

Accepted Manuscript

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PII: S1042-9573(18)30007-X
DOI: [10.1016/j.jfi.2018.01.001](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jfi.2018.01.001)
Reference: YJFIN 771



To appear in: *Journal of Financial Intermediation*

Received date: 22 August 2017
Revised date: 21 November 2017
Accepted date: 10 January 2018

Please cite this article as: Sumit Agarwal , Richard Green , Vincent W. Yao , Jian Zhang , Gender Difference and Intra-Household Economic Power in Mortgage Signing Order, *Journal of Financial Intermediation* (2018), doi: [10.1016/j.jfi.2018.01.001](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jfi.2018.01.001)

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Gender Difference and Intra-Household Economic Power in Mortgage Signing Order

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Abstract

This paper adopts a novel approach to examine the roles of gender difference and intra-household economic power in mortgage signing order. We develop an “economic power” index based on relative economic power within the same-sex couple households. We then use this measure along with gender identity and other factors to explain signing order in different-gender couples. Our results suggest that, while pure economic power explains much of the observed signing order, gender difference plays an important role. Exploit regional variation reveals that gender difference in signing order is greater in states with a larger gender wage gap and red states whose residents predominantly vote for the Republican.

Keywords

Gender difference; Economic power; Mortgage application; Household finance

JEL Codes

A12; G02; J16; R2

1. Introduction

Gender difference is deeply rooted in our identity and has been widely documented by economists in disparate real-world economic contexts. For example, though women have made substantial labor market gains in both participation and earnings, gender inequality

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