



## Syllabus

# Gender, Institutions, and Development (Masterseminar)

M.WIWI-VWL.0025

Winter semester 2023/24

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Room: Blauer Turm, MZG 8.151

Office hours: By appointment

**Introductory meeting:** Oct 13, 2023 – 12-14:00 (Zoom)

**Mid-term meeting:** Nov 10, 2023 – 10-18:00 (Zoom)

**Term paper deadline:** Dec 1, 2023 – midnight

**Seminar:** Dec 08/09, 2023 – 10-18:00 (to be announced)

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### Course Description

This course will be concerned about gender issues in developing countries and will have a particular focus on relevant institutions, including social and gender norms. We will discuss topics on the interlinkages between gender, education, social norms, and labor market issues, as well as monetary and non-monetary development outcomes. Topics of this seminar will be concerned with questions such as: What do we mean by *female empowerment* and *gender inequality* and how do we measure this? What are the determinants of unequal labor force participation, choice of occupation, and wage for women compared to men? Why do parents invest less in girls' schooling compared to boys'? How are education, income, and domestic violence interlinked? Are women underrepresented in politics; and how does the political involvement of women affect the well-being of other women and even the course of conflicts? How do strategies look like to boost female empowerment and agency?

### Eligible Participants

The seminar is open to MA students in development economics, international economics as well as MA programs in business economics or the MA in Modern Indian Studies.

### Course Requirements

To acquire **6 credit points** students will have to write a **research paper**, prepare a **presentation**, participate in the discussions and briefly **discuss two papers and an outline of another student**.

## Seminar Paper

For the seminar paper, you should define a self-selected research question that is within the topic chosen/assigned to you. In the description of each topic you can find inspiration for potential research questions. When choosing the research question, consider whether enough literature is available to thoroughly discuss and answer the question.

The seminar papers must be *well structured*, written in *active voice*, *concise (as clear as possible, short sentences, avoid unnecessary repetition)*, written in *English*, comprising of *10-12 pages* (12pt, 1 ½ spaced, excluding bibliography and exhibits). Despite its shortness, the information density of your paper should be very high. You should aim to cite a minimum of *30-50* scientific references in total. The papers should be analytical and critical, develop a coherent argument, drawing own conclusions and should go beyond the pure summary of existing literature. In addition students should compose a short *abstract of about 200-300 words* (key question and main results).

Writing well will be key for your grade in this course. Systematically learning how to do so, will help you not only in this course but throughout your Master program. Therefore, I strongly encourage you to read (at least) chapter 1 – 8 of the following book:

Reid, Natalie (2010). *Getting published in international journals: writing strategies for European social scientists*. [Bereichsbibliothek Wirtschafts- und Sozialwissenschaften \(BBWISO\)](#). Signatur: 16 : A 1310 Rei

You can find guidelines on formatting your paper and other writing tips here: <https://www.uni-goettingen.de/de/document/download/a69e7da00d66d8eff849cfda49b2881e.pdf/Guidelines%20for%20writing%20theses.pdf>

## Presentations

The presentations should have a maximum length of **20 min** focusing on the central insights of the research papers. The speaker should use slides and should be able to answer short questions during the presentation. Please do not merely present text on your slides but illustrate your arguments with figures, graphs and tables wherever possible. Keep your audience in mind and prepare a well-structured, interesting and educational presentation, and do not in any case only read out your paper.

## Discussions

In addition, each student will be assigned to discuss two fellow student's papers. The discussions should follow the presentation of the respective student and briefly last roughly 5 minutes. The discussion should be a (respectful) critical reflection of the paper and presentation (content, structure, unclear points) and come up with two or three questions to start a discussion (please be prepared to voice your own opinion about these questions). Moreover, all students should briefly read through the papers of the other participants before the seminar to facilitate a good discussion after the presentations.

## Timeline

### *Preliminary meeting*

13.10.2023 (12-14:00)

**Meeting:** Introduction to topics and clarification on registration procedure

### *Interim Meeting*

08.11.2023 (midnight)

**Deadline:** Upload your proposed outline via Studip. Name your file "Outline\_Topic-Number.pdf"

10.11.2023 (10:00-18:00)

**Meeting:** Discussion of seminar paper outlines.  
(Students will discuss each others outline, and receive feedback from advisor)

### *Term Paper and seminar*

01.12.2023 (midnight)

**Deadline:** Send your seminar papers until **11:59pm** to [jzenker@uni-goettingen.de](mailto:jzenker@uni-goettingen.de). Please, also upload your paper to Studip. Name your file "Paper\_Topic- Number.pdf"

05.12.2023

**Deadline:** Upload the presentation slides to Studip. Name your file "Slides\_Topic-Number.pdf"

08/09.12.2023 (10:00-18:00)

**Meeting:** Seminar with presentations and discussions.

## Literature

Reading lists with articles that ought to be considered in the papers will be provided in this Zotero-Group (you may have to create a free account):

[https://www.zotero.org/groups/2598438/ugoe\\_econ\\_dev4\\_seminar?token=8394a92ef8805521ad65050ac92cc428](https://www.zotero.org/groups/2598438/ugoe_econ_dev4_seminar?token=8394a92ef8805521ad65050ac92cc428)

In addition, you are required to search for further literature to be included in your paper. Please note also that some readings come from reports from international agencies such as the World Bank or the OECD. These reports summarize a lot of literature. It is useful to carefully consider some of the individual studies that are cited in these reports for your analysis (and not just rely purely on the summary provided by the reports).

## Introductory reading

- Klasen, S. 2016. Gender, Institutions, and Economic Development: Findings and Open Research and Policy Issues. Courant Research Centre Discussion Papers No. 211.
- Jayachandran, S. 2015. "The Roots of Gender Inequality in Developing Countries." *Annual Reviews of Economics*, Vol. 7(1), pp. 63–88.
- Boserup, E.. 1970. Women's role in economic development, chapters 1-3.
- Alesina, A., Giuliano, P. and N. Nunn. 2013. "On the Origins of Gender Roles: Women and the Plough." *The Quarterly Journal of Economics* 128(2): 469-530.

## Topics

### **Part I: Measurement and definitions**

#### **1) Theory and measurement of social norms**

Possible research topic: *Distinguish social norms from other institutions; explain types of norms in detail using Cristina Bicchieri's framework; use the example of female labor force participation to illustrate the types and how they are measured; explain pluralistic ignorance.*

#### **2) The measurement of gender inequality in institutions**

Possible research topic: *It is impossible to measure gender inequality in institutions reliably.* Discuss.

#### **3) The measurement of female economic empowerment**

Possible research topic: *Female economic empowerment is much more than employment opportunities.* Discuss.

### **Part II: Roots of gender inequality**

#### **4) Historical drivers of gender gaps and norms in different regions**

Possible research topic: *Climatic and agricultural conditions are largely responsible for regional distribution of gender gaps today.* Discuss.

### **Part III: Mechanisms that reinforce gender-inequality**

#### **5) Gender socialization in childhood**

Possible research topic: *Traditional role models are reinforced in schools rather than at home.* Discuss.

#### **6) Investment in girls' education**

Possible research topic: *Investing in girls' education makes sense at the aggregate level, yet traditional role models and private incentives often lead to larger support for boys than girls.* Discuss.

#### **7) Economic development and globalization**

Possible research topics: *Women's labor force participation is largely driven by the facets of economic development.* Discuss.

#### **8) Occupational and sectorial segregation**

Possible research topic: *Occupational and sectoral segregation is the main determinant of the gender wage gap.* Discuss.

#### **9) Child penalty**

Possible research topic: *Having children reinforces gender norms.* Discuss.

### **Part IV: Consequences of gender inequality**

#### **10) Gender-based violence**

Possible research topic: *The role of female employment, education and incomes is more pronounced in gender-based violence than institutional factors.* Discuss.

**11) Political representation of women, development outcomes, and conflict**

Possible research topic: *It needs women to represent women.* Or: *Women reduce conflict.* Discuss.

**12) Economic growth and development**

Possible research topic: *Gender gaps in employment and education reduce economic growth.* Discuss.

**Part V: Policies to reduce gender inequality**

**13) Cash transfers**

Possible research topic: *Cash transfers are more effective to empower women and children when handed to women compared to men.* Discuss.

**14) Barriers to economic success**

Possible research topic: *If women had the same access to capital and education as men, female and male businesses would be equally successful.* Discuss.

**15) Changing restrictive norms?**

Possible research topic: *Changing gender norms is impossible.* Discuss.