

> Thursday, June 16th, 2022

12:00 - 13:30

IFLAME RESEARCH SEMINAR

**RESEARCH
SEMINAR**



EMPOWERING CHANGEMAKERS FOR A BETTER SOCIETY



ABSTRACT

‘GENDER-BIASED TECHNOLOGICAL CHANGE AND STRUCTURAL TRANSFORMATION’

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This paper studies the link between gender-biased technological change in the agricultural sector and the structural transformation in Norway. After WWII, Norwegian farms widely adopted milking machines to replace hand milking, a task typically done by women. Combining the population-wide panel of the Norwegian registry with municipality-level data from the Censuses of Agriculture, we show that the adoption of milking machines triggered a process of structural transformation by displacing young rural women from their traditional jobs on farms in dairy-intensive municipalities. The displaced women moved to urban areas, where they acquired higher education and took up better-paid jobs. We also

quantify significant inter-generational effects for the offspring of affected women. Our results imply that the mechanization of farming broke deeply rooted gender norms, transformed women’s work, and improved their long-term earning opportunities relative to men.



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