

Females in Leadership positions

Stephan Brunow, Michaela Fuchs, Alina Sorgner

GfR Winterseminar, Matrei/Osttirol 2025

Introduction

- Conditional gender pay gap is substantive in Germany
- Other indicators also show a gender-gap mainly to the disadvantage of females
- The share of females in leadership positions is lower (compared to men)
- The proportion of females acting in a leadership positions accounts for 28,9% in Germany (EU data 2022, 24,1% according to Statista 2024)
- Reasons, among others:
 - unequal chances, glass ceiling, discrimination?
 - individual taste heterogeneity (by gender)?

Introduction (II)

- E.g. „females have a x percentage points lower chance to get in a leadership position.“
- Or: females have a x percentage points lower chance to get in a leadership position, when they collect one additional year of labour market experience“
- Such statement implies: females are compared to men

However

- Females in leadership positions (LSP) may differ from females in non-leadership positions
 - In which characteristics?
 - When do females change into leadership positions?
 - Are there regional characteristics, that promote fem. in LSP?

Literature

- Resource dependence theory
Aufgrund innerbetrieblicher Betrachtungen sind Frauen in Führungspositionen aufgrund von Risikoabwägungen wünschenswert (Blum 1994)
- Leadership Position: „Always available“ + norms
-> against females in LSP (Hadler 1995)
- Females are less career oriented (Hadler 1995)
- Firm characteristics are correlated with fem. in LSP (Kleinert 2007)
- Females promote each other but also competition effects (Kunze/Miller 2017, Bossler et al. 2020)
- Fem LSP -> no childcare issue, rather supporting partners (Funke et al. 2020)

Identification

- Female-male-comparison in a latent utility setting

$$u_i^* = X_i\beta + \delta D_{F,i} + \epsilon_i$$

with $D_{F,i}$ represents an indicator variable to be Female

- δ is expected to be negative and indicates the lower “chance” of females to be in a LSP; conditional on X ’s
- In an interaction-term approach $u_i^* = X_i\beta + \delta D_{F,i}X_i + \epsilon_i$,
 - δ now represents the difference in slopes
(relative to men, see example on the slide before)
 - Let X be e.g. an indicator for being high-skilled (ref. low-sk.), then the effect for females in LSP relative to non-LSP females can be computed ($\beta + \delta$), but is cumbersome
 - In a generalized setting the Oaxaca-Blinder decomposition could be employed (using logit/probit)

Identification (II)

- Female-female-comparison in a latent utility setting

$$u_i^* = X_i\beta + \epsilon_i$$

- β represents now the correlation of characteristics X for a female to be in a LSP; conditional on other X's
- E.g. how “likely” is it to be in a LSP, when the female is high-skilled relative to low-skilled females
- Thus, standard logit/probit estimation can be performed

Identification (III)

- Female-female-comparison in a latent utility setting

$$u_i^* = X_i\beta + \epsilon_i$$

- The sign (and significance) of β provides insights into the correlation structure of X's with being in a LSP
- Unobserved individual heterogeneity may bias β
- Nonlinear nature of lim.dep.var. models:
 - Incidental parameter problem with dummy-approach
 - Invalid within-transformation
- Mundlacks approach (disadvantage: time consistent X's)
- Card-Heining-Kline-Effects
- Samples
 - always/never in LSP
 - only females, that are at least once in LSP

Data basis

- IAB Integrated Employment Biografie (10% sample)
- Administrative data of individuals working subject social security contributions
- Panel 2012 to 2018; **update to newest end 2023!**
- LHS: 4th digit occupational code on LSP
(Aufsichts- und Führungskräfte)
- Age 25+

Beobachtungen	Absolute Anzahl
Gesamt	13.181.631
abs. Personen	1.728.125
abs. Betriebe	872.143

Explanatory variables

- **Individual**
(age (categorized), foreigner + naturalized, mother)
- **Vocational training+ further training**
(no voc. Qualification, vocational education, university degree; +“Meister/Pollier“)
- **LM-Experience**
(share of time in unemployment; duration in the current firm, average duration in firms, no of distinct employers)
- **Selectivity related variables**
(agglom-urban-peripheral region + East Germany, 2-digit industries, 2-digit occupations, year indicators, task level, parttime)
- **Firm controls**
(employment size, share females, share foreigners, share human capital)
- **To Do: Regional variables**

Some first results

	A1	A2	A5	A6
Regionaltyp (Referenzgruppe = Agglomerationsraum) (β7)				
Urbaner Raum	0.035** (0.016)	0.142*** (0.018)	0.153*** (0.018)	0.154*** (0.018)
Ländlicher Raum	0.066*** (0.017)	0.168*** (0.019)	0.179*** (0.019)	0.185*** (0.019)
Neue Bundesländer (β1)	0.266*** (0.017)	0.416*** (0.019)	0.384*** (0.019)	0.389*** (0.019)
Altersgruppe (Referenzgruppe = 25-34) (β8)				
35-44	0.460*** (0.012)	0.645*** (0.013)	0.653*** (0.013)	0.665*** (0.013)
45-54	0.487*** (0.014)	0.520*** (0.016)	0.559*** (0.016)	0.577*** (0.016)
55+	0.379*** (0.017)	0.250*** (0.019)	0.309*** (0.019)	0.333*** (0.020)
Mutter (Status) (β2)	0.018* (0.010)	0.163*** (0.010)	0.150*** (0.010)	0.150*** (0.011)
Migrantin (β3)	-0.557*** (0.021)	-0.381*** (0.023)	-0.301*** (0.023)	-0.305*** (0.025)
Eingebürgert (β4)	0.413*** (0.025)	0.257*** (0.028)	0.192*** (0.028)	0.196*** (0.030)
Höchster Bildungsabschluss (Referenzgruppe = ohne Abschluss) (β11)				
Lehre	0.391*** (0.022)	0.250*** (0.024)	0.070*** (0.024)	(.)
Akademische Reife	1.199*** (0.026)	0.176*** (0.029)	0.028 (0.028)	-0.036** (0.018)
Meistertitel (β5)	0.652*** (0.017)	0.070*** (0.021)	0.067*** (0.021)	0.078*** (0.020)
Teilzeitarbeit (β6)	-1.203*** (0.014)	-0.708*** (0.016)	-0.647*** (0.016)	-0.619*** (0.016)
Dauer der Betriebszugehörigkeit (Referenzgruppe = bis zu 2 Jahre) (β9)				
über 2 bis 4 Jahre	0.025* (0.014)	-0.006 (0.016)	-0.016 (0.016)	-0.024 (0.016)
über 4 bis 6 Jahre	0.013 (0.016)	-0.014 (0.018)	-0.030* (0.018)	-0.036** (0.018)
über 6 bis 8 Jahre	0.046** (0.018)	0.016 (0.020)	-0.004 (0.020)	-0.009 (0.021)
über 8 bis 10 Jahre	0.052*** (0.020)	0.001 (0.023)	-0.026 (0.023)	-0.037 (0.023)
über 10 bis 15 Jahre	0.160*** (0.018)	0.069*** (0.020)	0.041** (0.020)	0.035* (0.021)
über 15 Jahre	0.259*** (0.019)	0.081*** (0.022)	0.048** (0.022)	0.042* (0.022)

Anzahl Betriebe (Referenzgruppe = 1 Betrieb) (β10)				
2 bis 5	0.054** (0.027)	0.059* (0.031)	0.066** (0.031)	0.058* (0.031)
6 bis 10	0.146*** (0.028)	0.186*** (0.032)	0.189*** (0.032)	0.184*** (0.032)
über 10	0.219*** (0.031)	0.275*** (0.034)	0.271*** (0.035)	0.270*** (0.035)
Anteil der Arbeitslosigkeit an Erwerbsleben (Referenzgruppe = unter 5%) (β12)				
über 5 bis 10%	-0.369*** (0.013)	-0.159*** (0.015)	-0.153*** (0.015)	-0.165*** (0.016)
über 10 bis 25%	-0.612*** (0.017)	-0.289*** (0.019)	-0.262*** (0.019)	-0.279*** (0.020)
über 25%	-1.117*** (0.023)	-0.625*** (0.028)	-0.519*** (0.028)	-0.535*** (0.030)
Betriebsgröße (Referenzgruppe = bis unter 10 Beschäftigte) (β13)				
11-49 Beschäftigte	0.062*** (0.015)	-0.007 (0.017)	0.003 (0.017)	-0.005 (0.017)
50-249 Beschäftigte	0.129*** (0.018)	-0.028 (0.021)	-0.003 (0.021)	-0.009 (0.021)
250 und mehr Besch.	0.128*** (0.028)	-0.204*** (0.032)	-0.164*** (0.032)	-0.174*** (0.032)
Anteil Frauen im B. (β14)	1.155*** (0.039)	1.351*** (0.044)	1.385*** (0.044)	1.340*** (0.045)
Anteil Migrant*innen im Betrieb (β15)	1.019*** (0.041)	1.042*** (0.049)	1.132*** (0.050)	1.158*** (0.053)
Anteil (hoch-) qualifizierter Beschäftigter im Betrieb (β16)	2.096*** (0.026)	1.619*** (0.032)	1.564*** (0.032)	1.498*** (0.031)
Personeneffekte (CHK)	(.)	1.069*** (0.010)	1.014*** (0.010)	1.026*** (0.010)
Firmeneffekte (CHK)	(.)	0.204*** (0.009)	0.187*** (0.009)	0.193*** (0.009)
Konstante	-5.677*** (0.106)	-5.459*** (0.125)	-5.072*** (0.130)	-4.927*** (0.130)
Beobachtungen (N)	12479730	8187002	6909991	6383017
Betriebscluster	807204	565233	520646	494834
Pseudo-R ²	0.154	0.201	0.185	0.184

Source: BT Yulia Balashkova (Supervisor: S. Brunow in coop. with M. Fuchs)

S. Brunow: Females in Leadership Positions (LSP)

Some first results (I)

- All results show their expected signs
- Pseudo R2 around 0.1-0.25
- About 3% of all females hold a leadership position

	A1	A2	A5	A6
Regionaltyp (Referenzgruppe = Agglomerationsraum) (β_7)				
Urbaner Raum	0.035** (0.016)	0.142*** (0.018)	0.153*** (0.018)	0.154*** (0.018)
Ländlicher Raum	0.066*** (0.017)	0.168*** (0.019)	0.179*** (0.019)	0.185*** (0.019)
Neue Bundesländer (β_1)	0.266*** (0.017)	0.416*** (0.019)	0.384*** (0.019)	0.389*** (0.019)
	Full sample	Incl. CHK	Excl. unskilled	Excl. unskilled+ no degrees

Source: BT Yulia Balashkova (Supervisor: S. Brunow in coop. with M. Fuchs)

S. Brunow: Females in Leadership Positions (LSP)

Some first results (II)

- Sample: females that had at least one LSP in 2012-2018

	B2	B5	B6
Regionaltyp (Referenzgruppe = Agglomerationsraum) (β_7)			
Urbaner Raum	0.124*** (0.022)	0.134*** (0.022)	0.130*** (0.023)
Ländlicher Raum	0.144*** (0.025)	0.155*** (0.025)	0.157*** (0.026)
Neue Bundesländer (β_1)	0.019 (0.023)	0.002 (0.024)	0.002 (0.023)
	Incl. CHK	Excl. unskilled	Excl. unskilled+ no degrees

Source: BT Yulia Balashkova (Supervisor: S. Brunow in coop. with M. Fuchs)

S. Brunow: Females in Leadership Positions (LSP)

Some first results (III)

- Full sample but Aufsichts-/Führungskraft getrennt

Aufsichtskräfte	M1	M2	M5	M6
Regionaltyp (Referenzgruppe = Agglomerationsraum) (β_7)				
Urbaner Raum	-0.014 (0.025)	0.061** (0.027)	0.075*** (0.027)	0.071** (0.028)
Ländlicher Raum	-0.004 (0.027)	0.037 (0.029)	0.051* (0.029)	0.055* (0.030)
Neue Bundesländer (β_1)	0.205*** (0.027)	0.275*** (0.031)	0.224*** (0.031)	0.222*** (0.030)
Führungskräfte	M1	M2	M5	M6
Regionaltyp (Referenzgruppe = Agglomerationsraum) (β_7)				
Urbaner Raum	0.074*** (0.021)	0.207*** (0.023)	0.214*** (0.023)	0.219*** (0.023)
Ländlicher Raum	0.118*** (0.021)	0.271*** (0.024)	0.278*** (0.024)	0.285*** (0.024)
Neue Bundesländer (β_1)	0.310*** (0.023)	0.527*** (0.025)	0.506*** (0.025)	0.514*** (0.025)
	Full sample	Incl. CHK	Excl. unskilled	Excl. unskilled+ no degrees

Results: what's going on in the East?

- C.p. in East Germany the likelihood for a female to get into a LSP is significantly higher compared to the West
 - Is it occupation-driven? Are too few males in these occ.?
 - Is it long-lasting spatial heterogeneity („GDR-Effekt“)
 - Biased male-female distribution in East Germany?
- Thus, comparison with males gets important and regional characteristics may explain in more detail, what is going on here.

Which female is most likely in a LSP?

Reading the coefficients reveals:

- Mothers about 45-54
- Not immigrated but „naturalisation neutralizes“
- Vocational training degree (Aufsichts-/Führungskraft); highly skilled rather „Führungskraft“; Meistertitel -> Aufsichts- but not Führungskraft
- Working fulltime (parttime=NO LSP)
- Never unemployed, experience in different firms, „longer“ in the current firm
- Larger firms, with higher shares of human capital, females (statistical artefact?), and migrants

What we intend to do next

- Get the new data and estimate with that much longer time period (2012-2023)
- Partners
- East Germany puzzle:
Unemployment is higher in male-dominated occupations
-> Specific situation, cultural factors, or labour market (tightness) argument
- Female share and female LSP share in industries
- (Regional) Labour markets and availability of male/female LSP potentials
- Estimate for males -> common X's and their slopes?
- Legal reforms 2015, 2021 („Quotenfrauen Vorstand“)

Conclusion

- Our very first evidence suggests regional heterogeneity in chances for females to get into a LSP
- Agglomeration regions are disadvantageous for females to get a LSP
- Esp. mothers of 45-54 years of age with a solid employment track, labour market experience in fulltime employment get most likely in LSP
- Special features between Aufsichts-/Führungskraft

Stephan Brunow

University of Applied Labour Studies
Campus Schwerin

stephan.brunow@arbeitsagentur.de



Thank you!

