

Amsterdam Meta Science Network Seminar, 30 September 2025

VU Amsterdam, MF Building, Van der Boechorststraat 7, SaluTem 3, 15.00

You are cordially invited to the monthly seminar of the Amsterdam Meta Science Network on Tuesday, 30 September 2025. The seminar features two talks (abstracts below) with Q&A. Save the date for the upcoming edition: Tuesday 28 October 2025.

Gender bias in panel scores and in Grant success: Replicating Wennerås & Wold

Peter van den Besselaar & Charlie Mom

The well-known 1997 study of Wennerås and Wold on gender bias in grant allocation has been cited many times but was also faced with criticism and with demands for replication. Using the original data, we replicated the study and found partly similar results, but also partly other. Although several of the criticisms the paper has met can be rejected, the overall result is that the gender effect on the performance scores exists, but at a much lower level. Furthermore, we extended the study by addressing the question whether the found bias in the scoring also resulted in a bias in grant allocation – an issue not discussed by Wennerås and Wold. Here our findings are in line with more recent studies, showing that gender bias in the scoring exists, but the grant allocation as such seems to be much more neutral.

Paper: https://www.researchgate.net/profile/Peter-Van-Den-Besselaar/publication/375715782_Gender_bias_in_panel_scores_and_in_grant_success_Replicating_Wennerås_Wold/links/6557936eb86a1d521bf00500/Gender-bias-in-panel-scores-and-in-grant-success-Replicating-Wennerås-Wold.pdf

Jörg Ankel-Peters (RWI Essen) – Robustness in Development Economics - A Many-Analysist Meta-Replication

In economics, transparency standards in terms of data availability and pre-registration are increasing but replication is not an established element of the scientific enterprise. At the same time, concerns about low replicability rates are also on the rise in economics. This study, conducted in close collaboration with the Institute for Replication, is a meta-reproduction systematically examining the robustness of 60 development economics articles published in three leading journals – the *American Economic Review*, *American Economic Journal: Applied Economics* and the *Journal of Development Economics*. The

reproductions are implemented by 66 globally recruited replicators, following a newly developed protocol for robustness reproduction to ensure similar standards. Each reproduction is internally reviewed by experienced replication experts – and revised by the replicators if necessary – to ensure the theoretical validity of the robustness tests. Our major result is that 30% of all specifications do not confirm the original results. About 25% of replicated articles have major robustness problems with at least one of their main outcomes.