

Gender Lab

The Newsletter of

AXA Research Lab on Gender Equality



Issue 36, March 2025

WELCOME

The AXA Research Lab on Gender Equality welcomes you to the thirty-sixth edition of our monthly newsletter. At the Lab, we aim to promote gender equality in the economic and social spheres through rigorous scientific methodologies. We carry out theoretical and empirical, high-quality research with a strong policy impact.

In this edition, you will find highlights of the research and activities we carried out during the past month. Our research includes all areas of gender economics, gender policies, gender diversity management, education, family dynamics, culture, politics, and women's empowerment. You will also find updates about events and our team.

We are happy to connect with you, for which we have left our contact information at the end of the newsletter.

MEET THE TEAM!

- [Paola Profeta](#), *Director*
- [Francesco Maura](#), *Post-doctoral Researcher*
- [Kenza Ellass](#), *Post-doctoral Researcher*
- [Viola Salvestrini](#), *Post-doctoral Researcher*
- [Olivia Masi](#), *Post-doctoral Researcher*
- [Ximena Caló](#), *PhD Student*
- [Niccolò Baldesi](#), *Pre-Doc*
- [Bianca Meoli](#), *Pre-Doc*
- [Mohamed Horchani](#), *Pre-Doc*
- [Matilde Bontempo](#), *Research Assistant*

In addition to our core team, we collaborate with [external fellows](#) and welcome [visitors](#). This month we welcome [Margherita Agnoletto](#), PhD candidate in Economics at the University of Turin and Collegio Carlo Alberto, who will be joining us until August 2025.

We are also delighted to welcome our new MSc students joining the Lab for their [curricular internships](#) this month: [Gaia Quagliaroli](#) (MSc PPA), [Barbara Ogechi Okonkwo](#) (MSc PPA), and [Beatrice Morico](#) (BSc BIG). If you're a student interested in gaining hands-on experience at the Gender Lab, we encourage you to [contact us](#).

OUR RESEARCH HIGHLIGHTS

Women's Empowerment

Gender diversity and teams' decision making – [Viola Salvestrini](#) with *M. Ronchi*

Key points:

- We study the effect of gender composition within teams in the judiciary.
- Team's gender composition matters for decision-making: all-women teams are more likely to convict, while all-men's teams are to make decisions.
- Team's gender composition matters for decision-quality: mixed gender panels are more likely to make good decisions compared to same-gender panels, with the effect driven by all-men teams performing poorly.
- Results are not driven by specific types of crimes or by other dimensions of diversity correlated with gender.
- Gender composition matters only in complex decision-making, suggesting that gender-based disparities emerge primarily when cases necessitate deeper analysis and nuanced consideration.

Viola Salvestrini, Post-doctoral Researcher the Lab, presented her work at the [Interdisciplinary Workshop on Gender Dynamics](#), held at the EUI.

Policies

Don't Stick a Spoon in Marital Disputes? Sentencing Severity and Domestic Violence – [Olivia Masi](#) with *R. Costa, B. Ribeiro, and M. Sandi*

Key points:

- We estimate the impact of sentencing severity on the dynamics of domestic violence.
- The study uses ten years of merged individual-level administrative registers on domestic violence cases brought to the police and family linkages for Rio Grande do Sul (Brazil).
- Leveraging Brazil's "Lei do Feminicídio", which was implemented in March 2015 to include the crime of "femicide" in the Brazilian penal law, we find that sentencing severity significantly affects the behavior of both offenders and victims of domestic violence.
- While the policy change seemingly deterred potential offenders by reducing the incidence of domestic violence, victims of domestic violence became more likely to ask for protective measures and more reluctant to press charges against their abusive partners, as a framework of compensating mechanisms would predict.
- For a policymaker seeking to design effective sentences to combat domestic violence, the tension between these outcomes appears critical.

Olivia Masi, Post-doctoral Researcher at the Lab, presented her work at [WISE 2025](#), held at USI.

AT A GLANCE

- Paola Profeta published an [article](#) on pinkwashing and the risks of AI for gender equality, in recognition of International Women's Day 2025, in *Il Sole 24 Ore*.
- She also [wrote](#) about the backlash against diversity and inclusion efforts in *Rivista Eco*.
- Additionally, she published an [article](#) on the importance of gender equality for economic growth in *Quotidiano Più*.

You can check more on news and participations [here](#), and also follow us on [X](#) and [Bluesky](#).

NEWS & EVENTS

Workshop on Gender Inequality: Navigating New Frontiers and Paradigm Shifts

In March, we co-organized a one-day workshop on [Gender Inequality: Navigating New Frontiers and Paradigm Shifts](#) together with the Women in Social and Public Policy Research Hub (WISPPRH) at the LSE and the Inequality Cluster at NYU Abu Dhabi. Hosted at the London School of Economics, the event brought together leading scholars, and featured rich discussions across two thematic sessions:

- *Reimagining gender foundations tomorrow*: Talks addressed gender gaps in fertility, parental time investments, and long-run transformations in labor and time use.
- *Gender in transformative futures*: Presenters explored the intersection of gender and emerging technologies, such as generative AI, and environmental issues like the gender gap in carbon footprint.

We thank all the speakers, discussants, participants, and our co-organizers for enabling a rich and collaborative exchange around research on gender inequalities.

Seminar Series

We host a [seminar series](#), typically on Tuesdays at 1pm CET. Our sessions are conducted in hybrid format, so feel free to join us in person at room 3-B3-SR01 or online!

In March we welcomed [Mjriam Stockburger](#) (Justus Liebig University Giessen) who presented the paper “Does Smoking Affect Wages?”

We also co-hosted a joint seminar with Dondena, featuring [Eugenio Proto](#) (University of Glasgow) presented the paper “How well do you know your child? Cross-rater divergence in the assessment of child socio-emotional health.”

Our upcoming seminars include:

- *April 8th (online only, at 3pm CET)*: “Diversity and Performance in Entrepreneurial Teams” – [Sophie Calder-Wang](#) (UPenn Wharton)
- *April 15th*: “Educated to be Mothers? Indoctrination and Demographic Backlash” – [Matteo Sandi](#) (Cattolica University)

CONTACT US:

If you have any questions about our research or more information about the Lab and the team, please visit our website at <https://genderlab.unibocconi.eu/> or email us at genderlab@unibocconi.it. You can also follow us on X [@AXAGenderLab](#) and Bluesky [@axagenderlab.bsky.social](#).

Until next time,

The AXA Research Lab on Gender Equality

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La informiamo che, in ottemperanza al nuovo Regolamento Generale Europeo per la Sicurezza e la Privacy dei Dati (UE 2016/679 - GDPR), in [questa pagina](#) può prendere visione delle Policy sul trattamento dei dati personali e che in [questa pagina](#) può aggiornare o modificare il consenso al loro trattamento da parte dell'Università Bocconi.

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