

Gender, Institutions, and Development

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Seminar will take place on November 26 / 27, 2021 (Zoom)

Course Description

This course will be concerned about gender issues in developing countries and will have a particular focus on relevant institutions, including social and gender norms. We will discuss topics on the interlinkages between gender, education, social norms, and labor market issues, as well as monetary and non-monetary development outcomes. Topics of this seminar will be concerned with questions such as: What do we mean by *female empowerment* and *gender inequality* and how do we measure this? What are the determinants of unequal labor force participation, choice of occupation, and wage for women compared to men? Why do parents invest less in girls' schooling compared to boys'? How are education, income, and domestic violence interlinked? Are women underrepresented in politics; and how does the political involvement of women affect the well-being of other women and even the course of conflicts? How do strategies look like to boost female empowerment and agency?

Course Requirements

To acquire **6 credit points** students will have to write a **research paper**, prepare a **presentation**, participate in the discussions and briefly **discuss a paper of another student**.

Eligible Participants

The seminar is open to MA students in development economics, international economics as well as MA programs in business economics or the MA in Modern Indian Studies.

Research Papers

The seminar papers must be **well structured**, written in **active voice**, **concise (as clear as possible, short sentences, avoid unnecessary repetition)**, written in **English**, comprising of **10-12 pages** (12pt, 1 ½ spaced, excluding bibliography and exhibits). Despite its shortness, the information density of your paper should be very high. You should aim to cite **30-50** references in total. The papers should be analytical and critical, develop a coherent argument, drawing own conclusions and should go beyond the pure summary of existing literature. In addition students should compose a short **abstract of about 200-300 words** (key question, methodology and main results).

Writing well will be key for your grade in this course. Systematically learning how to do so, will help you not only in this course but throughout your Master program and beyond.

Therefore, I strongly encourage you to read (at least) chapter 1 – 8 of the following book:

Reid, Natalie (2010). Getting published in international journals: writing strategies for European social scientists. Oslo.

[Bereichsbibliothek Wirtschafts- und Sozialwissenschaften \(BBWISO\)](#)

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You can find general guidelines on writing and formatting your paper on the chair's [webpage](#). (The guide is on BA and MA theses but many aspects apply to term papers as well.)

Presentations

The presentations should have a maximum length of **15 min** focusing on the main insights of the research papers. Each presentation will be followed by the discussant, questions from the audience to the presenter, and a general discussion (in total 15 minutes). To ensure that the presentation is as well-structured, interesting and educational as possible, please write a script of talking points (maximum 2000 words) at least 2 days before the presentation date. I encourage you to practice the script at least 5 times. However, make sure that you write short “as-if-you-would-speak” sentences and that your intonation is helpful to deliver the message. Avoid repetition, be concise, every word and every sentence should count to make your points. When writing the script, have your audience in mind. Introduce them to the main concepts, imagining that they are likely to not have heard much about your topic before. Also: What are the most important and most interesting points you learned during your research on this topic? Transfer what you have learned to your audience. For the duration of your presentation, you are the teacher!

Discussions

In addition to your own presentation, each student will be assigned to discuss the term paper of another student (**5 min**) after the other student’s presentation. The discussion should be a critical reflection of the paper and presentation (content, structure, unclear points) and come up with two or three questions to start a discussion (please be prepared to voice your own opinion about these questions). It is also expected that all students briefly go through the papers of all other participants before the seminar, so that a good discussion after the presentations can take place.

Timeline (all meetings will be online)

Preliminary meeting

14.10. 2022 (12-16:00) Introduction to topics and clarification on registration procedure

Bilateral Meeting

11.11. 2022 (10-18:00) All participants meet to discuss term paper outlines (Upload your proposed outline via Studip at least one day before to all participants, students will be assigned to discuss other students outlines. Name your file “Outline_Topic-Number.pdf”)

Term paper and seminar

02.12. 2022 Students should hand in an electronic copy of their seminar papers until **11:59pm** to jzenker@uni-goettingen.de. Please, also upload your paper to Studip. Name your file “Paper_Topic-Number.pdf”

06.12. 2022 Upload the presentation slides until **5 p.m** to Studip. Name your file “Slides_Topic-Number.pdf”

09.12/16.12. 2022 (10-18:00) Seminar with presentations and discussions.

Literature

Reading lists with articles that ought to be considered in the papers will be provided in this Zotero-Group (you may have to create a free account):

https://www.zotero.org/groups/2598438/ugoe_econ_dev4_seminar?token=8394a92ef8805521ad65050ac92cc428

In addition, you are required to search for further literature to be included in your paper. Please note also that some readings come from reports from international agencies such as the World Bank or the OECD. These reports summarize a lot of literature. It is useful to carefully consider some of the individual studies that are cited in these reports for your analysis (and not just rely purely on the summary provided by the reports).

Introductory reading

- Klasen, S. 2016. Gender, Institutions, and Economic Development: Findings and Open Research and Policy Issues. Courant Research Centre Discussion Papers No. 211.
- Jayachandran, S. 2015. “The Roots of Gender Inequality in Developing Countries.” *Annual Reviews of Economics*, Vol. 7(1), pp. 63–88.
- Boserup, E.. 1970. Women’s role in economic development, chapters 1-3.
- Alesina, A., Giuliano, P. and N. Nunn. 2013. “On the Origins of Gender Roles: Women and the Plough.” *The Quarterly Journal of Economics* 128(2): 469-530.

Topics

Part I: Measurement and definitions

1) Theory and measurement of social norms

Possible research topic: *Distinguish social norms from other institutions; explain the four types of social norms in detail; use the example of female labor force participation to illustrate the four types and how they are measured.*

2) The measurement of gender inequality in institutions

Possible research topic: *It is impossible to measure gender inequality in institutions reliably.* Discuss.

3) The measurement of female economic empowerment

Possible research topic: *Female economic empowerment is much more than employment opportunities.* Discuss.

Part II: Roots of gender inequality

4) Historical drivers of gender gaps and norms in different regions

Possible research topic: *Climatic and agricultural conditions are largely responsible for regional distribution of gender gaps today.* Discuss.

Part III: Mechanisms that reinforce gender-inequality

5) Gender socialization in childhood

Possible research topic: *Traditional role models are reinforced in schools rather than at home.*
Discuss.

6) Investment in girls' education

Possible research topic: *Investing in girls' education makes sense at the aggregate level, yet traditional role models and private incentives often lead to larger support for boys than girls.*
Discuss.

7) Economic development and globalization

Possible research topics: *Women's labor force participation is largely driven by the facets of economic development.* Discuss.

8) Occupational and sectorial segregation, children, and the gender wage gap

Possible research topic: *Occupational and sectorial segregation is the main determinant of the gender wage gap.* Discuss.

Part IV: Consequences of gender inequality

9) Gender-based violence

Possible research topic: *The role of female employment, education and incomes is more pronounced in gender-based violence than institutional factors.* Discuss.

10) Political representation of women, development outcomes, and conflict

Possible research topic: *It needs women to represent women.* Discuss.

11) Economic growth and development

Possible research topic: *Gender gaps in employment and education reduce economic growth.*
Discuss.

Part V: Policies to reduce gender inequality

12) Policies to promote female economic empowerment: changing restrictive norms?

Possible research topic: *The right policy tools to promote gender equality have not yet been found.* Discuss.

3 more topics will be added to the list in the coming weeks