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BOCCONI UNIVERSITY
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CARLO F. DONDENA CENTRE
AXA Research Lab
on Gender Equality

The She-cession

Are women more affected than men by the pandemic on the labor market? In Italy

- Sectors of activity: 84% of female employment is in the service sector
 - Different from the previous «man-cessions»
- Closures and lockdowns have affected women's activities (tourism, restaurants, care.....)
- In the longer period the gap in employment has stabilized thanks to measures of income support, retention schemes, unemployment benefits
- Female labor force participation rate in Italy: 49%



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The family

Overall, women are the main providers of informal care for children and the elderly

- Stereotypical gender norms
- Inadequate formal care provision

More equal sharing at home reduces gender gaps in the labor market (*Profeta and Fanelli, 2020*)

Family responsibilities during the pandemic have increased



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Two Hypotheses

With the lockdown and the new organization of work

—Men are more exposed to family and care duties

- Less traditional gender roles, more sharing, lower gender gaps

Smart-working increases men's involvement in household and care activities: a pre-Covid study by Paola Profeta with M. Angelici

—Men are more involved, but also women

- The care gap remains, gender gaps are exacerbated

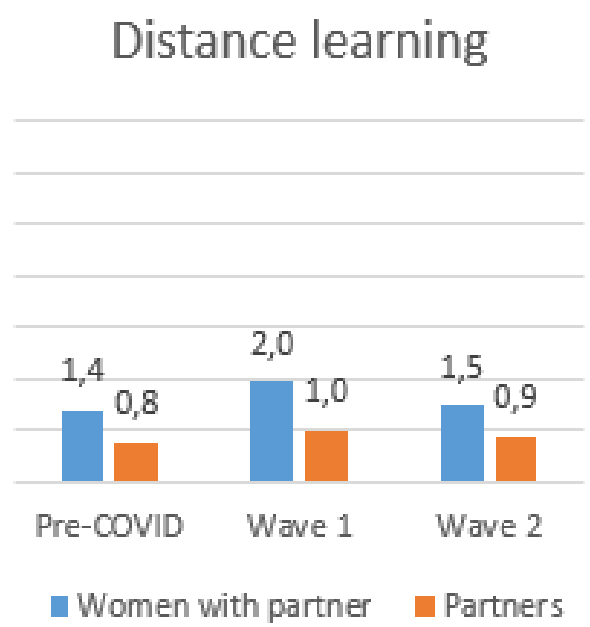
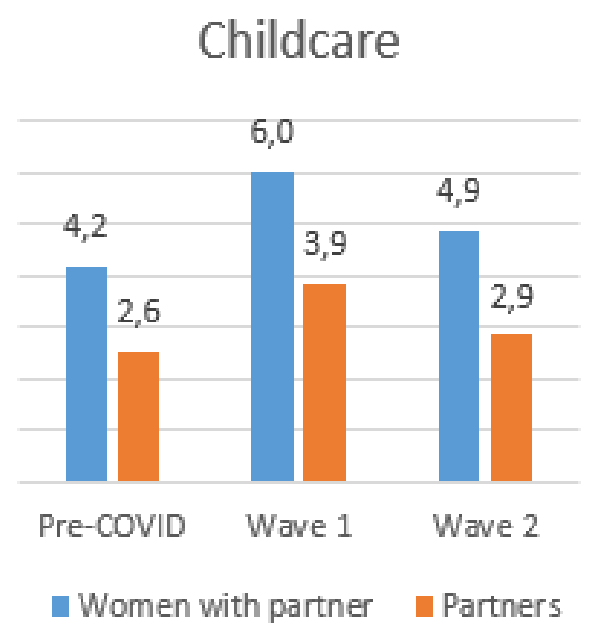
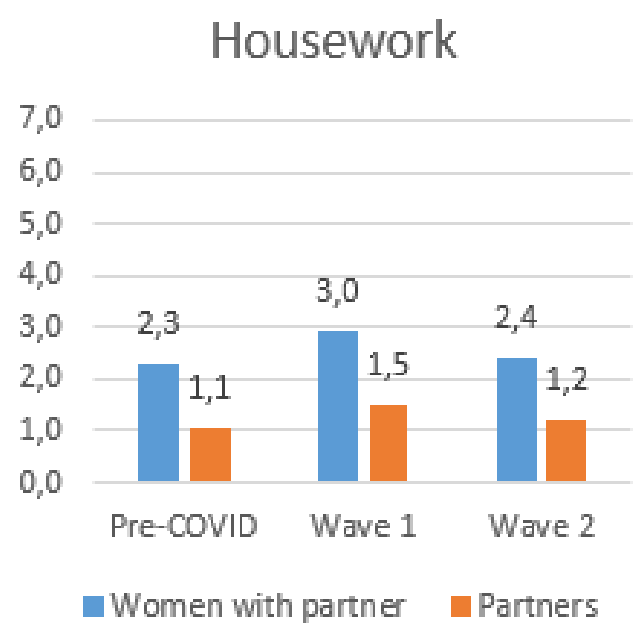
Short versus long-run effects? An empirical question



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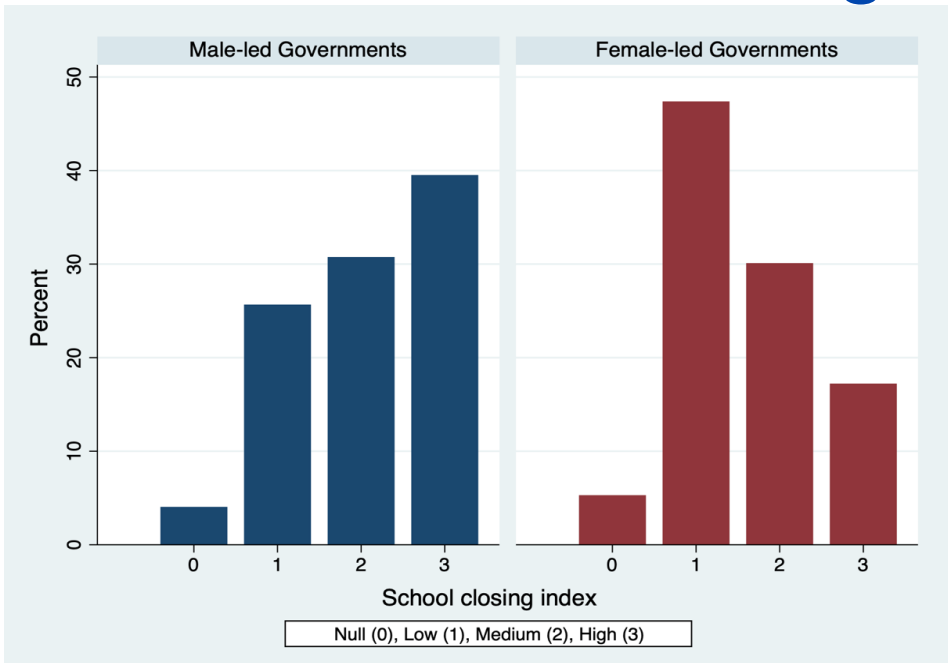
Empirical Evidence from Research



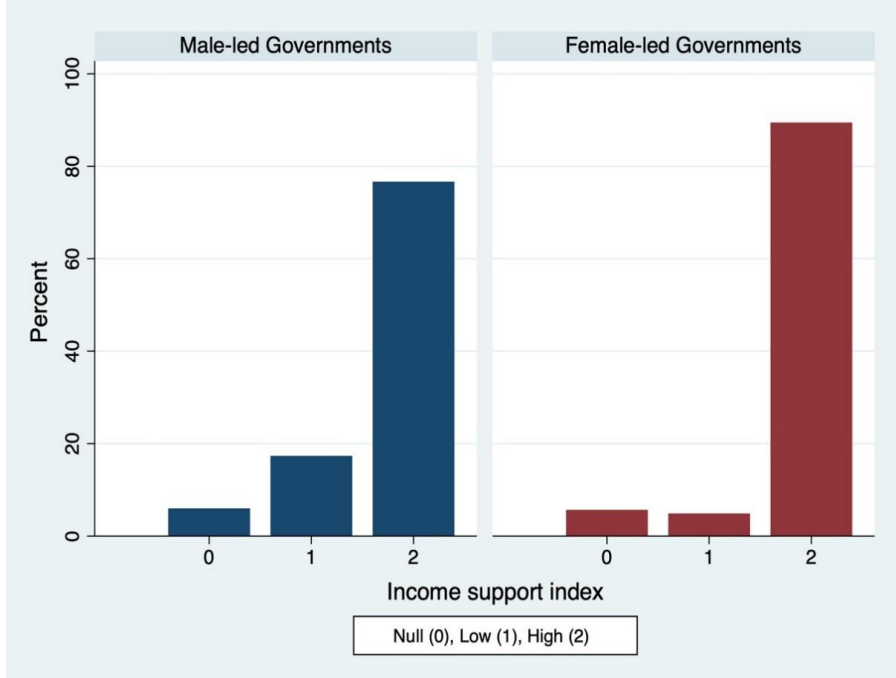
A survey on a representative sample of Italian working women (dialy hours)

Paola Profeta with D.Del Boca, N.Oggero and M.C. Rossi, "Women's Work, Housework and Childcare, before and during COVID-19" 2020, Review of Economics of the Household and "Did COVID-19 affect the division of labor within the household? Evidence from two waves of the pandemic in Italy" 2021

Women Leaders during the pandemic



0 = no measures; 1 = recommend closing or all schools open with alterations resulting in significant different compared to non-COVID-19; 2 = require closing of some levels or categories; 3 = require closing all levels.



0 = no income support; 1 = government is replacing less than 50% of lost salary (flat sum lower than half the median salary); 2 = government is replacing 50% or more of lost salary (flat sum equal to or higher than half the median salary).



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Our Elaboration on "Oxford Coronavirus Response Tracker" (OxCGRT)