

♣ Innovations in Time Use gender analysis for policy decisions: the Italian strategy



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The long history of the Time use survey in Italy

It is also a long history of time use data analysis

The Italian National Institute of Statistics (Istat) carried out the first survey in 1989, followed by the 2003, 2008 and 2014 surveys.

For the first time, the time spent in household work (housework+care) by all the household members was measured

Main results:

- A very high asymmetry of gender roles in couples
- Working woman is in charge of 82% of the time devoted to household work.





Department of Equal Opportunity and Istat carried out a life course analysis on time use and gender roles (1994)

Gender differences begin since childhood

Gender differences remain evident during adolescence

The "jump" in gender difference emerges with marriage and in particular with birth of children:

the mother's life and her time use change completely the father's life tend to stay essentially the same

Women never retire from household work - even when are elderly -, men do





women cut their leisure time and sleep to devote an extra hour of household work to each child

for mothers, the household work is an increasingly part of the daily life while the leisure time becomes residual

for fathers, the paid job is the main part of everyday life while the time spent on household work is very short or practically inexistent

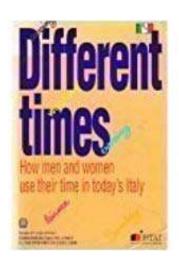
mothers carries not only the burden of housework and childcare but also the burden of caring for their husbands: single mothers save more than an hour a day thanks to the absence of a partner

★ The results of the analysis were presented during the Beijing Conference

The publication "Different times - the use of time for men and women in today's Italy " was translated into four languages (English, French, German and Spanish) and presented during the international women conference in Bejing (1995)

It was distributed during the conference and discussed in several workshops organized by INSTRAW and UNSD

It was one of the first experiences of life course gender analysis and it became also very useful to design policies







Time use survey correctly measures the number of hours spent on household work but it is not the best instrument to measure the time spent on helping non-cohabiting people (elderly parents, grand-children, etc.), because often this is not a daily activity.

To measure these flows of aid, in 1983 a specific sequence of questions were introduced in the first household survey on households behaviors and the survey was repeated in 1998.

By comparing the results, a critical situation emerged: the caregivers increased in number but both the number of helped households and the number of hours spent to care other households decreased.

Grandmothers: the most stressed link in the female solidarity 'chain'

Women appear overwhelmed by the household work: to completely sustain the burden, they have started to share with other caregivers, but this sharing is still not sufficient to cover all the needs

The average age of caregivers is increasing

The grandmothers – one of the pillars of the Italian Welfare System - are increasingly involved in caring for both grandchildren and (often non-self-sufficient) elderly parents; these requests for help tend to come into competition

The analysis has brought out several women daily life criticalities that policy makers couldn't ignore

In 2000, the law on parental leave was enacted and it includes an article making the Time Use Survey mandatory every 5 years.

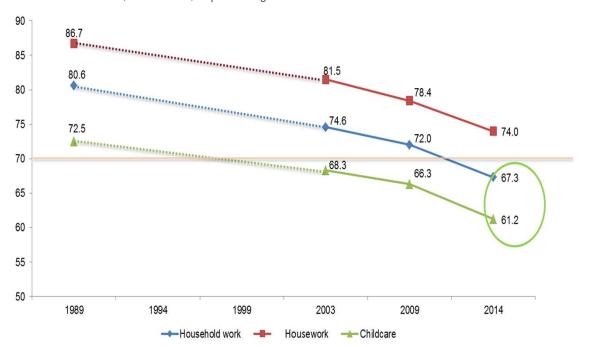
The law represents an important result of the analysis







2008-2009, 2013-2014, in percentage



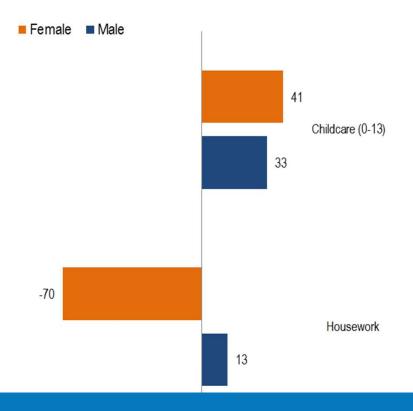
how much of the time spent by both partners in household work is played by women (50%= EQUAL DIVISION OF WORKLOADS). During time the index decreases more because women reduce the household work than because men increase their contribution.

There are positive signs for gender equality in 2014 for parents aged 25-44 living in dual earner couples: for the first time the asymmetry index in household work falls below the 70% threshold.





Differences between Year 2013-2014 and Year 1988-1989 in minutes



Mothers greatly reduced the time spent in housework (-1h10') while increased childcare (+41').

Fathers slightly increased the time spent in housework (+13' in 25 years) but a higher increase is observed for the time spent in childcare (+33').



Which characteristics in 2014 show the highest impact on the level of equity in the gender distribution of household work in dual earner couples? (Multiple regression models - Cappadozzi, Sabbadini, Spizzichino 2017)

Linear regression models were applied with Asymmetry index in household work as dependent variable.

Explanatory variables:

- 1. gender gap in earnings (relative resources approach)
- 2. gender gap in time spent in paid work (time availability perspective)
- 3. partner's opinion on the traditional male-breadwinner model of family *(gender ideology perspective)*

other controlled characteristics:

- 1. geographical area, 2. w. age class, 3. w. educational level, 4. m. professional status,
- 5. presence of young children (0-13), 6. day of the week of the diary.

- Results -

- Results —	Asymmetry index	
	coeff. Sign.	
Gender gap in earnings		
(Ref. She earns less)		
She earns more	-3,84 ***	
Same earnings	-0,18	
Gender gap in time spent in paid work		
(Ref. She works less during the week)		
She works more during the week	-1,28	
Same working times during the week	-1,96 *	
Daily time spent working in minutes		
Daily time spent in paid w ork by man	0,05 ***	
Daily time spent in paid w ork by w oman	-0.04 ***	
Opinion on traditional male-		
breadwinner model		
Male disagreement (Ref. Agreement)	-3,95 ***	
Female disagreement (Ref. Agreemnet)	-1,66 *	
Context variables controlled		
Geographical area (Ref. South)		
North	-5,76 ***	
Center	-4,38 ***	
Female age class (ref. 55-64)	1,55	
25-34	-5,48 ***	
35-44	-2,44 *	
45-54	-0,70	
Female educational level	-,	
(Ref. Up to lower secondary)		
High	-4.07 ***	
Upper Secondary	-0,91	
Male professional status	0,01	
(Ref. self-employed)		
Executive, employer, professional	-0,40	
Middle management, w hite collar	-3,71 ***	
Blu collar, apprentice	-4,52 ***	
Presence of young children (0-13)	1,02	
(ref. No)		
Yes	-2,94 ***	
Day of the diary (Ref. Sunday)	2,01	
Week-day	-2.54 *	
Saturday	-6,03 ***	
•		
Intercept	83,79 ***	12
R ²	0,36	12
*p<0,05; **p<0,01; ***p<0,001		

The hypothesis of *relative resources* is fully confirmed:

gender asymmetry reduces by an average of 3.8 points when women earn more than men

The hypothesis of *time availability* is not fully confirmed: gender asymmetry reduces when the woman works less or like the man (in terms of number of weekly hours), but this effect is not very significant.

The hypothesis of *gender ideology* is fully confirmed:

the gender asymmetry reduces by an average of about 4 points when the man disagrees with the male-breadwinner model.

Context variables effect 1:

the presence of young children increases a more equitable division of tasks between partners, reducing female burden by about 3 points.

Context variables effect 2:

female burden reduces of 4 points if she has an high educational level or a white/blue collar partner.

Context variables effect 3:

Gender asymmetry reduces of about 6 point if the couple lives in the Northern Italy (with respect to the South), or if the woman is 25-34 years old (with respect to female aged 55-64).

Main results from regression analysis

Factors showing the highest association with gender equity are:

- Female young age
- High female educational level
- Male white/blue collar
- Male disagreement with traditional gender roles
- Small gender gap in earnings
- The presence of young children (younger than 14 years)
- Living in Northern Italy

The hypotheses of *relative resources* and *gender ideology* are fully confirmed, while the hypothesis of *time availability* is not fully confirmed.



New questions, new analyses

CEGS
Global Center of Excellence on Gender Statistics

How much of the observed change in time spent in household work by adult couples is due to a change in behaviors? (1988-89 vs. 2013-2014)

Linear regression models: time spent in household work as dependent variables.

Explanatory variables: 1. geographical area, age class, educational level, employment status, 5. economic sector, 6. presence of young children (0-13), 7. number of children, 8. day of the week

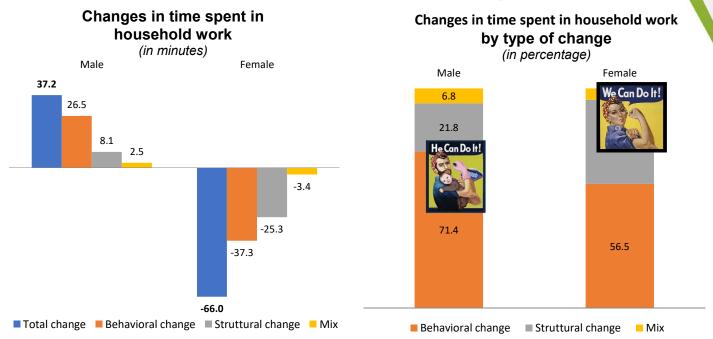
Distinct models for survey edition (1988-89 and 2013-14) and sex (M and F)

Shift & share* analysis to distinguish the structural effect from behavioral effect:

- •behavioral effect → the structure of the population remains constant (88-89 edition), with the variation of β parameters from the model 88-89 to the model 13-14.
- •structural effect \rightarrow the β parameters of the model remain constant (88-89 edition), with variation in structure from the model 88-89 to the model 13-14.
- •Interaction effect → residual component due to the interaction between the behavioral variation and changes in population structure.

$$\bar{E}_{14} - \bar{E}_{89} = \alpha_{14} - \alpha_{89} + \sum_{i=1}^{n} \overline{X}_{i89} (\beta_{i14} - \beta_{i89}) + \sum_{i=1}^{n} \beta_{i89} (\overline{X}_{i14} - \overline{X}_{i89}) + \sum_{i=1}^{n} (\beta_{i1} - \beta_{i89}) (\overline{X}_{i14} - \overline{X}_{i89})$$

Behavior or structural change?



- For men changes in time spent in household work are mainly due to a change in their behavior (71.4%); structural changes represents a minority (21.8%).
- For women, changes are due to changes both in the population structure (employment rates and education levels) and behaviors.

★ The importance of the Italian strategy

During the last decades the time use survey become a strategic source of information for Istat and for the Country and it is now regulated by law



The survey has been improved both in methodology and quality, but also the strategy of analysis has advanced.

The improvement of quality and analysis pushes policy makers to a more extensive use of data to design policies

Using data to implement policies in its turn stimulates the improvement of surveys and analysis. In particular, investing in measures innovation and time use analysis helps to improve gender policies.

