

2010 Western Economic Association 85th Annual Conference
CSWEP session summary
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Session Title: Family ties and the labor force

Chair: Jennifer Imazeki, San Diego State University

Paper: Erin K. Fletcher (University of Colorado at Boulder) presented *Evaluating Conventional Notions of Intimate Partner Violence*

This paper uses a three-wave, longitudinal data set to examine how women move in and out of violent relationships and presents a framework for analyzing the effect of a change in earnings on domestic violence. I show that there exists a greater diversity of experiences and levels of violence in violent relationships than previously established and that men and women perceive questions about violence differently. I show that a large percentage of women in violent relationships leave them, and in fact are more likely to report violence when they also report being separated. In addition, they are unlikely to take up new relationships where violence is present. Finally, I present some evidence to bolster the theory that an increase in women's earnings can reduce instance of domestic violence.

Paper: Deborah S. DeGraff (Bowdoin College), Andrea R. Ferro (Federal University of Sao Carlos) and Deborah Levison (University of Minnesota) presented *Kids at Risk: Children's Employment In Hazardous Occupations in Brazil*

Policy and social trends have combined to greatly reduce the percentage of Brazil's children engaged in labor force work in recent years. Still, 4.3 million children ages 10 to 17 are estimated to be working in the labor force as of 2008 (15.5 %) and many are found in types of work identified as "hazardous" by Brazil's Ministry of Labor and Employment. One obvious yet usually overlooked question is how children come to enter such kinds of work. We speculate that characteristics of parents – where they live, what labor force work they do, where they do it, and so forth – play a very important role in children's labor force entry and types of first jobs. Since long-term panel studies that could parse out causal pathways do not exist, we use cross-sectional data to document relationships that are suggestive of causality, employing detailed descriptive summary statistics as well as multivariate statistical modeling to better understand which children engage in "hazardous" work. We also explore whether doing jobs that have been designated as "hazardous" for children is associated with disadvantage in any dimensions of well-being for which we have data, when we compare children working in hazardous" occupation/industry groups to other children engaged in labor force work.

Paper: Melinda S Morrill (North Carolina State University) and Thayer Morrill (North Carolina State University) presented *Intergenerational Links in Female Labor Force Participation*

The intergenerational link between a mother's labor force participation and that of her daughter is an important component to understanding both the causes and consequences of the rise in female labor force participation over the latter half of the twentieth century. A woman's choice to

participate in the labor market after being married may be influenced by the experiences of her mother or may be due to inherited preferences and ability. Interestingly, as noted by Fernandez, Fogli, and Olivetti (2004), there is a stronger correlation between a woman's labor supply choice and her mother-in-law's labor force participation than that of her own mother. We present new empirical evidence exploring the relative size of these intergenerational links. We offer an alternative theoretical model that demonstrates assortative mating on parental characteristics could explain the link between the choices of a woman and her mother-in-law in a non-causal way. We also present an argument that illustrates the interdependencies of the links between generations that demonstrates the difficulty in separately measuring the influence of mothers and mothers-in-law.