Course description and objectives
In spite of the substantial increase of women’s participation in education and labour market, gender gaps still persist in our societies. On one side, we observe differences in employment rates and wages between men and women, especially for women with children. On the other side, women are under-represented in economic decision-making. The glass ceiling is still very real both in the realm of firms and in politics. This course provides an empirical and theoretical analysis of the main policies related to family and gender issues, which aim at reducing gender gaps. These policies include, among the others, child care, which may support women’s participation to the labor market, and gender quotas, which, while being a quite controversial measure, have proved efficacy in breaking persistent glass ceilings. We will also explore the role of gender culture as a main determinant of gender gaps and their differences across countries, and a crucial factor when evaluating the impact of policies on outcomes.

The course is organized in lectures (with detailed reading material indicated below), general discussions (papers for the general discussions are indicated in the detailed description below and are expected to be read by the students prior to the discussion) and presentations (each student has to prepare a presentation of about 40 minutes on a particular topic). Students are encouraged to actively participate to all classes.

Detailed Description of Assessment Methods
50% final written exam; 40% presentation; 10% discussion

Contact
E-mail: paola.profeta@unibocconi.it
Office: 3 b1-03, Via Roentgen 1
Office hour: By appointment

Course outline

22/9, 8.45 AND 10.30
Lesson 1-2: Scenario: Gender gaps. Data and perspectives
Teacher’s note

28/9, 8.45 AND 10,30
Lesson 3-4: Women’s education and labor market participation
Teacher’s note
Readings:
29/9, 8.45
Lesson 5: Experimental evidence
Teacher’s note
Readings:

5/10, 8.45 AND 10.30
Lesson 6-7: Gender culture
Teacher’s introduction
Readings:

6/10, 8.45
Lesson 8: Labour market and family: the role of policies
Teacher’s note

12/10, 8.45 AND 10.30
Lesson 9-10: Child care
Teacher’s introduction
Readings:

14/10, 14.30
Lesson 11: Gender quotas: new insights ([link to the public economics course](http://blog.oup.com/2015/05/ten-facts-gender-inequality/)).
Teacher’s notes

14/10, 16.15
Lesson 12: Final discussion and wrap-up