

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

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Abstract

This paper reviews the evolution of research related to matching markets in economics using text analysis of RePEc data to track trends in scale, diversity, and authorship. Since 1975, the share of matching papers in economics has increased tenfold, alongside broader journal representation and a notable rise in Top-5 outlets. Text-based clustering uncovers a diverse internal structure, with distinct fields such as macro-labour, family economics, and market design emerging organically. Papers about matching featured early and widespread co-authorship, above the overall profession until 2010. Gender representation has improved in the field, but it lags the profession by about a decade. Cross-gender collaborations have increased in papers about matching, but less rapidly than in economics overall.

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

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