

Research Module: Economic Growth and Gender Dynamics in Historical Perspective

JProf. Hanna M. Schwank, PhD

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Contact

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1 General Information

Time: Monday, 2.15 pm to 3.45 pm, Tuesday, 12.15 pm to 1.45 pm

Location: Seminar Room 0.042, Juridicum

Office Hours: Sign up via <https://calendly.com/hschwank>

eCampus: https://ecampus.uni-bonn.de/ilias.php?baseClass=ilrepositorygui&ref_id=3888982

The research module has in-class lectures that are alternating with self-study, group meetings, and meetings with the advisor. This is the tentative schedule:

Week	Day	Date	Type of Class/Meeting	Notes
1	Mon	13.10.2024	Lecture: Introduction & Admin	
1	Tue	14.10.2024	Lecture: Geography	
2	Mon	20.10.2024	Lecture: Institutions	Submission RP Geography
2	Tue	21.10.2024	Lecture: Institutions	
3	Mon	27.10.2024	Lecture: Culture	Submission RP Institutions
3	Tue	28.10.2024	Self Study: Research Proposals	
4	Mon	03.11.2024	Lecture: Culture	
4	Tue	04.11.2024	Lecture: Gender	
5	Mon	10.11.2024	Self Study: Research Proposals	Submission RP Culture
5	Tue	11.11.2024	Self Study: Research Proposals	
6	Mon	17.11.2024	Lecture: Gender	
6	Tue	18.11.2024	Lecture: Scientific Presentations	
7	Mon	24.11.2024	Lecture: Writing Tips for Research Papers Discussions	Submission RP Gender
7	Tue	25.11.2024	Topics Marketplace	Submission of Preferences
8	Mon	01.12.2024	Meetings: Group Meetings on Flexible Schedule	
8	Tue	02.12.2024	Meetings: Group Meetings on Flexible Schedule	
9	Mon	08.12.2024	Meetings: Group Meetings with Advisor	
9	Tue	09.12.2024	Meetings: Group Meetings with Advisor	
10	Mon	15.12.2024	Meetings: Group Meetings with Advisor	Submission of Proposal Slides
10	Tue	16.12.2024	Meetings: Group Meetings with Advisor	
11	Mon	22.12.2024	Meetings: Group Meetings on Flexible Schedule	
11	Tue	23.12.2024	Meetings: Group Meetings on Flexible Schedule	
12	Mon	12.01.2025	Meetings: Group Meetings with Advisor	
12	Tue	13.01.2025	Meetings: Group Meetings with Advisor	
13	Mon	19.01.2025	Meetings: Group Meetings with Advisor	Submission of extended proposals by 11.59 pm
13	Tue	20.01.2025	Meetings: Group Meetings on Flexible Schedule	Allocation of discussion papers
14	Mon	26.01.2025	Student Presentations I	Submission of discussion slides by 9 am
14	Tue	27.01.2025	Student Presentations II	

March 2, 2026: Submission of Research Papers

2 Course Overview

This course examines the historical determinants of economic growth and the impact of economic development on gender differences. It integrates an analysis of the roots of economic growth with an exploration of how growth affects gender dynamics.

Intended Learning Outcomes: On completion of the course, students should...

- have deepened their knowledge of the deep determinants of long-run growth and historical gender dynamics
- be able to do a literature search, read and summarize scientific articles in Economics
- be capable of defining research topics, formulating specific research questions in Economics
- undertake a research project using empirical data in Stata or Python
- be able to document, present and defend in class the results of their research
- be able to discuss research papers

3 Prerequisites

The Examination Regulations for the Master program in Economics specify the following entry requirements for research modules:

- having passed the corresponding basic module
- having passed any two advanced modules except Topics Modules

I will assume a good working knowledge of intermediate level econometrics (strong recommendation: MA Basic Module “Econometrics”) and a basic understanding of economic theory.

4 Expectations and Requirements

According to examination rules:

All students participating in a research module have to

- **participate regularly:** Regular attendance is deemed to have taken place if the student was present for at least 60% of the attendance time
- **participate actively:** Active participation is deemed to exist if the student’s oral participation is deemed sufficient by the lecturer in the overall view, e.g. through participation in the group work, in class and during presentations
- **participate successfully:** Participation is successful if the student takes part in performance assessments that are deemed sufficient overall by the lecturer

in the research module to be able to take the research module examination.

5 Assessment and Grading

Most of your work is in groups. Each group has to make the following contributions: *with individual grades per student*

- Original research paper of 10-12 pages (excl. tables, figures) 55%
- You have to identify which parts were written by which group member

- 20 - 30 min presentation of the research paper **25%**

- Content *and* delivery matter

Each student separately makes the following contribution:

- Submission of four research ideas and 5 min presentation of one research proposal in the topics marketplace **10%**
- Discussion of a research paper of another group **10%**
 - *Every student* prepares slides
 - One student per topics gets randomly chosen to do 5 - 8 min presentation
 - Those who didn't present submit a 2 pages report

6 Readings and Class Preparation

There are no required readings for our lecture. However, please take a look at the papers that are related to the project topics that I suggested in the first class. In addition, here is a list of (some) of the articles that I will talk about in classes 1 - 8, and a few related works:

References

- Daron Acemoglu, Simon Johnson, and James A Robinson. The colonial origins of comparative development: An empirical investigation. *American economic review*, 91(5):1369–1401, 2001.
- David Y Albouy. The colonial origins of comparative development: an empirical investigation: comment. *American economic review*, 102(6):3059–3076, 2012.
- Alberto Alesina, Paola Giuliano, and Nathan Nunn. On the origins of gender roles: Women and the plough. *The quarterly journal of economics*, 128(2):469–530, 2013.
- Samuel Bazzi, Martin Fiszbein, and Mesay Gebresilashe. Frontier culture: The roots and persistence of “rugged individualism” in the united states. *Econometrica*, 88(6):2329–2368, 2020.
- Sascha O Becker and Ludger Woessmann. Was weber wrong? a human capital theory of protestant economic history. *The quarterly journal of economics*, 124(2):531–596, 2009.

- Sascha O Becker, Erik Hornung, and Ludger Woessmann. Education and catch-up in the industrial revolution. *American Economic Journal: Macroeconomics*, 3(3):92–126, 2011.
- Francine D Blau. Comment on “the female labor force and long-run development: The american experience in comparative perspective”. In *Human Capital in History: The American Record*, pages 198–203. University of Chicago Press, 2014.
- Hoyt Bleakley and Jeffrey Lin. Portage and path dependence. *The quarterly journal of economics*, 127(2):587–644, 2012.
- Davide Cantoni, Cathrin Mohr, and Matthias Weigand. The rise of fiscal capacity: Administration and state consolidation in the holy roman empire. *Econometrica*, 92(5):1439–1472, 2024.
- Melissa Dell. The persistent effects of peru’s mining mita. *Econometrica*, 78(6):1863–1903, 2010.
- Melissa Dell and Benjamin A Olken. The development effects of the extractive colonial economy: The dutch cultivation system in java. *The Review of Economic Studies*, 87(1):164–203, 2020.
- Melissa Dell, Benjamin F Jones, and Benjamin A Olken. Temperature shocks and economic growth: Evidence from the last half century. *American Economic Journal: Macroeconomics*, 4(3):66–95, 2012.
- John Luke Gallup and Jeffrey D Sachs. The economic burden of malaria. 2000.
- Paola Giuliano and Nathan Nunn. Understanding cultural persistence and change. *The Review of Economic Studies*, 88(4):1541–1581, 2021.
- Claudia Goldin. The u-shaped female labor force function in economic development and economic history, 1994.
- Nathan Nunn. The long-term effects of africa’s slave trades. *The Quarterly Journal of Economics*, 123(1):139–176, 2008.
- Nathan Nunn and Nancy Qian. The potato’s contribution to population and urbanization: evidence from a historical experiment. *The quarterly journal of economics*, 126(2):593–650, 2011.
- Nathan Nunn and Leonard Wantchekon. The slave trade and the origins of mistrust in africa. *American Economic Review*, 101(7):3221–3252, 2011.
- Claudia Olivetti. The female labor force and long-run development: the american experience in comparative perspective. Technical report, National Bureau of Economic Research, 2013.

Guido Tabellini. Culture and institutions: economic development in the regions of europe. *Journal of the European Economic association*, 8(4):677–716, 2010.

Edoardo Teso. The long-term effect of demographic shocks on the evolution of gender roles: Evidence from the transatlantic slave trade. *Journal of the European Economic Association*, 17(2): 497–534, 2019.