



# The Gender Institute Scholar of the Month November 2024 Professor Dan Anderberg

## “Keeping the Peace while Getting Your Way: Information, Persuasion and Intimate Partner Violence”

Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> November, 1pm on Microsoft Teams

Professor Anderberg is a Professor in Economics and Head of the Department of Economics at Royal Holloway. Professor Anderberg is an empirical microeconomist with research interests that lie at the intersection of economics and public policy, and with a strong focus on family behaviour and outcomes.

This session will consider the effect on intimate partner violence (IPV) of new information received by women only, men only or both, relevant to a high-stakes household decision made under incomplete information. We model strategic communication of new information between spouses as Bayesian persuasion and develop a theoretical framework for IPV where abuse arises from spousal disagreements. Our framework offers the novel prediction that new information when received by only one spouse may lead to lower IPV incidence as compared to when received by both spouses as a privately informed spouse will seek to forge agreement through strategic communication (“persuasion”), reducing conflict. To test the model’s predictions we leverage an existing randomized controlled trial of a edutainment intervention addressing child marriage decisions in rural Pakistan, targeted at men, women, or both. Our empirical findings confirm the prediction that the likelihood of IPV is highest when men and women are jointly targeted. Due to systemic gender differences in preferences, our model further predicts that marriage delays are largest when targeting men alone or jointly with women and smallest when targeting women alone, predictions that are also confirmed on the data.

Professor Anderberg’s full research record is available on Pure.



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