

COSME

Committee on the situation
of women in economics

Newsletter 2019: Letter from Rosa Ferrer, 2019 COSME President

Dear friends of COSME,

Welcome to the 7th edition of our newsletter. First things first, I would like to give a special thanks to Lidia Farré, Luisa Fuster, and Ana Moro-Egido for assembling this excellent newsletter. You will find **very interesting pieces that I am sure you will enjoy reading** (more details below). I would also like to thank them and the other members of the COSME executive committee, Raquel Carrasco, Irma Clots-Figueras, Ignacio Conde-Ruiz, Cecilia García-Peñalosa, Joan Lull, Pedro Mira, and Carolina Villegas for a year of hardwork and commitment to COSME.



This year was again very active for COSME. We organized the XII annual **Gender Economics Workshop (GEW)**, which was sponsored by Fundación Ramón Areces and Universidad Carlos III de Madrid. On behalf of COSME, I am very grateful to our sponsors for their contribution to high-quality academic research in gender economics. This year's GEW was a success again. We had 62 submissions, from all over the world. In the end 9 very high quality articles were presented together with the presentations of our 2 keynote speakers María Guadalupe (INSEAD) and Anna Raute (Queen Mary University). Maria Guadalupe delivered an outstanding talk open to the general public about *"Her Opponent: An Experiment in Perception and Gender"*. "Her Opponent" came from an idea that came to Maria while watching the US presidential debates in 2016. What if, she wondered, Donald Trump had been a woman and Hillary Clinton a man? How would the debates have unfolded, and what difference might there have been? The results are truly fascinating. If you have not seen it yet, do not miss it! You can find the experiment website [here](#),

and interview to Maria [here](#) (in Spanish), and a piece written by Nacho Conde summarizing her talk for “Nada es Gratis” (in Spanish), [here](#).

Our other keynote speaker, Anna Raute, presented her joint work with Barbara Treude and Uta Schoenberg “*Like mother, like daughter: Societal determinants of maternal labour supply.*” [Here](#) you may watch the interview where Anna explains the main idea behind this very interesting and relevant work about the influence of mothers’ role model on their daughters’ posterior work decisions after becoming mothers themselves. In the workshop, we also had nine other presenters and nine discussants coming from 12 different universities or research institutes (see the program [here](#)). Let me take the chance to thank this year’s discussants because they clearly fulfilled the GEW tradition of providing detailed superb comments to the authors. The papers addressed a wide range of topics such as affirmative action, inequality in life expectancy, online labour markets and gender differences in social norms.

Recently, COSME was also fortunate to host one of the new invited sessions of the Simposio de Análisis Económico 2019 in Alicante. We at COSME were very happy to have Vicente Cuñat and Friederike Mengel as our invited speakers talking about “Gender Promotion Gaps: Career Aspirations and Early Workplace Experiences” and “Gender Bias in Opinion Aggregation,” respectively. Their talks were inspiring and raised an excellent debate.

And it is a pleasure to end the year presenting the **7th edition of our Newsletter**. In the Newsletter you will find a study by Laura Hospido and Carlos Sanz on gender biases in acceptance to conferences. They explain the mechanisms behind the striking finding that all-female-authored papers are 6.8% less likely to be accepted than all-male-authored papers looking at submissions to three general-interest academic conferences. There is also an article by Mónica Martínez-Bravo (CEMFI) explaining the research and trajectory of Esther Duflo, the youngest economist and 2nd woman to win the Nobel Prize in Economics. As mentioned by Monica, “It was only when she learnt that economics rigor can be applied to solve practical problems and inform policy, when she decided to become an economist. Her work has greatly contributed to transform our profession into a more data- and policy-driven discipline.” In the Newsletter, you will also find a study by Anna Raute (Queen Mary University of London) about financial incentives to reduce low fertility among high-earning women. As argued by Anna, high-earning women are the ones for which childbearing has higher opportunity costs. And finally, an interview with Maria Guadalupe (INSEAD), who covers a wide range of topics from why she chose to be an economist to career advice for young female economists. Maria says “if your institution does not give you one, find a mentor. And also look for role models, people that inspire you and you would like to emulate.”

In the Newsletter you will also find information about the **members of the COSME Executive Committee**. In January 2019, Cecilia García-Peñalosa (Aix Marseille School of Economics) and Carolina Villegas (ESADE) joined the COSME executive Committee, while Virginia Sánchez Marcos (Universidad de Cantabria) ended her excellent term as President of COSME. Also, very recently the executive committee of COSME has voted Xulia González (Universidade de Vigo) and Judit Vall

(Universitat de Barcelona) to be appointed as new board members of COSME. Once ratified by the Junta of the Spanish Economic Association, they will surely become an excellent addition to our board. Welcome Judit and Xulia!

At the end of 2019, it will be my turn to leave COSME. I joined COSME in 2015 and it has been a wonderful journey. In fact, I feel COSME as part of me and, as others before me, I am looking forward to continue participating in the activities and contributing to its goals. I would also like to encourage you to stay tuned for many more coming up activities organized by COSME. In particular, please save the date for the GEW2020, on May 28-29, that will take place at Fundación Ramón Areces (Madrid), deadline for submissions: January 29, 2020, where Catalina Amuedo-Dorantes (University of California-Merced) and Andrea Ichino (European University Institute) will be the keynote speakers.

I would like to welcome **Irma Clots-Figueras as the 2020 president of COSME**. I am sure her tenure will be a success. Let me also take this chance to congratulate her for the remarkable achievement of obtaining this year the XVIII Fundación Banco Sabadell Award for Economic Research. Many congratulations, Irma!

And let me finish with **some food for thought**. In the figures below you can find the evolution of the fraction of female presenters at the Simposio. After extending the data gathered some years back by a previous COSME executive committee, it seemed quite surprising to me that the fraction of female regular and PhD presenters had not increased. As shown in the figures, it has not increased in the last two decades, and, actually, it has slightly decreased. In fact, the substitutions of the Spanish Job Market with the European Job Market might have contributed to a slight further decrease. In line with recent reports on the representation of women in Academia at European Universities (see the Women in Economics report [here](#) and [here](#), and results of the Bruegel report [here](#)), these figures illustrate that there is still a lot to be studied and understood, as a first step to continue addressing gender imbalances in Economics and Academia...

Best wishes,

Rosa Ferrer, 2019 COSME President



