

Labor, Gender, Society
Prof. Helmut Rainer, Ph.D.
LS (Seminar)
Wintersemester/winter semester 25/26

The increasing similarity between men's and women's roles in the labor market is one of the most significant changes in recent economic history. Differences in workforce participation, paid work hours, housework, job types, college majors, and educational attainment have shrunk—and sometimes, women have pulled ahead. At the same time, gender disparities persist today and continue to draw the attention of economists and policymakers.

This seminar explores key issues at the intersection of economics, gender, and policy, with a focus on labor market outcomes. We will discuss themes such as motherhood and marriage penalties, intra-household bargaining, gender quotas, and the consequences of gender norms. The course highlights how both economic forces and broader institutional determinants shape gender inequality.

The objective of the seminar is to examine how researchers have attempted to explore key contemporary topics related to gender inequality, addressing fundamental empirical issues. Starting from seminal papers with landmark methodologies, the goal is to provide students with the empirical tools needed to study gender gaps rigorously.

By the end of the course, students will learn to navigate this strand of the economic literature, identify influential papers, and make connections across different lines of research. They will strengthen their ability to read empirical papers critically, assess research designs, and begin to formulate their research questions.

Studiengang: <i>Program:</i>	BSc
Termin Vorbesprechung (tt.mm.jjjj): <i>Date of preliminary meeting</i> <i>(dd.mm.yyyy):</i>	13.10.2025
*Bearbeitungszeitraum für die Hausarbeit: <i>*Working period for term paper:</i>	03.11 - 01.12.2025
*Seminartermin: <i>*Seminar date:</i>	08.12.2025
Veranstaltungsort: <i>Venue:</i>	ifo Institut, Poschingerstraße 5, 81679 München
falls außerhalb: Kostenschätzung: <i>if out of Munich: estimated costs:</i>	€
Sprache: <i>Language:</i>	English
Empfohlene Vorkenntnisse: <i>Recommended courses:</i>	Empirische Ökonomie, Mikroökonomie
Methodischer Schwerpunkt: <i>Methodological background:</i>	Applied microeconomics

*Grundlagenliteratur: <i>*Basic references:</i>	Olivetti, Claudia, Jessica Pan, and Barbara Petrongolo. 2024. "Chapter 8 - The Evolution of Gender in the Labor Market." In Handbook of Labor Economics, edited by Christian Dustmann and Thomas Lemieux, 5:619–77. Elsevier. https://doi.org/10.1016/bs.heslab.2024.11.010 . Goldin, Claudia, and Cecilia Rouse. 2000. "Orchestrating Impartiality: The Impact of 'Blind' Auditions on Female Musicians." The American Economic Review 90 (4): 715–41.
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* Optional (falls schon bekannt) / optionally (if already known)