# Aggregate Costs of Gender Gaps in the Labor Market: A Quantitative Estimate* 

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October 10, 2013


#### Abstract

This paper examines the quantitative effects of gender gaps in entrepreneurship and labor force participation on aggregate productivity and income per capita. We calibrate and simulate an occupational choice model with heterogeneous agents in entrepreneurial ability, where agents choose whether to be employed as workers, become self-employed or manage firms with several employees. The model assumes that men and women have the same talent distribution, but we impose several frictions on women's opportunities and pay in the labor market. In particular, we restrict the fraction of women participating in the labor market. Moreover, we limit the number of women who can work as employers or as self-employed and, finally, women who become workers receive a lower wage. Our model shows that gender gaps in entrepreneurship and in female workers' pay affect aggregate productivity negatively, while gender gaps in labor force participation reduce income per capita. If all women are excluded from entrepreneurship, average output per worker drops by almost $12 \%$ because the average talent of entrepreneurs falls down, while if all women are excluded from the labor force income per capita is reduced by almost $40 \%$. In the cross-country analysis, we find that gender gaps and their implied income losses differ importantly across geographical regions, with a total income loss of $27 \%$ in Middle East and North Africa and a $14 \%$ loss in Europe and Central Asia.


JEL classification numbers: E2, J21, J24, O40.
Keywords: gender inequality, entrepreneurship talent, factor allocation, aggregate productivity.

[^0]
## 1 Introduction

The recent decades have seen a significant drop in gender gaps both in developed and developing countries. However, the prevalence of gender inequality is still high, especially in South Asia, the Middle East and North Africa (Klasen and Lamanna, 2009). These gaps are present in the labor market, where women typically receive lower wages, are underrepresented in certain occupations, and work fewer hours than men. ${ }^{1}$, and in several other dimensions including education, access to productive inputs, political representation, or bargaining power inside the household.

One important aspect of gender inequality in the labor market that has not been much studied is the presence of women in entrepreneurial activities. The World Bank (2001) estimates that, in developed countries, the average incidence of females among employers is less than $30 \%$. Everything else equal, a better use of women's potential in the labor market is likely to result in greater macroeconomic efficiency. When they are free to choose their occupation, for example, the most talented people - independently of their gender - typically organize production carried out by others, so they can spread their ability advantage over a larger scale. From this point of view, obstacles to women's access to entrepreneurship reduce the average ability of a country's entrepreneurs and affect negatively the way production is organized in the economy and, hence, its efficiency.

In this paper, we develop and calibrate an occupational choice model that illustrates the positive impact of gender equality on resource allocation and thus on aggregate productivity and income per capita. The model is then used to quantify the costs of gender inequality in the labor market and the effects of the existing labor gender gaps in a large sample of both developed and developing countries. Our theoretical frmework is an extension of the span-ofcontrol model by Lucas (1978). The two new elements in our model are first the inclusion of a third occupation, namely self-employment, on top of employers and workers. ${ }^{2}$ Secondly, we introduce several exogenous frictions that only affect women. In the model, agents are endowed with entrepreneurial talent drawn from a random distribution and choose their occupation. ${ }^{3}$ Men are unrestricted in their choices, but the limits imposed to women's choices reduce aggregate productivity and income per capita due to the associated inefficient allocation of talent across occupations.

The rest of the paper is organized as follows. In Section 2, we briefly discuss the exisitng papers linking labor gender inequality and economic growth, with an emphasis on those most

[^1]closely related to our work. The theoretical model is presented in Section 3. Section 4 explains the model simulation and presents the main numerical results. Section 5 discusses the quantitative implications of our model for a large set of countries, and, finally, Section 6 concludes.

## 2 Literature Review

The empirical literature on the two-way relationship between economic growth and gender inequality is quite extense. ${ }^{4}$ This literature has reached some consensus on the fact that there is a positive effect of increases in income per capita on gender equality and, more relevant to our paper, a negative effect of gender inequality on economic growth.

With respect to the theoretical literature, several studies focus on explaining the effects of economic growth on different gender gaps, for example, Galor and Weil (1996) and Ngai (2013). Other authors have focused on the reverse effect, i.e. the impact of gender inequality on growth. These theories are, in most cases, based on the fertility and children's human capital channels, as in Galor and Weil (1996), Doepke and Tertilt (2009), and Lagerlof (2003). ${ }^{5}$ Galor and Weil (1996), for example, argue that an increase in women's relative wage increases the cost of raising children, which lowers population growth, increases children's education levels and leads to higher labor productivity and growth. In our view, these theoretical papers could be extended in two directions: first, the models could be calibrated and simulated to produce reasonable estimates of the costs associated to specific gender gaps. Second, it is useful to explore the relevance of a relatively ignored mechanism through which gender inequality reduces aggregate productivity, namely, the female labor productivity channel.

With respect to the first suggested extension, there are very few recent theoretical papers that have been used to quantify the aggregate costs of gender inequality. Cavalcanti and Tavares (2008) construct a growth model in which there is exogenous wage discrimination against women. When they calibrate their model using U.S. data, they find very large effects associated with these wage gaps: a 50 percent increase in the gender wage gap in their model leads to a decrease in income per capita of a quarter of the original output. Their results also suggest that a large fraction of the actual difference in output per capita between the U.S. and other countries is indeed generated by the presence of gender inequality in wages.

In terms of building theories in which restricting women from certain occupations results in a loss of aggregate productivity, Esteve-Volart (2009) presents a model of occupational choice and talent heterogeneity, and finds that labor market discrimination leads to lower average entrepreneurial talent and slower female human capital accumulation. This, in turn, has a negative impact on technology adoption and innovation. All these effects result in a reduction

[^2]in economic growth. The model, however, is only used to derive qualitative results but not to perform numerical exercises.

To our knowledge, the only existing quantitative paper that incorporates these two extensions is Hsieh et al. (2012). In particular, they use a Roy model to estimate the effect of the changing occupational allocation of white women, black men, and black women between 1960 and 2008 on U.S.'s economic growth. The paper finds that the improved allocation of talent within the United States accounts for 17 to 20 percent of growth over this period. Our paper differs from theirs in several dimensions. First, we study the effects of gender inequality in the labor market in a large sample of countries, rather than just focusing in one. Second, our theoretical framework is substantially different from theirs in that we emphasize, although, in a static framework, the span-of-control element of agents who run firms.

## 3 Model

In this section, we present a general equilibrium occupational choice model where agents are endowed with a random entrepreneurship skill, based on which they decide to work as either employers, self-employed, or workers. We assume an underlying distribution of entrepreneurial talent in the population, and study the resulting allocation of productive factors across entrepreneurs and its consequences in terms of aggregate productivity. The model is based on Lucas (1978), although one important difference is that we add the possibility of working as a self-employed. This addition makes the model better suited to fit the data in developing countries, where a large fraction of the labor force is indeed self-employed.

### 3.1 Model Setup

The economy we consider has a continuum of agents indexed by their entrepreneurial talent $x$, drawn from a cumulative distribution $\Gamma$ that takes values between $B$ and $\bar{z}$. It is a closed economy with a workforce of size $N$ and with $K$ units of capital, and a fraction $\lambda$ of the labor force are men, with the remaining $1-\lambda$ being women. Labor and capital are inelastically supplied in the market by consumers and then combined in firms to produce an homogeneous good. Agents rent the capital stock they own to firms in exchange for the rental rate $r$, and decide to become either firm workers, who earn the equilibrium wage rate $w$, or entrepreneurs, who earn the profits generated by the firm they manage. An agent with entrepreneurial talent level $x$ who chooses to hire $n(x)$ units of labor and rent $k(x)$ units of capital produces $y(x)$ units of output and earns profits $\pi(x)=y(x)-r k(x)-w n(x)$, where the price of the homogeneous good is normalized to one. As in Lucas (1978) and Buera and Shin (2011), the production function is given by:

$$
\begin{equation*}
y(x)=x\left(k(x)^{\alpha} n(x)^{1-\alpha}\right)^{\eta}, \tag{1}
\end{equation*}
$$

where $\alpha \in(0,1)$ and $\eta \in(0,1)$. The parameter $\eta$ measures the "span of control" of entrepreneurs and, since it is smaller than one, the entrepreneurial technology involves an element of diminishing returns. On the other hand, if an agent with talent $x$ becomes selfemployed and chooses to use the amount of capital $\tilde{k}(x)$, his or her profits are given by $\tilde{\pi}(x)=\tilde{y}(x)-r \tilde{k}(x)$ and the technology he or she operates is

$$
\begin{equation*}
\tilde{y}(x)=\tau x \tilde{k}(x)^{\alpha \eta} \tag{2}
\end{equation*}
$$

where $\tau$ is a positive parameter that can be larger or smaller than one. As explained below, this parameter is a useful one when we try to match our model with the data. ${ }^{6}$

Next we assume that, while men's occupational choices are unrestricted, women face four exogenous restrictions. The first two constraints are that only a fraction $\mu$ and $\mu_{0}$ are allowed to be employers and self-employed, respectively. The third restriction is that if women become workers, they receive a lower wage than men since they have to pay the a cost $\psi>0 .{ }^{7}$ These constraints on their occupational choices may be the result of pure discrimination against women or they may reflect the rational choice of women that, for some reason not captured in the model, choose not to work as managers or self-employed. Finally, it may also reflect the fact that women have less managerial skills than men - either because of early discrimination in education or because of a mismatch between the education they acquired and the skills demanded in the market. ${ }^{8}$ Finally, the fourth friction we introduce is that only a fraction of women can participate at all in the labor market. Since we do not have a household sector, the rest of the women have no input in our model.

### 3.2 Agents' optimization

### 3.2.1 Employers

Employers choose the labor and capital they hire in order to maximize their current profits $\pi$. The first order conditions that characterize their optimization problem are given by

$$
\begin{equation*}
(1-\alpha) \eta x k(x)^{\alpha \eta} n(x)^{\eta(1-\alpha)-1}=w \tag{3}
\end{equation*}
$$

[^3]\[

$$
\begin{equation*}
\alpha \eta x k(x)^{\alpha \eta-1} n(x)^{\eta(1-\alpha)}=r . \tag{4}
\end{equation*}
$$

\]

Hence, at the optimum, all firms have the common capital-labor ratio (5):

$$
\begin{equation*}
\frac{k(x)}{n(x)}=\frac{\alpha}{1-\alpha} \frac{w}{r} \tag{5}
\end{equation*}
$$

where $k(x)$ and $n(x)$ denote the optimal capital and labor levels for an employer with talent level $x$. Intuitively, a higher $\frac{w}{r}$ ratio implies a more intensive use of capital relative to labor. The solution values for $n(x)$ and $k(x)$ can be obtained combining equations (3) and (5). Both $n(x)$ and $k(x)$ depend positively on the productivity level $x$, as equations (6) and (7) show:

$$
\begin{align*}
& n(x)=\left[x \eta(1-\alpha)\left(\frac{\alpha}{1-\alpha}\right)^{\alpha \eta} \frac{w^{\alpha \eta-1}}{r^{\alpha \eta}}\right]^{1 /(1-\eta)}  \tag{6}\\
& k(x)=\left[x \eta \alpha\left(\frac{1-\alpha}{\alpha}\right)^{\eta(1-\alpha)} \frac{r^{\eta(1-\alpha)-1}}{w^{\eta(1-\alpha)}}\right]^{1 /(1-\eta)} \tag{7}
\end{align*}
$$

### 3.2.2 Self-employed

When a self-employed with talent $x$ chooses the capital to maximize his or her profits, the first order condition of the problem is:

$$
\begin{equation*}
\tau x \alpha \eta k(x)^{\alpha \eta-1}=r \tag{8}
\end{equation*}
$$

and the optimal level of capital is given by

$$
\begin{equation*}
\tilde{k}(x)=\left(\frac{\tau x \alpha \eta}{r}\right)^{\frac{1}{1-\alpha \eta}} \tag{9}
\end{equation*}
$$

Figure (1) displays the shape of the two profit functions and the wage earned by workers. ${ }^{9}$

### 3.2.3 Occupational choice

The relevant cutoffs for men and women are displayed in Figure (1). Here we present the equations that define these thresholds. Men's occupational choices are determined by two cutoffs. The first one, $z_{1}^{m}$, defines the earnings such that a man is indifferent between being a worker and a self-employed, and is given by

$$
\begin{equation*}
w=z_{1}^{m} \tilde{k}\left(z_{1}^{m}\right)^{\alpha \eta}-r \tilde{k}\left(z_{1}^{m}\right) \tag{10}
\end{equation*}
$$

[^4]Figure 1: The occupational map


If $x \leq z_{1}^{m}$ men choose to become workers, and if $x>z_{1}^{m}$ they become self-employed or employers. If they become workers they obviously do not hire any capital or labor input. Women, on the other hand, face the a fixed cost $\Psi>0$ if they choose to be workers and so their first threshold $z_{1}^{f}$ is given by

$$
\begin{equation*}
w-\psi=z_{1}^{f} \tilde{k}\left(z_{1}^{f}\right)^{\alpha \eta}-r \tilde{k}\left(z_{1}^{f}\right) \tag{11}
\end{equation*}
$$

If $x \leq z_{1}^{f}$ women choose to become workers, and if $x>z_{1}^{f}$ they (potentially) become selfemployed or employers. ${ }^{10}$ As before, both the labor and capital demand for women workers is zero. The second cutoff, $z_{2}$, determines the choice between being a self-employed or an employer. This threshold is the same for men and women and it is given by

$$
\begin{equation*}
\tau z_{2} \tilde{k}\left(z_{2}\right)^{\alpha \eta}-r \tilde{k}\left(z_{2}\right)=z_{2} x\left(k\left(z_{2}\right)^{\alpha} n\left(z_{2}\right)^{1-\alpha}\right)^{\eta}-r k\left(z_{2}\right)-w n\left(z_{2}\right) \tag{12}
\end{equation*}
$$

so that if $x>z_{2}$ every man becomes an employer and every woman attempts to do so. ${ }^{11}$

### 3.3 Competitive Equilibrium

In equilibrium, the total demand of capital by employers and self-employed must be equal to the exogenously given aggregate capital endowment $K$. Assuming an upper bound $\bar{z}$ on

[^5]talent ${ }^{12}$, this condition is given by
\[

$$
\begin{gather*}
\lambda\left[\int_{z_{2}}^{\bar{z}} k(x) d \Gamma(x)+\int_{z_{1}^{m}}^{z_{2}} \tilde{k}(x) d \Gamma(x)\right]+= \\
+(1-\lambda)\left[\mu \int_{z_{2}}^{\bar{z}} k(x) d \Gamma(x)+(1-\mu) \mu_{0} \int_{z_{2}}^{\bar{z}} \tilde{k}(x) d \Gamma(x)+\mu_{0} \int_{z_{1}^{f}}^{z_{2}} \tilde{k}(x) d \Gamma(x)\right]=K / N \tag{13}
\end{gather*}
$$
\]

The first bracket represents the demand for capital by male employers and male selfemployed. Females' demand for capital is calculated in the second bracket and it has three components. The first one represents women with enough ability to be employers who are allowed to be so. The second term shows the fraction of women who, after being banned from employership jobs, they become self-employed. Finally, the third term denotes the demand for capital from women with enough ability to be self-employed and that are allowed to do so.

In the labor market, the total demand of workers must also be equal to its total supply:

$$
\begin{array}{r}
\lambda\left[\int_{z_{2}}^{\bar{z}} n(x) d \Gamma(x)\right]+(1-\lambda)\left[\mu \int_{z_{2}}^{\bar{z}} n(x) d \Gamma(x)\right]= \\
\lambda \Gamma\left(z_{1}^{m}\right)+(1-\lambda)\left[\Gamma\left(z_{1}^{f}\right)+(1-\mu)\left(1-\mu_{0}\right)\left(1-\Gamma\left(z_{2}\right)\right)+\left(1-\mu_{0}\right)\left(\Gamma\left(z_{2}\right)-\Gamma\left(z_{1}^{f}\right)\right)\right] \tag{14}
\end{array}
$$

The left-hand-side of this expression represents the labor demand for men with ability above $z_{2}$ and women with ability above this same cut-off that are allowed to be employers. The right-hand-side is the labor supply. The first term is the fraction of men with ability less or equal to $z_{1}^{m}$. The term in brackets has three components: the first one is the fraction of least able women, those with ability below the threshold $z_{1}^{f}$. The second term is the fraction of women with enough ability to be employers but that are excluded from both being employers (a fraction $1-\mu$ ) and self-employed (a fraction $1-\mu_{0}$ ). Finally, the last term is the fraction of women with ability just enough to be self-employed but not to be employers that are not allowed to work as self-employed. Aggregate income per capita is equal to total production

[^6]per capita,
\[

$$
\begin{gather*}
y \equiv \frac{Y}{N}=\lambda\left[\int_{z_{2}}^{\bar{z}} y(x) d \Gamma(x)+\int_{z_{1}^{m}}^{z_{2}} \tilde{y}(x) d \Gamma(x)\right]+ \\
+(1-\lambda)\left[\mu \int_{z_{2}}^{\bar{z}} y(x) d \Gamma(x)+(1-\mu) \mu_{0} \int_{z_{2}}^{\bar{z}} \tilde{y}(x) d \Gamma(x)+\mu_{0} \int_{z_{1}^{f}}^{z_{2}} \tilde{y}(x) d \Gamma(x)\right]=K / N \tag{15}
\end{gather*}
$$
\]

where $y(x)$ and $\tilde{y}(x)$ are defined in equations (1) and (2), respectively.
A competitive equilibrium in this economy is a triplet of cutoff levels $\left(z_{1}^{m}, z_{1}^{f}, z_{2}\right)$, a set of quantities $[n(x), k(x), \tilde{k}(x)], \forall x$, and prices $(w, r)$ such that equations (10) -(15) are satisfied; that is agents choose their occupation optimally, entrepreneurs choose the amount of capital and labor to maximize their profits, and all markets clear.

### 3.4 Gender Gaps in Labor Force Participation

As discussed in Section 3.1., another type of gender gap that we introduce in the model is the exclusion of women from the work force, both as entrepreneurs and employees. If we keep the capital stock fixed, when a fraction of women does not supply labor to the market, output per worker in our model mechanically increases due to the presence of diminishing returns to labor. Income per capita, however, decreases. Formally, recalling that $N$ denotes the total labor force and defining $P$ as total population, we have $\frac{Y}{P}=\frac{N}{P} y$. With this formulation, it is then possible to study the impact of reducing the employment-to-population ratio $n=N / P$ below 1. Under the assumption that all male participate in the labor force, $L^{m}=0.5 P$. Thus, given that we defined $\lambda$ as the fraction of men in the labor force, $\lambda \equiv \frac{L^{m}}{N}$, the fraction of females in the labor force over the fraction of males in the labor force is equal to $\frac{1-\lambda}{\lambda}$ and so $1-\frac{1-\lambda}{\lambda}$ represents the fraction of females excluded from the labor force.

### 3.5 Comparative Statics

In this subsection we show qualitatively how the model 's occupational choice is affected by exogenous changes in three of the friction parameters, namely the fraction of women who can work as employers $(\mu)$, the fraction of women who can work as self-employed $\left(\mu_{0}\right)$, and the wage loss for women $(\psi)$. Figure (2) shows the qualitative effects of a decline in $\mu$ and $\mu_{0}$, while the effect of an increase in the wage gap $\psi$ is displayed in Figure (3).

### 3.5.1 An increase in managerial gender gaps ( $\downarrow \mu)$

A decrease in $\mu$ generates a decline in the number of employers and hence a decrease in the labor demand and the equilibrium wage, which decreases the cutoff $z_{1}$. Everything else equal, this results in an increase in profits for the remaining employers, which reduces the cutoff $z_{2}$.

Figure 2: Effects of $\mu-g a p$ and $\mu_{o}-g a p$


Figure 3: Effects of $\psi-g a p$


The effect on the demand for capital is ambiguous since the demand from employers declines but that of the self-employed increases.

### 3.5.2 An increase in self-employment gender gaps $\left(\downarrow \mu_{0}\right)$

A decrease in $\mu_{0}$ generates a decline in the number of self-employed and hence an increase in the labor supply, which in turn drives wages down. As in the previous case, this has a direct negative effect on the cutoff $z_{1}$ as well as an indirect negative effect on the cutoff $z_{2}$, through its effect on the employers' profit function. The demand for capital also decreases since there are fewer self-employed and, therefore, the cost of renting capital goes down. As a result, both self-employed and employers' profits increase, so both cutoffs $z_{1}$ and $z_{2}$ further decrease.

### 3.5.3 An increase in wage discrimination ( $\uparrow \psi$ )

An increase in the wage cost $\psi$ shifts female workers' earnings down and hence makes self-employment a more attractive occupation for women. This decreases the cutoff $z_{1}^{f}$ and the associated drop in the labor supply pushes wages up. At the same time, the demand for capital increases, which pushes the rental price upwards, reducing profits for both employers and self-employed, and hence increasing the cutoffs $z_{1}$ and $z_{2}$.

## 4 Model Simulation

### 4.1 Skill Distribution

To simulate the model, we use a Pareto function for the talent distribution, as in Lucas (1978) and Buera et al. (2011). As a consequence, the firm size distribution is also Pareto, which is consistent withsome papers that have shown that the U.S firm size distribution fits remarkably well a Pareto distribution with parameter equal to one, i.e. Zipf's Law.

We assume an upper bound $\bar{z}$ on talent to guarantee that the talent distribution is bounded. Hence, the cumulative distribution of talent is

$$
\begin{equation*}
\Gamma(x)=\frac{1-B^{\rho} x^{-\rho}}{1-B^{\rho} \bar{z}^{-\rho}}, 0 \leq x \leq \bar{z} \tag{16}
\end{equation*}
$$

where $\rho, B>0$. The density function of talent is then

$$
\begin{equation*}
\gamma(x)=\frac{\rho B^{\rho} x^{-\rho-1}}{1-B^{\rho} \bar{z}^{-\rho}},, 0 \leq x \leq \bar{z} \tag{17}
\end{equation*}
$$

Using equations (6) and (17), we can derive the density function of the firms' size,

$$
\begin{align*}
s(n)= & \gamma\left(n^{-1}(x)\right)=\gamma\left(\frac{n^{1-\eta}}{\eta(1-\alpha)}\left(\frac{\alpha}{1-\alpha}\right)^{-\alpha \eta} \frac{w^{-\alpha \eta+1}}{r^{-\alpha \eta}}\right) \\
& =\frac{\rho B^{\rho}}{1-B^{\rho} \bar{z}^{-\rho}} n^{-(1-\eta)(1+\rho)}\left(\eta(1-\alpha)\left(\frac{\alpha}{1-\alpha}\right)^{\alpha \eta} \frac{w^{\alpha \eta-1}}{r^{\alpha \eta}}\right)^{1+\rho} \tag{18}
\end{align*}
$$

which shows that the distribution of firms size is also Pareto and, if $(1-\eta)(1+\rho)=1$, it satisfies Zipf's law. ${ }^{1314}$

### 4.2 Model Parametrization

Table (1) shows the values used in the simulations for the different parameters of the model. The parameter $B$ of the Pareto distribution is normalized to 1 , while the parameters $\eta, \rho$ and $\alpha$ are calibrated using other papers to match some stylized facts. Finally, the parameters $\bar{z}$ and $\tau$ are estimated using some moments of our data.

Specifically, the span-of-control parameter $\eta$ is set equal to 0.79 , following Buera and Shin (2011). ${ }^{15}$ The value used for the parameter $\rho$ is set equal to 3.76 so that the talent distribution satisfies Zipf's Law. ${ }^{16}$ The capital exponent parameter $\alpha$ is set to 0.38 in order to make $\alpha \eta$ equal to $30 \%$, as in Buera and Shin (2011), since $30 \%$ is the value typically used for the aggregate income share of capital and we are considering the entrepreneurs' earnings as labor income.

The talent upper bound $\bar{z}$ is set equal to 4.96 to make the world-average share of employers predicted by the model match the one observed in our data set, which is equal to $2.81 \% .{ }^{17}$ Finally, the self-employed productivity parameter, $\tau$, is assumed to be country-specific and it is estimated in a country-by-country basis to match the fraction of own-account workers in the data. To derive the results of this section, $\tau$ is set equal to 0.94 , which is the cross-country average of the values estimated in Section 4.

### 4.3 Potential income losses from gender gaps

Table 2 shows the income per worker losses caused by the introduction of the different

[^7]Table 1: Parameter values

| Parameter | Value | Explanation |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| $B$ | 1 | Normalization <br> $\eta$ |
| $\rho$ | 0.79 | From Buera and Shin $(2011)$ <br> To satisfy Zipf's Law for distribution |
| $\alpha$ | 0.378 | of firms' size: $-(1-\eta)(-1-\rho) \approx 1$ <br> To match capital share: $\alpha \eta=0.3$ |
| $\bar{z}$ | 4.96 | To match average fraction <br> entrepreneurs in data: $2.8 \%$ <br> To match fraction own-account <br> workers in data: $26.6 \%$, on average |
| $\tau$ | 0.94 |  |

gender gaps considered in this paper. Women are assumed to be identical to men in all dimensions, so in the absence of gender gaps, their occupational choices are identical to the males' ones. When the four gender gaps $\left(\mu, \mu_{0}, \psi, \lambda\right)$ are introduced, however, the efficient allocation is distorted and, as a result, there is a decline in aggregate income per worker and/or per capita.

To make the reading easier, we will refer to the gaps generated by $\mu$ and $\mu_{0}$ as the percentage of women excluded from entrepreneurship and to the one generated by $\lambda$ as the percentage of women excluded from the labor force. However, we do not make any claim on whether this exclusion is voluntary or not. In other words, if men and women were identical in all dimensions, these gender gaps could be interpreted as the percentage of women who are excluded from entrepreneurship and the labor force respectively, but there may be reasons other than discrimination that explain these gaps.

The first row shows that this decline in income is of almost $7 \%$ when we exclude all women from the possibility of being employers, while the second row shows that income falls by about $2 \%$ when all females are excluded from self-employment. When we reduce the wage earned by females by $50 \%$, on the other hand, income decreases by more than $4 \%$, and when we exlcude all women from the labor market income per capita falls by almost $40 \%$.

When the highest possible $\mu$-gap is introduced, i.e. when no female works as an employer, our model predicts a $10 \%$ fall in the wage rate, a $6.8 \%$ fall in the capital rental rate and output per worker, as well as an increase of about $45 \%$ in the fraction of male employers and $42 \%$ in the fraction of male self-employed and an increase of $63 \%$ in the fraction of female self-employed. Similarly, when the highest $\mu_{o}$ gap is introduced, the fraction of males choosing to be employers or self-employed increases by about $10 \%$, while the fraction of female workers increases by $31 \%$. The final decrease on the wage rate is about $2.5 \%$, while the fall in the capital rental rate and output per worker is about $2 \%$. On the other hand, when a wage gap equal to half of the frictionless wage is introduced, the fraction of self-employed females

Table 2: Potential effects of gender gaps

|  | Income loss |
| :---: | :---: |
| Due to highest possible $\mu$-gap | $6.85 \%$ |
| $(\mu=1 \rightarrow \mu=0)$ |  |
| Due to highest possible $\mu_{o}$-gap | $1.96 \%$ |
| $\left(\mu_{o}=1 \rightarrow \mu_{o}=0\right)$ |  |
| Due to highest possible $\psi$-gap | $4.25 \%$ |
| $\quad(\psi=0 \rightarrow \psi=0.5 w)$ | $38.4 \%$ |
| Due to highest possible $\lambda$-gap |  |
| $\quad(\lambda=0.5 \rightarrow \lambda=1)$ |  |

rises from $23 \%$ to $83 \%$, while the fraction of male employers and self-employed decreases by about $25 \%$. The equilibrium wage rate, in turn, increases by $13.6 \%$ while the capital rental rate and output per worker decrease by $4.25 \%$. Finally, the exclusion of all females from the labor force affects income per capita negatively because fewer people work, even if output per worker increases. In particular, when only men supply their labor force and the capital stock is constant, the wage rate and output per worker increases by more than $23 \%$ because there are decreasing returns to scale to labor. When taking into account that only half of the population work, income per capita falls by about $38.4 \%$.

### 4.4 Interactions between gender gaps

The values in Table 2 correspond to a situation where each gender gap is introduced and there is no other gap present. The values in Table 3, on the other hand, show that the effect of each gender gap is different depending on the value of the other gaps. As we can see in column (2), when there are no other gaps, the effect of the highest possible $\mu$-gap is an income loss of almost $7 \%$, but when the $\mu_{o}-g a p$ is as high as possible, the effect becomes higher than $10 \%$ because women do not use their entrepreneurial talent neither as employers nor as selfemployed. When there is also a $\psi$-gap equal to one third of the frictionless wage, the effect of the $\mu$-gap increases only slightly to $7.5 \%$. However, when a $\lambda$-gap corresponding to $\lambda=0.75$ (i.e. when $2 / 3$ of females are excluded from the labor force), the effect of the $\mu$-gap falls to $3 \%$, the reason being that the aggregate effect of excluding females from being employers is smaller the lower is the fraction of females in total labor force.

Similarly, as shown in column (3), the effect of the $\mu_{o}$-gap rises from $1.96 \%$ to $5.6 \%$ when it is interacted with the $\mu$-gap, the reason being that no female takes advantage of the wage fall by becoming employer. However, the effect of the $\mu_{o}$-gap shrinks to $1 \%$ when interacted with the $\lambda$-gap and to $0.24 \%$ when interacted with the $\psi$-gap because it almost offsets all the

Table 3: Gender gaps effects when other gaps are present

$$
\text { Due to } \mu \text {-gap } \quad \text { Due to } \mu_{o} \text {-gap } \quad \text { Due to } \psi \text {-gap }
$$

| No other gaps | $6.85 \%$ | $1.96 \%$ | $4.25 \%$ |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Also $\mu$-gap <br> $(\mu=1 \rightarrow \mu=0)$ |  | $5.6 \%$ | $5.4 \%$ |
| Also $\mu_{o}$-gap <br> $\left(\mu_{o}=1 \rightarrow \mu_{o}=0\right)$ | $10.3 \%$ |  | $0 \%$ |
| Also $\psi$-gap <br> $\left(\psi=\mathbf{0} \rightarrow \psi=\frac{1}{3} w\right)$ | $7.5 \%$ | $0.25 \%$ |  |
| Also $\lambda$-gap <br> $(\lambda=\mathbf{0 . 5} \rightarrow \lambda=\mathbf{0 . 7 5})$ | $3 \%$ | $1 \%$ | $2.2 \%$ |

distortion caused by the $\mu_{o}-g a p$ in the decision between being a worker or a self-employed. To obtain the total income loss due to gender gaps in entrepreneurship, we compute the effect of excluding all women from both employership and self-employment. This corresponds to adding up the $6.85 \%$ in column 1 of Table 2 and the $5.6 \%$ in column 2 (or, equivalently, adding up the $10.3 \%$ in column 1 and the $1.96 \%$ in column 2 ) which gives $12.3 \%$ approximately.

Finally, the effect of the $\psi$-gap (a reduction in female wages by one third) goes from $4.25 \%$ to $5.4 \%$ if the $\mu$-gap is also present, but it does not change at all if the $\mu_{o^{-}}$gap is present. The reason for this last result is that $\psi$ does not inefficiently increase the fraction of self-employed females because all women are already excluded from self-employership. When we add the $\lambda$-gap, the cost of the $\psi$-gap becomes $2.2 \%$ since there are less women in the labor force and, therefore, the aggregate effects are smaller.

## 5 Cross-country analysis

In this section, we use labor market data for 125 countries from the International Labor Organization (KILM, 7th Edition Table 3 - Status in Employment, by sex) for the latest available year in the period, in most cases in the 2000s. The variables used are the labor force participation, the number of employers, and the number of own-account workers (which we identify as self-employed in our paper), all of them by gender. Specifically, the variable Employers is defined in KILM as "those who, working on their own or with a few partners, hold the type of jobs defined as self-employment jobs, and, in this capacity, have engaged, on a continuous basis, one or more persons to work for them as employee(s)", while the variable Own-account workers are "those workers who, working on their own account or with one or more partners, hold the type of job defined as self-employment jobs, and have not engaged on

Table 4: Country specific parameters

| Parameter | Value |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| $\lambda_{i}$ | $\in[50 \%, 88.8 \%]$ | Equal to fraction of males in the labor force, for each country |
| $\mu_{i}$ | $\in[17 \%, 100 \%]$ | Equal to female-male ratio employers, for each country |
| $\mu_{i}^{o}$ | $\in[0 \%, 100 \%]$ | To match female-male ratio self-employed, for each country |
| $\psi_{i}$ | $\in[0,24 \%]$ <br> as a fraction of the wage rate | To match female-male ratio self-employed (if $\mu_{i}^{o}=1$ ) |
| $\tau_{i}$ | $\in[65.5 \%, 148.4 \%]$ | To match \% self-employed in labor force, for each country |

a continuous basis any employees to work for them. ${ }^{18}$

### 5.1 Country-specific parameters

For each country, we compute the parameter $\tau_{i}$, which represents the relative productivity of the self-employed. We also calculate the gender gap parameters, $\mu_{i}, \mu_{o i}, \psi_{i}$, and $\lambda_{i}$. Table 4 gives, for each parameter, the range of values we obtained and the data moments used in the estimation, while the values for each specific country can be found in Appendix B. ${ }^{19}$

The parameter $\lambda_{i}$ determines the labor force participation gender gap, which is equal to $1-\frac{1-\lambda_{i}}{\lambda_{i}}$, as explained in section 3.4. $\lambda_{i}$ is computed directly from the data and it is equal to the fraction of males in the country's labor force. It ranges from 0.5 to 0.88 , which implies that the fraction of females excluded from the labor market is between $0 \%$ and $86 \%$. Similarly, the parameter $\mu_{i}$, which determines the employers' gender gap $1-\mu_{i}$, is also computed directly from the data as the ratio of female to male employers. The smallest value found is 0.17 while the largest is 1 , meaning that the fraction of females excluded from employership ranges from $0 \%$ to $83 \%$.

The rest of the country-specific parameters, $\mu_{o i}, \psi_{i}$ and $\tau_{i}$, are inferred from the data to simultaneously match some data moments related to the observed occupational choices, taking into account that these choices are in turn affected by many of the parameters of the model. In particular, the parameter $\mu_{o}$ is computed to match the female-to-male ratio of self-employed,

[^8]since it determines the self-employed gender gap $1-\mu_{o}$. The estimated values range from 0 to 1 , meaning that the inferred self-employed gap is 0 in some countries and $100 \%$ in some other countries. It turns out that our model does not generate enough female self-employed to match the data in about $20 \%$ of the countries. When this happens, we introduce the wage gap parameter $\psi$ to match the female-to-male ratio of self-employed perfectly. The largest wage gap inferred is equal to $24 \%$ of the country's equilibrium wage, while for $80 \%$ of the countries - those for which the model predicted enough self-employed to match the data, we infer a wage gap equal to zero.

Finally, the self-employed relative productivity parameter, $\tau$, is computed to match the fraction of self-employed to employers in each country. It determines the productivity ratio between a self employed and an employer with the same entrepreneurial talent renting the same amount of capital and hiring only one worker. We find that it takes values between 0.65 and 1.48, and that it is below one in almost $70 \%$ of the countries in our sample, indicating that for the model to match the data, working as a self-employed must create some kind of productivity disadvantage. ${ }^{20}$

### 5.2 Cross-country results

The results obtained for each country are summarized in Table 5 and Figure 4. In Table 5 we split our sample of countries in 7 geographic regions, Central Asia (8), East Asia and the Pacific (15), Europe (29), Latin America and the Caribbean (27), Middle East and North Africa (12), South Asia (7), and Sub-Saharan Africa (27). ${ }^{21}$ For each region, column (2) shows the average labor force participation gender gap whereas columns (3) and (4) show the average gender gaps for employers and self-employed, respectively. The wage gap is displayed in column (5). The last two columns of the table show how these frictions translate into average losses in income per capita. The total average income loss is shown in column (6), and column (7) shows the fraction of this loss generated by the occupational restrictions (including the wage gap). The difference between columns (6) and (7) is then the income loss generated by the exclusion of women from the labor market.

Our results suggest the existence of remarkable differences in gender gaps across regions, which lead to significant variation in the implied income losses. The region with the largest income loss is Middle East and North Africa (MENA)where, according to our estimates, the total income loss is $27 \%$ and its income loss due to occupational choice gaps is $6.7 \%$. South Asia (SA) has the second largest income losses due to gender gaps, $19.2 \%$, a fourth of which is

[^9]Table 5: Income loss due to gender gaps, by region

|  | $\begin{gathered} \text { LFP } \\ \text { GG, avg } \\ \lambda-g a p \\ \% \\ \hline \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} \text { Empl. } \\ \text { GG, avg } \\ \mu-g a p \\ \% \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} \text { Self } \\ \text { GG, avg, } \\ \mu_{o}-g a p \\ \% \end{gathered}$ | Wage GG, avg $\psi-g a p$ \% | Total income loss from Gender Gaps (\%) | Income loss due to <br> Entrepr. Gap (\%) |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| CA | 34.7 | 68.3 | 42.9 | 1.3 | 16 | 5.7 |
| EAP | 21.6 | 53.6 | 48 | 0 | 11.8 | 5 |
| EU | 15.1 | 619 | 54.4 | 0 | 10.4 | 5.8 |
| LAC | 31 | 53.3 | 24.3 | 1.4 | 14 | 4.1 |
| MENA | 66.3 | 74.4 | 46 | 2.5 | 27 | 6.7 |
| SA | 46.7 | 54.9 | 28.6 | 2.9 | 19.2 | 4.9 |
| SSA | 15.9 | 52.7 | 17.3 | 3.4 | 8.5 | 3.3 |

Figure 4: World map of total income loss due to gender gaps

due to occupational gaps. Sub-Saharan Africa (SSA), on the other hand, is the region with the lowest total income loss due to gender gaps, $8.5 \%$, and also with the lowest entrepreneurship gender gaps, while Europe (EU) is the region with the lowest labor participation gender gap, $15.1 \%$, and the second lowest total income loss, $10.4 \%$.

The total income loss caused by these gender gaps for each country in our sample is shown in the map of Figure (4). As it is apparent, the countries with the highest costs associated with gender gaps are located in the Middle East and North Africa, South Asia, and to a lesser extent, Central Asia.

## 6 Conclusion

This paper quantifies the effects of gender gaps in the labor market on aggregate productivity and income per capita. Our numerical results show that gender gaps in entrepreneurship
have significant effects on the allocation of resources and so on aggregate productivity, while the gap from labor force participation has a large effect on income per capita. Specifically, if no women worked as an employer or a self-employed, our model predicts that income per worker would drop by around $12 \%$, while if the labor force participation of women was zero, income per capita would decrease by almost $40 \%$.

When we carry out the country-by-country analysis, we find that there are important differences across countries and geographical regions. To sum up our results, gender inequality creates an average income loss of $13.5 \%$, which can be decomposed in losses due to gaps in occupational choices of about $5 \%$ and losses due labor force participation gaps of about $8.5 \%$. The region with the largest income loss due to gender inequality is Middle East and North Africa, with an average income loss of $27 \%$, followed by South Asia and Central Asia, with average income losses of $19 \%$ and $16 \%$, respectively.

In terms of future research, we are considering to extend this framework in several different directions. First, introducing a fourth occupational choice, namely subsistence or out-ofnecessity self-employed, in order to capture the fact that in many developing countries some of the own-account workers have a lower talent than workers. ${ }^{22}$ Second, it may be sensible to relax the assumption that the goods produced by employers and self-employed are the same ones. For instance, it seems reasonable to think that, in the real world, most of the goods produced by self-employed belong to the service sector, while most of the goods produced by employers belong to the manufacturing sector. Provided we could find data on the the sectoral composition of countries and the range of different goods produced by employers and self-employed, we would then be able to recalibrate our model and presumably find much larger efficiency costs associated to gender gaps in the labor market. A third possible extension would be to introduce a household production sector in the model leading to a division of labor between husbands and wives, as in Becker (1981). This could explain some of the observed differences in labor participation and access to entrepreneurship between males and females without necessarily interpreting them as gender discrimination. Finally, it would be interesting to develop a dynamic version of the span-of-control model presented in this paper (see, for instance, Caselli and Gennaioli 2012), which would allow us to quantify the effects of gender gaps on fertility as well as physical and human capital accumulation.

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## A Results for Pareto talent distribution

As explained in Section 4, we assume that the entreprenuerial talent of agents is distributed according to the bounded Pareto distribution

$$
\Gamma(x)=\frac{1-B^{\rho} x^{-\rho}}{1-B^{\rho} \bar{z}^{-\rho}}, \text { for } 0 \leq x \leq \bar{z}
$$

where $\bar{z}$ denotes the upper bound of the distribution. Using this functional form, we get that

$$
\int_{z}^{\bar{z}} x^{\frac{1}{1-\eta}} d \Gamma(x)=\int_{z}^{\bar{z}} x^{\frac{1}{1-\eta}} \frac{\rho B^{\rho} x^{-\rho-1}}{1-B^{\rho} \bar{z}^{-\rho}} d x=\int_{z}^{\bar{z}} \rho B^{\rho} \frac{x^{\frac{1}{1-\eta}-\rho-1}}{1-B^{\rho} \bar{z}^{-\rho}} d x=\frac{\rho B^{\rho}}{\frac{1}{1-\eta}-\rho}\left[\frac{\bar{z}^{\frac{1}{1-\eta}-\rho}-z^{\frac{1}{1-\eta}-\rho}}{1-B^{\rho} \bar{z}^{-\rho}}\right]
$$

## B Country-by-country results ${ }^{23}$

\begin{tabular}{|c|c|c|c|c|c|c|c|c|c|}
\hline \& Year \& \begin{tabular}{l}
Region \\
group
\end{tabular} \& \begin{tabular}{l}
Empl. \\
gg
\end{tabular} \& Self

gg \& LFP

gg \& Wage
gg \& Tau \& Total inc. loss from gender gaps \& Inc. loss from occup gender gaps <br>
\hline Algeria \& 2004 \& MENA \& 0.78 \& 0 \& 0.79 \& 0.06 \& 0.94 \& 0.31 \& 0.05 <br>
\hline Antigua \& 2001 \& LAC \& 0.49 \& 0.45 \& 0.01 \& 0 \& 0.76 \& 0.05 \& 0.04 <br>
\hline Argentina \& 2010 \& LAC \& 0.48 \& 0.33 \& 0.29 \& 0 \& 0.89 \& 0.13 \& 0.04 <br>
\hline Armenia \& 2008 \& CA \& 0.92 \& 0.30 \& 0.19 \& 0 \& 0.92 \& 0.13 \& 0.08 <br>
\hline Australia \& 2008 \& EAP \& 0.37 \& 0.48 \& 0.17 \& 0 \& 0.79 \& 0.09 \& 0.03 <br>
\hline Austria \& 2010 \& EU \& 0.60 \& 0.46 \& 0.14 \& 0 \& 0.74 \& 0.10 \& 0.05 <br>
\hline Azerbaijan \& 2008 \& CA \& 0.81 \& 0 \& 0.02 \& 0.07 \& 1.10 \& 0.04 \& 0.04 <br>
\hline Bahrain \& 2010 \& CA \& 0.71 \& 0.95 \& 0.74 \& 0 \& 0.68 \& 0.30 \& 0.07 <br>
\hline Baangladesh \& 2005 \& SA \& 0.64 \& 0.65 \& 0.69 \& 0 \& 1.33 \& 0.28 \& 0.08 <br>
\hline
\end{tabular}

[^11]\begin{tabular}{|c|c|c|c|c|c|c|c|c|c|}
\hline \& Year \& \begin{tabular}{l}
Region \\
group
\end{tabular} \& \begin{tabular}{l}
Empl. \\
gg
\end{tabular} \& Self
gg \& LFP

gg \& Wage

gg \& Tau \& Total inc. loss from gender gaps \& Inc. loss from occup gender gaps <br>
\hline Barbados \& 2004 \& LAC \& 0.75 \& 0.57 \& 0.07 \& 0 \& 0.84 \& 0.09 \& 0.07 <br>
\hline Belgium \& 2010 \& EU \& 0.61 \& 0.55 \& 0.17 \& 0 \& 0.78 \& 0.11 \& 0.06 <br>
\hline Belize \& 2005 \& LAC \& 0.47 \& 0.25 \& 0.48 \& 0 \& 0.90 \& 0.19 \& 0.04 <br>
\hline Bhutan \& 2010 \& SA \& 0 \& 0 \& 0.07 \& 0.02 \& 0.98 \& 0.02 \& 0.00 <br>
\hline Bolivia \& 2009 \& LAC \& 0.59 \& 0.14 \& 0.19 \& 0 \& 1.00 \& 0.10 \& 0.04 <br>
\hline Bostwana \& 2006 \& SSA \& 0.48 \& 0 \& 0.09 \& 0.02 \& 0.98 \& 0.05 \& 0.03 <br>
\hline Brazil \& 2009 \& LAC \& 0.52 \& 0.38 \& 0.26 \& 0 \& 0.91 \& 0.13 \& 0.04 <br>
\hline Bulgaria \& 2010 \& EU \& 0.53 \& 0.49 \& 0.10 \& 0 \& 0.77 \& 0.08 \& 0.05 <br>
\hline Burkina Faso \& 2006 \& SSA \& 0.68 \& 0.61 \& 0.16 \& 0 \& 1.15 \& 0.12 \& 0.07 <br>
\hline Cambodia \& 2008 \& EAP \& 0.27 \& 0.54 \& 0 \& 0 \& 1.15 \& 0.04 \& 0.04 <br>
\hline Cameroon \& 2001 \& SSA \& 0.47 \& 0 \& 0.03 \& 0.03 \& 1.20 \& 0.03 \& 0.01 <br>
\hline Cape Verde \& 2000 \& SSA \& 0.50 \& 0.07 \& 0.15 \& 0 \& 0.97 \& 0.08 \& 0.03 <br>
\hline Chad \& 1993 \& SSA \& 0.67 \& 0.31 \& 0.06 \& 0 \& 1.30 \& 0.06 \& 0.04 <br>
\hline Chile \& 2008 \& LAC \& 0.47 \& 0.17 \& 0.41 \& 0 \& 0.92 \& 0.17 \& 0.03 <br>
\hline Colombia \& 2010 \& LAC \& 0.57 \& 0.08 \& 0.32 \& 0 \& 1.09 \& 0.14 \& 0.03 <br>
\hline Congo \& 2005 \& SSA \& 0.68 \& 0 \& 0 \& 0.12 \& 1.25 \& 0.02 \& 0.02 <br>
\hline Costa Rica \& 2010 \& LAC \& 0.60 \& 0.25 \& 0.41 \& 0 \& 0.88 \& 0.18 \& 0.05 <br>
\hline Cote d'Ivoire \& 2002 \& SSA \& 0.37 \& 0.27 \& 0.22 \& 0 \& 1.17 \& 0.10 \& 0.03 <br>
\hline Cyprus \& 2010 \& EU \& 0.82 \& 0.56 \& 0.17 \& 0 \& 0.80 \& 0.13 \& 0.08 <br>
\hline Czech Republic \& 2010 \& EU \& 0.64 \& 0.54 \& 0.25 \& 0 \& 0.84 \& 0.14 \& 0.06 <br>
\hline Denmark \& 2010 \& EU \& 0.70 \& 0.71 \& 0.09 \& 0 \& 0.73 \& 0.09 \& 0.07 <br>
\hline Djibouti \& 1996 \& MENA \& 0.32 \& 0 \& 0.45 \& 0.23 \& 0.99 \& 0.18 \& 0.03 <br>
\hline Dominica \& 2001 \& LAC \& 0.47 \& 0.38 \& 0.35 \& 0 \& 0.96 \& 0.15 \& 0.04 <br>
\hline Dominic Republic \& 2010 \& LAC \& 0.45 \& 0.59 \& 0.27 \& 0 \& 1.09 \& 0.13 \& 0.05 <br>
\hline Ecuador \& 2010 \& LAC \& 0.55 \& 0.02 \& 0.36 \& 0 \& 0.98 \& 0.15 \& 0.03 <br>
\hline Egypt \& 2007 \& MENA \& 0.80 \& 0.14 \& 0.73 \& 0 \& 0.82 \& 0.29 \& 0.07 <br>
\hline El Salvador \& 2010 \& LAC \& 0.42 \& 0 \& 0.27 \& 0.10 \& 0.95 \& 0.12 \& 0.03 <br>
\hline Estonia \& 2010 \& EU \& 0.76 \& 0.68 \& 0 \& 0 \& 0.72 \& 0.08 \& 0.08 <br>
\hline Ethiopia \& 2005 \& SSA \& 0.75 \& 0.57 \& 0.14 \& 0 \& 1.11 \& 0.11 \& 0.07 <br>
\hline Fiji \& 2005 \& EAP \& 0 \& 0.27 \& 0.57 \& 0 \& 0.97 \& 0.21 \& 0.01 <br>
\hline Finland \& 2010 \& EU \& 0.65 \& 0.58 \& 0.06 \& 0 \& 0.78 \& 0.08 \& 0.06 <br>
\hline France \& 2010 \& EU \& 0.68 \& 0.65 \& 0.10 \& 0 \& 0.75 \& 0.09 \& 0.07 <br>
\hline Gabon \& 2005 \& SSA \& 0.45 \& 0 \& 0.28 \& 0.08 \& 1.11 \& 0.11 \& 0.02 <br>
\hline
\end{tabular}

\begin{tabular}{|c|c|c|c|c|c|c|c|c|c|}
\hline \& Year \& \begin{tabular}{l}
Region \\
group
\end{tabular} \& \begin{tabular}{l}
Empl. \\
gg
\end{tabular} \& Self

gg \& LFP

gg \& Wage
gg \& Tau \& Total inc. loss from gender gaps \& Inc. loss from occup gender gaps <br>
\hline Georgia \& 2008 \& CA \& 0.49 \& 0.39 \& 0.13 \& 0 \& 1.06 \& 0.08 \& 0.04 <br>
\hline Germany \& 2010 \& EU \& 0.62 \& 0.57 \& 0.15 \& 0 \& 0.74 \& 0.10 \& 0.06 <br>
\hline Greece \& 2010 \& EU \& 0.61 \& 0.35 \& 0.33 \& 0 \& 0.92 \& 0.15 \& 0.05 <br>
\hline Grenada \& 1998 \& LAC \& 0.38 \& 0.09 \& 0.32 \& 0 \& 0.86 \& 0.13 \& 0.03 <br>
\hline Guatemala \& 2004 \& LAC \& 0.55 \& 0 \& 0.47 \& 0.04 \& 0.98 \& 0.19 \& 0.03 <br>
\hline Honduras \& 2010 \& LAC \& 0.31 \& 0 \& 0.43 \& 0.04 \& 1.07 \& 0.16 \& 0.01 <br>
\hline Hong Kong \& 2010 \& EAP \& 0.73 \& 0.78 \& 0.10 \& 0 \& 0.75 \& 0.10 \& 0.07 <br>
\hline Hungary \& 2010 \& EU \& 0.52 \& 0.56 \& 0.13 \& 0 \& 0.75 \& 0.09 \& 0.05 <br>
\hline India \& 2010 \& SA \& 0.67 \& 0.26 \& 0.65 \& 0 \& 1.30 \& 0.26 \& 0.04 <br>
\hline Indonesia \& 2009 \& EAP \& 0.66 \& 0.37 \& 0.39 \& 0 \& 1.14 \& 0.17 \& 0.05 <br>
\hline Iran \& 2008 \& MENA \& 0.85 \& 0.40 \& 0.80 \& 0 \& 1.03 \& 0.32 \& 0.07 <br>
\hline Ireland \& 2010 \& EU \& 0.69 \& 0.79 \& 0.13 \& 0 \& 0.83 \& 0.11 \& 0.07 <br>
\hline Israel \& 2008 \& MENA \& 0.75 \& 0.66 \& 0.14 \& 0 \& 0.75 \& 0.11 \& 0.07 <br>
\hline Italy \& 2010 \& EU \& 0.59 \& 0.44 \& 0.32 \& 0 \& 0.87 \& 0.15 \& 0.05 <br>
\hline Jamaica \& 2008 \& LAC \& 0.45 \& 0.30 \& 0.23 \& 0 \& 1.05 \& 0.11 \& 0.04 <br>
\hline Japan \& 2008 \& EAP \& 0.72 \& 0.67 \& 0.29 \& 0 \& 0.76 \& 0.15 \& 0.07 <br>
\hline Kazakhstan \& 2010 \& CA \& 0.35 \& 0 \& 0.05 \& 0.02 \& 0.97 \& 0.04 \& 0.02 <br>
\hline Korea \& 2008 \& EAP \& 0.59 \& 0.42 \& 0.28 \& 0 \& 0.89 \& 0.14 \& 0.05 <br>
\hline Kuwait \& 2005 \& MENA \& 0.76 \& 0.97 \& 0.66 \& 0 \& 0.69 \& 0.27 \& 0.08 <br>
\hline Kyrgyzstan \& 2006 \& CA \& 0.56 \& 0.31 \& 0.27 \& 0 \& 1.03 \& 0.13 \& 0.04 <br>
\hline Laos \& 2005 \& EAP \& 0.56 \& 0.55 \& 0 \& 0 \& 1.14 \& 0.06 \& 0.06 <br>
\hline Latvia \& 2010 \& EU \& 0.49 \& 0.49 \& 0 \& 0 \& 0.74 \& 0.04 \& 0.04 <br>
\hline Lebanon \& 2007 \& MENA \& 0.86 \& 0.68 \& 0.67 \& 0 \& 0.95 \& 0.28 \& 0.09 <br>
\hline Lesotho \& 1999 \& SSA \& 0 \& 0.13 \& 0.22 \& 0 \& 1.38 \& 0.09 \& 0.01 <br>
\hline Liberia \& 2010 \& SSA \& 0.23 \& 0 \& 0 \& 0.06 \& 1.25 \& 0.01 \& 0.01 <br>
\hline Lithuania \& 2010 \& EU \& 0.67 \& 0.54 \& 0 \& 0 \& 0.75 \& 0.06 \& 0.06 <br>
\hline Luxembourg \& 2010 \& EU \& 0.59 \& 0.53 \& 0.23 \& 0 \& 0.71 \& 0.13 \& 0.06 <br>
\hline Madagascar \& 2003 \& SSA \& 0.30 \& 0.32 \& 0.04 \& 0 \& 1.13 \& 0.04 \& 0.03 <br>
\hline Malawi \& 1987 \& SSA \& 0.92 \& 0 \& 0 \& 0.10 \& 1.38 \& 0.02 \& 0.02 <br>
\hline Malaysia \& 2010 \& EAP \& 0.68 \& 0.49 \& 0.44 \& 0 \& 0.88 \& 0.19 \& 0.06 <br>
\hline Maldives \& 2006 \& SA \& 0.76 \& 0 \& 0.42 \& 0.10 \& 0.79 \& 0.19 \& 0.06 <br>
\hline Mali \& 2006 \& SSA \& 0.55 \& 0.12 \& 0.18 \& 0 \& 1.14 \& 0.09 \& 0.03 <br>
\hline Malta \& 2010 \& EU \& 0.79 \& 0.72 \& 0.48 \& 0 \& 0.80 \& 0.22 \& 0.08 <br>
\hline
\end{tabular}

\begin{tabular}{|c|c|c|c|c|c|c|c|c|c|}
\hline \& Year \& Region group \& \begin{tabular}{l}
Empl. \\
gg
\end{tabular} \& Self

gg \& LFP

gg \& Wage
gg \& Tau \& Total inc. loss from gender gaps \& Inc. loss from occup gender gaps <br>
\hline Mauritius \& 2010 \& SSA \& 0.66 \& 0.51 \& 0.45 \& 0 \& 0.84 \& 0.20 \& 0.06 <br>
\hline Mexico \& 2008 \& LAC \& 0.62 \& 0.10 \& 0.40 \& 0 \& 0.90 \& 0.17 \& 0.04 <br>
\hline Mongolia \& 2009 \& EAP \& 0.65 \& 0.63 \& 0.08 \& 0 \& 1.08 \& 0.09 \& 0.07 <br>
\hline Morocco \& 2008 \& MENA \& 0.76 \& 0.54 \& 0.63 \& 0 \& 0.99 \& 0.26 \& 0.07 <br>
\hline Mozambique \& 2003 \& SSA \& 0.82 \& 0.42 \& 0 \& 0 \& 1.16 \& 0.06 \& 0.06 <br>
\hline Namibia \& 2008 \& SSA \& 0.54 \& 0 \& 0.22 \& 0.03 \& 0.78 \& 0.11 \& 0.04 <br>
\hline Nepal \& 2001 \& SA \& 0.03 \& 0 \& 0.23 \& 0.07 \& 1.27 \& 0.08 \& 0.00 <br>
\hline Netherlands \& 2010 \& EU \& 0.65 \& 0.48 \& 0.15 \& 0 \& 0.79 \& 0.11 \& 0.06 <br>
\hline New Zealand \& 2008 \& EAP \& 0.54 \& 0.52 \& 0.12 \& 0 \& 0.81 \& 0.09 \& 0.05 <br>
\hline Nicaragua \& 2010 \& LAC \& 0.72 \& 0 \& 0.29 \& 0.07 \& 0.93 \& 0.14 \& 0.05 <br>
\hline Niger \& 2005 \& SSA \& 0.50 \& 0 \& 0.62 \& 0.02 \& 1.48 \& 0.23 \& 0.00 <br>
\hline Norway \& 2010 \& EU \& 0.64 \& 0.75 \& 0.10 \& 0 \& 0.74 \& 0.09 \& 0.06 <br>
\hline Oman \& 2000 \& MENA \& 0.69 \& 0.31 \& 0.84 \& 0 \& 0.79 \& 0.33 \& 0.06 <br>
\hline Pakistan \& 2008 \& CA \& 0.98 \& 0.70 \& 0.74 \& 0 \& 1.05 \& 0.30 \& 0.10 <br>
\hline Panama \& 2008 \& SA \& 0.51 \& 0.32 \& 0.40 \& 0 \& 0.97 \& 0.17 \& 0.04 <br>
\hline Paraguay \& 2010 \& LAC \& 0.55 \& 0 \& 0.39 \& 0.04 \& 0.99 \& 0.16 \& 0.03 <br>
\hline Peru \& 2010 \& LAC \& 0.55 \& 0 \& 0.16 \& 0.06 \& 0.97 \& 0.09 \& 0.03 <br>
\hline Philippines \& 2008 \& LAC \& 0.54 \& 0.17 \& 0.37 \& 0 \& 1.00 \& 0.16 \& 0.04 <br>
\hline Poland \& 2008 \& EAP \& 0.50 \& 0.41 \& 0.18 \& 0 \& 0.85 \& 0.10 \& 0.04 <br>
\hline Portugal \& 2010 \& EU \& 0.59 \& 0.22 \& 0.12 \& 0 \& 0.85 \& 0.10 \& 0.05 <br>
\hline Qatar \& 2010 \& EU \& 0.77 \& 1 \& 0.86 \& 0 \& 0.65 \& 0.34 \& 0.08 <br>
\hline Romania \& 2007 \& MENA \& 0.60 \& 0.56 \& 0.19 \& 0 \& 0.92 \& 0.11 \& 0.06 <br>
\hline Russia \& 2010 \& EU \& 0.39 \& 0.36 \& 0.04 \& 0 \& 0.73 \& 0.05 \& 0.03 <br>
\hline Rwanda \& 2008 \& EU \& 0.19 \& 0 \& 0 \& 0.05 \& 1.25 \& 0.01 \& 0.01 <br>
\hline Sao Tome \& 1996 \& SSA \& 0.76 \& 0 \& 0.50 \& 0.01 \& 0.93 \& 0.21 \& 0.05 <br>
\hline Senegal \& 1991 \& SSA \& 0.91 \& 0 \& 0.16 \& 0.02 \& 1.12 \& 0.09 \& 0.04 <br>
\hline Seychelles \& 1991 \& SSA \& 0.27 \& 0.67 \& 0.31 \& 0 \& 0.82 \& 0.13 \& 0.03 <br>
\hline Singapore \& 1987 \& SSA \& 0.56 \& 0.60 \& 0.23 \& 0 \& 0.78 \& 0.12 \& 0.05 <br>
\hline Slovenia \& 2010 \& EAP \& 0.59 \& 0.61 \& 0.15 \& 0 \& 0.78 \& 0.10 \& 0.06 <br>
\hline South Africa \& 2010 \& EU \& 0.63 \& 0.17 \& 0.23 \& 0 \& 0.76 \& 0.13 \& 0.05 <br>
\hline Spain \& 2010 \& SSA \& 0.51 \& 0.49 \& 0.21 \& 0 \& 0.80 \& 0.11 \& 0.05 <br>
\hline Sri Lanka \& 2010 \& EU \& 0.75 \& 0.39 \& 0.47 \& 0 \& 0.98 \& 0.20 \& 0.06 <br>
\hline St Kitts and Nevis \& 2009 \& SA \& 0.64 \& 0.56 \& 0.13 \& 0 \& 0.76 \& 0.90 \& 0.06 <br>
\hline
\end{tabular}

\begin{tabular}{|c|c|c|c|c|c|c|c|c|c|}
\hline \& Year \& \begin{tabular}{l}
Region \\
group
\end{tabular} \& \begin{tabular}{l}
Empl. \\
gg
\end{tabular} \& Self

gg \& LFP

gg \& Wage
gg \& Tau \& Total inc. loss from gender gaps \& Inc. loss from occup gender gaps <br>
\hline St Vincent and the Grenadines \& 2001 \& LAC \& 0.52 \& 0.34 \& 0.47 \& 0 \& 0.88 \& 0.81 \& 0.04 <br>
\hline Suriname \& 1991 \& LAC \& 0.75 \& 0.59 \& 0.52 \& 0 \& 0.86 \& 0.77 \& 0.07 <br>
\hline Swaziland \& 1998 \& LAC \& 0.21 \& 0 \& 0.31 \& 0.15 \& 0.84 \& 0.88 \& 0.02 <br>
\hline Sweden \& 1997 \& SSA \& 0.70 \& 0.68 \& 0.11 \& 0 \& 0.75 \& 0.90 \& 0.07 <br>
\hline Switzerland \& 2010 \& EU \& 0.60 \& 0.39 \& 0.16 \& 0 \& 0.74 \& 0.90 \& 0.05 <br>
\hline Tanzania \& 2010 \& EU \& 0.60 \& 0 \& 0 \& 0.03 \& 1.36 \& 0.99 \& 0.01 <br>
\hline Thailand \& 2006 \& SSA \& 0.60 \& 0.32 \& 0.16 \& 0 \& 1.01 \& 0.90 \& 0.05 <br>
\hline Trinidad and Tobago \& 2010 \& EAP \& 0.50 \& 0.42 \& 0.33 \& 0 \& 0.85 \& 0.85 \& 0.04 <br>
\hline Tunisia \& 2005 \& LAC \& 0.73 \& 0.47 \& 0.70 \& 0 \& 0.90 \& 0.72 \& 0.07 <br>
\hline Turkey \& 1994 \& MENA \& 0.81 \& 0.52 \& 0.60 \& 0 \& 0.90 \& 0.75 \& 0.08 <br>
\hline Uganda \& 2010 \& CA \& 0.51 \& 0.24 \& 0 \& 0 \& 1.18 \& 0.97 \& 0.03 <br>
\hline United Arab Emirates \& 2003 \& SSA \& 0.80 \& 0.96 \& 0.77 \& 0 \& 0.67 \& 0.31 \& 0.09 <br>
\hline United Kingdom \& 2008 \& CA \& 0.60 \& 0.60 \& 0.13 \& 0 \& 0.82 \& 0.90 \& 0.06 <br>
\hline Uruguay \& 2010 \& EU \& 0.53 \& 0.21 \& 0.14 \& 0 \& 0.90 \& 0.91 \& 0.04 <br>
\hline Vietnam \& 2010 \& LAC \& 0.57 \& 0.40 \& 0.05 \& 0 \& 1.11 \& 0.94 \& 0.05 <br>
\hline Yemen \& 2004 \& EAP \& 0.85 \& 0.35 \& 0.67 \& 0 \& 1.00 \& 0.73 \& 0.07 <br>
\hline Zambia \& 1999 \& MENA \& 0.67 \& 0.42 \& 0 \& 0 \& 1.11 \& 0.94 \& 0.06 <br>
\hline Zimbabwe \& 2002 \& SSA \& 0.44 \& 0 \& 0.08 \& 0.14 \& 1.08 \& 0.95 \& 0.02 <br>
\hline
\end{tabular}


[^0]:    *Previously circulated under the titles "Gender Inequality, Factor Allocation, and Aggregate Productivity" and "Gender Gaps in the Labor Market and Aggregate Productivity". We thank seminar participants at Universitat Autonoma de Barcelona, University of Sheffield, University of Birmingham, Bank of Italy, Clemson University, Universitat de Barcelona, University of Cagliari, as well as conference participants at the "Structural Change, Dynamics, and Economig Growth", and the helpful comments of Xavier Raurich, Curtis Simon, Robert Tamura and Montserrat Vilalta-Bufí.

[^1]:    ${ }^{1}$ See for instance Blau and Katz (2007, 2013)
    ${ }^{2}$ Lucas uses the term "manager" rather than "employer" but we think in our model the latter helps clarifying the crucial difference between an agent who runs a firm where other agents work (an employer) and an agent who run his or her own firm without any other worker (a self-employed).
    ${ }^{3}$ We abstract from the decision of agents to participate or not in the labor market, i.e. all agents would like to work unless they are banned to do so. Implicitely, we shut down, for example, the decision of whether one of the members of the household optimally chooses to stay out of the labor market.

[^2]:    ${ }^{4}$ See, for instance,Goldin (1990), Dollar and Gatti (1999), Tzannatos (1999), or Klasen (2002)
    ${ }^{5}$ Cuberes and Teignier (2011) provide a comprehensive review of the empirical and theoretical literature on this topic.

[^3]:    ${ }^{6}$ The consumption good produced by the self-employed and the capital they use is the same as the one of the employers. However, in order to write down the market-clearing conditions it is convenient to denote them $\tilde{y}$ and $\tilde{k}$, respectively.
    ${ }^{7}$ We assume that this is a deadweight cost, i.e. the cost for the employer is the same when hiring a man or a woman. In other words, the choice of whether to hire a male or female worker does not affect the employer's profits because women are in effect less productive than men. One justification for this is provided in Becker (1957), where the presence of women in the labor force generates a negative externality on men's utility. Female workers can also be less productive if their skills needed to be workers - not modeled here - are worse than those of men, perhaps due to gender differences in schooling. Finally, one could also interpret $\psi$ as a utility cost for female workers, reflecting the fact that, especially in developing countries, being a worker is associated with low flexibility in the amount of working hours, generating a cost for women who contemplates the possibility of having children.
    ${ }^{8}$ We abstract from human capital accumulation decisions in the model.

[^4]:    ${ }^{9}$ In order to construct this figure we assumed values for the parameters $\tau, \alpha$, and $\eta$, such that the three occupations are chosen in equilibrium.

[^5]:    ${ }^{10}$ We say "potentially" because, as stated above, only a fraction $\mu_{0}$ are allowed to be self-employed and only a fraction $\mu$ of them can become employers.
    ${ }^{11}$ In equilibrium a fraction $1-\mu$ of women are excluded from this occupation.

[^6]:    ${ }^{12}$ In the next section we show that, without this bound, the integrals in the expression below are not well-defined.

[^7]:    ${ }^{13}$ If we use an unbounded Pareto distribution, i.e. $\bar{z} \rightarrow \infty$, we need to assume that $\rho>\frac{1}{1-\eta}$ so that the integral $\int_{z}^{\bar{z}} x^{\frac{1}{1-\eta}} d \Gamma(x)$ is defined. This, however, implies $1+\rho>\frac{1}{1-\eta}$, which contradicts Zipf's Law for the distribution of firms' size.
    ${ }^{14}$ See Axtell (2001) and Gabaix (2012).
    ${ }^{15}$ Buera and Shin (2011) choose $\eta$ to match the fraction of total income of the top five per cent of earners in the U.S. population, which is $30 \%$, given that top earners are are always entrepreneurs in the model and in most cases in their data.
    ${ }^{16}$ This value is not very different than the one used by Buera, Kaboski and Shin (2011), 4.84, which they choose to match the employment share of the largest 10 percent of establishments in the US.
    ${ }^{17}$ The cross-country weighted average of the entrepreneurs' share in the data is computed using data on the variable Employers from the International Labor Organization, Table 3 - Status in Employment (by sex), as described in the next section. The weights of each country are equal to the country's employment over total employment in our sample.

[^8]:    ${ }^{18}$ In KILM, the category "self-employed" is subdivided in four groups: employers, own-account workers, members of producers' cooperatives, and contributing family workers. Given the definition of each of these groups, we have decided that the most sensible choice was to use own-account workers to represent the selfemployed in our model, and assume that the rest of the categories are workers.
    ${ }^{19}$ Appendix D shows the results of our simulations for every country included in the sample. Notable omissions are the United States, Canada, and China for which the ILO does not provide the necessary data.

[^9]:    ${ }^{20} \mathrm{~A}$ value of $\tau$ above one in country $i$ implies that being a self-employed instead of an employer has a productivity advantage in country $i$. This could be due to regulation or other policy-related variables that treat self employed and employers differently.
    ${ }^{21}$ We follow the World Bank to assign each country to a region, with the exception of countries that belong in the Europe and Central Asia group, which we have decided to split in two geographical regions, Europe and Central Asia, since we believe the labor markets in these two regions are very different. The numbers in parentheses indicate the number of countries assigned to each region.

[^10]:    ${ }^{22}$ See, for instance, Poschke (2013).

[^11]:    ${ }^{23}$ Variable 3: World Bank region (EAP: East Asia and Pacific, EUCA: Europe and Central Asia, LAC: Latin America and the Caribbean, MENA: Middle East and North Africa, NAM: North America and Mexico, SA: South Africa, SSA: Sub-Saharan Africa); variable 4: gender gap in employership (fraction of women excluded from employership relative to men; source: own calculations from ILO data); variable 5: gender gap in self-employment (fraction of women excluded from self-employemnt relative to men; source: own results from ILO data); variable 6: gender gap in labor force participation (fraction of women excluded from the labor force relative to men; source: own calculations from ILO data); variable 7: wage gender gap (female wage loss relative to males; source: own results); variable 8: Relative productivity self-employment (source: own results); variable 9: total income loss due to gender gaps (source: own results); variable 10: income loss due to gender gaps in occupational choices (source: own results).

