

Gender Lab

The Newsletter of

AXA Research Lab on Gender Equality



Issue 39, June 2025

WELCOME

The AXA Research Lab on Gender Equality welcomes you to the thirty-ninth 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), [Ines Girace](#) (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 URPP Conference on Gender Issues in Education and the Labor Market at the University of Zurich, the Lausanne Management and Economics Workshop, and an invited seminar at EIEF in Rome.

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 the 2025 Gender Workshop in Lyon and the EUI Alumni Conference.

Policies

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Subjective Survival Beliefs, Cognitive Skills and Investments in Risky Assets – [Francesco Maura](#) with *C. Dal Bianco, F.*

Key points:

- 50+ individuals tend to underestimate their life horizons, especially women. Thus, their (perceived) investment horizon is shorter.
- We show that higher inaccuracy of survival expectations (i.e., more underestimation) reduces household's stock market participation.
- We want to use a structural approach to run counterfactual experiments of potential policy interventions related to reduction of stock market participation costs (financial literacy) and reduction of survival underestimation (longevity literacy).
- Women should benefit more from these interventions because of their lower financial literacy and higher survivorship underestimation.

Francesco Maura, Post-doctoral Researcher at the Lab, [presented](#) his work at the conference on Financial education: Why, what works, what doesn't and for whom, held at Politecnico di Milano.

AT A GLANCE

- Paola Profeta [published](#) an article on Forbes Italia on Italy's persistent economic gender gap, highlighting the country's low female employment and leadership rates, while also discussing the positive impact of the Golfo-Mosca law mandating gender quotas on corporate boards.
- Paola Profeta [participated](#) in dialogue with Iris Bohnet (Harvard) on diversity, equity and inclusion at the 2025 Festival Internazionale dell'Economia held in Turin.
- Additionally, she [participated](#) at the 2025 Annual EIGE Experts Forum in Brussels.

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

NEWS & EVENTS

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. While our 2024-2025 Seminar Series has come to an end, we will be announcing our 2025-2026 lineup soon. Stay tuned!

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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