

WORKSHOP PROGRAM

GENDER ISSUES AND DEVELOPMENT

UNIVERSITY of READING
NOVEMBER 3 - 4, 2025

DAY 1 - MONDAY, NOVEMBER 3, 2025

- 9:00 am** Coffee and welcome of the participants
- 10:00 am** **Session I – Firms**
Chair: Florent Dubois
- “Digital Lifelines: Mobile Information and Peer Networks for Small Businesses in India”, **Bansi Malde** (City St George's University).
Discussant: Mahreen Mahmud
 - “Wage Subsidies to Promote Female Hiring: Evidence from Pakistan”, **Mahreen Mahmud** (University of Exeter).
Discussant: Bansi Malde
- 11:00 am** Coffee break
- 11:30 am** Keynote lecture **CLIMENT QUINTANA-DOMEQUE** (University of Exeter).
“Title to be confirmed”
- 12:30 pm** Lunch
- 1:45 pm** **Session II – Violence**
Chair: Sam Rawlings
- “What’s Your Poison? Online Gambling, Alcohol Consumption, and Intimate Partner Violence in India”, **Prashant Poddar** (University of Oxford).
Discussant: Elisabetta De Cao
 - “Heat, Alcohol, and Domestic Violence: Evidence from Peru”, **Fiorella Parra-Mujica** (Erasmus University Rotterdam).
Discussant: Prashant Poddar
 - “Spare the Rod? Christian Missions and the Roots of Harsh Parenting”, **Elisabetta De Cao** (University of Bologna).
Discussant: Fiorella Parra-Mujica
- 3:15 pm** Coffee break
- 3:45 pm** **Session III – Social protection**
Chair: Jade Siu
- “Cash Transfers and Women’s Labour Supply: Evidence from the World’s Largest Programme”, **Gabriel Leite Mariante** (LSE).
Discussant: Mithila Abraham Sarah
 - “Can Social Pensions Reduce Son Preference? Addressing Missing Women in India”, **Mithila Abraham Sarah** (University of Surrey).
Discussant: Gabriel Leite Mariante
- 5:00 pm** Keynote lecture **BISHNUPRIYA GUPTA** (University of Warwick).
“Conflict and the Roots of Gender Norms in India”
- 7:30 pm** Social Dinner

DAY 2 - TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 4, 2025

9:00 am Coffee

9:30 am **Session IV – Women’s empowerment**

Chair: Eliane Badaoui

- “Relative Income and Gender Norms: Evidence from Latin America”, **Dario Sansone** (University of Exeter).
Discussant: Tanmay Singh
- “Ex-Ante Beliefs about Gender Inequalities, Narratives and Support for Gender Quotas”, **Federica Esposito** (University of Bologna)
Discussant: Dario Sansone
- “From dim futures to bright horizons? Examining the role of rural electrification on women’s empowerment”, **Tanmay Singh** (Jönköping University)
Discussant: Federica Esposito

11:00 am Coffee break

11:30 am Keynote lecture **CHRISTINE VALENTE** (University of Bristol).
“Title to be confirmed”

12:30 pm Lunch

1:30 pm **Session V – Bias and stereotypes**

Chair: Neha Hui

- “Endogenous Sample Selection”, **Torsten Figueiredo Walter** (New York University Abu Dhabi.).
Discussant: Rory Todd
- “Sexist textbooks: Automated analysis of gender bias in 1,255 books from 34 countries”, **Rory Todd** (Center for Global Development).
Discussant: Torsten Figueiredo Walter

2:30 pm Coffee break

3:00 pm **Session VI – Political Economy**

Chair: Uma Kambhampati

- “Interpersonal and ethnic bias in Ethiopia”, **Monica Beeder** (University of Southampton).
Discussant: Shuai Chen
- “#MeToo Movement, Women’s Empowerment, and Judges’s Gender Gap in Decisions”, **Shuai Chen** (University of Leicester).
Discussant: Monica Beeder

4:00 pm Special session by **PRACHI AGARWAL** (ODI). “Bridging the gap between research and policy to enhance development impacts”

Chair: Stefania Lovo

5:00 pm End of the workshop

PRACTICAL INFORMATION

Workshop venue: Room G10, Henley Business School, Whiteknights Campus

Campus map: can be found [here](#).

How to get to Whiteknights Campus: The Whiteknights Campus is a short bus ride from Reading train station. For more information see [here](#).

Step	Direction
1. At Reading Station	Look for the White Knight 20 (every ~10 min, ~10–15 min journey) or Claret 21 (every ~15 min, runs 24/7).
2. After alighting	Alight at University of Reading, Whiteknights House (5-minute walk) for the quickest access to Henley Business School.
3. Alternatives	A taxi costs around £10; walking directly takes approximately 40 minutes.

Lunch venue: TBC

Dinner venue: TBC

Accommodation: We suggest booking accommodation either near Reading train station or near the campus. The University has agreements with some local hotels, and you can find discount codes [here](#). According to feedback from previous visitors, we recommend avoiding the following hotels: Sure Hotel by Best Western and Hotel 1843. The following may be better choices: Ibis, Novotel, Penta.