Gender Norms, Family, and Career: A Survey Study in Italy

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1. Sponsors & Partners

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2. IRB

Name: Department of Economics Ethics Committee at University of Bologna

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3. Overview of Data Collection and Questionnaire Structure

Participants are invited to complete a survey administered using CAWI methodology through a web-app produced by Scenari S.R.L., designed specifically for this project by the team of the researchers. The web-app is accessible via computer, tablet, and smartphone and is available in Italian.
The questionnaire consists of multiple modules, including both standard survey sections and three embedded survey experiments (vignettes). The structure is as follows:

1. **Screening Questionnaire**: Initial screening questions to determine eligibility for participation.

2. **Demographics:** Questions on age, gender, education, and employment status.
3. **Vignette 1 & Vignette 2** (Survey Experiment 1 & Survey Experiment 2): Participants are randomly assigned to one of four treatment conditions as described in Table 1.
    -   In **wave 1**, participants evaluate the social appropriateness of chore allocations without additional information.
    -   In **wave 2**, participants see the average responses from wave 1 before answering the same questions.
4. **Education**:
    -   **Completed education** (highest level attained).
    -   **Current education** (ongoing studies).
5. **Employment Status**:
    -   Questions for **workers** on job characteristics.
    -   Questions for **unemployed individuals** actively seeking work.
    -   Questions for **inactive individuals** (not looking for work).
6. **Job Search History and Future Expectations**:
    -   Only for **students and unemployed respondents**.
7. **Partner's Employment**:
    -   Only for **participants in a couple**.
8. **Parenting Questions**:
    -   Only for **participants with children**.
9. **Additional Personal Questions**:
    -   Personality traits, TIPI, risk, competitiveness, patience.
11. **Vignette 3 (Survey Experiment 3)**:
    -   Four treatment variations, **independent** of previous vignette assignments (except for the gender of the main character).
    -   Unlike **Vignettes 1 and 2**, there is **no difference between wave 1 and wave 2** in the experimental setup.
12. **Safety and Well-being Questions**:
    -   Questions on personal well-being and perceptions of safety.

4. Research team

The research team is composed by researchers of the University of Bologna, namely: Francesca Barigozzi, Elisa Mahfouz (PhD student), Natalia Montinari and Giovanni Righetto.

5. Experimental design

In this section we describe the structure of the survey and where the treatment variations occur.
The assignment to different treatments should be as balanced as possible concerning the quota definition criteria (gender, age, metropolitan area).

Table 1. Survey Structure

Section	Number of Questions	Treatment Variation
1	Questionario di screening	None
2	Informazioni Anagrafiche	None
3	Vignette 1 & Vignette 2	In vignette 1, we present the scenario of a young man/woman who receives a prestigious four-year job offer abroad, with the possibility of being hired by a national company upon returning. In vignette 2, we present the scenario of a young man/woman who failed twice the exam to become a professional and has to decide whether to try one more year or giving up. For the two vignettes we elicit both first and second order beliefs. 10% of participants are randomly selected and on one of the two vignette (randomly selected) receive additional monetary incentives for the correctness of their answers. The survey is administered in two waves. In both waves, participants are randomly assigned to one of the four treatments. The only difference between Wave 1 and Wave 2 is that participants in the second wave view the average responses provided by participants in the first beliefs elicitation in wave 1 before answering to elicitation in wave 2. Vignette 1 and 2 are presented in random order. We implement four treatment variations, as detailed in Table 2. Two outcomes are associated to this experimental variations. Pre-registration for these studies is available at the links inserted in the note.
4	Education Completed Education and Ongoing Education	None
5.1	Employment Status - Employed	None
5.2	Employment Status - Unemployed	None
5.3	Employment Status – not in search	None
6	Job Search History and Future Expectations Only for students and unemployed respondents.	None
7	Partner's Employment: Only for participants in a couple.	None
8	Parenting Questions: Only for participants with children	None

9	Additional Personal Questions	None
10	Vignette 3 (Survey Experiment 3):	In the vignette, we present the scenario of a young man/woman who receives a job offer in a safe/unsafe area and must decide whether to accept a schedule with longer work hours. The wage associated with each option varies across conditions. We implement six treatment variations. The six treatment variations are independent of the assignments in Sections 3 and 4, except for the gender of the main character in the vignette. For this study, there is no difference between Wave 1 and Wave 2. The pre-registration for this study is available [insert link].
11	Safety and Well-being Questions	None

5.1 Treatment variations for Study 1 & 2

For the survey study 1 and 2 the following table describes the treatment variations.

Table 2: Wave 1&2 Treatments (N=2500 + N=2500)

		Variation in the gender of the vignette's main character	
		Federica (50%)	Federico (50%)
Variation in the should/would framing	**Descriptive** (**What would you do?**) (50%)	**Treatment 1&1F:** **Female protagonist with a descriptive frame** Option 1 (50%) Part 1: V1:10 and V2:10 (oe Part 1: V1:11 and V2:11) **Feedback** Part 2: V1:20 and V2:20 (or Part 2: V1:21 and V2:21) Option 2 (50%) Part 1: V2:10 and V1:10 (or Part 1: V2:11 and V1:11) **Feedback** Part 2: V2:20 and V1:20 (or Part 2: V2:21 and V1:21)	**Treatment 2&2F:** **Male protagonist with a descriptive frame** Option 1 (50%) Part 1: V1:10 and V2:10 (or Part 1: V1:11 and V2:11) **Feedback** Part 2: V1:20 and V2:20 (or Part 2: V1:21 and V2:21) Option 2 (50%) Part 1: V2:10 and V1:10 (or Part 1: V2:11 and V1:11) **Feedback** Part 2: V2:20 e V1:20 (or Part 2: V2:21 and V1:21)
	Normative (**It would be right to do**) (50%)	**Treatment 3&3F:** **Female protagonist with a normative frame** Opzione 1 (50%) Part 1: V1:10 and V2:10 (or Part 1: V1:11 and V2:11)	**Treatment 4&4F:** **Male protagonist with a normative frame** Option 1 (50%) Part 1: V1:10 and V2:10 (or Part 1: V1:11 and V2:11)

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		Feedback Part 2: V1:20 and V2:20 (or Part 2: V1:21 and V2:21) Option 2 (50%) Part 1: V2:10 and V1:10 (or Part 1: V2:11 and V1:11) Feedback Part 2: V2:20 and V1:20 (or Part 2: V2:21 and V1:21)	Feedback Part 2: V1:20 and V2:20 (or Part 2: V1:21 and V2:21) Option 2 (50%) Part 1: V2:10 and V1:10 (or Part 1: V2:11 and V1:11) Feedback Part 2: V2:20 and V1:20 (or Part 2: V2:21 and V1:21)

Distinction in Text Based on Educational Background

IMPORTANT: The text of the vignettes varies depending on the participant's educational background. Specifically, the distinction is based on two categories:

1. Participants with a university degree (or a diploma with the status of a university student).
2. Participants with a diploma (who are not university students).

This differentiation in the text is applied based on the participant's characteristics to adapt the vignettes to their educational background.

6. Sample

The study relies on a nationally representative sample of 5,000 individuals aged 19 to 29, selected to ensure balanced representation across key demographic dimensions. The sample is stratified based on gender (male, female), age group (19-24, 25-29), education level (high school diploma, university degree), region of residence, and urban size of the municipality (0-10,000 inhabitants, 10,000-50,000 inhabitants, over 50,000 inhabitants). Participation is voluntary, and Scenari SRL, the survey operator responsible for data collection and processing, ensures that informed consent is obtained from all participants regarding both participation in the study and the treatment of their personal data. Participants are recruited and monitored by the survey operator Scenari SRL, who ensures response rate tracking and replacement of non-respondents to maintain the target sample size. Data collection is conducted in two waves, with each wave including 2,500 respondents. Between the two waves, a brief informative text will be introduced before a specific question on perceived social norms, based on insights gathered from the first wave.

7. Timing

Data collection began on February 10, 2025, and is being conducted by Scenari SRL. The first wave of data will be delivered on March, 2025, while the second wave is expected to be completed by April 30, 2025. As of the date of this document, the authors received 100 observations on February 6, 2025, out of the planned 5,000, for quality checks. The questionnaire remained unchanged following this initial data review.