

Economic structure and gender inequality: a global perspective

Topic: Gender issues in IO models (I)

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The evolution of the participation of women in labour markets notably differs by country, and greater female participation rates have not always resulted in significant advances in gender equity in all countries. Economic and social indicators tell us about the persistence of gender employment gap, which accounts for differences in participation in the labour market between women and men. In this context, the objective of this work is to analyse the impact of economic growth, and structural and technological change on the evolution of gender inequality across the world. The temporal analysis ranges from 1990 to 2015, a long and interesting period regarding the processes of globalization and structural change worldwide. Using the information provided by EORA database, the changes in the economic structure of countries and world regions are analysed, with a focus on the implications for labour demands and gender gaps. Specifically, using a global multisectoral and multi-regional input-output model, disaggregated to 26 economic sectors, the sectoral linkages in each region are taken into account in order to obtain information of the main sectors in each country that contribute to gender inequality. To do it, we first explore employment patterns by gender both in 1990 and 2015, together with gender gaps by sector and country. We then address a Structural Decomposition Analysis to obtain additional indicators related to feminization indices of the economy by sector and country. Finally, on the basis of the previous findings, and taking advantage on the multisectoral and multiregional character of our database, a regression analysis is used to account for the role of trade openness and evolution, industry specialization and additional country indicators such as culture and religion on the gender inequality.