

Summary:

This project is divided into two parts that tackle several issues related to labor economics, development economics and gender. The first part of the project is devoted to labor economics and gender, and the second part investigates issues on development economics and gender. Each part incorporates two main lines of research.

In the first line of research within the first part of the project, we want to study whether there are gender asymmetries in peer effects at the workplace. That is, we want to answer the question: is the effect of same sex peers ability on wages larger than that of opposite-sex peers? In addition, the richness of the Brazilian matched employer-employee data we will use will allow us to extend the analysis to investigate further how and when gender social norms shape peer effects at the workplace. This research will contribute to our understanding of the determinants of labor market gender inequalities and their persistence. This is because, if same sex peer effects are stronger than opposite sex peer effects, as the theory predicts, gender imbalances in the workplace may be exacerbated due to social multiplier effects on wages.

In the second line of research within the first part of the project, we plan to derive novel insights on intergenerational mobility by leveraging information from large-scale data sources. In particular, we are interested in studying whether there are differences in intergenerational mobility between men and women and the influence of assortative mating. This research will provide a detailed account of kinship correlations in educational and occupational outcomes, which will allow us to fit more detailed economic models of intergenerational processes and address policy-relevant questions like the existence of gender inequalities and the role played by assortative mating.

In the second part of the project we will work on two research lines related to development economics and gender.

In the first line of research within the second part of the project, we will assess the effect of a child's gender on family structure in sub-Saharan Africa. First, we ask whether girls and boys live under similar family arrangements, and secondly, we will investigate whether the gender of the first child, a plausibly random event, affect family structure in sub-Saharan Africa. This project will increase our understanding of how household formation relates to traditional ethnic beliefs and cultural practices. Given that traditional norms, from dowries to discriminatory inheritance laws, exacerbate son preferences, and reduce women's ability to rely on their own kin group, we expect our results to contribute in the design of effective policies in places where son preference might perpetuate inter-generational gender inequalities.

In the second line of research within the second part of the project, we will investigate how ethnic diversity affects labor market outcomes in South Africa. First, we will evaluate whether ethnic diversity amongst the black population affects the employment and the occupations of black individuals in the post-apartheid period. Second, we will examine the mechanisms driving the employment effects and in particular the role of ethnic networks in shaping educational choices and the ensuing labor market outcomes. Third, we will explore gender differences in how ethnic networks influences educational investments and occupational choices.