

## Gender and the household in the history of economics

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The course will introduce students to historical and methodological issues concerning the analytical status of gender differences and the household as a unit of analysis within economics.

Depending on time and students' interest, the course will investigate how economists conceived of one or more of the following topics:

- how the economic model(s) of individual behaviour fit the observed behaviour of men and women;
- the nature and relevance of the sexual division of labour within the household and in the market, as well as the relation between paid and unpaid labour;
- the economic roots and the economic explanation(s) of differences between men's and women's behaviour and of gender discrimination;
- economic theories of the demographic transition(s), especially concerning households' size and composition.

After a general introduction on philosophers and scholars up to the British Classical economists, the course will focus on economists working in the second half of the Nineteenth century (late 1800 - beginning of the 1900s). In this period, many economists became involved in the political and intellectual debates of the time, on gender roles and specifically women's right to vote.

A special focus will be devoted to John Stuart Mill and Gustav von Schmoller, key figures of the economic debate in England and Germany, who consistently approached gender relations as a core topic of economic investigation.

Later and contemporary developments will be briefly overviewed depending on time availability and students' interest.

### Main references

D'Ippoliti C. (2011), *Economics and Diversity*, New York: Routledge.

Folbre N. (2009), *Greed, Lust and Gender. A History of Economic Ideas*, Oxford: Oxford University Press.

Roncaglia A. (2005), *The Wealth of Ideas. A History of Economic Ideas*, Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

### Further reading

Groenewegen P. (ed.) (1994), *Feminism and Political Economy in Victorian England*, Cheltenham: Edward Elgar.

Pujol M.A. (1992), *Feminism and Anti-Feminism in Early Economic Thought*, Cheltenham: Edward Elgar.

Barker D.K. and Kuiper E. (eds.) (2003), *Towards a Feminist Philosophy of Economics*, London: Routledge.

Fine B. (1992), *Women's Employment and the Capitalist Family*, London: Routledge.

Becker G.S. (1976), *The Economic Approach to Human Behavior*, Chicago: The University of Chicago Press.