

# Making Grants, but to serve what purpose? An analysis of Trust and Foundation support for women in the UK

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- Philanthropy in the UK in recent decades: “Gendered” nature
  - Engagement of women in philanthropy
  - Philanthropic support for women, especially from foundations
- Aim of the research
  - Understand how trusts and foundations support women in the UK: Analysis of grantmaking policies and practices of a sample of trusts and foundations
  - The agenda and the roles of foundations: grantmaking influence women’s movements

# The project

- Sample of foundations
- Profiling exercise
- 7 categories of grants: welfare service support, infrastructural support, women's association, women's rights, advocacy, empowerment and research
- Findings:
  - Caution rather than innovation. No repetition in grant making. Reactionary rather than pro-active actors.
  - No evidence of an “agenda”. Foundation remain “gift givers” rather than leaders in their field. They act in isolation, very few partnership.

# General Comments

- Very interesting issue
- Important role of “support” for the success of women initiatives/movements, but also for the promotion of female talent.
- The role of “women’s lobby”: historically powerful, and more recent examples (Italy: law on gender quotas).

# Suggestion 1: Gender differences in preferences

- Large experimental literature (survey in Croson and Gneezy, JEL 2009)
  - Women are more cooperative than men
  - Women shy away from competition and prefer cooperative environment
  - Women are neither more nor less socially oriented (“other-regarding”), but their social preferences are more malleable (context-sensitive)

## Suggestion 2: Critical mass

- Very few women in the board of foundations
- Is there a relation between the number of women in boards and the agenda (7 categories of grants in support of women)?
- Is there any evidence of the need of a “critical mass” of women?
- Similar relations have been found in other contexts: politics (Chattopadhyay and Duflo, 2004), business (women in boards, Schwartz-Ziv, 2012)...
- Important for policy implications

# References

- *Croson, R. and Gneezy, U. (2009) “Gender differences in preferences”, Journal of Economic Literature 47:2, 1-27*
- *Chattopadhyay, R. and Duflo, E. (2004), “Women as policy makers: Evidence from a randomized experiment in India”, Econometrica 72: 5, 1409–1443*
- *Schwartz-Ziv, M. D(2013) Does the Gender of Director Matters? Wp SSRN*