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Fields of Interest:

Labor Economics, Demography, Gender, Family, Education, Health

Education:

2012 Ph.D. Economics, Columbia University
2006 M. Phil Economics, Columbia University
2005 M.A. Economics, Columbia University
2004 M.Sc. Econometrics and Mathematical Economics, London School of Economics
2003 B.Sc. Economics, University of Iceland

Research/Work Experience:

2012- Copenhagen Business School, Dpt. of Economics, Assistant Professor
2013- Visiting lecturer at University of Copenhagen
2011-12 Copenhagen Business School, Dpt. of Economics, Post.Doc.
2006-07 Research Assistant for Katherine Ho, Columbia University
2006-07 Research Assistant for Till von Wachter, Columbia University (now at UCLA)
2005 Research Assistant for Atila Abdulkadiroglu, Columbia University (now at Duke University)

Honors and Awards:

2012 Postdoc. grant from the Danish Council for Independent Research (1.5 m. DKK)
2009 Program for Economic Research at Columbia University – Research Grant
2007-09 Fellow at the Population Center at Columbia University
2004-10 Columbia University – Graduate Fellowship
2004 The American-Scandinavian Foundation – Thor Thors Scholarship
2003 The British Embassy, Reykjavik – The British Chevening Award

Working Papers:

Access to the Birth Control Pill and the Career Plans of Young Men and Women

The paper explores the effect of unrestricted access to the birth control pill on young people's career plans, using annual surveys of college freshmen from 1968 to 1980. In particular it addresses the question of *who* was affected by the introduction of the birth control pill by looking at career plans of both men and women, and by separating the effect by level of academic ability, race and family income. The results show that unrestricted access to the pill caused high ability women to move towards occupations with higher wages, higher occupational prestige

scores and higher male ratios. The estimated effects for women with low grades and from low selectivity colleges are in the opposite direction. Men were also affected by unrestricted access to the pill, as their aspirations shifted towards traditionally male dominated occupations, across all ability groups. The biggest effect of unrestricted access to the pill is found to be on non-white students, both among men and women. The paper uses Census Data to compare the changes in career *plans* to *actual* changes in labor market outcomes. When looking at the *actual* career outcomes, early access to the pill affects both men and women - shifting their careers towards traditionally male dominated occupations associated with higher wages. Early access to the pill is also associated with significantly higher *actual* income for men.

Why Did Men Leave the Teaching Sector in the 1970s - and Where Did They Go?

Between 1968 and 1980, the ratio of male college freshmen planning to become a teacher fell from 12.4% to 2.4% and the share of males among those who aspired to teach dropped from 30.6% to 19.7%. While changes in women's labor supply over this period have been studied extensively, little attention has been paid to shifts in men's careers. Using nationally representative data on the career plans of college freshmen I find that unrestricted access to the birth control pill bears a negative relation to the likelihood that men plan to teach, while changes in the strength of teacher unions are unrelated to their career plans. Men's aspirations shift away from teaching towards occupations that are associated with higher average income like accounting and computer programming. These changes in career plans occur predominantly among men of medium and low academic ability.

The Signaling Value of Education and Gender Differences in Educational Attainment

The paper focuses on the role of discrimination and the possibility that education, as a tool to reveal ability, is more important among women than men. A game theoretical model of racial discrimination and educational sorting, introduced by Lang and Manove (2011) is applied to examine the gender gap in schooling attainment. As the gender gap differs between demography groups, being more eminent for blacks and people from medium and low income households, the model is estimated separately for whites, blacks and Hispanics. Using data from the NLSY79, the results in the paper are consistent with a model where education is more valuable to women, due to signaling. As predicted by the model, education as a function of ability (measure with AFQT scores) is more concave for women than for men, such that for over 90% of the whites in the sample women choose higher level of education given their ability, than do men. On the other hand, the model fits the data better for whites than for blacks and Hispanics, and therefore fails to explain the observed differences across race and ethnicity groups.

Work in Progress:

- Paternity Leave and the Gender Gap: Evidence from Iceland (w. Arna Vardardottir, Stockholm School of Economics)
- Explaining the Causes and Consequences of the Gender Gap in Educational Choices among Danish Students
- The Relative Decline in Women's Happiness
- Work and Family Life: The Case of Corporate Moms

Invited Speaker and Presentations at Conferences:

- 2013 SOLE, 18th Annual Meeting, Boston
 PAA Annual Meeting, New Orleans
 RES, Annual Conference of the Royal Economic Society, London
- 2012 Lund University, Department of Economic History
 EALE, Annual Conference, Bonn
 ESPE, Annual Congress, Bern
- 2011 Copenhagen Business School, Department of Economics
 3rd Danish Microeconometric Network Meeting, Copenhagen
 Empirical Analysis of Family Economics Workshop, Ebeltoft
- 2010 European Economic Association, 25th Annual Congress, Glasgow
 EALE/SOLE, 3rd World Conference, London