

## FIRST NON-COOPERATIVE MODEL OF INDIVIDUAL DECISION-MAKING WITHIN HOUSEHOLDS:

This unique model has each person, male or female, make their own decisions on how to allocate their time and other resources. The concept of Work-In-Household (WIHO) helps coordinate the decisions of men and women (in the case of heterosexual couples). "WIHO is defined as a service that is of benefit to one spouse (for example, the wife) but involves an opportunity cost on the part of the spouse supplying the service (for example, the husband). Demand for WIHO is similar to the demand for labor. The more productive the WIHO-worker and the more valuable the product of WIHO to the (potential) beneficiary, the higher the demand. Supply of WIHO is similar to the supply of other types of labor: it is upward-sloping and shifts as a function of the characteristics of both worker and 'job' (which includes characteristics of the spouse or potential spouse). Marriage markets are markets for WIHO in which demand and supply interact. There are multiple marriage markets for various types of WIHO workers differentiated by education, ethnicity, age, etc. [References: Amyra Grossbard-Shechtman. "[A Theory of Allocation of Time in Markets for Labor and Marriage](#)," *Economic Journal*, 94(4): 863-882, December 1984. [Explanatory notes](#); latest and most complete conceptual framework can be found in Chapter 2 of my 2015 book *The Marriage Motive* <https://www.springer.com/gp/book/9781461416227>; Applications to decision-making in marriage in Chapter 4 of Shoshana Grossbard-Shechtman, *On the Economics of Marriage - A Theory of Marriage, Labor and Divorce*. Boulder, CO: Westview Press, 1993. Recently reissued [by Routledge](#), 2019; also see chapter for volume *A Cultural History of Marriage*, Bloomsbury, 2020. <https://www.bloomsbury.com/uk/a-cultural-history-of-marriage-9781350001916/>]

My [JPE article](#) applied the theory to the study of differences in women's **labor supply** as a function of inter-ethnic marriage and spousal age differences using data from [Israel](#). This was also applied to Hawaii (Shoshana Grossbard-Shechtman and Xuanning Fu. "[Women's Labor Force Participation and Status Exchange in Intermarriage: An Empirical Study in Hawaii](#)", *Journal of Bioeconomics*, 4(3): 241-268, 2002). I also produced the earliest study of women's labor force participation and sex ratio; (PROPOSITION: women are more likely to be active in the labor force if they face lower sex ratios). This was tested [in the context of the USA, by cohort or across cities](#) w then graduate student Matt Neideffer. A more recent application of my theory to labor supply: Shoshana Grossbard and Victoria Vernon. "[Common Law Marriage and Male/Female Convergence in Labor Supply and Time Use](#)", *Research in Labor Economics*, Vol. 41 on *Gender Convergence in the*

*Labor Market*, pp. 143-175, 2015. A more complete list of my work on labor supply can be found here:

[https://econoflove.sdsu.edu/research\\_topics.html#labor](https://econoflove.sdsu.edu/research_topics.html#labor).

Very relevant to the study of consumption is the idea that women's autonomy and decision-making power in their households is a function of what affects value in marriage markets, including sex ratios and laws related to marriage. I wrote about this for a presentation at the 1981 Population Association of America meetings but it only got published in 1993 (Chapter 4 in Shoshana Grossbard-Shechtman, *On the Economics of Marriage - A Theory of Marriage, Labor and Divorce*. Boulder, CO: Westview Press). In this 2003 [application of my WIHO theory to consumption](#) I pursue Becker's idea that sex ratios in marriage markets affect individual consumption by married individuals. I also show it is not just relative individual income that is likely to affect individual consumption in marriage or cohabitation (as so many have written), but the price elasticity of demand is also likely to differ for members of the same couple, often along gender lines. Some other applications to the economic analysis of consumption are listed here under [CONSUMPTION](#). My recent writings on savings: [Whose time? Who saves? Introduction to a special issue on couples' savings, time use and children](#) w Elena Stanca. "Review of *Economics of the Household*, 8(3):289-296, September 2010; Chapter 11 (with Alfredo Pereira) in my 2015 book [The Marriage Motive](#).

I have also applied the WIHO model to household production, including this research piece: [Time in household production and Racial Intermarriage](#) (Shoshana Grossbard, Jose Ignacio Gimenez and Jose Alberto Molina. "Racial Intermarriage and Household Production", *Review of Behavioral Economics*, 1(4):295-347, 2014.) For more of my articles on household production click here: [Household Production, including Time in Household Production](#).