



# Calderwood Seminars in Public Writing: "The most beneficial class I have taken at Wellesley"

David L. Lindauer

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Wellesley College



American Studies 355: Critiquing American Popular Culture

Art History 303: Artist and Critic

**Biological Sciences 340:** Biology in the News

**Chemistry 309:** Advances in Chemical Biology

Cinema and Media Studies 327: Public Writing on Film & TV

Comp Lit 359/French 359: Advocating for Other Cultures

Economics 335: Economic Journalism

**English 390:** The New York Review of Books at 50

ES 399: Environmental Synthesis and Communication

Mathematics 340: Explaining Mathematics

Music 301: Music in Public

Philosophy 330: Ethics for Everyone

Political Science 319: Campaigns and Elections

**Psychology 343:** Psychology in the Public Interest

**Religion 380:** Religion and Public Morality

Sociology 324: Public Sociology

Spanish 340: Unity and Diversity in the Hispanic World

Writing Program 390: Law, Medicine and Ethics



## Calderwood Seminars in Public Writing Beyond Wellesley



Georgetown University









Wesleyan University



Amherst College



- I. Introduction
- II. Supply and Demand
- III. Ceilings, Floors and Taxes
- IV. Market Efficiency and Market Failure
- V. The Theory of the Firm
- VI. Perfect Competition
- VII. Industrial Organization
- VIII. Consumer Behavior
- IX. Inequality and Poverty

## **Economics 101; Principles of Microeconomics**

### I. Introduction (September 3-10)

Mankiw, Chapters 1, 2 (+ Appendix)

- A. Goolsbee, "Why People Hate Economists (and Why We Don't Care)" (August 2006)
- L. Summers, "Morning Prayers Address," Appleton Chapel, Harvard University (September 15, 2003)

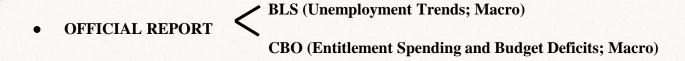
## II. Supply and Demand (September 11-17)

Mankiw, Chapter 4

- K. Case, "The value of scalping," The Boston Globe (January 21, 2007)
- P. Conkling, "The Great Silent Lobster Tie Up," <u>The Working Waterfront</u> (July 2012)
- M. Munger, "They Clapped: Can Price-Gouging Laws Prohibit Scarcity?" (January 8, 2007)



- Official Government Report
- Article in a Professional Journal
- Public Lecture by an Economist
- Book Review
- Op-Ed
- Interview/Profile of an Economist



- JOURNAL ARTICLE Claudia Goldin (Gender Pay Gap; Labor Economics)

  Roland Fryer (Police Use of Lethal Force; Econometrics)
- PUBLIC LECTURE

  Amy Finkelstein (Oregon Medicare Experiment; Health Economics)

  Raj Chetty (Social Mobility; Income Inequality)
- BOOK REVIEW

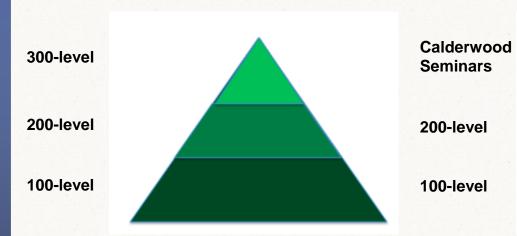
  William Nordhaus (Climate Change; Environmental Economics)

  Steven Radelet (Global Poverty Alleviation; Development Economics)
- OP-ED Students Select (All fields)
- INTERVIEW/PROFILE Students Select (All fields)





## **The Calderwood Difference**









## A Typical Week in ECON 335, Economic Journalism



Writers

**Editors** 

## Week 5:

## Reporting on Claudia Goldin's 2014 Presidential Address to the American Economic Association



Henry Lee Professor of Economics, Harvard University

#### By CLAUDIA GOLDIN®

The converging roles of men and women are among the grandest advances in society and the economy in the last century. These aspects of the grand gender convergence are figurative chapters in a history of gender roles. But what must the "last" chapter contain for there to be equality in the labor market? The answer may come as a surprise. The solution does not (necessarily) have to involve government intervention and it need not make men more responsible in the home (although that wouldn't hurt). But it must involve changes in the labor market, especially how jobs are structured and remunerated to enhance temporal flexibility. The gender gap in pay would be considerably reduced and might vanish altogether if firms did not have an incentive to disproportionately reward individuals who labored long hours and worked particular hours. Such change has taken off in various sectors, such as technology, science, and health, but is less apparent in the corporate, financial, and legal worlds. (JEL J3, J16, J22, J24, J31, J33, N3)

#### I. Converging Roles

Of the many advances in society and the economy in the last century, the converging roles of men and women are among the grandest. A narrowing has occurred between men and women in labor force participation, paid hours of work, hours of work at home, life-time labor force experience, occupations, college majors, and education, where there has been an overtaking by females. Although my evidence is for the United States, the themes developed here are more broadly applicable.

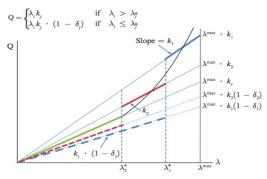


FIGURE 4 A THEORY OF OCCUPATIONAL PAY DIFFERENCES

Notes: Each of the lines gives the relationship between output,  $Q_i$  in some occupation and the time input,  $A_i$  of a worker where  $0 < \lambda \le \lambda^{max}$ . When the time input is reduced below some level,  $\lambda^{r_i}$ , output decreases discretely for occupations 1 and 2. Occupation r has a linear relationship between decreases discretely for occupations 1. and 2. Occupation r has a linear relationship between decreases discretely for occupation 1, an individual between  $\lambda^r_1$  and  $\lambda^{rin}_2$  will be in occupation 1, an individual between  $\lambda^r_1$  and  $\lambda^r_2$  will work in 2 and all others will work in  $r_i$  if they remain in the labor force.

setup given by (1) contains a discontinuity in productivity if the worker is absent more than some amount.

Several occupations or positions may exist among which individual i can choose. To begin with, assume two positions exist such that  $k_1 > k_2$  and that output is reduced when hours do not exceed some level such that  $\delta_1 > \delta_2$ . In addition, assume  $k_1(1-\delta_1) < k_2(1-\delta_2)$  so that one occupation or work setting does not dominate the other. Now add a third position, r, characterized by linearity ( $\delta_r = 0$ ) for which  $k_r < k_2$ . That position, which can be called the reservation occupation, will dominate the other two when  $\lambda$  is sufficiently low. Also assume that  $k_2(1-\delta_2) < k_r$ .

As shown in Figure 4 an employee will work in occupation 1 as long as  $\lambda > \lambda_1^*$  and will then shift to occupation 2 at lower hours and finally to the reservation occupation when  $\lambda < \lambda_2^*$ . The relationship between output and hours, and thus between earnings and hours, is nonlinear (convex). On a per unit time basis the employee receives more in occupation 1 than 2 and more in occupation 2 than in the reservation occupation, r.

In the framework, the position with the highest slope is also the one with the highest penalty with regard to reduced hours. Rather than stay in that position, an employee who wants lower hours will shift to one that has a lower penalty but also a lower slope. If the level of hours that the worker wants is yet lower, then the worker will take the reservation job, which involves complete linearity with respect to hours.

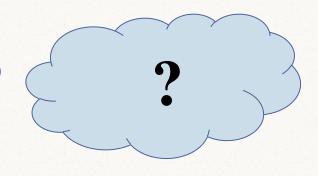
<sup>\*</sup>Department of Economics, Harvard University, 229 Littauer, Cambridge, MA 02138 (cgoldin@harvard.edu). I hark Amira Abdulafi and Natalia Emanuel for excellent research assistance. I am grateful to Larry Katz for his unfailing support and exceptionally high standards, and to Claudia Olivetti for excellent comments. I am grateful to Kathleen Christensen of the Alfred P Sloan Foundation for being a catalyst and to the Sloan Foundation for fringing a related or object. I thank Terry K. Adams and J. J. Prescut for evirine ne access to the University of Michigan Law



Narayani



Kathy





#### MAKING WORKPLACE INFLEXIBILITY FLEXIBLE

In 1992, Lauren was a newly married paralegal working at highly ranked corporate law firm in the state of Rhode Island. She excelled at her work and hoped to attend law school with the goal of practicing corporate law. But Lauren also wanted children, and of the two lawyers at Lauren's law firm, neither had children. And so when Lauren and her husband spoke of a family, Lauren opted out of studying corporate law, and eventually out of legal field.

Lauren's story is similar to many others, A high number of women are pursuing higher level education and professional degrees, and thereby making up for the human capital deficit. If et, there still exists a gender gap in earnings.

Claudia Goldin, an economist at Harvard University, explores the cause of this gender wage gap in her paper A Grand Gender Convergence: Its Last Chapter. Goldin's paper finds that time out of the labor force and hours worked daily or weekly greatly affect time adjusted earnings for certain occupations, but not for others. Gender wage disparity in these more unequal occupations does not exist from the onset, but instead several decades into employment. Graduating male and female JD students with similar characteristics from the University of Michigan, for example, earn similar wages early in their career, but females experience considerable decreases in their pay as their career progresses.

Goldin's explanation for this divergence focuses on two ideas. First, many high level occupations also demand stringent, sustained time investments with inflexible work hours. Women working corporate or legal jobs are required to regularly invest long hours into their work. Once they start raising families, it is difficult for them to maintain these hours and moving into part-time positions is many times not possible. Eventually, they drop out of the labor force or move into lower remunerated occupations. Second, these occupations are difficult to cross-train and therefore not perfectly substitutable. Women working in the corporate sector and appointed to high-profile clients are not easily replaceable with other employees. Face to face time and interpersonal relationships are essential to success!

So what's the solution? Should high-achieving women with ambitious career pursuits stop having children to remain competitive with their male peers, or is there an alternative? Goldin's analysis. suggest there may be an alternative.

Forty-five years ago, full-time female pharmacists earned \$0.60 for every dollar earned by their male counterparts. Today they earn \$0.85--a 42% decrease in the wage gap. Pharmacists saw a more equitable female-male pay ratio after the industry underwent a series of major transformations. Scale ups in the healthcare market, phased out independently owned pharmacies--most of which were owned by men-- and instead brought to rise large corporations and hospital employment. Combined with increasingly standardized procedures and computer systems that connected pharmacists across pharmacies, insurance companies, and physicians, pharmacists had almost become perfect substitutes for each other. The result? Women, originally part-time assistants to male pharmacy owners, now make up 55% of all pharmacists and the profession boasts one of the highest female-male wage parities.

Jane Yan 11/13/15 8:32 AM Comment [8]: Female? # pourse a highly ranked erporate law firm, you're not going to have only Jane Yan 11/13/15 8:32 AM Comment [9]: Attrough I think that it sounds are engaging as an introduction, but needs a ranution aut into Gold in's findings. You talk somet to children and raising a family, but that is not aplicitly evident in why there is a gender gap in amings (I maws, your readers are smart individuals the east gives that warrer take off to raise at tidee other earn less, but then we start assuming is t ause they earn less cause they work fewer hours. trate they actually further penaltied for not taking me), and how that relates to Goldin's piece at the ere tag inting. The reader goes from Lauren's needals on children, an earnings gender gap (and human capital), and then time out of the LF, it's not uper intuitive in this organ how things are trace Jane Yan 11/13/15 8:32 AM Comment (10): Semething to think about ou he at 319 words as the intro/transition out of upter is store. I would really try to maintain it. (... Jane Yan 11/13/15 8:32 AM

Comment [11]: I would try to make exploit that

to differential is companied of different factors. I

Comment [12]: When tread "time out of the

stornal wave what is being said? Just checking

comment [13]: I would be consistent -most to

gets think the teader would undenstand why you

a wall and the state of weekly it understand that you -

Comment [14]: I don't know if this is a really officient way to explain a nonlinear wage structure

t's not jurgen y, which is great. But, maybe it's 🗀

uningling here -the how much does it decrease

Comment [16]: And these two ideas have on

teathle working hours, because of the personal Co-Jane Yan 11/13/15 8:32 AM

he fact that women more than men demand

Comment [17]: it's not so much long hours

withough long hours are definitely purt of the

Comment [18]: Suggestion: you could also

mention that generally being around other workers nd having that workplace environment is

Comment [19]: I think that the paragraph on the harmacists looks great! However, it is a bit long, so you find yourself strapped for words, I think IV

Jane Yan 11/13/15 8:32 AM

Jane Yan 11/13/15 8:32 AM

pustion), but rather the structure of the worki

Comment [15]: Maybe a figure would be

bor force," I shought of maternal leave, is

ink you're implying it.

Jane Yan 11/13/15 8:32 AM

wage differential between the genders (which wasn't exactly made clear). The wage differential is partially explained by human capital theory, but advancements made to

occupation is now driven by personal economic theory -more women need flexible hours than men. In certain occupations, the workday is very inflexible, and people who not only work fewer hours make less, but are penalized in doing so. These places with these types of wage structures are less welcoming for women. There are other occupations that have more flexible hours, and a smaller gender wage differential, but as in the case of pharmacists, the converging equality is from structural changes -which ushers in a new approach for approaching the gender wage gap.

#### General comment:

So for some reason, I had the overwhelming feeling for this draft that it would be a lot easier on you if you got down content and then polished your writing last! I think that the writing portion is consistent, flows, and is easy to read -but this takes a lot of editing. And, when you write more, you'll have to edit previous portions extensively, as well as the newer parts.

I also know that you're still working on an intro/conclusion, and I think the intro in particular would really help the reader figure out what you are talking about. I do think that your body paragraphs make a lot of sense.

Of course, everything that I've written is only suggestions from a different perspective! You are not pressured to use everything, or address a majority of what I've said and can take your work in a different direction!

Not all occupations can afford such flexibility, but many can. If the legal sector were to implement more inclusive, family friendly policies, women might not feel forced out of the workforce. Similar to the pharmaceutical revolution, both the legal and corporate industries can benefit from standardized processes and technology. Women with young children could Skype into work meetings, br other lawyers could access client files from a computer program.

These gains are profitable not only to women, but the economy as a whole. Increases in workhour flexibility affords women who want to workl post-child, the opportunity to remain in the labor-force, which in turn helps boost our countries stagnating labor-force participation rate.

#### My Summary

The piece starts with an anecdotal story that is engaging and also relevant, by raising the question of whether women who want to raise families are deterred from working at high powered occupations. Dropping out from high powered occupations is linked to a larger gender equality in education has shrunk the differences in human capital.

So, Goldin looks for another explanation, that the gender wage differential within

Comment [16]: And flexibility also benefits other portions of the population other than women! I know she doesn't expand on this, but I was thinking

Comment [17]: By how much? I would say that yes, but then I also wonder about how much more we can equalize male and female LFP. The gains are apering off yes? And Goldin also notes that her tudy focused on college educated women, articularly those who are high-achieving, so I guess m concerned about what it means for the big

Jane Yan 11/13/15 2:44 PM

Comment [13]: For me at least, I think I just anted more out of this "many can" phrase.

Jane Yan 11/13/15 2:44 PM

Comment [14]: Was it policies in harmaceuticals or actually something structural and outside the occupation? You yourself talk about chnology in the next line.

Jane Yan 11/13/15 2:44 PM

Comment [15]: In the framework of Goldin's piece about client interfacing/inflexible work ours/lack of substitutability, I didn't understand ow having files accessed from a computer program would help. Like, you see a lot of people in IT work at home from computers (i.e. my dad who has no social skills on Friday), and it's great that they don't need to go into the office! But I thought her point was that lawyers just cannot because of their vage/time structure. This point flew over my head, o I would expand upon/make it more accessible

Jane Yan 11/13/15 2:44 PM

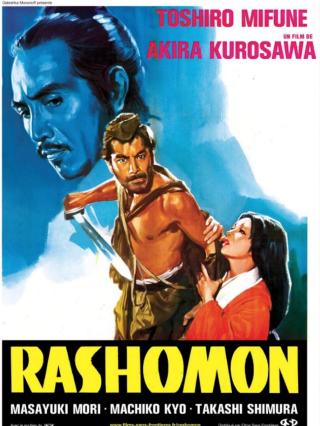
disabled people. But that's just me just rambling.

Jane Yan 11/13/15 2:44 PM













Narayani



Stella





Risk, Uncertainty, and Economics for a Warming World

William Nordhaus

## What do Students Learn from their Calderwood Seminars?

## Major

- Empowering students in the knowledge they have gained from previous courses
- Taking one more "lap around the major"
- Finding one's "voice"

## Writing

- Public writing versus academic writing
- Establishing a context and having an opinion
- Improving writing mechanics

### Soft Skills

- Seeing the work of one's peers
- Learning to give and receive criticism
- Becoming better and more skeptical readers



Calderwood

CALDERWOOD COURTYARD -- MFA

CALDERWOOD COURTYARD -- FOGG

CALDERWOOD PAVILION -- BCA

CALDERWOOD HALL -- GARDNER