

Gender Lab

The Newsletter of

AXA Research Lab on Gender Equality



Issue 51, July & August 2026

WELCOME

The AXA Research Lab on Gender Equality welcomes you to the fifty-first 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*

In addition to our core team, we collaborate with [external fellows](#) and welcome [visitors](#). We also host students for their [curricular internships](#). This month: **Niklas Reinecke** (MSc PPA), **Hanna Hollos** (BA, Central European University), **Irina Alexeeva** (MSc PPA), **Mariateresa Cesare** (MSc PPA), **Alessandro Pini** (MSc PPA), **Viola Costetti** (MSc ESS), and **Virginia Giaquinta** (MSc PPA). If you're a student interested in gaining hands-on experience at the Gender Lab, we encourage you to [contact us](#).

OUR RESEARCH HIGHLIGHTS

Family

Survival and Financial Literacy in Investment Decisions Later in Life – [Francesco Maura](#), Chiara Dal Bianco, Francesca Parodi, Guglielmo Weber

Key points:

- Financial resilience in old age is a pressing concern in rapidly aging societies.
- This paper examines how subjective life expectancy shapes saving behavior and financial market participation among older adults, and how these effects are mediated by financial knowledge.
- We empirically show that discrepancies between subjective and objective survival probabilities influence both savings and stock market participation, and that these misperceptions are correlated with cognitive ability.
- We develop a structural life-cycle model to evaluate the impact of policy interventions.
- We find that survival literacy policies – which inform individuals about their true survival probabilities – encourage greater wealth accumulation and reduce exposure to longevity risk.
- In contrast, financial literacy interventions – aimed at lowering participation costs in financial markets – promote investment in risky assets, but disproportionately benefit wealthier households.

Francesco, Post-doctoral Researcher at the Lab, recently presented his work at the [1st International Workshop of the G53 Network Rising Scholars](#), held in Reggio Calabria.

Education

Student Gender Composition and University Climate – [Paola Profeta](#), Silvia Griselda (Atlassian) and Giulia Savio (University of Turin)

Key points:

- The university climate is an essential factor that influences students' academic outcomes and career trajectories.
- Traditional masculinity norms, particularly prevalent in male-dominated fields, can pose substantial barriers to success, especially for female students.
- This paper first measures students' adherence to masculinity norms, their anxiety levels, and their confidence in their academic performance relative to peers.
- Second, we explore how these factors correlate with and predict academic performance and future career aspirations.
- Finally, leveraging the random assignment of students into different class groups within the same course at an elite university, we examine how peer gender composition influences students' masculinity norms, anxiety levels, academic confidence, and exam performance.
- Our findings demonstrate that increased exposure to female peers reduces adherence to traditional masculinity norms and anxiety, while enhancing students' confidence and academic outcomes.

Paola, Director of the Lab, recently presented her work at the [Venice Summer Workshop on Inequality and Vulnerability](#), held at Ca' Foscari University.

AT A GLANCE

- [Paola Profeta](#) wrote an [article](#) for *Boss Moves* magazine on whether organizations can afford to ignore gender equality, arguing that evidence from politics and business shows gender parity strengthens meritocracy and performance rather than compromising them.
- [Paola Profeta](#) delivered a [lecture](#) on Gender Inequality at the *Summer School on Socioeconomic Opportunity and Inequality* (ISPI, 1–3 July 2026). The Summer School was organized jointly by Bocconi's Dondena Centre, the Stone Center for Research on Wealth Inequality and Mobility, and ISPI to train the next generation of inequality researchers across economics, sociology, and public policy.

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.

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 2026–2027 line-up.

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](#).

We wish you a great summer break!

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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