

Gender Lab

The Newsletter of

AXA Research Lab on Gender Equality



Issue 50, June 2026

WELCOME

The AXA Research Lab on Gender Equality welcomes you to the fiftieth 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
- **Sina Smid**, Post-doctoral Researcher
- **Ximena Caló**, PhD Student
- **Mohamed Horchani**, PhD Student
- **Matilde Bontempo**, Pre-Doc
- **Edoardo Epifori**, Pre-Doc
- **Miriam Orlando**, Research Assistant

In addition to our core team, we collaborate with **external fellows** and welcome **visitors**. This month we bid farewell to **Maya Aidlin-Perlman**, Development Economics Research Assistant at Yale's Department of Economics. Maya visited the Gender Lab between April and June 2026.

We also host students for their **curricular internships**. This month: **Niklas Reinecke** (MSc PPA), **Anna Stanghellini** (MSc ESS), **Hanna Hollos** (BA, Central European University), **Irina Alexeeva** (MSc PPA), **Mariateresa Cesare** (MSc PPA), **Alessandro Pini** (MSc

OUR RESEARCH HIGHLIGHTS

Family

Parental Leave Uptake in Denmark: Fathers and Workplace Constraints – [Sina Smid](#)

Key points:

- Following Denmark's parental leave reform, which earmarked 11 weeks for each parent, fathers' leave uptake has increased substantially. Yet most fathers still do not use their full entitlement.
- This paper examines which fathers do not take the full leave and the workplace and labor-market barriers behind this gap.
- Combining register and survey-experimental data, we analyze uptake patterns and explore fathers' experiences with workplace norms, barriers, and discrimination.
- The findings aim to inform policies and workplace practices that promote a more equal sharing of care and improve the effective use of parental leave rights.

Sina, Post-doctoral Researcher at the Lab, recently [presented](#) her work at a workshop held at the Danish Institute for Human Rights, discussing preliminary findings from register data on fathers' workplace and labor-market constraints to parental leave uptake. This work will be presented at the conference *How are Men Doing? Gender Equality, Fatherhood and Care in the Nordic Countries* in November 2026.

Politics

The Gendered Aftershocks of Crises: Evidence from Chile's 2010 Earthquake – [Ximena Caló](#)

Key points:

- Do natural disasters systematically disadvantage women politicians, and through what channels? I argue that crises activate masculine-coded leadership stereotypes, producing a voter penalty against women candidates that persists over multiple electoral cycles.
- Using Chile's 2010 Maule earthquake, I draw on candidate-level records from six municipal council elections (2004–2024) matched to municipality-level shaking intensity, comparing candidates before and after the disaster.
- Women candidates in highly affected municipalities lost electoral support relative to men. A series of tests points to stereotype activation rather than competing explanations.
- The penalty is inconsistent with voters retrospectively punishing women for governance. It appears weaker where women held a denser pre-existing presence in community organizations, consistent with local counter-examples blunting stereotype activation. It is concentrated in the one major party that selects candidates centrally and absent in an ideologically similar party that selects locally, locating the mechanism in party-selection institutions rather than ideology. And it is unrelated to differential campaign financing, ruling out candidate resources as a channel.
- As climate change increases the frequency and intensity of natural disasters, the gendered electoral penalties they produce may become an underappreciated barrier to gender parity in elected office.

Ximena, PhD Student at the Lab, recently [presented](#) her work at the Political Behaviour Colloquium Seminar Series held at the EUI, at the European Conference on Politics and Gender (ECPG) in Newcastle, and at the inaugural European Political Science Society conference in Belfast.

Local Economic Outcomes of Morales' Legacy in Bolivia – [Sina Smid](#)

Key points:

- Left-wing governments are often associated with redistributive policies that aim to reduce poverty and inequality. Yet, the implementation of these policies is often embedded in local and informal power structures.
- This paper examines how political and institutional contexts shape redistributive outcomes in Bolivia's municipalities governed by the Movimiento al Socialismo (MAS) during Morales' presidency (2006–2019). While this time was characterized by historic advances in women's and Indigenous representation, local governance remained dominated by informal networks.
- Using administrative and satellite data to measure local inequality and poverty, the paper employs a close election regression discontinuity design across three municipal elections (2004, 2010, 2015) to test the effect of MAS mayors on local economic outcomes, while exploring inclusive representation and corruption as potential mechanisms.
- Contrary to expectations, MAS-led municipalities experienced significant increases in inequality. However, poverty decreased in municipalities with higher irregularities.
- Overall, the paper shows that the effectiveness of redistributive politics depends not only on partisanship, but also on the inclusiveness and accountability of local governance.

Sina, Post-doctoral Researcher at the Lab, recently [presented](#) her work at the inaugural European Political Science Society conference in

Belfast.

AT A GLANCE

- **Sina Smid** and **Paola Profeta** delivered a [workshop](#) as part of *Strengthening Democratic Resilience through Inclusive Knowledge Practices*, a two-day CIVICA Student Engagement Fund conference held at the European University Institute.
- **Paola Profeta** participated in the [invited panel](#) “Women, Business and the Law 2026: Legal Reform Pathways for More and Better Jobs” at the *International Economic Association (IEA) World Congress*, held in Belgrade.
- **Paola Profeta** [presented](#) on “The Future of Gender Inequalities” at the conference *Inequality and the Future*, organized by the Dondena research center.

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!

The seminar series now pauses for the summer. Stay tuned for the 2026–2027 line-up in the fall.

Joint Webinar Series with World Bank ECA Gender Innovation Lab

As part of our growing collaboration with the World Bank’s Europe and Central Asia Gender Innovation Lab (ECA GIL), we run a [webinar series](#) bringing together researchers and policymakers to discuss cutting-edge evidence on gender equality and labor markets. The joint webinar series takes place monthly and online only. The format of each session includes 30 minutes of research presentation, 15 minutes of policy discussion by a World Bank Task Team Leader, and 15 minutes of Q&A.

The joint webinar series will resume in the fall – stay tuned for the next academic year’s program.

CONTACT US:

If you have any questions about our research or if you would like to know more 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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