

# A Quantitative Review of Matching Papers in Economics: Evolution, Diversity, and Gender\*

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## Abstract

This paper reviews the evolution of research on matching markets in economics, using text analysis of RePEc data to trace trends in scale, diversity, and authorship. Since 1975, the share of matching papers has increased tenfold, accompanied by broader journal representation and a notable rise in Top-5 journals. Text-based clustering reveals a diverse internal structure, with distinct fields such as macro-labour, family economics, and market design emerging organically. Matching research featured early and widespread co-authorship, outpacing the broader profession until 2010. While gender representation has improved within the field, it still lags behind the overall discipline by about a decade. Cross-gender collaboration has increased in matching research, though less rapidly than in economics as a whole.

**Keywords:** matching markets, history of economics, co-authorship patterns, gender representation, text analysis

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