

---

[Borrador número 786](#)

Keep in mind

The series Working Papers on Economics is published by the Office for Economic Studies at the *Banco de la República* (Central Bank of *Colombia*). It contributes to the dissemination and promotion of the work by researchers from the institution. This series is indexed at Research Papers in Economics (RePEc).

On multiple occasions, these works have been the result of collaborative work with individuals from other national or international institutions. The works published are provisional, and their authors are fully responsible for the opinions expressed in them, as well as for possible mistakes. The opinions expressed herein are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the views of Banco de la República or its Board of Directors.

AUTHOR OR EDITOR

[Alison L. Booth](#) [Lina Cardona](#) [Patrick Nolen](#)

AUTHORS AND/OR EDITORS

[Alison L. Booth](#) [Patrick Nolen](#)

Single-sex classes within coeducational environments are likely to modify students' risktaking attitudes in

---

---

economically important ways. To test this, we designed a controlled experiment using first year college students who made choices over real-stakes lotteries at two distinct dates. Students were randomly assigned to weekly classes of three types: all female, all male, and coeducational. They were not allowed to change group subsequently. We found that women are less likely to make risky choices than men at both dates. However, after eight weeks in a single-sex class environment, women were significantly more likely to choose the lottery than their counterparts in coeducational groups. These results are robust to the inclusion of controls for IQ and for personality type, as well as to a number of sensitivity tests. Our findings suggest that observed gender differences in behaviour under uncertainty found in previous studies might partly reflect social learning rather than inherent gender traits.

Borradores de Economía is a working paper series published by the Economics Studies Unit of the Central Bank of Colombia –Banco de la República de Colombia. The views expressed in this document do not reflect the opinion of the Banco de la República or its Board of Governors. All errors and omissions are the sole responsibility of the authors.

Documento actualizado el 22 de noviembre de 2013, a las 11:11 a.m.