

# Gender Economics

## Session 11

### Intersectionality

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Sciences Po Menton



**SciencesPo**





## Economics of SOGI (Badgett et al., 2024)

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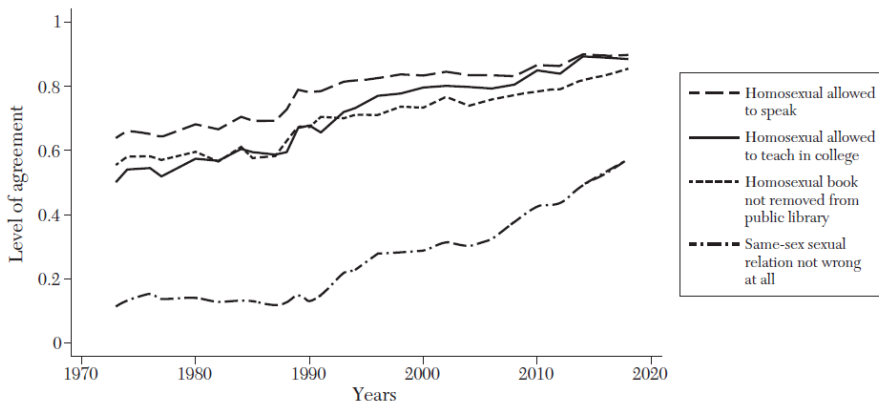


Figure 1. Attitudes toward Sexual Minority People in the US over Time

# Economics of SOGI (Badgett et al., 2024)

TABLE 1 INTERVIEW INVITATION RATES IN FIELD EXPERIMENTS ON HIRING DISCRIMINATION							
Authors	Year of data	N of applicants	Location	Signal	Callback rate LGBT	Callback rate non-LGBT	Occupations
<i>Sexual orientation-related studies</i> Weichselbaum (2003)	1998–2000	1,226 (female)	Vienna	Line on résumé: “1996–98: Managerial activity for the Viennese Gay People’s Alliance”	48% (masc. lesbian)*; 36% (fem. lesbian)*	60% (fem. straight); 49% (masc. straight)	Accountants and secretaries
Drydakis (2009)	2006–07	3,428 (female)	Athens	Line on résumé: “Member volunteer in the Athenian Homosexual Community”	13.9%*	40.1%	Low-skilled office jobs, industry jobs, café and restaurant, shop sales
Drydakis (2011)	2007–08	2,114 (male)	Athens	Line on résumé: “Member volunteer in the Athenian Homosexual Community (from 2001–05)”	21.9%*	49.3%	Low-skilled office jobs, industry jobs, café and restaurant, shop sales
Tilcsik (2011)	2005	3,538 (male)	US (CA, FL, NV, NY, OH, PA, TX)	Line on résumé: treasurer of campus LG organization	7.2%*	11.5%	White-collar entry-level
Ahmed et al. (2013)	2010	3,900	Sweden	Cover letter mentions wife or husband; lines on résumé: “Engaged in the Swedish Federation for LGBT Rights” and with Stockholm Pride Festival	26% for gay men; 26% for lesbian women*	30% for straight men; 32% for straight women	10 jobs, mix male, female, and gender neutral
Bailey et al. (2013)	2010	4,608	Philadelphia, Chicago, Dallas, San Francisco	Line on résumé: leadership position in LG university organization	12.4% lesbian; 13.9% gay men	12.4% straight women; 11.9% straight men	Available on CareerBuilder.com
Baert (2014)	2012–13	1,152 (female)	Belgium	Line in résumé: “Married to [female name]”	18%	16%	Secretary, nanny, manual worker, management assistant, ergotherapist, engineer
Drydakis (2014)	2010–11	4,526	Cyprus	Line on résumé: “Member volunteer in the Cypriot Homosexual Association (from 2005 to 2008)”	14.1% gay men*; 11.1% lesbian women*	52.5% straight men; 49.5% straight women	Low-skilled office jobs, industry jobs, café and restaurant, shop sales
Drydakis (2015)	2013	11,098	UK	Line on résumé: mentions budget responsibility in GL unions at university	59% gay men*; 60.2% lesbian women*	64.3% men; 65.8% women	Broad range
Patacchini et al. (2015)	2012	2,320	Rome and Milan	Line on résumé: internship in pro-gay advocacy group	9.6%* for gay men; 12.4% lesbian	11.9% straight men; 10.3% straight women	Various clerical and sales associate jobs
Mitchel (2016)	2014	1,550 (female)	US (NY, VA, TN, DC)	Line on résumé: secretarial position in LGBT student organization	12%*	17%	Administrative, clerical, secretarial
Acquisti and Fong (2020)	2013	4,173 (male)	US	Facebook profile lists gender that job candidate is “interested in”; interests and activities consistent with real profiles of same sexual orientation	10.7%	10.6%	Required grad degree (MA in information systems) and experience
Drydakis (2021)	2013–14; 2018–19	2,294 (male)	Athens	Line on résumé: “Member volunteer in the Athenian Homosexual Community”	3.2%* in 2013–14; 4.3%* in 2018–19	33.3% in 2013–14; 34.8% in 2018–19	Low-skilled office jobs, industry jobs, café and restaurant, shop sales



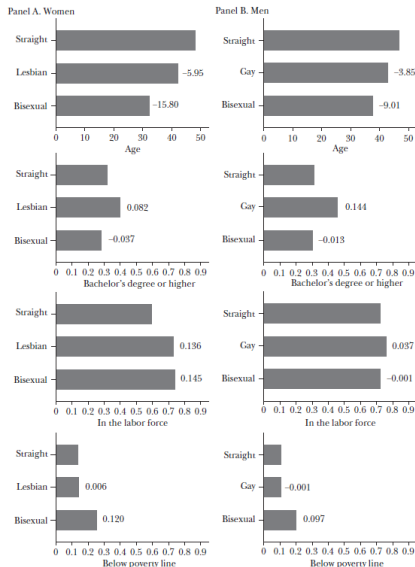




# LGBTQ+ Economics (Badgett et al., 2021)

Figure 1

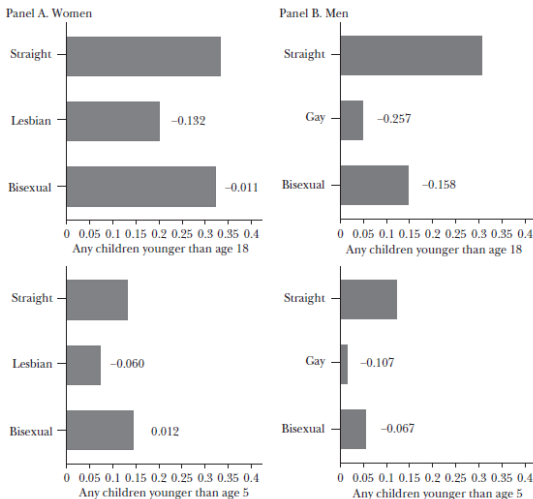
Demographic Characteristics by Individual Self-Reported Sexual Orientation



# LGBTQ+ Economics (Badgett et al., 2021)

Figure 2

## Presence of Children by Sexual Orientation



## LGBTQ+ Economics (Badgett et al., 2021)

## Effects of Same-Sex Marriage (Carpenter, 2020)

## Research Question

What are the direct effects of legalizing same-sex marriage on union formation?

## Data

Massachusetts confidential administrative data, 2001–2013.

## Empirical Strategy

Difference-in-differences comparing same-sex and different-sex marriage rates pre- and post-legalization.

# Effects of Same-Sex Marriage (Carpenter, 2020)

## Results

- Large and significant increases in marriage rates among same-sex couples.
- Larger effects for lesbians compared to gay men.
- No evidence of negative impacts on heterosexual marriage rates.
- Highlights the demand and social significance of marriage rights for LGBTQ+ individuals.



**Research Question** *Are the size of the LGBT population and the prevalence of antigay sentiment systematically underestimated in direct surveys?*

**Data :** Original data from online survey experiments.

- Participants recruited via online platforms and use of sensitive questions about sexual orientation and attitudes toward LGBT people.

## Empirical Strategy

- **Direct questioning:** individuals explicitly asked about their identity and attitudes.
- **Veiled reporting:** individuals answer indirectly, protecting anonymity on sensitive items.

By comparing the two methods, the authors estimate the extent of **social desirability bias** — the tendency to misreport sensitive information to conform to perceived social norms.

## Underestimating LGBT pop (Coffman et al., 2016)

## Results

- Indirect (veiled) methods reveal a significantly higher proportion of individuals identifying as LGBT compared to direct questions.
- Antigay attitudes are substantially more prevalent when measured through veiled techniques.
- Evidence of strong **social desirability bias** in both identity disclosure and expressed attitudes.
- Standard survey methods likely underestimate marginalized populations and biased sentiments.

### Note: What is Social Desirability Bias?









# Homogamy (Ciscato et al., 2020)

## Results

- Strong positive assortative matching by education among same-sex couples
- **Gender differences:**
  - ▶ Lesbian couples exhibit stronger preferences for educational homogamy than gay male couples.
- Sorting patterns in same-sex couples are not simply a replica of different-sex couples
- Results suggest different economic mechanisms shaping partnership formation across gender and sexual orientation groups.

## Sexual Orientation and Prejudice (Plug et al., 2014)

## Research Question

## What explains prejudice against homosexuals?

## Data

Twin survey data from the Netherlands.

## Empirical Strategy

### Compare prejudice levels within twin pairs

- Comparing twins who differ in their level of prejudice toward homosexuals
- Control for unobserved family background (because both twins grew up the same)



## Laws Shape Attitudes (Aksoy et al., 2020)

## Research Question

*Do same-sex relationship recognition laws influence societal attitudes toward LGBTQ+ individuals?*

**Data - European Social Survey (2002-2016):**

- Repeated cross-sectional survey across 30+ European countries.
- Contains questions on attitudes toward LGBTQ+ rights and equality.

### Empirical Strategy - Difference-in-Differences (DiD) approach:

- Exploits variation in the timing of same-sex relationship laws across countries.
- Controls for country and year fixed effects, and important covariates like education and religiosity.







# Question

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Event code

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# Same-Sex Partnership Laws and Risky Sex (Dee, 2008)

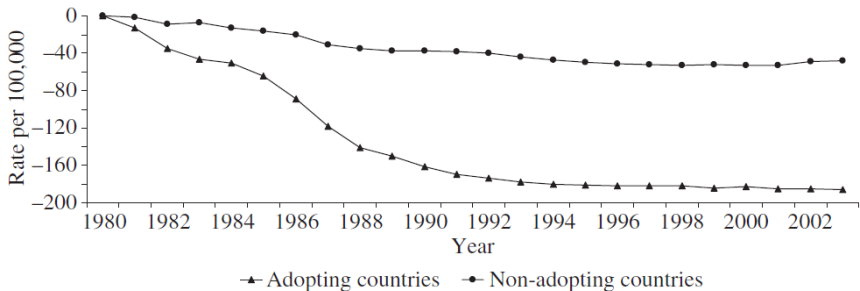


Fig. 2. *Gonorrhoea Trends by Same-Sex Partnership Law Status*

## Same-Sex Partnership Laws and Risky Sex (Dee, 2008)

- **Legal recognition of same-sex partnerships is associated with significant reductions in risky sexual practices**
- Suggests that greater legal stability encourages safer long-term relationship behaviors
- No evidence of **moral hazard**: individuals do not engage in riskier behavior because of increased legal protections
- Positive public health spillovers observed following partnership recognition.

## What is Moral Hazard?

Moral hazard occurs when individuals engage in riskier behavior because they are protected from the consequences, often due to insurance, legal protections, or other safety nets.

# Why gay men live in San Francisco? (Black et al., 2002)

**Research Question:** *Why are gay men geographically concentrated in particular urban areas, such as San Francisco?*

## Data

- U.S. Census microdata
- Surveys on local labor market characteristics and amenities

## Empirical Strategy : Location choice model

- Analyze the geographic distribution of same-sex male couples relative to different-sex couples
- Estimate the importance of:
  - ▶ Local labor market conditions (e.g., wages, employment opportunities)
  - ▶ Presence of social amenities supportive of the gay community (e.g., antidiscrimination laws, cultural acceptance).



# Same-Sex Marriage, Employment (Sansone, 2019)

## Research Question

How did the legalization of same-sex marriage affect employment outcomes among same-sex couples in the United States?

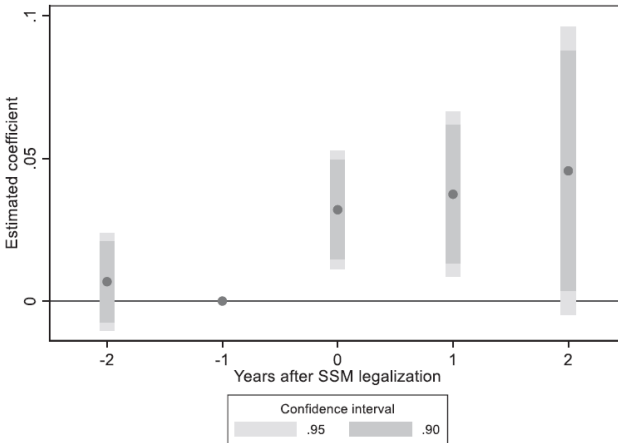
**Data** - American Community Survey (ACS):

- Annual large-scale survey covering detailed information on household composition, employment, income.

**Empirical Strategy** - Difference-in-Differences (DiD) design:

- Compare same-sex couples' employment outcomes in states before and after marriage legalization.
- States that did not legalize marriage serve as controls.
- Controls for individual demographics and state-specific economic trends.

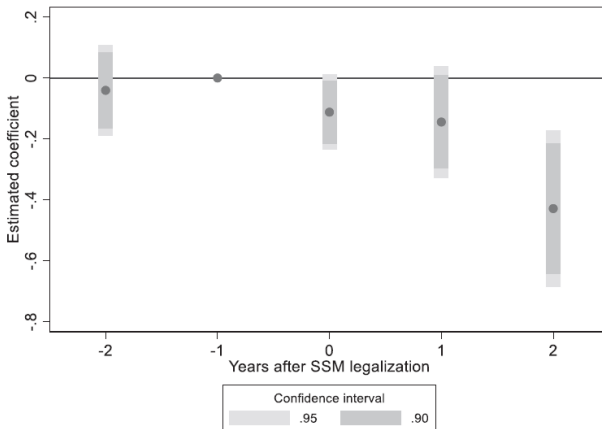
# Same-Sex Marriage, Employment (Sansone, 2019)



**Fig. 1.** Effect of SSM legalization on probability both partners working. Event study. This figure analyzes whether individuals in same-sex couples were more likely to be both employed after SSM legalization.



# Same-Sex Marriage, Employment (Sansone, 2019)



**Fig. 3.** Effect of SSM legalization on Google homophobic searches. Event study. This figure analyzes whether state-specific search intensities on Google for the words *Leviticus*, *Sodomy*, and *Faggot* changed after SSM legalization.

## Same-Sex Marriage, Employment (Sansone, 2019)

## Results

- Legalization of same-sex marriage led to higher employment rates among individuals in same-sex couples
- Both individual and joint employment probabilities increased significantly.
- Reduced perceived and actual workplace discrimination following legalization.
- Same-sex couples shifted towards more stable, full-time employment after marriage equality laws.

## Conclusion

Marriage equality not only advanced legal rights but also improved economic integration and labor market outcomes.

## Economics of SOGI (Badgett et al., 2024)

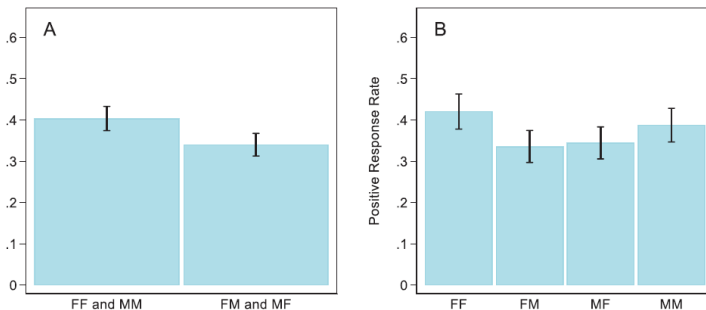
TABLE 1  
INTERVIEW INVITATION RATES IN FIELD EXPERIMENTS ON HIRING DISCRIMINATION

Authors	Year of data	N of applicants	Location	Signal	Callback rate LGBT	Callback rate non-LGBT	Occupations
<i>Transgender-related studies</i>							
Make the Road (2010)	2008	48	New York City	One in each pair of testers was transgender	8.3%*	50.0%	High-end retail
Winter et al. (2018)	2016–17	6,000	Malaysia, Singapore, Thailand, Vietnam	Transgender applicants indicated gender identity differed from sex assigned at birth; distinguished legal name from “use name” or preferred name.	11.1%*	16.9%	Occupations reflecting broad range of educational credentials
Granberg et al. (2020)	2019	2,224	Sweden	Name change in cover letter	34.0%*	40.3%	12 low-skill jobs, mix male and female jobs

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# Hiring Discrimination (Granberg et al., 2020)

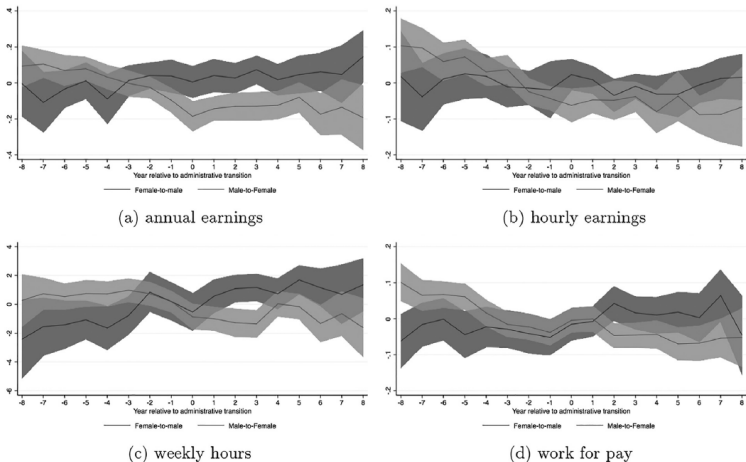


**Figure 1.** Mean Positive Employer Response Rates for Different Applicants. Note.—These figures show the mean positive employer response rates for applicants with different types of name changes in our sample. The black lines indicate 95 percent confidence intervals. The types of name changes are: Female to Female (FF), Female to Male (FM), Male to Female (MF), and Male to Male (MM). Graph A aggregates FM with MF into a transgender category and FF with MM into a cisgender category.





# Earnings (Geijtenbeek and Plug, 2018)



**Fig. 2.** Labor market outcomes of MTF and FTM workers in pre-transition, in-transition, and post-transition years.

*Notes:* The graphs contain the labor market outcomes of FTMs and MTFs by year relative to administrative change, after controlling for year of observation and individual fixed effects. The actual transition occurs three years (year = -3) before the administrative gender change (year=0). The shaded areas represent 95% confidence intervals.

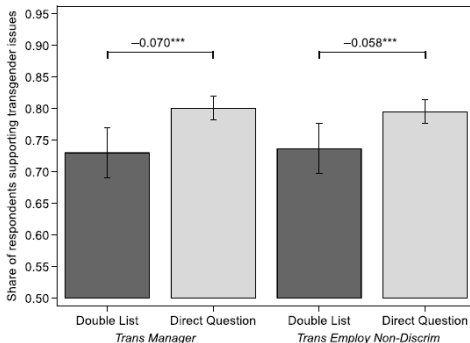




## Labor Market Views (Aksoy et al., 2025)

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**Figure 1.** List Experiments on Attitudes Toward Transgender People



*Source.* 2022 Prolific List Experiment.

*Notes.* The 95% confidence intervals reported with vertical range plots. The numbers above the horizontal bars are the differences between the two groups at the base of each horizontal bar. Trans Manager key statement: “I would be comfortable having a transgender manager at work.” Trans Employ Non-Discrim key statement: “I think the law should prohibit employment discrimination against transgender individuals.” Number of observations: 1,806. See also Figure B.3 and Table B.3 in the Online Appendix. \* $p < 0.10$ ; \*\* $p < 0.05$ ; \*\*\* $p < 0.01$ .

Group	Transgender	LGB	Difference
Manager	~0.80	~0.90	-0.096***
Employ Non-Discrim	~0.80	~0.85	-0.054***

Notes. The 95% confidence intervals are reported with horizontal range plots. The numbers above the horizontal bars are the differences between the two groups at the base of each horizontal bar. Questions used in this table are the following for "Manager": "Would you be comfortable having a [transgender]/[openly lesbian, gay, or bisexual] manager at work?" For "Employ Non-Discrim": "Do you think the law should prohibit employment discrimination against [transgender]/[lesbian, gay, or bisexual] individuals?" Number of observations: 1,806. \* $p < 0.10$ ; \*\* $p < 0.05$ ; \*\*\* $p < 0.01$ .

## Labor Market Views (Aksoy et al., 2025)

## Results

- Direct survey responses overstate support for transgender workers by 8–10%.
- Even after correction, about two-thirds of respondents support nondiscrimination protections.
- Support for transgender rights lags slightly behind support for LGB individuals.
- Respondents systematically underestimate public support for transgender employment rights.

## Conclusion

Accurate measures of labor market attitudes reveal stronger public support than perceived, but social desirability bias remains significant.

















## Discrimination (Bertrand and Mullainathan, 2004)

## Results

- Both African-American men and women face ~50% fewer callbacks than Whites
- Higher resume quality improves outcomes for White women, not for African-American women
- Discrimination operates similarly across genders.

## Conclusion

Racial bias persists strongly; credential improvements do not close the gap for minority women.

### *Do race and gender influence access to peer-to-peer loans?*

- Data from Prosper.com with borrower photos.

- Use borrower photos to infer race and gender
- Estimate likelihood of loan funding conditional on applicant characteristics.

## Discrimination in Lending (Pope and Sydnor, 2011)

## Gender-Specific Results

- Black women have the lowest loan approval rates.
- Intersectionality: race and gender jointly influence discrimination severity.

## Conclusion

Black women face compounded discrimination in credit access, illustrating the complexity of market bias.







## Discrimination Against Muslims (Adida et al., 2010)

**Research Question:** *Does Muslim identity itself (independent of ethnicity) reduce labor market opportunities in France?*

## Data

- Correspondence study (field experiment) sending 300+ identical resumes to real job offers.
- Candidates differ only in implied religious identity: Muslim vs. Christian first names and volunteer activities.
- Target group: Second-generation Senegalese immigrants (same ethnicity, different religion).

## Empirical Strategy

- Random assignment of religious signals (first names and voluntary work).
- Compare callback rates between Muslim and Christian applicants.

# Discrimination Against Muslims (Adida et al., 2010)

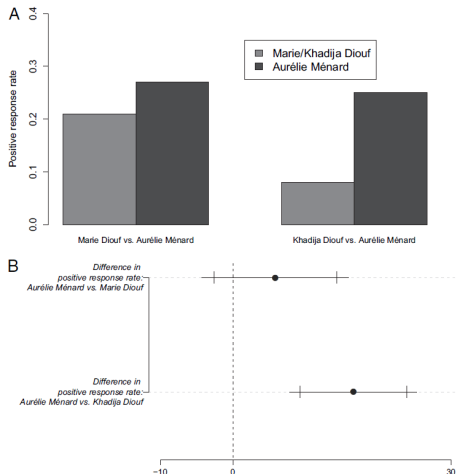


Fig. 2. (A) Substantive effect of Khadija Diouf vs. Marie Diouf. (B) Statistical significance of the Khadija Diouf effect. This figure is based on results in [Table S3](#) from [Dataset S1](#). In B, the dot represents the difference in response rates, the horizontal line marks the 95% confidence level, and the two vertical lines mark the 90% confidence level.

## Discrimination Against Muslims (Adida et al., 2010)

## Results: Focus on Women

- Muslim women (e.g., Khadija Diouf) received 2.5 times fewer callbacks than Christian women (e.g., Marie Diouf).
- Discrimination remains even after holding education, experience, and ethnicity constant.
- Signals of religious involvement (e.g., volunteering at Muslim associations) further increase discrimination.

## Conclusion

Religious identity alone leads to significant labor market discrimination, especially for Muslim women, independent of ethnic origin.





# "One Muslim is Enough" (Adida et al., 2014)



First name	Version 1	Sylvie	Georges	Khadija	Jean-Marc	Farida	Michel
	Version 2	Sylvie	Mohammed	Joséphine	Jean-Marc	Christine	Aboubacar
Ethnicity / Religion	Version 1	FFF	FFF	SM	FFF	Muslim North African	SX
	Version 2	FFF	Muslim North African	SX	FFF	FFF	SM

"One Muslim is Enough" (Adida et al., 2014)

## Gender-Specific Results

- Discrimination rises sharply with Muslim group salience
- Gender-specific analysis not primary, but Muslim men appear more penalized.

## Conclusion

Group salience increases discrimination, particularly affecting Muslim men in economic interactions.







## Financial Distress (Deshpande et al., 2021)

## Financial Distress (Deshpande et al., 2021)

### Results:

- Disability allowance reduces bankruptcy (20%), foreclosure (33%), and home sale (15%).
- Effect applies broadly, but women more likely to experience financial distress pre-allowance and benefit from stability post-allowance.
- Disability programs function as insurance against severe financial volatility, especially for vulnerable households.

## Conclusion

Disability benefits protect against extreme financial shocks, with important implications for gender-equity and household security.



## Job Displacement, Divorce & Disability (Charles and Stephens Jr, 2004)

## Results: Gender and Household Dynamics

- Divorce hazard rises significantly after job displacement—but not after a spousal disability.
- Layoffs (interpreted as signaling low partner quality) have stronger effects than plant closings (pure income shock).
- Both husbands' and wives' job loss increase divorce risk—no strong gender asymmetry found in results.

## Conclusion

Informational content of job loss—rather than income loss per se—may drive household dissolution. Gender-neutral implications for policy and modeling.

## Beyond the Binary: Gender as a Spectrum

- Most economic datasets treat gender as binary (male/female).
- Non-binary, transgender, and gender non-conforming individuals are often excluded or misclassified
- This exclusion leads to incomplete understanding of economic disparities
- Emerging research stresses the need for inclusive survey designs and gender identity measures.





## Final Essay Instructions - Deadline 16th May

- You will write a structured analytical essay based on a research question chosen from a list provided by email

## Core Requirements

- **Problematize the issue**, showing complexity and multiple perspectives.
- Use and cite **economics papers from at least two different sessions of the course**.
- Include **statistics or data** (e.g., from course papers, official databases, or simple data visualizations). Own creation of graphs are encouraged but not mandatory.
- You may draw on media, public debate, or policy documents

## Essay Structure

- Introduction: present the issue and its relevance
- Affirmative: present arguments or evidence supporting one side
- Negative: present counterarguments or limitations
- Third Section: your own position and justification
- Conclusion: summarize key insights and implications

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