Italian time transfers by age and gender in comparative perspective

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8th MEETING OF THE WORKING GROUP ON MACROECONOMIC ASPECTS OF INTERGENERATIONAL TRANSFERS
Brazil, December 2011
Background

• Time transfers are invisible to national accounts
• Time is an important form of intergenerational transfer of wealth and well-being
• Time transfers give us insights on intergenerational and gender relationships
Goals

• To obtain a quantitative picture of household time production in a comparative perspective

• To estimate age profiles of time production and consumption by gender for Italy

• To better understand the relationship between gender, non monetary production, intra-household transfers and family structure

• To inform policies (e.g. how to ease the cost of parenting)
Outline for this talk

1) Data
2) Comparative perspective on time spent in productive activities
3) Household time production
4) Household time consumption
5) Time deficit
6) Time cost of additional children
7) Discussion and future work

Focus on Italy
Data

- HETUS (Harmonised European Time Use Survey), EUROSTAT: comparable data for 15 countries, but wide age groups, no microdata
- MTUS (Multinational Time Use Study): microdata available, but loss of some information to make data sets comparable
- Italian Time Use Survey, ISTAT 2002-2003: Very detailed, covers ages 3 and above
### Codes of Activities

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Household and Family Care</th>
<th>HETUS and ISTAT</th>
<th>MTUS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>31 - Food Management</td>
<td>AV6 - Cook/Wash up</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>32 - Household Upkeep</td>
<td>AV7 - Housework</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>33 - Making and Care for Textiles</td>
<td>AV8 - Other Domestic Work</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>34 - Gardening and Pet Care</td>
<td>AV9 - Gardening</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>35 - Construction and Repairs</td>
<td>AV10 - Shopping</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>36 - Shopping and Services</td>
<td>AV11 - Childcare</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>37 - Household Management</td>
<td>AV12 - Domestic Travel</td>
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<tr>
<td>38 - Childcare</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>39 - Help to an Adult Family member</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
...hence:

- HETUS and MTUS: picture of gender differences in household production across European countries
- ISTAT: more detailed analysis for Italy
Mean time spent in domestic production by age and gender
(HETUS, 1999-2002)

2. Comparative perspective on household production
## Employment rate by gender for 15-64 age group (per cent values), EUROSTAT

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<th>Country</th>
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<td></td>
<td>Males</td>
<td>Females</td>
<td>Differences</td>
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<tr>
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<td>72,8</td>
<td>58,7</td>
<td>14,1</td>
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<tr>
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<td>43,1</td>
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<tr>
<td>United Kingdom</td>
<td>78,0</td>
<td>65,0</td>
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<table>
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<tr>
<td>United Kingdom</td>
<td>74,5</td>
<td>64,6</td>
<td>9,9</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Women-men difference in household time production by age (MTUS, 1999-2002)
Overall household production (Italy, 2003)
Food management (Italy, 2003)

3. Household time production
Childcare (Italy, 2003)

Grandmothers contribution to childcare time production
4. Household time consumption

Household consumption of time by age

• Method suggested by G. Donehower
  (Incorporating Gender and Time use into NTA: National Time Transfers Accounts Methodology, October 2011)

• Method of regression

\[ C_j = \beta(0) \cdot N_j(0) + \beta(1) \cdot N_j(1) + \ldots + \beta(a) \cdot N_j(a) + \beta(\omega) \cdot N_j(\omega) \]

where:

- \( C_j \) = time consumption for household \( j \)
- \( N_j(a) \) = number of member aged \( a \) in household \( j \)
- \( \beta(a) \) = time consumption by a person of age \( a \)
Women age profiles of time consumption and production (Italy, 2003)
Men age profiles of time consumption and production (Italy, 2003)

Men produce less time and later!

- Production
- Consumption

Hours per week

Age
Time deficit by sex and age (Italy, 2003)

- Men Deficit (up to 47 years)
- Men Surplus (from 48 years)
- Women Deficit (up to 20 years)
- Women Surplus (from 21 years)

Hours per week
Time cost of additional children
Per capita age profiles of time consumption for different family structures

An additional child increases the overall household time production but decreases the mean time dedicated to each child.
Conclusions

• Large gender differences in time dedicated to household production

• Childcare is an important component during central ages, but even during older ages due to the special role played by grandmothers.

• Women spend up to 40 hours per week for household production, similarly to a full-time job
Conclusions

• Women produce more time than they consume for most of their life, while men are in time deficit until age 50 (they produce less time and later)

• Culturally sanctioned separation of roles, differences in occupational levels, labor market rigidities, or lack of family welfare (e.g. facilities that ease parenting) may be reasons for what we observe
...what to look for:

- What is the importance of inter-household transfers of time?
- What is the effect of population aging on traditional forms of intergenerational support?
- How much is low fertility related to the time investment to run a household?
Thanks!
Gracias!
Obrigada!

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