms Among Non-Human Primates (9/14)

What are the ecological and genetic predictors of “gender equality” among non-human primates? To what extent can gender norms among humans be traced back to primate evolution? In what ways are sex differences and gender norms observed among humans different from all the other primates? In what ways are they the same as all other primates?

Required Readings:

Hrdy, Sarah Blaffer. (1981) *The Woman that Never Evolved*. Cambridge: Harvard University Press.

Further Reading:

Burley, Nancy. (1979) “The Evolution of Concealed Ovulation,” *The American Naturalist*, 114(6), 835-858.

De Waal, Frans. (2022) *Different: Gender Through the Eyes of a Primatologist*. New York: Norton.

Fuentes, Agustín. (2021) “Searching for the Roots of Masculinity in Primates and the Human Evolutionary Past,” *Current Anthropology*, 62(23): S13-S25.

Ossi-Lupo, Kerry. (2010) “Skill Learning for Survival in Nonhuman Primates,” in *The Anthropology of Learning in Childhood* (David F. Lancy, John Bock, and Suzanne Gaskins, eds.). Lanham, MD: AltaMira Press.

Palagi, Elisabetta. (2006) “Social Play in Bonobos (*Pan paniscus*) and Chimpanzees (*Pan troglodytes*): Implications for Natural Social Systems and Interindividual Relationships,” *American Journal of Physical Anthropology*, 129: 418-426.

Tanner, Nancy, and Adreinne Zihlman. (1976). “Women in Evolution. Part I: Innovations and Selection in Human Origins,” *Signs*, 1(3): pp. 585-608.

2. Lessons from Ancient DNA (9/21)

What does ancient DNA tell us about the early origins of modern cultures? What role did the Yamnaya play in shaping modern gender norms? What can we learn about ancient women's lived experience from reconstructions of historical population numbers, particularly differences in effective population sizes for men and women? How should we think about the historical origins of modern cultural practices when human societies have been separating, mixing, and separating again over thousands years?

Required Reading:

Reich, David. (2018) *Who We Are and How We Got Here: Ancient DNA and the New Science of the Human Past*. New York, NY: Vintage Books.

To be handed out on the first day of class. Chapters 1 through 6 and Chapter 10 are required, and the rest of the books is recommended but optional.

Further Reading:

Allentoft, Morten E., et al. (2015) "Population genomics of Bronze Age Eurasia," *Nature*, 522: 167-172.

Anthony, David. W. (2007) *The Horse, the Wheel, and Language: How Bronze-Age Riders from the Eurasian Steppes Shaped the Modern World*. Princeton: Princeton University Press.

Haak, Wolfgang, et al. (2015) "Massive migration from the steppe was a source for Indo-European languages in Europe," *Nature*, 522: 207-211.

Papac, Luka, et al. (2021) "Dynamic changes in genomic and social structures in third millennium BCE central Europe," *Science Advances*, 7: eabi6941.

Tishkoff, Sarah A., et al. (2009) "The Genetic Structure and History of Africans and African Americans," *Science*, 324 (5930): 1035-1044.

Zerjal, Tatiana, et al. (2003) "The Genetic Legacy of the Mongols," *American Journal of Human Genetics*, 72: 717-721.

3. The Cow and The Plow, etc. (9/28)

Did ecological conditions in ancient times – the availability of plants and animals suitable for domestication, and the nature of agroecological conditions – shape cultural traditions that persist in the present? Did other accidents of ancient history and ecology cause persistent differences in gender norms across cultures and communities? How might plow agriculture have led to the emergence of (what we know call) traditional gender norms which restrict women’s economic and social activities outside the domestic sphere?

Required Reading:

Boserup, Ester. (1970) *Women’s Role in Economic Development*, Chapter 1 (“Male and Female Farming Systems”). London: Earthscan.

Alesina, Alberto, Paola Giuliano, and Nathan Nunn. (2013) “On the Origins of Gender Roles: Women and the Plough,” *Quarterly Journal of Economics*, 128(2): 469-520.

Further Reading:

Barber, Elizabeth Wayland. (1994) *Women’s Work: The First 20,000 Years: Women, Cloth, and Society in Early Times*. New York: Norton.

Becker, Anke. (2021) “On the Economic Origins of Restricting Women’s Promiscuity,” unpublished working paper.

Diamond, Jared. (2002) “Evolution, Consequences and Future of Plant and Animal Domestication,” *Nature* 418: 700-707.

Diamond, Jared M. (2005) *Guns, Germs, and Steel: The Fates of Human Societies*. New York: Norton.

Diamond, Jared, and Peter Bellwood. (2003) “Farmers and Their Languages: The First Expansions,” *Science*, 300: 597-603.

Jakiela, Pamela, and Owen Ozier. (2021) “Gendered Language,” unpublished working paper.

4. Women in Ancient Civilizations (10/5)

How much did gender norms vary across early civilizations? Which society-level factors are associated with greater economic participation by women in ancient times? Does existing evidence suggest that women gained greater political, economic, and social autonomy as the social organization of a society grew more complex?

Required Reading:

Trigger, Bruce. 2003. *Understanding Early Civilizations*, Chapter 2 (“Comparative Studies”, just skim this to get a sense of the overall scope of Trigger’s research project) and Chapter 9 (“Family Organization and Gender Roles”). New York: Cambridge University Press.

Further Reading:

Halton, Charles, and Saana Svard. (2017) *Women’s Writing of Ancient Mesopotamia*, particularly Chapter 2 (“Mesopotamian Women”) and Chapter 3 (“Authorship, Agency, and Gender”). Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

Hinsch, Bret. (2018) *Women in Ancient China*. Lanham, MD: Rowman & Littlefield.

Pomeroy, Sarah B. (1995) *Goddesses, Whores, Wives, and Slaves: Women in Classical Antiquity*. New York: Schocken Books.

Roth, Ann Macy. (2007) “Gender Roles in Ancient Egypt,” in *A Companion to the Ancient Near East* (Daniel Snell, ed.). John Wiley & Sons.

Silverblatt, Irene. “Andean Women in the Inca Empire,” *Feminist Studies*, 4(3): 36-61.

Stol, M. (1995) “Women in Mesopotamia,” *Journal of the Economic and Social History of the Orient*,” 38(2): 123-144.

5. Women in Early Modern Europe (10/17)

What was the European Marriage Pattern and how did it influence women's labor force participation across Europe? How did women's economic roles change during the late medieval and early modern periods? To what extent were the late middle ages a "golden age" for women in terms of economic opportunities?

Required Reading:

De Moor, Tine, and Jan Luiten van Zanden. (2010) "Girl power: The European marriage pattern and labor markets in the North Sea region in the late medieval and early modern period," *Economic History Review*, 63(1): 1-33.

Oster, Emily. (2004) "Witchcraft, Weather, and Economic Growth in Renaissance Europe," *Journal of Economic Perspectives*, 18(1): 215-228.

Further Reading:

Bennett, Judith M. (1988) "History that Stands Still: Women's Work in the European Past," *Feminist Studies*, 14(2): 269-283.

Miguel, Edward. (2005) "Poverty and Witch Killing," *Review of Economic Studies*, 72(4): 1153-1172.

Federici, Silvia. (2004) *Caliban and the Witch: Women, the Body, and Primitive Accumulation*. Brooklyn, NY: Autonomedia.

6. Missing Women and Investments in Girls (10/24, 10/26)

Who are the “missing women” described by Amartya Sen? How does the perceived value of female children vary across societies, and to what extent does this variation in son preference explain the phenomenon of missing women? What (theoretical or causal) mechanisms might explain the pattern? How do economic opportunities impact son preference and investments in girls?

Required Reading:

Sen, Amartya. (1990) “More than 100 Million Women Are Missing,” *The New York Review of Books*.

Jayachandran, Seema, and Rohini Pande. (2017) “Why Are Indian Children So Short? The Role of Birth Order and Son Preference,” *American Economic Review*, 107(9): 2600-2629.

Qian, Nancy. (2008) “Missing Women and the Price of Tea in China: The Effect of Sex-Specific Earnings on Sex Imbalance,” *Quarterly Journal of Economics*, 123(3): 1251-85.

Further Reading:

Ashraf, Nava, Natalie Bau, Nathan Nunn, and Alessandra Voena. (2020) “Bride Price and Female Education,” *Journal of Political Economy*, 128(2): 591-641.

Corno, Lucia, Nicole Hildebrandt, and Alessandra Voena. (2020) “Age of Marriage, Weather Shocks, and the Direction of Marriage Payments,” *Econometrica*, 88(3): 879-915.

Jayachandran, Seema, and Ilyana Kuziemko. (2011) “Why Do Mothers Breastfeed Girls Less Than Boys? Evidence and Implications for Child Health in India,” *Quarterly Journal of Economics*, 126(3): 1485-1538.

Sen, Amartya. (1992) “Missing women,” *BMJ*, 304(6827) 587-588.

7. Girls' Education and Women's Employment Opportunities (10/31, 11/2)

To what extent do girls (still) lag behind boys in terms of educational attainment? What supply and demand factors influence the educational decisions of girls and young women? To what extent can policies intended to increase girls' access to education address gender gaps, and which types of policies are likely to be most effective? Are gender gaps in education likely to disappear over time?

Required Reading:

Evans, David K., Maryam Akmal, and Pamela Jakiela. (2021) "Gender Gaps in Education: The Long View," *IZA Journal of Development and Migration*, 12(1).

Jensen, Robert. (2012) "Do Labor market Opportunities Affect Young Women's Work and Family Decisions? Experimental Evidence from India," *Quarterly Journal of Economics*, 127(2): 753-792.

Further Reading:

Baten, Joerg, Michiel de Haas, Elisabeth Kempter, and Felix Meier zu Selhausen. (2021). "Educational Gender Inequality in Sub-Saharan Africa: A Long-Term Perspective," *Population and Development Review*, 47(3): 813-849.

Borker, Girija. (2021) "Safety First : Perceived Risk of Street Harassment and Educational Choices of Women." World Bank Policy Research Working Paper No. 9731.

Burde, Dana, and Leigh L. Linden. (2013) "Bringing Education to Afghan Girls: A Randomized Controlled Trial of Village-Based Schools," *American Economic Journal: Applied Economics*, 5(3): 27-40.

Heath, Rachel, and A. Mushfiq Mobarak. (2015) "Manufacturing Growth and the Lives of Bangladeshi Women," *Journal of Development Economics*, 115: 1-15.

Jordan, Ellen. (1991) "Making Good Wives and Mothers? The Transformation of Middle-Class Girls' Education in Nineteenth Century Britain," *History of Education Quarterly*, 31(4): 439-462.

Muralidharan, Karthik, and Nishith Prakash. (2017) "Cycling to School: Increasing Secondary School Enrollment for Girls in India," *American Economic Journal: Applied Economics*, 9(3): 321-350.

Nunn, Nathan. (2014) "Gender and Missionary Influence in Colonial Africa," in *Africa's Development in Historical Perspective* (Akyeampong E., Bates R., Nunn N., Robinson J.A., eds.). New York: Cambridge University Press.

8. The Labor Force Implications of Reproductive Choices (11/7, 11/9)

How have the tradeoffs between career and family changed over the last century, and what technological and societal factors explain these changes? What are the economic and social consequences of being able to avoid or terminate an unwanted pregnancy? What is the child penalty, and why might it occur? What policy interventions can help to reduce child penalties? Do women still face a tradeoff between career and family? Do men today also face the same tradeoff?

Required Reading:

Golding, Claudia, and Lawrence F. Katz. (2002) “The Power of the Pill: Oral Contraceptives and Women’s Career and Marriage Decisions,” *Journal of Political Economy*, 110(4): 730-770.

Further Reading:

Andresen, Martin Eckhoff, and Emily Nix. (2022) “What Causes the Child Penalty? Evidence from Adopting and Same-Sex Couples,” *Journal of Labor Economics*, forthcoming.

Antecol, Heather. “Career and Family Choices Among Elite Liberal Arts Graduates,” *Demography*, 52: 1089-1120.

Bailey, Martha. (2006) “More Power to the Pill: The Impact of Contraceptive Freedom on Women’s Life Cycle Labor Supply,” *Quarterly Journal of Economics*, 121(1): 289-320.

Bailey, Martha. (2010) “Momma’s Got the Pill” How Anthony Comstock and *Griswold v. Connecticut* Shaped US Childbearing,” *American Economic Review*, 100(1): 98-129.

Bailey, Martha, Brad Hershbein, and Amalia R. Miller. (2012) “The Opt-In Revolution? Contraception and the Gender Gap in Wages,” *American Economic Journal: Applied Economics*, 4(3): 225-254.

Foster, Diana Greene. (2020) *The Turnaway Study: Ten Years, a Thousand Women, and the Consequences of Having – or Being Denied – an Abortion*. New York: Simon & Schuster.

Kleven, Henrik, Camille Landais, and Jakob Egholt Sogaard. (2021) “Does Biology Drive Child Penalties? Evidence from Biological and Adoptive Families,” *American Economic Review: Insights*, 3 (2): 183-98.

Lefebvre, Pierre, and Philip Merrigan. (2008) “Child-Care Policy and the Labor Supply of Mothers with Young Children: A Natural Experiment from Canada,” *Journal of Labor Economics*, 26(3): 519-548.

Miller, Sarah, Laura R. Wherry, and Diana Greene Foster. (2022) “The Economic Consequences of Being Denied an Abortion,” *American Economic Journal: Economic Policy*, forthcoming.

Olivetti, Claudia, 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.

9. The Behavioral Economics of Women's Work (11/14, 11/16)

Do women underestimate their own abilities, and is their lack of confidence detrimental to their success in the labor market? Do men and women hold women in the labor market to different standards, and punish them for actions perceived as insufficiently feminine? What can be done to change attitudes and beliefs about appropriate roles and actions for women (in the labor market and elsewhere)?

Required Reading:

Niederle, Muriel, and Lise Vesterlund. (2007) "Do Women Shy Away from Competition? Do Men Compete Too Much?" *Quarterly Journal of Economics*, 122(3): 1067-1101.

Coffman, Katherine Baldiga. (2014) "Evidence on Self-Stereotyping and the Contribution of Ideas," *Quarterly Journal of Economics*, 129(4): 1625-1660.

Dhar, Diva, Tarun Jain, and Seema Jayachandran. (2022) "Reshaping Adolescents' Gender Attitudes: Evidence from a School-Based Experiment in India," *American Economic Review*, 112(3): 899-927. *Replication data available.*

Further Reading:

Baldiga, Katherine. (2014) "Gender Differences in the Willingness to Guess," *Management Science*, 60(2): 434-448.

Biasi, Barbara, and Heather Sarsons. (2022) "Flexible Wages, Bargaining, and the Gender Gap," *Quarterly Journal of Economics*, 137(1): 215-266. *Replication data available.*

Bordalo, Pedro, Katherine Coffman, Nicola Gennaioli, and Andrei Schleifer. (2019) "Beliefs about Gender," *American Economic Review*, 109(3): 739-773.

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

Bursztny, Leonardo, Alessandra L. Gonzalez, and David Yanagizawa-Drott. (2020) "Misperceived Social Norms: Women Working Outside the Home in Saudi Arabia," *American Economic Review*, 110(10): 2997-3029. *Replication data available.*

Riley, Emma. (2022) "Role Models in Movies: The Impact of *Queen of Katwe* on Students' Educational Attainment," *Review of Economics and Statistics*, forthcoming.

Sarsons, Heather, Klarita Gerxhani, Ernesto Reuben, and Arthur Schram. (2021) "Gender Differences in Recognition for Group Work," *Journal of Political Economy*, 129(1): 101-147.

Sarsons, Heather. (2022) "Interpreting Signals in the Labor Market: Evidence from Medical Referrals." Unpublished working paper.

10. Women in Economics (11/21)

Does economics have a gender problem?

Required Reading:

Wu, Alice. (2018) “Gendered Language on the Economics Job Market Rumors Forum,” *AEA Papers and Proceedings*, 108: 175-179. *Replication data available.*

Wu, Alice. (2020) “Gender Bias in Rumors Among Professionals: An Identity-Based Interpretation,” *Review of Economics and Statistics*, 102(5): 867-880. *Replication data available.*

Further Reading:

Antecol, Heather, Kelly Bedard, and Jenna Stearns. (2018) “Equal but Inequitable: Who Benefits from Gender-Neutral Tenure Clock Stopping Policies?” *American Economic Review*, 108(9): 2420-2441.

Dupas, Pascaline, Alicia Modestino, Muriel Niederle, Justin Wolfers, and the Seminar Dynamics Collective. (2012) “Gender and the Dynamics of Economics Seminars.” Unpublished working paper.

Ginther, Donna K, and Shulamit Kahn. (2004) “Women in Economics: Moving Up or Falling Off the Academic Career Ladder?” *Journal of Economic Perspectives*, 18(3): 193-214.

Sarsons, Heather, and Guo Xu. (2021) “Confidence Men? Evidence on Confidence and Gender among Top Economists,” *AEA Papers and Proceedings*, 111: 65-68.

Wu, Alice. (2018) “Gendered Language on the Economics Job Market Rumors Forum,” *AEA Papers and Proceedings*, 108: 175-179. *Replication data available.*

Wu, Alice. (2020) “Gender Bias in Rumors Among Professionals: An Identity-Based Interpretation,” *Review of Economics and Statistics*, 102(5): 867-880. *Replication data available.*