

Léa Dousset

(+33) 6 32 18 64 76

lea.dousset@psemail.eu

DOCTORAL STUDIES

Paris School of Economics - Université Paris 1 Panthéon-Sorbonne

2020 - Now

PhD in Economics

Advisor: Prof. Julien Grenet

Fields: Applied Microeconomics, Labor Economics, Economics of Education, Gender Economics

Columbia University

Fall 2023

Visiting Prof. Sandra E. Black

AFFILIATIONS

Institut des Politiques Publiques

October 2023 -

Chaire Politiques Educatives et Mobilité Sociale

September 2023 -

REFERENCES

Sandra E. Black

Professor of Economics

Columbia University

sblack@columbia.edu

Julien Grenet

Professor of Economics

Paris School of Economics

julien.grenet@psemail.eu

Marc Gurgand

Professor of Economics

Paris School of Economics

marc.gurgand@psemail.eu

PRIOR EDUCATION

Paris School of Economics

2017 - 2019

Master Analysis and Policy in Economics

University of California, Berkeley

2016 - 2017

Undergraduate exchange program with the Sciences Po-Berkeley Economics Award

Sciences Po Paris

2014 - 2017

Bachelor in Social Sciences with a Major in Economics

Université Paris 1 Panthéon-Sorbonne

2014 - 2017

Bachelor in Applied Mathematics

WORKING PAPERS

The End of a Gender Quota in Elite Higher Education (with Georgia Thebault)

Job Market Paper

Abstract: We show that a gender quota system in competitive higher education institutions could be an efficient solution to address the issue of women under-representation in math-intensive fields and elite environments. We use original hand-collected historical data from the entrance exam for one of the most competitive graduate schools in France to evaluate the effect of a change in

admission policy that removed a hard gender-based quota system. We document that the end of the quota led to a sharp decline in the percentage of admitted female candidates, but only in math-intensive fields. We then focus on the mathematics entrance exam to delve into the mechanisms. We show that roughly half of this fall can be mechanically explained by a gender performance gap. However, we also uncover an endogenous response by female candidates: there are fewer female candidates at the entrance exam once it became mixed-gender, and this *turning-away* mechanism is mostly driven by potentially high-achieving female candidates. This detrimental endogenous response of women in a real-life context is important. As this elite institution leads to high-level academic careers in France, we show that the removal of the gender quota increased the gender gap in academic careers for affected students.

Gender Gap in High-Stakes Exams: What Role for Exam Preparation? (with Cécile Bonneau)

Abstract: Admission to elite higher education institutions often relies on competitive entrance examinations, which are presumed to measure students' abilities objectively. However, emerging evidence suggests a gender gap in those examinations, with women frequently underperforming in high-stakes and competitive environments. This paper corroborates these findings within a highly selected group of elite STEM program undergraduates in France. We extend our investigation beyond the effect of the high-stakes exam itself to consider the role of the learning environment for such high-stake exams on this gender performance gap. Our analysis reveals that heightened competitiveness in exam preparation exacerbates the gender performance gap by 15 to 25 percent, varying by specification. We also delve into a potential mechanism behind this widening gender disparity: the differential responsiveness to high-ability peers. These insights enhance our understanding of the gender gap in access to selective STEM higher education, which is particularly important in explaining the persistent gender pay gap at the top of the income distribution.

WORK IN PROGRESS

(Mis)information: Absolute and Relative Rank Effects in Secondary Education

The Impact of Juvenile Incarceration on Education and Labor Market Outcomes in France (with Manon Garrouste, Nina Guyon, Camille Hémet, Laura Khoury, Maëlle Stricot)

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Teaching Assistant at Sciences Po Paris Economics (L1), Guillaume Plantin (in French)	<i>Spring 2024</i>
Teaching Assistant at the Paris School of Economics Measurement of Policy Outcomes (M1), Denis Cogneau & Julien Grenet (in English)	<i>Fall 2021</i>
Instructor at Paris School of Economics Introduction to R (M1) (in English)	<i>Fall 2021</i>
Teaching Assistant at the Paris 1 Panthéon-Sorbonne University Microeconomics (L2), Claire Pignol & Jean-Philippe Tropicano (in French)	<i>Spring 2021</i>
Teaching Assistant at Sciences Po Paris Political Economics (L3), Sergei Guriev (in English)	<i>Fall 2020</i>

SELECTED WORK EXPERIENCE

Research Professional at the University of Chicago for Rebecca Dizon-Ross and Manasi Desphande	<i>2019 - 2020</i>
Intern at the <i>Institut des Politiques Publiques</i>	<i>Spring 2019</i>
Research Assistant for Yann Algan	<i>Spring, Summer and Fall 2018</i>
Writer co-wrote 2 chapters for the high school economics textbook CORE in French	<i>Summer 2018</i>
Research Assistant for G. Azmat, A. Boring, S. Cetre and R. Galbiati	<i>Summer 2018</i>
Research Assistant for Gabriel Zucman	<i>Spring 2017</i>
Intern at the French Treasury at the trade and investment unit	<i>Summer 2016</i>

OTHER ACTIVITIES

Refereeing Économie et Statistique / Economics and Statistics	
Consultant for Sciences Po Paris for the opening of a new policy stream in <i>Education and Research</i> in the School of Public Affairs.	<i>2020 - 2022</i>
Volunteering for a NGO against school bullying Marion la Main Tendue	<i>June 2020 - December 2021</i>
Seminar Organization Co-organization of the Internal Seminar for PSE PhD students	<i>Fall 2020, Spring 2021, Fall 2021</i>
Students' Representative for the Master Analysis and Policy in Economics	<i>2017 - 2019</i>

PRESENTATIONS

2024

PSE Internal Labor and Public Economics (April 11th), Cesifo/ifo Junior Workshop in Economics of Education (April 16th), Doctorissimes (April 26th), AFEPOP Annual Conference (May 3rd), AFSE Annual Conference (June 18th), *Women and Science Chair* seminar Dauphine University (June 25th), EALE Annual Conference (September 5th), PSE Internal Labor and Public Economics (scheduled November 28th)

2023

8th LEER Conference (March 30th), PSE Internal Labor and Public Economics (April 20th), 39th JMA in Strasbourg (June 9th), 22nd LAGV in Marseille (June 29th), Columbia University Sustainable Development Colloquium (October 20th), Columbia University Labor and Public Finance Colloquium (November 15th)

2021

PSE PhD internal seminar (March 18th)

FUNDINGS

Call for research projects <i>Women and Science Chair</i>	<i>December 2023</i>
Extend our research project on the merger of the <i>ENS d'Ulm</i> and <i>Sèvres</i> (with Georgia Thebault and Julien Grenet)	
Call for research projects of the <i>Défenseur des droits, IERDJ, and DPJJ</i>	<i>Oct 2023</i>
Evaluate the impact of juvenile incarceration on education and labor market outcomes in France (with Manon Garrouste, Nina Guyon, Camille Hémet, Laura Khoury, Maëlle Stricot)	
Funding from the <i>Paris School of Economics</i>	<i>July 2023</i>
Doctoral Mobility Grant to visit Columbia University in Fall 2023	
Funding from the <i>Chaire Politiques Educatives et Mobilité Sociale</i>	<i>June 2023</i>
Funding for a 4th-year of PhD	
Funding from the <i>Alliance - Columbia University</i>	<i>April 2023</i>
Doctoral Mobility Grant to visit Columbia University in Fall 2023	
Funding from the <i>Ile-de-France Region</i>	<i>April 2023</i>
Doctoral Mobility Grant to visit Columbia University in Fall 2023	
Funding from the <i>Chaire Politiques Educatives et Mobilité Sociale</i>	<i>February 2023</i>
Funding for data collection (with Cécile Bonneau)	
Funding from the <i>Chaire Politiques Educatives et Mobilité Sociale</i>	<i>February 2023</i>
Funding for data collection (with Georgia Thebault)	
Funding from the <i>Chaire Politiques Educatives et Mobilité Sociale</i>	<i>March 2022</i>
Funding for data collection (with Cécile Bonneau)	
Funding from the <i>Chaire Politiques Educatives et Mobilité Sociale</i>	<i>March 2022</i>
Funding for a research assistant (with Georgia Thebault)	
Funding from the CEPREMAP	<i>February 2022</i>
Funding for a research assistant (with Cécile Bonneau)	
Funding from the CEPREMAP	<i>February 2022</i>
Funding for archive data collection (with Georgia Thebault)	
Funding from the <i>Chaire Politiques Educatives et Mobilité Sociale</i>	<i>March 2021</i>
Funding for conducting a survey (with Cécile Bonneau)	
ED 645 Doctoral Funding	<i>July 2020</i>
Three-year PhD funding	

AWARDS

Sciences Po-Berkeley Economic Award	<i>December 2015</i>
Scholarship for a year at the University of California, Berkeley (2016-2017)	

SKILLS

Computer	Latex, R, Stata
Languages	French (mother tongue), English (fluent), German (basics)

last update: September 2024