

KATARINA FEDOROV

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EDUCATION

Ph.D., Economics, Boston University, Boston MA, May 2025 (expected)

Dissertation Title: *Essays on Economics and Gender*

Dissertation Committee: Robert Margo, James Feigenbaum, Martin Fiszbein

M.A., Political Economy, Boston University, Boston MA, 2021

B.S., Joint Mathematics and Economics, University of California San Diego, San Diego CA, Dec 2015

FIELDS OF INTEREST

Applied Microeconomics, Economic History, Economics of Gender, Economics of Culture

WORKING PAPERS

“Beyond the Broom: Women in Domestic Service,” September 2024. Job Market paper.

WORK IN PROGRESS

“The Gender of Names” (joint with Sam Bazzi, Martin Fiszbein, and Eli Locke)

“A Silver Lining: Women and the 1918 Flu Pandemic” (joint with Pawel Janas and Hanna Schwank)

“Domestic Service and Black Culture”

“Powering Change: The Role of Electrification in the Decline of Domestic Labor in the Mid-20th Century”

“Barriers Unbroken: The Limited Impact of Education and Electrification on Black Women's Escape from Domestic Service in the Early 20th Century”

PRESENTATIONS

Boston University Applied Micro Dissertation Workshop, Boston MA (scheduled)

Southern Economics Association, Washington DC, 2024 (scheduled)

Southern Economics Association, New Orleans, LA, 2023

Boston University Applied Micro Student Workshop, Boston MA, 2020, 2022, 2023

*Selected presentations by co-authors

*Harvard Graduate Student Workshop in Economic History, Cambridge MA, 2024

FELLOWSHIPS AND AWARDS

Travel Grant, Institute for Economic Development, Boston University, Fall 2024

Travel Grant, Institute for Economic Development, Boston University, Fall 2023

PhD Summer Research Fellowship, Boston University 2019-2022

Deans Student Fellowship, Boston University, 2018-2019

Provost Honors, University of California San Diego, 2014-2015

Regents Scholarship for Academic Excellence, University of California San Diego, 2013-2015
Certificate for Excellence in the Presentation of Research, Faculty Mentor Program, University of California San Diego, 2015

WORK EXPERIENCE

ACADEMIC

Research Assistant to Martin Fiszbein, Boston University, Boston MA, Spring 2021, Summer 2021, Fall 2021, Spring 2022, Summer 2022
Research Assistant to Prashant Bharadwaj, University of California San Diego, San Diego CA, Spring 2015, Summer 2015, Fall 2015

INDUSTRY

Business Analyst, Catalytic Risk Managers & Insurance Agency, LLC., San Diego CA, Nov 2015-April 2018
Research Assistant (Intern), Workplace Technologies Research, Inc., San Diego CA, Oct 2015-Jun 2016

ACADEMIC SERVICE

Officer, Graduate Economics Association, Boston University, Fall 2020, Spring 2021
Section Editor, Undergraduate Research Journal, University of California San Diego, Spring 2015, Summer 2015, Fall 2015

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Instructor, Gender Through Economic History, Department of Economics, Harvard University, Spring 2024
Teaching Fellow, Principles of Microeconomics, Department of Economics, Boston University, Fall 2023, Fall 2019, Spring 2020
Teaching Fellow, Intermediate Macroeconomics, Department of Economics, Boston University, Fall 2020
Teaching Fellow, Development Economics (master-level), Department of Economics, Boston University, Fall 2020

LANGUAGES

Fluent: English (native), Russian and Serbian. Conversational: Spanish.

COMPUTER SKILLS

STATA, Python, LaTeX

CITIZENSHIP/VISA STATUS: US Citizen

REFERENCES

Professor Robert Margo
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Boston University
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Professor James Feigenbaum
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Boston University
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Beyond the Broom: The Decline of Women in Domestic Service (Job Market Paper)

This paper investigates the significant decline of young white women in domestic service in the United States between 1880 and 1930, one of the most notable and understudied shifts in women's labor history. I utilize historical data to explore the impact of rising educational attainment and the spread of electrification on the reduction of domestic service employment. I find that education played a pivotal role in reducing the supply of white domestics both directly through increased school attendance and through human capital which enabled women to pursue higher skilled jobs. I validate these findings with an instrumental variable strategy that leverages changes in state level compulsory schooling laws over time. The spread of electrification further accelerated the decline for native born white women by creating new, skilled job opportunities and increasing returns to human capital. These findings provide new insights into how education and technological advancement shaped women's labor choices in the early 20th century, offering a deeper understanding of the forces driving occupational change during this period.

The Gender of Names

(with Samuel Bazzi, Martin Fiszbein and Eli Locke)

Changes in gender norms have shaped many aspects of the U.S. economy over the last two centuries, but assessing their evolution is difficult due to the paucity of historical data regarding societal views on gender. In this project, we use a simple and readily available source of data to plausibly infer gender norms: first names. Sound symbolism, a concept deriving from linguistics and psychology, posits that certain names sound harsh to the ear and are therefore perceived as masculine. Thus, determining how the sound of baby names has changed over time allows a novel analysis of gender norms, which we operationalize using Barry and Harper (1995). We find that the difference in the average sound of baby boys' and baby girls' names has been nearly constant over the last 200 years. Yet, since the 1930s, baby names for both genders have become substantially more feminine-sounding. Data from 1940 show that a woman's labor force participation was positively correlated with her children and spouse having more feminine-sounding names, even after accounting for confounding factors. In future work, we plan to demonstrate the robustness of these results using various measures of female empowerment.