

Corinne Stephenson

Ph.D. candidate, Boston University

Contact Information

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References

Professor Pascual Restrepo

Department of Economics, Yale University

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Professor Tarek Hassan

Department of Economics, Boston University

thassan@bu.edu

+1(617)353-7082

Professor Kevin Lang

Department of Economics, Boston University

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Education

Ph.D. Boston University, 2025 (expected)

M.S. Barcelona School of Economics, 2018

M.A. University of Chicago, 2014

B.A. Princeton University, 2012

Research and Teaching Fields

Macroeconomics, Labor Economics, Gender Economics

Job Market Paper

“Macroeconomic Consequences of Gender Differences in Job Search Behavior”

Abstract: This paper explores how differences in job search behavior and preferences contribute to the gender wage gap. Using data from the Job Search Supplement of the Survey of Consumer Expectations, I find that women are more likely to search for jobs and do so more intensively than men. Despite differential search inputs, men and women receive a similar number of job offers, implying a lower job offer yield for women. Women’s best job offer has lower wages and hours, and fewer fringe benefits. Women are more sensitive to nonwage features of a job, such as commute time, hours worked, and location of a job. Lastly, women are more likely to search only for part-time work and have not worked in recent years. Building on these findings, I develop an on-the-job search model with

endogenous search effort. I allow jobs to differ in their wage and amenity value. I incorporate the incidence of children and parental leave into the model, as the empirical facts show this is an important mechanism accounting for differences in search behavior, preferences, and labor force attachment by gender. Through the lens of the model I find that gender differences in amenity valuation can explain close to 20% of the overall gender wage gap.

Working Papers

“What Drives Occupational Wage Inequality in the US: Productivity or Rent Sharing?”

Abstract: Why do some occupations pay increasingly more than others over time? To answer this question, I combine hand-collected historical labor market data with a theory-guided accounting framework that allows me to decompose occupational wage inequality into two groups of explanations: productivity and rent sharing. In order to implement this decomposition, I use an equilibrium model of search and matching to derive a mapping from unobserved wage markdowns due to search frictions into a set of measurable labor market statistics for each occupation. I find that productivity, as opposed to rent sharing, explains most of the occupational wage inequality, both in the cross section and over time.

Work in Progress

“Family Bargaining: How Inheritance Rules Affect Parental Investment and Children’s Caregiving”

Abstract: I examine how differences in inheritance regimes affect parents’ strategic investments in their children’s human capital and children’s provision of informal eldercare. I build a theoretical model featuring altruistic and strategic bequest motives and test the model’s predictions using cross-country time-use and survey data.

“Aging Workforces and the Decline in the Large Firm Wage Premium”

Abstract: I document trends in the large-firm wage premium across 26 European countries and the United States using Eurostat’s Structure of Earnings Survey, a harmonized dataset with detailed information on employers and workers. For the U.S., I draw on two microdatasets from the BLS: the Occupational Employment and Wage Statistics, and Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages. Based on a model of labor market frictions and differing workforce composition at firms, I quantify the role of an aging workforce to country differences in the large-firm wage premium.

“Declining Search Frictions and the Gender Wage Gap” with Masao Fukui

Abstract: We examine how declining search frictions affect the gender wage gap by altering job match quality and firms’ bargaining power. Search frictions sustain wage discrimination in equilibrium by granting firms monopsonistic power over workers with higher search costs. As search frictions decline, workers sample offers more efficiently, limiting firms’ ability to pay systematically lower wages to certain groups. We develop a search-theoretic model in which declining search costs lead to wage compression, but the extent of gender wage convergence depends on how these changes influence reservation wages and search behavior.

“Gender Bias in the Labor Market: Evidence from Newspaper Job Ads” with Vikram Dixit

Abstract: We build a dataset of historical job advertisements from a U.S. newspaper of record that

spans most of the 20th century. We measure gender bias at the occupation, skill, and firm level. We find that ads for jobs with task requirements that are people-facing are the most gendered. We interpret these facts through the lens of a task model of occupational sorting to quantify the effect of discrimination.

Publications

“Trends in U.S. Wage Inequality: Revising the Revisionists. A Replication Study of Autor, Katz, and Kearney (The Review of Economics and Statistics, 2008)” *Journal of Comments and Replications in Economics* Vol 3(2024-4)

Paper Presentations

Society of Economics of the Household (June 2025), North East Universities Gender Day (April 2025), Midwest Economics Association (March 2025), Bentley University (December 2024), Philadelphia Federal Reserve (September 2024), Boston Federal Reserve (July 2024), Midwest Economics Association (2022), Boston University macro workshop (2021, 2022, 2023, 2024, 2025)

Research Experience

Natalia Ramondo (Boston University), Fall 2020-Spring 2022
Tarek Hassan (Boston University), Nick Bloom (Stanford University), Josh Lerner (Harvard Business School), Spring & Summer 2020
Steve Davis (University of Chicago, Booth School of Business), 2013-2014

Teaching Assistant Experience

Labor Economics and Labor Market Institutions (PhD field course), Harvard University
Introduction to Economic Dynamics (Master’s), Boston University
International Finance (Master’s), Boston University
Entrepreneurial Economics (MBA), Boston University
Personal Finance (Undergraduate), Harvard University
Intermediate Mathematical Macroeconomics (Undergraduate), Boston University
Intermediate Macroeconomics (Undergraduate), Boston University

Fellowships, Grants, and Honors

Philadelphia Federal Reserve, Mentoring & Advancing PhDs Program, Fall 2024
Boston University, Abdala Fieldwork Research Grant (\$6,000), Summer 2024
Boston Federal Reserve, Dissertation Fellowship, Spring 2024
University of Chicago, Price Theory Summer Camp, Summer 2022
NBER Doctoral Student Workshop on Economics of Artificial Intelligence, Fall 2021
Boston University, Institute for Economic Development Data Grant (\$4,000), Summer 2020
Boston University, Graduate Fellowship, 2018–2024
University of Chicago, Tuition Scholarship, 2013–2014
Post-Graduation Fellowship in Senegal, Princeton in Africa, 2012–2013
Princeton University, Office of the Dean of the College Research Grant (\$3,000), 2012

Policy Experience

International Monetary Fund, Strategy and Policy Review Department, 2016–2017

The World Bank, Development Economics Research Group, 2014–2015

U.N. World Food Programme, West Africa Bureau, 2012–2013

University and Departmental Service

Co-Chair of BU Women in Economics (WEorg), 2021–2023

Co-Organizer of Macro Student Workshop, Boston University, 2020–2021

Fellow, Writing Center, Princeton University, 2009–2012

Peer Academic Adviser, Princeton University, 2011–2012

Programming

MATLAB, Python, Stata

Other

English (native), French (fluent), Spanish (proficient)

Citizenship: U.S. citizen