

Fall 2024 Reading List

Updated September 4, 2024

1. Gender Norms Among Non-Human Primates (9/11)

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*. Harvard University Press.

Further Reading:

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

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.). 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): 585-608.

2. Lessons from Ancient DNA (9/18)

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 of years?

Required Reading:

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

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 Deep Roots of Modern Gender Norms (9/25)

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?

Recommended Reading:

Jakiela, Pamela, and Owen Ozier. (2022) “Gendered Language,” unpublished working paper.

Papers for Mini-Presentations:

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.

Antilla-Hughes, Jesse, Patrick Krause, and Yaniv Stopnitzky. 2021. “The Roots of Modern Sex Ratios.” Unpublished working paper.

Becker, Anke. 2021. “On the Economic Origins of Restricting Women’s Promiscuity,” *Review of Economic Studies*, forthcoming.

Corno, Lucia, Eliana La Ferrara, and Alessandra Voena. 2024. “Female Genital Cutting and the Slave Trade,” unpublished working paper.

Damann, Taylor J., Jeremy Siow, and Margit Tavits. 2023. “Persistence of gender biases in Europe,” *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*, 120 (12): e2213266120.

Talba, Lucienne. 2023. “Of Cattle and (Wo)men: Animal Domestication and Gender Disparities in Sub-Saharan Africa,” unpublished working paper.

Further Reading:

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

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

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*. Norton.

4. Women in Early Modern Europe (10/2)

Did queens rule differently than kings, and if so, why? 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 and political opportunities?

Required Reading:

Dube, Oeindrila, and S. P. Harish. 2020. "Queens," *Journal of Political Economy*, 128(7): 2579-2652.

Recommended Reading:

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.

Brown, Judith C., and Jordan Goodman. 1980. "Women and Industry in Florence," *Journal of Economic History*, 40(1): 73-80.

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.

5. The World Wars and the Emergence of Modern Gender Norms (10/9)

What were the direct and indirect effects of World Wars I and II on women's labor force participation in the United States? How much did the wars change gender norms, and to what extent are they responsible for the emergence of "modern" gender norms in western industrialized societies?

Required Reading:

Lubczyk, Moritz, and Petra Moser. 2024. "The Ms. Allocation of Talent," unpublished working paper.

Recommended Reading:

Aneja, Abhay, Silvia Farina, and Guo Xu. 2024. "Beyond the War: Public Service and the Transmission of Modern Gender Norms," unpublished working paper.

Further Reading:

Goldin, Claudia. 1991. "The Role of World War II in the Rise of Women's Employment," *American Economic Review*, 81(4): 741-756.

Goldin, Claudia. 2006. "The Quiet Revolution that Transformed Women's Employment, Education, and Family," *American Economic Review Papers & Proceedings*, 96(2): 1-21.

Goldin, Claudia, and Lawrence F. Katz. 1999. "The Shaping of Higher Education: The Formative Years in the United States, 1890-1940," *Journal of Economic Perspectives*, 13(1): 37-62,

Goldin, Claudia, and Claudia Olivetti. 2013. "Shocking Labor Supply: A Reassessment of the Role of World War II on Women's Labor Supply," *American Economic Review Papers & Proceedings*, 103(3): 257-262.

6. Missing Women and Investments in Girls (10/16)

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.

Recommended Reading:

Bhalotra, Sonia, Rachel Brulé, and Sanchari Roy. “Women’s Inheritance Rights and the Preference for Sons in India,” *Journal of Development Economics*, 146: 102275.

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.

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.

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.

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

7. Girls' Education (10/21)

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:

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

Recommended 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).

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.

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.

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. Women's Labor Force Participation in Patriarchal Societies (10/23)

Are gender gaps in labor supply getting smaller over time as countries develop? Why or why not? What are the main constraints on women's labor force participation in patriarchal societies? What policies have been shown to increase women's labor supply and their overall autonomy, and in what contexts?

Required Reading:

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:

Field, Erica, Rohini Pande, Natalia Rigol, Simone Schaner, and Charity Troyer Moore. 2021. "On Her Own Account: How Strengthening Women's Financial Control Impacts Labor Supply and Gender Norms," *American Economic Review*, 111(7): 2342-2375.

Field, Erica and Kate Vyborny. 2022. "Women's Mobility and Labor Supply: Experimental Evidence from Pakistan," Asian Development Bank Working Paper No. 655.

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

Ho, Lisa and Suhani Jalota. 2024. "What Works for Her? Why Work-from-Home Digital Jobs Affect Female Labor Force Participation," unpublished working paper.

9. Women in the Military (10/28)

Guest lecture by Professor Anna Weber from West Point.

Required Reading:

Greenberg, Kyle, Melanie Wasserman, and Anna Weber. 2024. "The Effects of Gender Integration on Men: Evidence from the U.S. Military," unpublished working paper.

10. The Child Penalty (10/30)

How have the tradeoffs between career and family changed over the last century, and what technological and societal factors explain these changes? 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:

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.

Recommended Reading:

Bates, Lillian, Oliver Hall, and Pamela Jakiela. 2024. "Understanding the Impacts of Paid Maternity Leave on Women's Labor Market Outcomes," IZA Discussion Paper No. 16565.

Further Reading (revise me):

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.

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.

11. Reproductive Rights (11/4)

What are the economic and social consequences of being able to avoid or terminate an unwanted pregnancy? How has access to contraception and the expansion of reproductive rights changed women's career and life trajectories over the last 75 years?

Required Reading:

Londoño-Vélez, Juliana, and Estefanía Saravia. 2024. "The Impact of Denying a Woman a Wanted Abortion." Unpublished working paper.

Recommended Reading:

Miller, Sarah, Laura R. Wherry, and Diana Greene Foster. 2022. "The Economic Consequences of Being Denied an Abortion," *American Economic Journal: Economic Policy*, 15(1): 394-437.

Further Reading:

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.

Goldin, 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.

12. Psychological Constraints and Subconscious Bias (11/11)

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?

Required Reading:

Riley, Emma. (2024) “Role Models in Movies: The Impact of *Queen of Katwe* on Students’ Educational Attainment,” *Review of Economics and Statistics*, 106(2): 334-351.

Recommended Reading:

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

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.

Sarsons, Heather. 2022. “Interpreting Signals in the Labor Market: Evidence from Medical Referrals.” Unpublished working paper.

Further Reading:

Burszty, 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.*

Burszty, 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.*

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.*

Goldin, Claudia, and Cecilia Rouse. 2010. “Orchestrating Impartiality: The Impact of Blind Auditions on Female Musicians,” *American Economic Review*, 90(4): 715-741.

13. Gender in the Workplace: Interruptions at the Supreme Court (11/13)

Guest lecture by Professor Katie Keith (Williams Computer Science)

Required Reading:

Cai, Erica, Ankita Gupta, Katherine Keith, Brendan O’Conner, and Douglas Rice. 2024. “Let Me Just Interrupt You’: Estimating Gender Effects in Supreme Court Oral Arguments,” *Journal of Law and Courts*, forthcoming.

14. Women in Economics I: Research Productivity and Tenure (11/18)

Are women under-represented among economics professors, and if so, why? All else equal, are women less likely to receive tenure in academic economics departments?

Required Reading:

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.

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.

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.

15. Women in Economics II: Toxicity in Professional Environments (11/20)

Is the economics profession a toxic cesspit?

Required Reading:

Dupas, Pascaline, Alicia Modestino, Muriel Niederle, Justin Wolfers, and the Seminar Dynamics Collective. 2021. "Gender and the Dynamics of Economics Seminars," NBER Working Paper 28494.

Further Reading:

Ederer, Florian, Paul Goldsmith-Pinkham, and Kyle Jensen. 2023. "Anonymity and Identity Online." Unpublished working paper.

Sarsons, Heather, and Guo Xu. 2021. "Confidence Men? Evidence on Confidence and Gender among Top Economics," *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.*