

COURSE SYLLABUS

17P032

Population Economics

3 ECTS

TERM 3

ELECTIVE

Professor

Prof. Alícia Adserà

Prerequisites to enroll

None

Overview and objectives

This course is designed to provide a broad overview of the field of population economics. We will only be able to “sample” a few topics and get acquainted with the types of methods employed in the area.

We will start the class with an introduction to history of population and measurement and review the theory and empirical evidence of the First Demographic transition. We will next focus on the main theories of fertility behavior from less developed to more developed contexts (in which fertility is below replacement level of 2.1). We will go over the main implications of the microeconomic model of fertility of Becker, analyze the impact of changes in family planning and in economic conditions on fertility, how fertility preferences are shaped, and whether policies have been successful in rising fertility.

Next, we will look at the transformation of marriage from child brides in some contexts to very late marriage or a rise in long-term cohabitation in others. We will study how changes in fertility, mortality and partnership formation shape the demographic pyramid and what implications this has on the sustainability of welfare policies. As migration has been put forward as a solution for dwindling populations in OECD countries, we will focus on the determinants of migration, revise the debate on the labor market impact of migrants as well as the evidence of migrant integration in many socio-economic outcomes. We will close the class with a general overview of gender issues starting with an analysis of female labor market outcomes, wage gaps, stereotype threats and ending the class with some studies of gender discrimination either via sex-selective abortion or via exclusion in the labor market.

Course outline

1. Overview of historical population trends
2. First Demographic Transition
3. Economic theories of fertility
 - a. Microeconomic models (Becker and others)
 - b. Economic conditions and fertility
 - c. Preferences
 - d. Policies
4. Marriage, divorce and cohabitation
5. Changes in demographic structure and their implications
 - a. Demographic dividends
 - b. Dependency ratios and welfare state
6. Migration
 - a. What determines migration flows? Measurement
 - b. Labor market impact of immigrants on destination countries
 - c. Immigrant integration
7. Gender
 - a. Changes in female labor force participation, child penalty

- b. Gender wage gaps
- c. Stereotypes and competition; STEM fields
- d. Missing women and other forms of discrimination

Evaluation and Required activities

For each topic there will be a list of main readings (and some additional background readings for those interested in furthering a particular topic and constitute some of the material I use to prepare my class). The course will combine lecture time and some discussion (particularly in the second half of the course, around papers read before class time).

The evaluation will consist of:

1. An open book take-home exam (85%),
3. Attendance and Class participation (15%).

Materials

This is a list of basic references. Additional references will be provided during the course:

- Adserà, A. (2005). "Vanishing Children: From high Unemployment to Low Fertility in Developed Countries," *American Economic Review* 95 (2): 198-193, May.
- Ambrus, A. and E. Field (2008), "Early Marriage, Age of Menarche, and Female Schooling Attainment in Bangladesh," *Journal of Political Economy* 116(5): 881-930
- Almond, D. and L. Edlund (2008), "Son Biased Sex Ratios in the U.S. 2000 Census," *Proceedings of the National Academy of Science* 105(15): 5681-5682.
- Siwan Anderson. 2007. The Economics of Dowry and Brideprice. *Journal of Economic Perspectives*, 21:151-174.
- Angrist, J., V. Lavy, and A. Schlosser. (2010). "Multiple Experiments for the Causal Link between the Quantity and Quality of Children," *Journal of Labor Economics* 28(4):773-823

- J. Currie, H. Schwandt, Short-and long-term effects of unemployment on fertility. *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences* 111, 14724-14739 (2014)
- Autor, David, David Dorn, and Gordon Hanson. 2019. "When Work Disappears: Manufacturing Decline and the Falling Marriage Market Value of Young Men." *American Economic Review: Insights*, 1 (2): 161-78
- Francine D. Blau & Lawrence M. Kahn, 2017. "The Gender Wage Gap: Extent, Trends, and Explanations," *Journal of Economic Literature*, vol 55(3), pages 789-865.
- David E. Bloom & David Canning & Günther Fink, 2010. "Implications of population ageing for economic growth," *Oxford Review of Economic Policy*, Oxford University Press, vol. 26(4), pages 583-612, Winter
- John Bongaarts. 2004. Population Aging and the Rising Cost of Public Pensions. *Population and Development Review*, 30:1-23.
- Michael A. Clemens. 2011. Economics and Emigration: Trillion-Dollar Bills on the Sidewalk? *Journal of Economic Perspectives*, 25(3): 83-106.
- Deaton, A. (2008) Height, healthy and inequality: The distribution of adult heights in India, *American Economic Review*, May; 98 (2): 468-474.
- Goldin C. A Grand Gender Convergence: Its Last Chapter. *American Economic Review*. 2014;104 (4) :1091-1119
- Goldin, C. and L. Katz (2002), "The Power of the Pill: Oral Contraceptives and Women's Career and Marriage Decisions," *Journal of Political Economy* 110(4): 730-770.
- Goldin, Claudia, and Cecilia Rouse, "Orchestrating Impartiality: the Impact of Blind Auditions on Female Musicians," *American Economic Review*, LXXX(2000), 715–742.
- Guinnane, T. W. (2011). "The Historical Fertility Transition: A Guide for Economists," *Journal of Economic Literature*, 49(3): 589-614
- Ronald Lee. 2003. The demographic transition: Three centuries of fundamental change. *Journal of Economic Perspectives*, 17:167-190
- Lee, R., and A. Mason (2010), "Some Macroeconomic Aspects of Global Population Aging," In a Special Supplement to *Demography*, 47 (Suppl.),
- Lundberg, S., R. A. Pollak and J. Stearns, (2016). "Family Inequality: Diverging Patterns in Marriage, Cohabitation, and Childbearing," *Journal of Economic Perspectives*, 30(2): 79-102.

- Kristin Mammen; Christina Paxson (2000) Women's Work and Economic Development The Journal of Economic Perspectives, Vol. 14, No. 4. (Autumn, 2000), pp. 141-164.
- Schaller, J. (2016) "Booms, Busts, and Fertility: Testing the Becker Model Using Gender-Specific Labor Demand," Journal of Human Resources, 51(1): 1-29
- Betsey Stevenson and Justin Wolfers. 2007. Marriage and Divorce: Changes and their Driving Forces. Journal of Economic Perspectives. 21(2): 27-52.
- Beine, M., Docquier, F. and Ozden, C. (2011). "Diasporas", Journal of Development Economics, vol. 95 (1), pp. 30-41.
- Feng, S. Krueger, A.B., & Oppenheimer, M. 2010. "Linkages among Climate Change, Crop Yields and Mexico-US Cross-Border Migration." *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*, 107(32):14257-62
- Giovanni Peri, 2016. "Immigrants, Productivity, and Labor Markets," Journal of Economic Perspectives, American Economic Association, vol. 30(4), pages 3-30, Fall.
- Christian Dustmann & Uta Schönberg & Jan Stuhler, 2016. "The Impact of Immigration: Why Do Studies Reach Such Different Results?," Journal of Economic Perspectives, American Economic Association, vol. 30(4), pages 31-56, Fall
- Bleakley H. and Chin, A. (2010). "Age at arrival, English proficiency, and social assimilation among US immigrants," *American Economic Journal: Applied Economics*, vol. 2(1), pp. 165-192.
- Bansak, Kirk, Jens Hainmueller and Dominik Hangartner. 2016. "How Economic, Humanitarian, and Religious Concerns Shape European Attitudes toward Asylum Seekers." *Science* 354(6309): 217-221.
- Bailey, Martha J. 2010. "Momma's Got the Pill: How Anthony Comstock and Griswold v. Connecticut Shaped US Childbearing," *American Economic Review*, March, 100(1): 98-129.
- Gneezy, U., Niederle, M., and A. Rustichini (2003), "Performance in Competitive Environments: Gender Differences," *Quarterly Journal of Economics* 118(3): 1049-1074.
- Jensen, Robert and Emily Oster. 2009. "The Power of TV: Cable Television and Women's Status in India," *The Quarterly Journal of Economics*, 124(3): 1057-1094.
- Seema Jayachandran, 2021. "Social Norms as a Barrier to Women's Employment in Developing Countries," *IMF Economic Review*, Palgrave Macmillan; International Monetary Fund, vol. 69(3), pages 576-595, September.

- Ilan Dar-Nimrod, Steven J. Heine (2006) Exposure to Scientific Theories Affects Women's Math Performance, Science 20 Oct 2006:Vol. 314, Issue 5798, pp. 435
- McLanahan, S.F. and W.C. Jacobsen (2015) "Diverging Destinies Revisited" In Families in an Era of Increasing Inequality Amato, P.R., Booth, A., McHale, S.M., Van Hook, J. (Eds.), New York : Springer.
- Lori Beaman, Esther Duflo, Rohini Pande, Petia Topalova, Female Leadership Raises Aspirations and Educational Attainment for Girls: A Policy Experiment in India, Science 2012:Vol. 335, Issue 6068, pp. 582-586
- Kleven, H. et al. (2019), "Child Penalties across Countries: Evidence and Explanations", AEA Papers and Proceedings, Vol. 109, pp. 122-126
- The National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine. (2016). The Economic and Fiscal Consequences of Immigration. Washington, DC: The National Academies Press. doi: 10.17226/23550. (some sections)

Competencies

- ☒ To (be able to) communicate with determination and in the English Language, the results and implications of the required analytical study using a language that the receiver can relate to.
- ☐ To work within a heterogeneous team of researchers as economic analyst using specific group techniques.
- ☐ To fit in diverse professional environments and varied types of collaborations in different professional projects.
- ☒ To possess and understand the knowledge that provides a basis or opportunity to be original in the development and / or application of ideas, often in a research context.
- ☐ That students know how to apply the acquired knowledge and their ability to solve problems in new or unfamiliar environments within broader (or multidisciplinary) contexts related to their field of study.

- ☐ That the students be able to integrate knowledge and face the complexity of making judgments based on information that, being incomplete or limited, include reflections on the social and ethical responsibilities linked to the application of their knowledge and judgments.
- ☒ That the students be able to communicate their conclusions and the knowledge and the ultimate reasons that sustain them to both, specialized and non-specialized publics in a clear and unambiguous way.
- ☒ That students possess the learning skills that allow them to continue studying in a way that will be largely self-directed or autonomous.
- ☒ To identify and apply the insights of the theory, the models, and the analytical tools of modern economy to its global dimension.
- ☒ Understand and apply the Economic Theory and statistical models of the design of the evaluation of public policies.
- ☒ Understand and apply the quantitative methods used to solve complex problems of the economy.
- ☒ Evaluate, with theoretical and quantitative instruments, complex realities of the economy to understand its functioning.

Learning outcomes

- ☒ Knows rigorously the economic theory of design and evaluation of public policies.
- ☒ Applies the empirical tools of economic analysis to evaluate public policies.
- ☐ Knows the institutional frameworks in which public policies are designed and implemented.