# CARE WORK AND THE ECONOMY

Advancing policy solutions with gender-aware macroeconomic models

# DAY 1 (AMERICAS TIME ZONE) SUMMARY BRIEF Brief prepared by: Lucie Prewitt

**SESSION 1:** Course Overview and Introduction: Gender Constructs and Feminist Economics Instructor: Professor Maria Floro – Care Work and the Economy Project

#### **Course Overview**

Professor Floro went over the agenda for the Intensive Course and reminded Fellows:

- Read the required readings before class
- Discussion can take place between classes on the Slack workspace
- There will be office hours for instructors and facilitators of the course
  - Prof. Floro's office hours (Zoom links on Slack): June 28th (3-4 pm ET) and June 29th (9-10 am ET)
  - Prof. Herrera-Idárraga office hours: Monday, June 28th 5-6 pm (google meet: paulaidarraga@gmail.com) and Thursday, July 1st 5-6 pm (google meet: paulaidarraga@gmail.com) and via email: pherrera@javeriana.edu.co
- Regular attendance / participation in group exercises are necessary to receive course certificate

Introduction: Gender Constructs and Feminist Economics (powerpoint slides can be accessed on Slack)

# Lecture Outline:

- A. Concept of Gender
  - a. Sex v. Gender
  - b. Gender as a social construct (Beneria et al reading)
  - c. BREAKOUT ROOM: How is the issue of gender treated in economics? Then explain how the treatment of gender can have a bearing on policy making.
- B. Economics as Socially Constructed Discipline
  - a. Current state of economics
  - b. Persistence of bias and exclusion
- C. Development of Feminist Economics
  - a. Features of feminist economics
  - b. Gender aware methodologies and measures

#### **BREAKOUT ROOM DISCUSSION:**

**Daniel Haim** brought up the undervaluation of work that is often done by women in the household and the power imbalance between men and women which impacts the labor force participation rates of women.

**Analía Calero** also mentioned the importance of unpaid work in impacting labor market decisions and added that in mainstream economics, women are often ignored.

**Busi Sibeko** said that mainstream economics assumes policy impacts everyone in the same way and it perpetuates historical inequalities. Women are lacking in leadership roles/roles in which they can inform policy.

**POST LECTURE DISCUSSION** (To be posted on Slack by 6 pm EDT): Feminist economics aim to promote a more inclusive economics. This includes a recognition of the crucial role of macroeconomic policies in shaping the conditions for provisioning of livelihoods and well-being.

- 1) To what extent are conventional macroeconomic policies gender- biased and therefore can yield negative impacts on women?
- 2) What challenges do you foresee in doing research on gender-aware economics, including gender-aware macroeconomics?

# **SESSION 2:** Gender Relations in Households

Instructor: Paula Herrera-Idárraga – Pontificia Universidad Javeriana

Facilitator: Dileni Gunewardena - University of Peradeniya

#### Learning objectives:

- Reflect on the explanations for the gender division of labor in households.
- Understand what determines the bargaining power of women and men within households

# Topics covered:

- Feminist critique of New Household Economics (NHE)
  - Becker's model of the Unitary Household, comparative advantage, specialization, and division of labor.
- Household bargaining power
  - Bargaining and Gender Relations: Within and Beyond the Household Bina Agarwal, 1997

#### **GROUP EXERCISE:** Select a presenter and prepare one slide to discuss

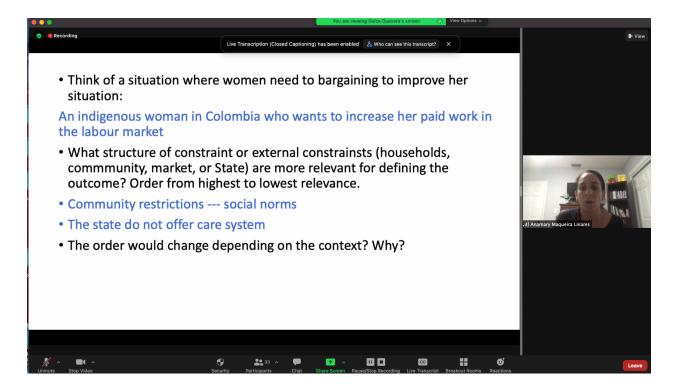
Think of a situation where the woman needs to bargain to improve her situation:

- What structures of constraint or external constraints (household, community, market, or State) are more relevant for defining the outcome? Order from highest to lowest relevance.
- The order would change depending on the context? Why?

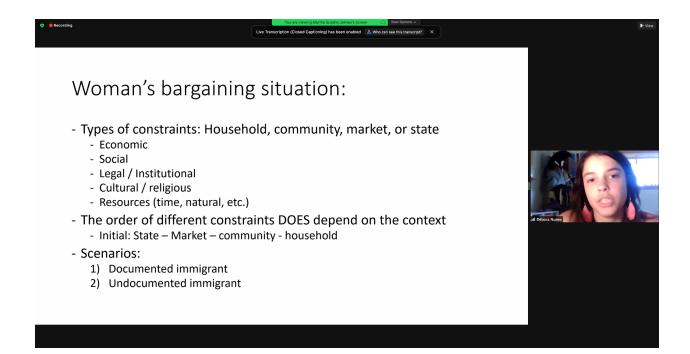
Think of an example where the structures constraint counteracts and another where they reinforced each other.

#### **DISCUSSION PARTICIPANTS:**

**Anamary Maqueira Linares** presented the following slide:



**Débora Nunes** presented the following slide:



# Cristina Pereira Vieceli presented the following slide:

