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Universidad  
de Navarra

Instituto Cultura y Sociedad

**VIII Encuentro Anual del Instituto Cultura y Sociedad ICS:  
"Vínculos sociales y desarrollo (II): Vínculos familiares"  
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**Family through the lens of economics**

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The talk will focus on four interrelated themes based on my research and from the broader economics literature in general. Here I list the four themes and I will expand on them during my presentation:

1. The role of family ties and particularly the mother in decision making. This part will be based on my research with Armand and Atwell, where we show how appeals from families and especially mothers can play a role in ending entrenched civil conflicts.
2. The importance of the mother for later life outcomes of the children. This part will focus on the literature on how the mother's socio-economic status can affect children's mental and physical health outcomes. I will draw examples from my research on child mortality in sub-Saharan Africa, as well as my research on in utero climate shocks and mental health in the UK, apart from the broader economics literature.
3. How gender Prejudice (e.g. son preference) can destroy mothers and lead to dystopian families. This part will talk about how gender preference can lead to unnaturally skewed sex ratios, high mortality rates for young girls and unborn female fetuses (i.e. the phenomenon of Missing Women). I will draw from my research on gender prejudice and gender inequality in health outcomes.
4. The role of female empowerment in improving family outcomes. This part will talk about how economic policies can reduce gender prejudice and make families value their daughters as much as their sons. This will also borrow from my research on gender prejudice and gender inequality in health outcomes, as well as the broader empowerment literature.