

# Report on the participation of women in the annual meeting of the Spanish Economic Association

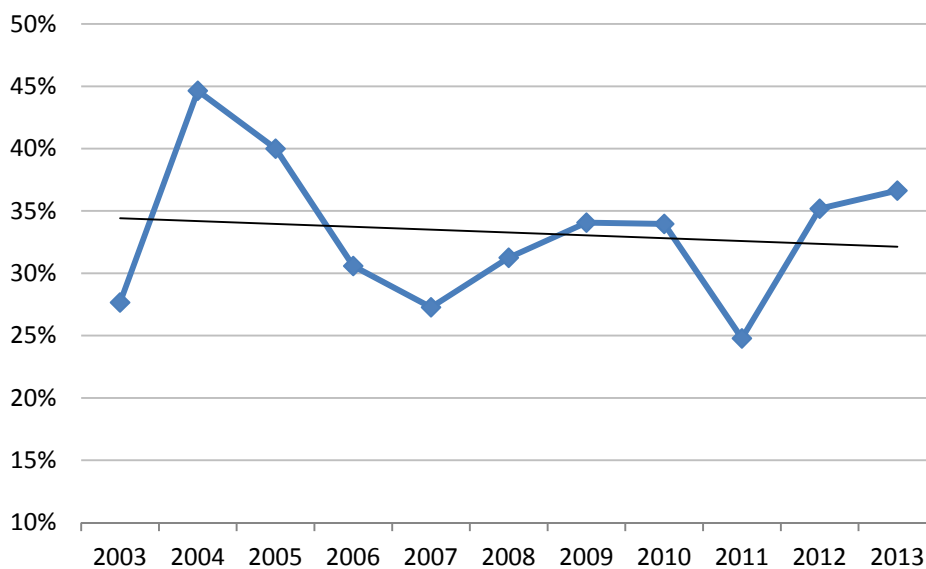
(Libertad González, Matilde Machado and Virginia Sánchez)

In the 1<sup>st</sup> COSME Newsletter, published in the winter of 2013, Manuel Bagues wrote a report describing “[The status of women in Economics in Spain](#).” One year later, we revisit the question and provide another metric about the research activity of female economists in Spain. We gathered data from the participation of women in the annual meeting of the Spanish Economic Association during the past 20 years (1995-2014)<sup>1</sup>, and describe here the evolution of the share of women in four distinct roles: 1) presenters in the job market sessions (2003-2013); 2) presenters in the contributed sessions of the conference (2001-2013); 3) members of the Scientific Committee (1995-2014), and 4) invited speakers (2001-2014).

## 1. Presenters in job market sessions

The data for the past 11 years (2003-2013) show that the percentage of women presenting in the job market sessions of the annual meetings was between 25 and 45%, with no clear trend over time (see Figure 1). The average was 34% for 2003-2007, and 33% for 2009-2013. The lack of an increasing trend is perhaps surprising, considering the increasing trend in the share of women among new PhDs in Economics in Spain, up to 44% in 2011, documented in last year’s report (see [here](#)).

**Figure 1. Fraction of women presenting in the job market sessions of the Annual Meeting of the Spanish Economic Association, 2003-2013**



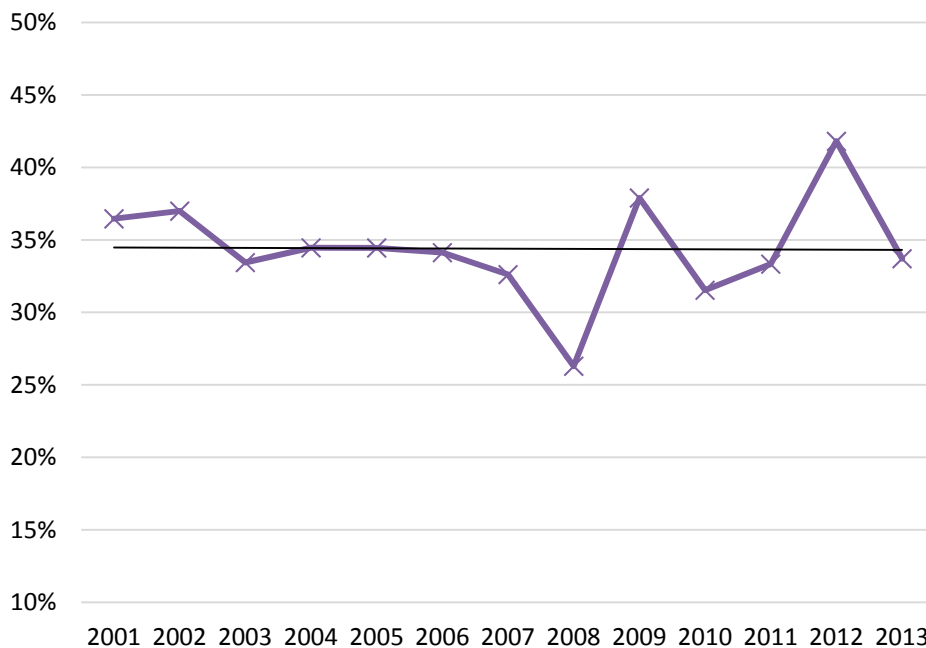
Note: The black line is a fitted linear trend.

<sup>1</sup> We collected the data by hand from the annual program of the meetings as posted online, and hence there may be some inaccuracies.

## 2. Total contributed presentations

We now report the evolution of the share of women presenters amongst all contributed presenters, i.e. regular contributed sessions plus job market sessions. We use data for the period 2001-2013 (13 years), summarized in Figure 2. The percentage of female presenters is between 26% (in 2008) and 42% (in 2012), again with no clear trend over time. The average was 35.2% in the initial 5 years (2001-2005), and 35.7% in the final 5 (2009-2013). The share of women presenting in regular sessions is quite similar to the job market sessions, which leads us to believe that the presence of women in regular contributed sessions will not increase in the near future. Again, we see no evidence of an increasing trend, despite the fact that the fraction of female associate professors in Spain was increasing during this period, reaching 38% in 2011 (the most recent period included in last year's report).

**Figure 2. Fraction of women presenting in all contributed sessions of the Annual Meeting of the Spanish Economic Association, 2001-2013**



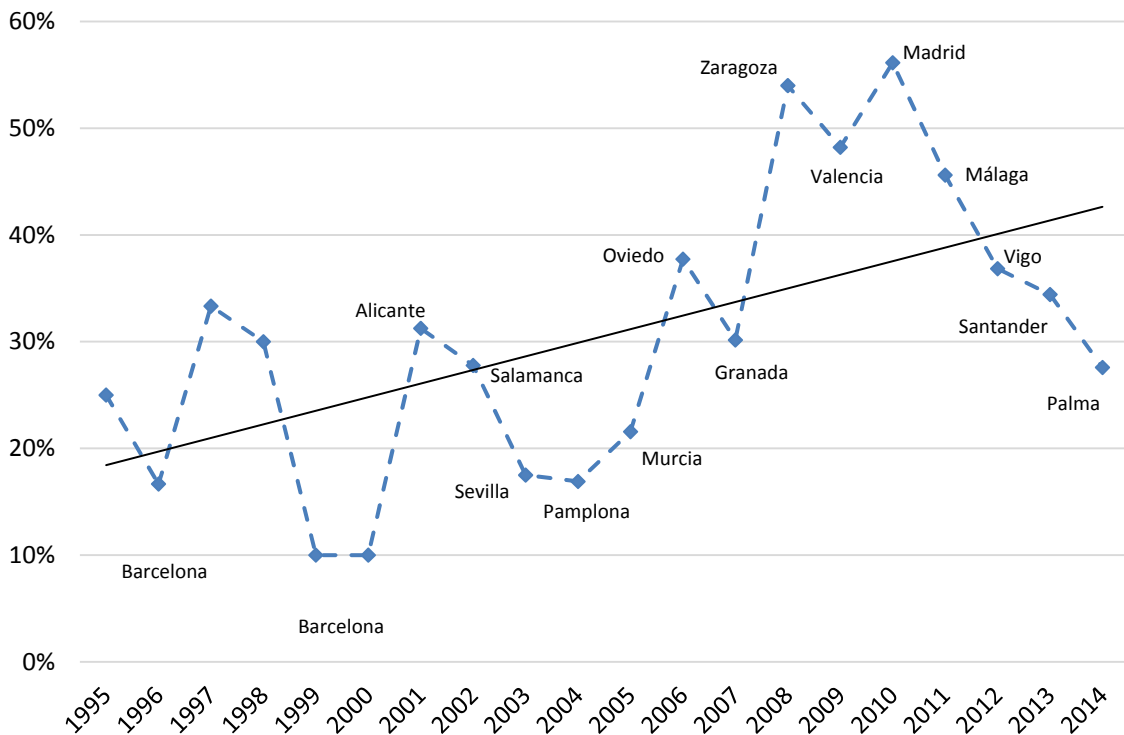
Note: The black line is a fitted linear trend.

## 3. Scientific committee

Every year, there are 1 or 2 *chairs of the scientific committee*. Out of the 20 years in the history of the Annual Meetings (1995-2014), 13 had no female head, while there were five years with 1 woman out of 2 organizers, and two years (2003 and 2013) with one female organizer out of one: Teresa García Milá (UPF) and Luisa Fuster (Toronto). Between 2004 and 2011 there was an 8-year stretch with 0 women. The overall share of female chairs was 26%.

There is also a larger *scientific committee*, including up to 71 people in 2004 (!). The fraction of women in this committee ranged between 10% (in 1999) and 56% (in 2010), as shown in Figure 3. The scientific committee does have a clear positive trend in the fraction of women, although the peak was in 2010 and it has been decreasing since then (below 30% in 2014). The average was 22% in the initial 10 years, versus 39% in the second half of the 20-year period.

**Figure 3. Fraction of women in the scientific committee of the Annual Meeting of the Spanish Economic Association, 1995-2014**



Note: The black line is a fitted linear trend.

#### 4. Invited speakers

Finally, we calculate the fraction of women amongst the invited speakers, with data from 2001 to 2014 (14 years). Every year there are between 4 and 8 invited speakers at the meetings (usually 4). Between 2001 and 2007, out of a total of 32 invited speakers, only 1 was a woman (Inés Macho, as President of the Spanish Economic Association, in 2005).

Between 2008 and 2014, the fraction of female invited speakers increased to between 25 and 50% per year (1 or 2 out of 4), with the exception of an “outlier” in 2012 (3 out of 4). Note that 2008 was the first year of the COSME invited conference (always by a female speaker). Excluding the COSME speakers, the fraction of female invited speakers was about 12% during the whole period.

***Female invited speakers (excluding COSME sessions) between 2001 and 2014***

2005: Inés Macho (President of the SEA)

2008: Teresa Ter-Minassian (IMF)

2010: Amparo Urbano (President of the SEA)

2011: María Paz Espinosa (President of the SEA)

2012: Olympia Bover (President of the SEA), Maia Güell (Edinburgh)

2013: Teresa García Milá (President of the SEA)

In sum, out of 66 invited speakers, only 14 (21%) were women. Out of those 14, 7 were from the COSME session, and 5 were from the President of the SAE. If we exclude COSME speakers and the annual presentation by the President of the Spanish Economic Association, the fraction of women among invited speakers falls to 4%, only two “regular” invited speakers in fourteen years (Teresa Ter-Minassian, from the IMF, and Maia Güell, from Edimburgh).

These figures are not too far from those for the Annual Meetings of the European Economic Association. Between 2001 and 2014, only 4 out of 56 of plenary lectures (Alfred Marshall lecture, Joseph Schumpeter lecture and Presidential Address) were given by women (7%).

## **5. Summary and discussion**

The fraction of women completing an undergraduate degree in Economics in Spain has been stable around 51% since the late 1990’s, while the fraction of women completing a PhD in Economics has increased substantially, from 32% in 1996 to 44% in 2011 (see the report in last year’s newsletter by Manuel Bagues). We have documented a relative underrepresentation of women in terms of participation in the Simposio, especially at the higher levels (head of the scientific committee and invited speaker). About a third of the presenters in contributed sessions (job market or regular) are women, with no clear trend over time. We do detect a clear increase in the fraction of women in the scientific committee over time, although the head is typically male. The most striking finding is that there are very few female invited speakers, especially if we exclude COSME invited speakers (all female), and the Presidents of the SAE (about a third of all Presidents have been women): only 2 out of the 45 in our sample period. On a positive note, the COSME invited session, in place since 2008, has contributed significantly to the presence and visibility of women at the Simposio.