

Elisa M. Olivieri

olivieri@uchicago.edu

<https://sites.google.com/site/elisaolivieri>

Department of Economics • University of Chicago • 1126 East 59th Street • Chicago, IL 60637

Education:

University of Chicago

Ph.D. Candidate in Economics, expected completion June 2015

M.A. in Economics, June 2011

The London School of Economics and Political Science

MSc in Economics, July 2009

Harvard University

A.B. in Economics, June 2008

Thesis Committee:

Kerwin Charles (Chair)

University of Chicago Harris School of
Public Policy

773-834-8922, kcharles@uchicago.edu

Erik Hurst

University of Chicago Booth School of
Business

773-834-4703, erik.hurst@chicagobooth.edu

Edward Lazear

Stanford University

650-723-9136, lazear@stanford.edu

Ali Hortacsu

University of Chicago

773-702-5841 hortacsu@uchicago.edu

Job Market Paper: “Occupational Choice and the College Gender Gap”

American women overtook men in college graduation in the early 1980s, and now comprise 57% of new college graduates. I examine the reversal of the college gender gap through a lens of occupational choice, noting that as more women entered the labor force, women advanced into historically male college occupations (e.g. doctor, lawyer), while men did not make symmetric advances into historically female college jobs (e.g. nurse, teacher). Men's persistent aversion to entering female college jobs may have contributed to women's overall advantage in training for and entering college work. To understand this phenomenon, I propose a discrete choice model of occupational choice, fashioned after Berry, Levinsohn & Pakes (1995). I use the model to estimate the evolution of men and women's occupational preferences from 1960-2010. The model takes into consideration sex differences in wages, taste/aptitude for occupational tasks and educational requirements, and occupation-specific utility. The latter summarizes the utility that agents derive from unobserved occupational characteristics, and may include concerns about gender identity. I use the model to construct counterfactual occupational distributions and college graduation rates. I find that full convergence in men and women's wages would exacerbate, not undo, women's college advantage. Further, sex differences in taste/aptitude for jobs' manual and abstract task content cannot fully account for the reversal of the gender gap. In contrast, if occupation-specific utilities were the same for men and women, women's college advantage would disappear. The estimates also suggest that economic changes favoring historically female occupations may have exacerbated women's college advantage.

Research and Work Experience:

- 2009 **Centre for Economic Performance**
Research assistant to Professor Radha Iyengar
- 2008 **Manpower, Inc.**
Research intern to head of Global Workforce Strategy group
- 2005-2007 **National Bureau of Economic Research**
Research assistant to Professor Caroline Hoxby
- 2007 **Friedman, Billings, Ramsey Capital Markets**
Summer analyst, investment banking
- 2005 **University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee Center for Economic Development**
Research assistant

Teaching Experience:

- 2011- 2013 Teaching assistant to Professors Robert Fogel and Hoyt Bleakley,
University of Chicago Booth School of Business: The Economics and
Demographics of Marketing, Population and the Economy, Business
Ethics
- 2012 Teaching assistant to Professor Canice Prendergast, University of Chicago
Booth School of Business: Managing the Workplace

Fellowships:

- Social Science Fellowship, University of Chicago, 2009-14
Social Sciences Summer Grant, University of Chicago, 2014
Theodore W. and Esther Schultz Economics Fellowship, University of Chicago, 2014-15