

## **THE CONTRIBUTION OF WOMEN TO THE MACROECONOMIC THEORY IN THE 20<sup>th</sup> CENTURY: THREE CASE STUDIES**

*Jéssica Gesiene Nascimento*

This project aims to investigate the contribution of women to macroeconomic theory considering three case studies: Anna J. Schwartz, Christina D. Romer, and Eliana Cardoso. According to the specialized literature, there is a small contribution and participation of women in the economics academic environment and debate, and the gender issue plays a vital role in this outcome (Dimand,1995; Madden,2002; Forget, 2011). Consequently, the debate of women's contributions is essential because it helps to increase the little visibility given to women in economics. Furthermore, this study proposes an unprecedented contribution to the economic literature since it adds the intellectual biography of three relevant women to the small number of women's biographies existent to this day, detaching their stories from the traditional narratives written by men and centered on male trajectories.

A search in two of the most prominent journals in the history of economics thought to reinforce the little interest in the biography of these women. The search for "Anna Schwartz" returns 98 results in the History of Political Economy (HOPE), as "Christina Romer" returns four results, and only one citation is found for "Eliana Cardoso." As for the Journal of the History of Economic Thought (JHET), "Anna Schwartz" returns 26 mentions, the term "Christina Romer" returns three citations, and "Eliana Cardoso" has no results. Among the studies that mention the selected economists, none of them is dedicated to the elaboration of their biography, to the exegesis of any of their papers, or measuring the impact of their contributions. Therefore, the contribution here proposed is innovative.

The elaboration of the intellectual biographies of each of the economists mentioned above will consist in exploring their most relevant studies and, consequently, a debate of how they impacted the macroeconomics debate. A bibliometric analysis will also be provided to allow a quantitative approach to their impact. However, one crucial part of constructing the narrative of their trajectories involves consulting archives when they exist. Therefore, visiting the "Anna Schwartz papers, 1929-2012" available at Duke University is indispensable. By accessing her personal notes, writings and correspondence, it is expected to understand the role she had in elaborating the *Monetary History of the United States* (Friedman, Schwartz, 1963), one of the most influential books in the economics of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. It will also elucidate her role in other coauthored books and papers, helping to deepen the knowledge about her contributions to the field.

The Early Career research fund is necessary to help paying for a visit to Anna Schwartz's archives in Duke during a month. The grant will be used to pay the costs of renting a room in Durham (the estimated cost is 800 USD/ month) and pay for food expenses during the period. The airplane ticket, copies, and other subsistence costs will be paid with the scholarship I was granted for my Ph.D. and my savings.

## REFERENCES

DIMAND, Robert W. (1995) Neglect of Women's Contributions in Economics. In: Dimand, Mary Ann; Dimand ; Robert and Forget, Evelyn (orgs) *Women of Value. Feminist Essays on the History of Women in Economics*. Aldershot: Edward Elgar:1-24.

FRIEDMAN, Milton; SCHWARTZ, Anna (1966) *A Monetary History of the United States 1867 -1960*. Princeton: Princeton University Press.

FORGET, Evelyn (2011) American Women and the Economics Profession in the Twentieth century. *OEconomia*, 1(1):19–31.

MADDEN, Kristen (2002) Female Contributions to Economics Thought, 1900–1940, *History of Political Economy* 34(1): 1–30.