1. Title
The Unequal Effects of COVID-19 on Economists’ Research Productivity

Link to working paper
Dropbox link: https://www.dropbox.com/s/ruphcm5fgd9pux0/ProdGapEcon_2020AmanoFaragliaGiannitsarouHasna.pdf?dl=0

2. Authors and affiliations and contact emails
Noriko Amano-Patín
Faculty of Economics, University of Cambridge
noriko.amanopatino@econ.cam.ac.uk
Elisa Faraglia
Faculty of Economics, University of Cambridge, and CEPR
ef307@cam.ac.uk
Chryssi Giannitsarou
Faculty of Economics, University of Cambridge, and CEPR
cg349@cam.ac.uk
Zeina Hasna
Faculty of Economics, University of Cambridge
zh274@cam.ac.uk

3. Abstract
The current lock-down measures are expected to disproportionately reduce women’s labor productivity in the short run. This paper analyzes the effects of these measures on economists’ research productivity. We explore the patterns of working papers publications using data from the NBER Working Papers Series, the CEPR Discussion Paper Series, the newly established research repository Covid Economics: Vetted and Real Time Papers and VoxEU columns. Our analysis suggests that although the relative number of female authors in non-pandemic related research has remained stable with respect to recent years (at around 20%), women constitute only 12\% of total number of authors working on COVID-19 research. Moreover, we see that it is primarily senior economists who are contributing to this new area. Mid-career and junior economists record the biggest gap between non-COVID and COVID research, and the gender differences are particularly stark at the mid-career level. Mid-career female economists have not yet started working on this new research area: only 12 mid-career female authors have contributed to COVID-19 related research so far, out of a total of 647 distinct authors in our dataset of papers (NBER, CEPR and CEPR Covid Economics).

4. Data description
Our preliminary results come from collecting and analysing titles of papers or research columns, as well as authors’ names, from four separate sources. The first two sources are the NBER Working Papers Series and the Centre of Economic Policy Research (CEPR) Discussion Paper Series. For each of these two, we cover the first four months of the year for the last six years (January to April from 2015 to 2020). The third source is the novel dataset of all submissions to the newly established CEPR Covid Economics, kindly provided by the CEPR, up until and including Issue 9. Finally, we extract authors’ seniority information from VoxEU columns in the first four months of 2019 and 2020.

In order to move forward with our project we will improve the data as follows. First, we will continue to update our data with new working papers included in the series and VoxEU columns from May 2020 to at least February 2021 to monitor the evolution of new research and identify how persistent the shock to productivity gap could be. Second, we will expand the seniority dimension of analysis by harvesting seniority information from every author in the data. Affiliations will also be valuable in order to identify the spatial and institutional dimensions of the effect of the shock. Third, both the NBER and CEPR have kindly granted us access to all their working paper series metadata and the CEPR will allow us to continue to use the confidential data on submission to CEPR Covid Economics: Vetted and real time papers, and all the VoxEU columns since the inception of VoxEU in 2007.

5. JEL codes for the project
J16, J22, J7, J78, J82, O30.
6. Key-words
Gender inequality, Research productivity, COVID-19, Lock-down.