

# Knowledge is Power: But Who Has The Power To Produce Knowledge?

Alyssa Schneebaum, Ph.D.

AK Young Economist Conference

September 2022



"Classical" feminist economics  
Current issues in feminist economics  
A case study

# Feminist Economics

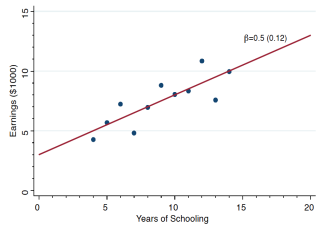
Alyssa Schneebaum, Ph.D.

Vienna Chamber of Labor  
Young Economists Conference

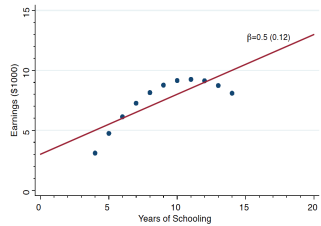
September 2013



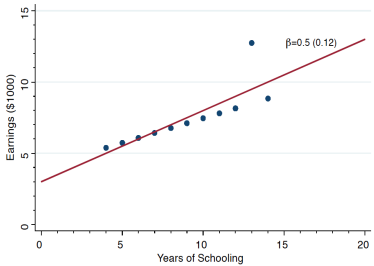
Anscombe (1973): Dataset 1



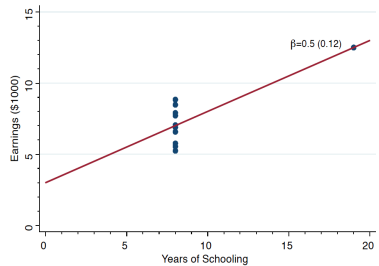
Anscombe (1973): Dataset 2



Anscombe (1973): Dataset 3



Anscombe (1973): Dataset 4



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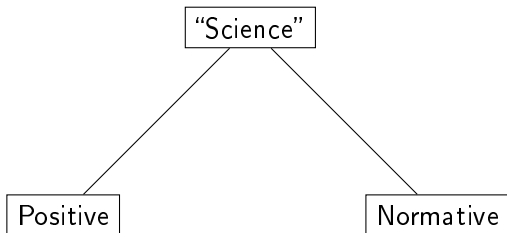


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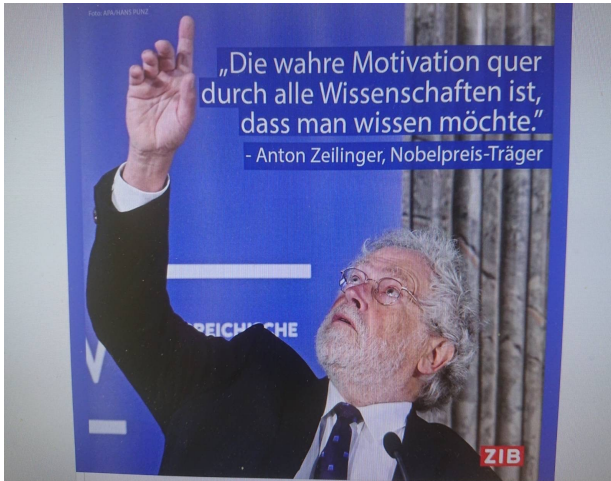
- ▶ The biases are systematic.
- ▶ They are perhaps inherent.
- ▶ They prevent us from doing our job.

# Fundamentally, two main options

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## Positive science



# Normative science



## Economists' job with policy

We want to know what will happen  
vs.  
We want to know what the “best” option would be.

# Policy creation

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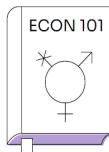
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- ▶ Recognize, diversify, balance.
- ▶ (At least) Until then, weight of “science” perhaps too high?

# THE GENDER OF ECONOMICS **GENDECON**



## **HORIZON**

ERC-2021-STG  
No. 101041981

**Vienna University of  
Economics and Business**  
Vienna, Austria

**Alyssa Schneebaum, PhD**  
[@DrSnowtree](#)

## Actually, the XXX of YYY

- ▶ *Gender* is just an example; could also look at
  - ▶ Race
  - ▶ Ethnicity
  - ▶ Economic class
  - ▶ Nationality
  - ▶ Political orientation...

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  - ▶ Including “natural” sciences!
- ▶ I believe in centrality of economics and I know a lot about gender.



# Personnel

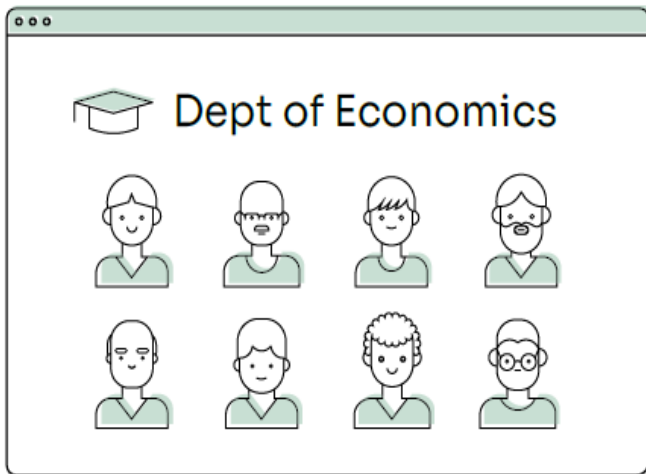
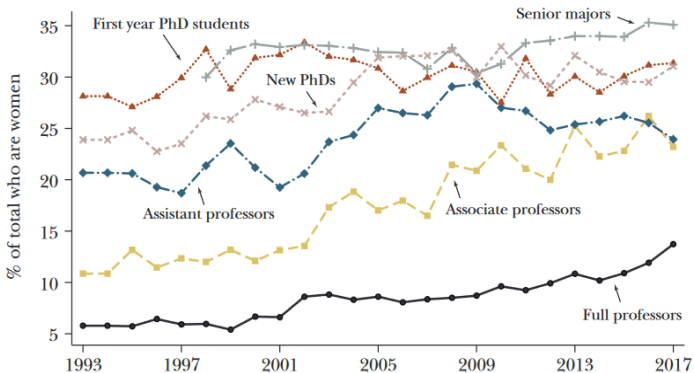


Figure 1

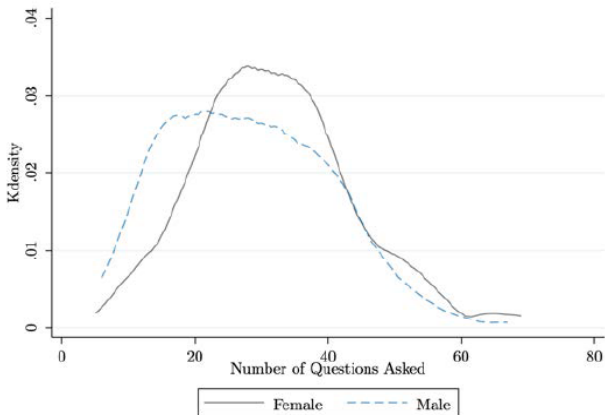
**Representation of Women among First-Year PhD Students, New PhDs, and Faculty by Rank for the Chairman's Group of Departments, 1993–2017**



Lundberg & Stearns, 2019

# Culture/Environment

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Dupas, Sasser Modestino, Niederle, Wolfers et al., 2022

Culture → Publications → Representation



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- ▶ Publications are key to tenure
- ▶ Publication in top-five (T5) journal increases tenure chances by 310% (Heckman and Moktan, 2020)
- ▶ Women less likely to publish, overall (Ginther and Kahn, 2004) and in T5 (Hengel, 2022)

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- ▶ Higher standards of readability (Hengel, 2022)
- ▶ Harsher reviews for female authors (Paludi and Bauer, 1983; Krawczyk and Smyk, 2016)
- ▶ Less credit for co-authored work (Sarsons et al., 2021)

# Theories

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## Samuelson & Nordhaus

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On the rise in women's formal labor force participation:

"...a change of this magnitude cannot be explained by economic factors alone... one must **look outside economics** to changing social attitudes toward the role of women as mothers, homemakers, and workers." (p. 252)

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  - ▶ Chari & Goldsmith-Pinkham (2017): topics of interest for undergrads differ (health, education, family, crime, or development)



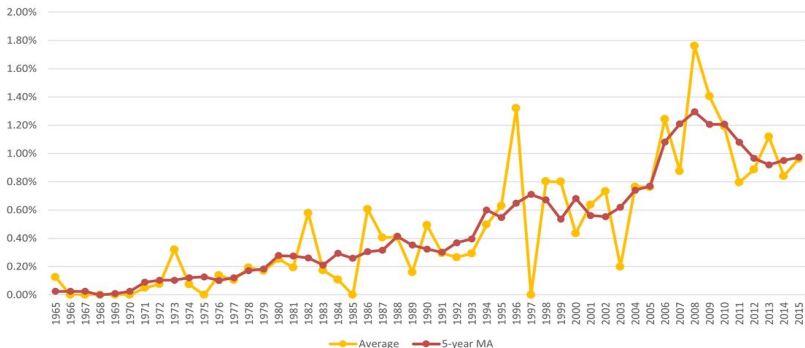
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- ▶ Teaching style: lecture? Shared knowledge? Experiences as knowledge?
- ▶ ...economics versus feminist pedagogy

# Content

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Averages of the shares of abstracts from the Top 5 economics journals including the words "gender", "women", "woman", "sex", and/or "female" over time



# Data

## Data

	Net Wealth	
	Mean	SE
Respondent Male - Interviewer Male	247.3	6.1
Respondent Male - Interviewer Female	295.9	13.2
Respondent Female - Interviewer Male	186.1	6.9
Respondent Female - Interviewer Female	219.7	7.9

# Methods

## Methods

## 5.2. Authoritarian Parenting

In this environment, a parent adopts an authoritarian parenting style if she chooses  $X = X^{\text{HOME}}$ . Since the choice set  $X$  of the child is now a singleton, Proposition 8 in the Supplemental Material implies that the parent will choose  $a' = \bar{a}$ , that is, given that the parent already controls the child's actions, there is no reason to also stifle the child's enjoyment of consumption. Since the parent is uncertain about her child's productivity in the parent's occupation, the continuation utility involves expectations:

$$\begin{aligned} w(X^{\text{HOME}}, \bar{a}) &= E_{s'} \left[ (\lambda + (1-\lambda)\bar{a}) \frac{((1-\bar{x}^e)y(x^{\text{HOME}}, s'))^{1-\sigma}}{1-\sigma} + \beta v^o(h(x, s')) \right] \\ &= \tilde{w}(X^{\text{HOME}}, \bar{a}) + \beta \delta \max_{a' \in A, X \in X} w(X, a'), \end{aligned}$$

where

$$\tilde{w}(X^{\text{HOME}}, \bar{a}) = \frac{\mu^{1-\sigma}}{2} (y_H^{1-\sigma} + y_L^{1-\sigma}) \left( (\lambda + (1-\lambda)\bar{a}) \frac{(1-\bar{x}^e)^{1-\sigma}}{1-\sigma} + \beta \frac{(1+R\bar{x}^e)^{1-\sigma}}{1-\sigma} \right), \quad (5.1)$$

and the optimal effort choice from the parent's perspective  $\bar{x}^e$  is given by

$$\begin{aligned} \bar{x}^e &= \operatorname{argmax}_{x^e} \left\{ (\lambda + (1-\lambda)\bar{a}) \frac{(1-x^e)^{1-\sigma}}{1-\sigma} + \beta \frac{(1+R\bar{x}^e)^{1-\sigma}}{1-\sigma} \right\} \\ &= \frac{1 - \left( \frac{\lambda + (1-\lambda)\bar{a}}{\alpha n} \right)^{\frac{1}{\sigma}}}{1 - \left( \frac{\lambda + (1-\lambda)\bar{a}}{\alpha n} \right)^{\frac{1}{\sigma}}} \end{aligned} \quad (5.2)$$

Doepke, M. & Zilibotti, F. (2017). "Parenting with style: altruism and paternalism in intergenerational preference transmission." *Econometrica* 25(5):1331-1371.

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- ▶ That's the agreement: we listen to people if other people (journal editors, referees, department chairs, deans) find the ideas, approach, even style (Lehner et al. 2022) good
- ▶ Thus we not only *slow down* progress, but we also bias what we know

Let's discuss! Now and at  
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 @DrSnowtree