

# Closing Gender Gaps Through Economics Research Paper Development Workshop<sup>1</sup>

June 3 - 4, 2025 | American University of Armenia | Yerevan, Armenia

## Organizers:

**American University of Armenia, Armenia**  
**Stockholm Institute of Transition Economics, Sweden**

As famously illustrated by the 2023 Economics Nobel Prize Winner Claudia Goldin, measuring gender gaps with rich data is key to address them. Researchers in gender economics have long documented and quantified gender gaps with increasingly rich data, and have informed policy-makers on how policy can help closing those gaps.

Gender gaps in Armenia are pervasive. Despite Armenia's progress in closing gender gaps, significant disparities remain across education, employment, and entrepreneurship. Although Armenia has advanced its position in the global gender gap index, improving from 102nd place in 2016 to 61st in 2023, the World Economic Forum reports that 28 percent of the gap remains unaddressed. The estimate is based on an index that measures gender gaps in economic and political empowerment, education and health.

In the area of education, while on average women are more educated than men in Armenia, there is persistent gender segregation by field of study. In particular, women are systematically under-represented in STEM fields (science, technology, engineering and mathematics) at different levels. Based on official statistics, women currently represent 12 percent of the students enrolled in engineering majors at college level, and 28 percent of the graduates in vocational programs in information and communication technology. This poses an issue of unequal opportunities, if women do not choose these education tracks because of perceived or real barriers, and of inefficient usage of talent in the economy.

Similar barriers extend into the labor market, where female labor force participation rate in 2022 was only 48.2 percent compared to 71.2 percent for men, with over 50 percent of females in the population aged 25-29 neither working nor studying. This 23-percentage point gap is higher than the regional average of 15 percentage points.

Entrepreneurship gaps also reflect similar inequalities, with just 27.1 percent of entrepreneurs being women, and those businesses are typically smaller, often due to limited access to financing. Social norms mostly emphasize women's roles as primary caregivers further restricting their broader economic participation.

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<sup>1</sup> The two-day Paper Development Workshop is part of the "Closing Gender Gaps Through Economics Research" program carried out jointly by American University of Armenia (AUA) and Stockholm Institute of Transition Economics (SITE) and funded by Swedish Institute Eastern Partnership Cooperation Project.

By connecting scholars in Armenia to international scholars in gender economics, this Paper Development Workshop aims to improve the Armenian scholars' knowledge of cutting-edge research methods to study gender inequalities and evaluate policies, and will provide opportunities for improving their scholarly papers to be published in high ranked peer-reviewed international journals.

The Workshop provides a platform for faculty members and graduate students to present and improve their research based on expert feedback, with the ultimate goal of advancing high-quality, publishable work on gender disparities in STEM fields.

Two leading experts of the field will lead the Workshop and inspire participants. They will deliver keynote speeches, plenary sessions, and engage in discussions on presented papers.

## Submission Requirements:

Interested scholars are invited to submit Papers or Extended Abstracts with Key Results before **May 3, 2025**.

The submissions should be done to [gendergaps@aua.am](mailto:gendergaps@aua.am).

**Acceptance notification will be sent by May 15, 2025.**

We are looking forward to receiving your submissions. Feel free to circulate the Call for Papers to other colleagues in the field.

For enquiries and questions, contact [gendergaps@aua.am](mailto:gendergaps@aua.am).

## Workshop Organizing Committee:

### **Maria Perrotta Berlin, Assistant Professor**

Stockholm Institute of Transition Economics, Stockholm School of Economics  
Policy and communication manager, SITE  
Affiliated researcher, Mistra Center for Sustainable Markets (Misum)

### **Knar Khachatryan, Associate Professor**

Manoogian Simone College of Business and Economics, American University of Armenia  
Affiliated Researcher, Center for European Research on Microfinance (CERMi), Belgium

### **Vardan Baghdasaryan, Associate Professor**

Manoogian Simone College of Business and Economics, American University of Armenia

## Short Bio of Keynote Speakers:

**Lidia Farré** is a Tenured Scientist at the Institute for Economic Analysis (IAE-CSIC), Affiliated Professor at the Barcelona School of Economics, and the Program Director of the BSE Master's Program in Economics of Public Policy. She is also a Research Fellow at IZA and External Fellow at CReAM (UCL).

Her research interests are in the field of Labor and Public Economics with a particular focus on Gender Economics. She has published in the Journal of Public Economics, Journal of Human Resources, and the Journal of Development Economics, among others. She is Associated Editor of SERIEs – The Journal of the Spanish Economic Association and leads several research projects related to gender in the labor market financed by different institutions such as La Caixa and the Spanish Ministry of Science and Innovation.

In 2022, she served as the president of COSME, the subcommittee of the Spanish Economic Association that is in charge of evaluating and promoting the situation of women in the Economics profession. Currently, she is a Council Board Member of Ivàlua, the Catalan Institute for Public Policy Evaluation.

**Sarah Smith** is Professor of Economics at University of Bristol.

Her research interests are in applied micro-economics, public policy, and labour economics. She is currently working on issues in both pro-social behaviour and diversity in economics. She has published in Journal of Economic Behavior and Organization, American Economic Journal: Economic Policy, Oxford Review of Economic Policy, and many other journals.

She is co-chair of Discover Economics, a campaign to increase diversity among economics students. She serves as Secretary of the Regional Standing Committee of the Econometric Society. She has been chair of the Royal Economic Society's (RES) Women's Committee (2017-20), an elected member of the RES council (2012-2017) and the European Economics Association council (2014-2018), and Deputy Chair of the REF2021 Economics and Econometrics sub-panel.

**Dr. Smith** was awarded an Order of the British Empire (OBE) in the 2022 Queen's Birthday Honours for services to economics and education.