

In so-called STEM fields such as science, technology, engineering and maths, we hear a lot about the under-representation of women. However, we always overlook the fact that this proportion is by some measures smaller in the field of economics. Based on a report of BBC, in the US, only about 13% of academic economists in permanent posts are women, and in the UK, the proportion is only slightly better at 15.5%. Only two women have ever won the Nobel Prize in economics - Elinor Ostrom in 2009 and Esther Duflo in 2019.

As a female economist who studies in a department majorly male counterparts, I am sensitive to the challenges that female economist minorities face in academia. I spend most of my studies as the only female economics in my cohort at the Vancouver School of Economics. Despite my colleagues' kindness, I still feel being the only female to some extent, hinders the development of my carriers. The difficulties lie in the inherent difference between genders in the sense of physical conditions, energy levels and social responsibilities. Moreover, with the absence of another female economist who shares my background, I often feel isolated even though all my colleagues are accommodating and amicable.

The situation became better when I went to the University of Toronto as a visiting student under Professor Aguirregabiria's supervision. During the visiting time, I had the chance to build up my connections with other female Ph.D. economists in my field. We eventually built up coauthorship and personal relationships because of the similarities in our background. The experience leads me to realize the importance of having peer support who share similar backgrounds.

The differences between females and males are inherent because we often need to undertake more responsibilities in the process of mammography. We play other roles and often are constrained by our physical strengths and conditions. For example, when I talked with my female colleagues in the University of Toronto, I heard a lot of story that the research of female economists is interrupted and postponed as they need to undertake some family responsibilities such as giving birth to and taking care of their children. However, the differences do not essentially lead to females being disadvantaged in the research area.

Thus, over the last years I have become determined to act towards creating an environment that is more inviting towards underrepresented minorities, women, and socioeconomically underprivileged students which I will expand as a Professor.

As a female, I can feel the difficulties of minorities in the field of economic academia and the preciousness equality for, not only female, but also all other minorities. In conclusion, I believe academia must strive to expand diversity with a more inclusive approach – welcoming and embracing different socioeconomic, ethnic, gender groups, etc. – and create a broader pool of thought processes and worldviews.