Gender structure of paper submissions at the
Review of Economic Studies during COVID-19:
First evidence

Nicola Fuchs-Schündeln

We extracted all paper submissions to the *Review of Economic Studies* from the 1st of January 2019 to the 26th of April 2020. These are 2303 submissions with a total number of 5219 authors. In order to assign gender to these authors, we used the algorithm developed in Card, DellaVigna, Funk, and Iriberri (2019). The algorithm assigned a gender to 4142 authors. The gender of the remaining authors was assigned manually by seven research assistants based on the names and google searches. These assignments were not double-checked. The summary statistics on the number of paper submissions, number and gender of the authors are presented in Tables 1.

We divide all paper submissions into three groups based on the gender of their authors: those with all male authors, those with all female authors, and mixed. We then compare the share of each group in total submissions across three time periods, namely the "COVID-19 period" March 11 to April 26, 2020; the immediately preceeding period of the same length (January 27 to March 10, 2019), and the same dates in the last year (March 11 to April 26, 2019). We also distinguish between first submissions (Figure 1) and resubmissions (Figure 2). The number of submissions and authors by gender in all three periods are given in Table 2.

Our results are qualitatively in line with those published by Shurkov (2020) in a blog post based on working paper submissions and Rasul (2020) on Twitter based on JEEA submissions. However, the effects we find are quantitatively smaller. The share of female submitters overall falls slightly from 18.5% in the first comparison period (March 11 to April 26, 2019) and 19.4% in the second comparison period (January 27 to March 10, 2019) to 17.9% in the "COVID-19 period". Rasul (2020) reports a decrease from 28% to 16% for JEEA, and Shurkov (2020) a drop of 8 pp for six working paper series. The share of first submissions to the Review with only male authors increases from 65.8%/65.7% during the comparison periods to 68.6% during the "COVID-19 period" (see Figure 1). This corresponds to a decrease of 2.8/2.9 pp or of 8% in the share of papers with any female authors. The decrease is substantially larger in resubmissions (see Figure 2).

Finally, in Table 3 we use the entire time period from Jan 1, 2019, to April 26,

2020, and run an OLS regression with a dummy variable equal to 1 if all authors of a paper are male as the dependent variable. We use all paper submissions and regress on a dummy for resubmission and a "COVID-19 period" dummy. In columns 2 and 3, we allow for linear and quadratic daily time trends, and in columns 4 and 5 for linear and quadratic monthly time trends. In all cases, the "COVID-19 period" dummy is positive, indicating a 1 to 2 pp higher probability of all authors being male during the "COVID-19 period", but not significant.

Table 1: Summary statistics, general

Number of submissions	2303
Number of first submissions	2137
Number of revisions	166
Number of authors (total)	5219
Authors classified	5204
Authors classified by Card et al. (2019) algorithm	4142
Authors classified by hand	1062
Authors unclassified	15
Among classified authors: female	931
Among classified authors: male	4273

Table 2: Summary statistics, chosen time periods

	March 11-April 26, 2019	Jan 27-March 10, 2020	March 11-April 26, 2020
Number of submissions	210	240	266
Number of first submissions	202	213	242
Number of revisions	8	27	24
Number of authors	470	573	614
Number of male authors	383	462	504
Number of female authors	87	111	110
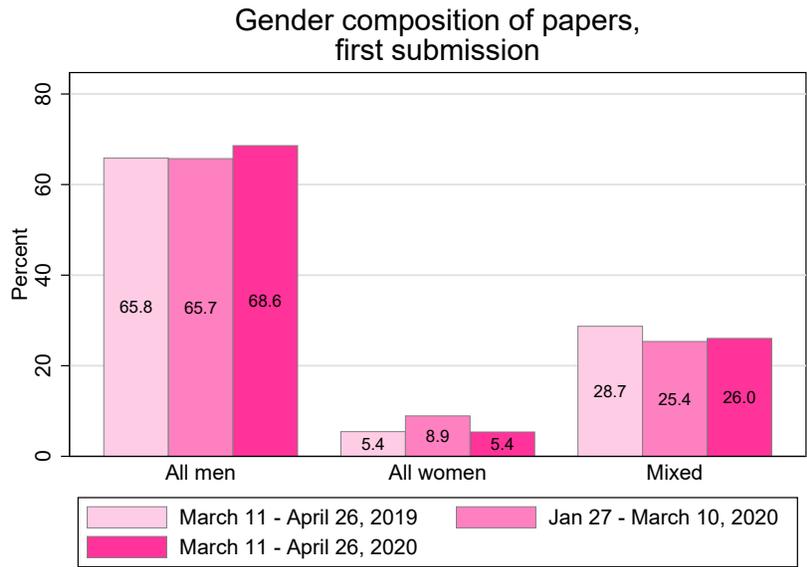
Figure 1
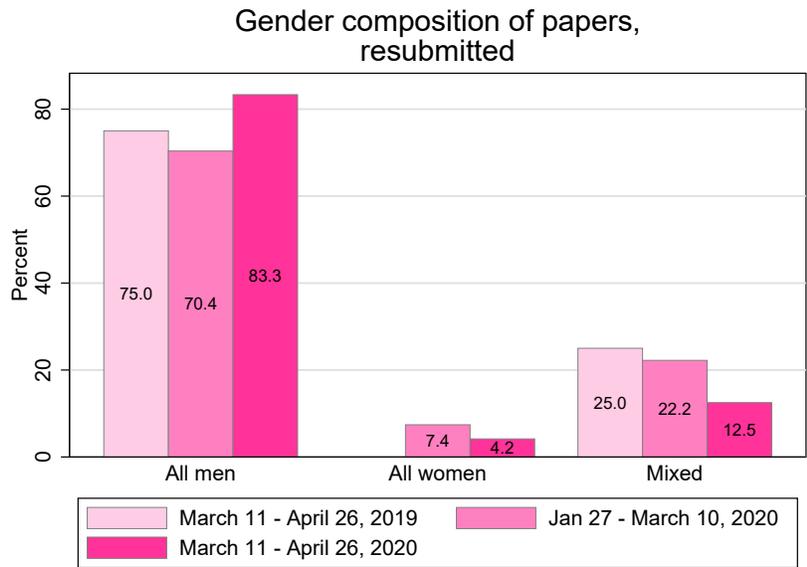
Figure 2

Table 3: OLS, dependent variable – probability of authors being all men

Corona period	0.0121	0.0170	0.0136	0.0195	0.0119
	(0.0302)	(0.0359)	(0.0467)	(0.0357)	(0.0456)
Paper resubmitted	0.0373	0.0380	0.0380	0.0384	0.0383
	(0.0374)	(0.0375)	(0.0375)	(0.0375)	(0.0375)
Days		-0.0000216	-0.0000585		
		(0.0000843)	(0.000336)		
Days × Days			8.70e-08		
			(0.000000768)		
Months				-0.000962	-0.00367
				(0.00247)	(0.0104)
Months × Months					0.000174
					(0.000651)
Constant	0.684***	0.688***	0.691***	0.691***	0.699***
	(0.0106)	(0.0208)	(0.0310)	(0.0219)	(0.0357)
Observations	2288	2288	2288	2288	2288

Standard errors in parentheses

* $p < 0.10$, ** $p < 0.05$, *** $p < 0.01$

References

Card, D., S. DellaVigna, P. Funk, and N. Iriberri (2019, 11). Are Referees and Editors in Economics Gender Neutral? *The Quarterly Journal of Economics 135*(1), 269–327.

Rasul, I. (2020, April). Twitter post. https://twitter.com/ImranRasul3/status/1253570537026191361.

Shurkov, O. (2020, April). Blog post. https://medium.com/@olga.shurchkov/is-covid-19-turning-back-the-clock-on-gender-equality-in-academia-70c00d6b8ba1.