

Referee Report to the paper submitted to the 47<sup>th</sup> Scientific Meeting of the Italian Statistical Society on “Retirement and Intra-Household Labour Division of Italian Couples: A Simultaneous Equation Approach” (2840-5610-1-SM)

**Covering letter – Response to the Referee’s Observations**

**By referee:**

**Major comment**

If one asked to the “man of street” “does the retired man’s commitment in domestic activities increase or decrease” the answer would probably be “increase”; if one asked also “do you think that gender ideology could hamper this increase”, the answer would probably be “yes”.

**Response:**

*Several studies on the effect of retirement on labour division in the family (especially related to the US context) provide contradictory results regarding to the influence of retirement on the gendered division of labour between partner. In particular, Solomon et al. (2004) showed that egalitarian men do not invest more in routine tasks postretirement. The retirement transition does not appear to be an event of sufficient significance to strengthen the relation between egalitarian gender ideology and the division of household tasks.*

*Opposite results has been obtained by other analysts (e.g Kahn et al., 2011) using the same dataset, but a different methodology.*

*We are convinced that the variety of results across studies depends on the misspecification of the influence of latent factors such as the bargaining process between partners and the gender ideology. For this reason, the aim of our study is to provide a proper estimation procedure that allows us to quantify the extent to which gender ideology affects the relationship between retirement decision and the commitment in domestic work.*

**By referee:**

So, why do we need such sophisticated statistical tools to conclude that “Our results show that men increase their commitment in domestic activities as an effect of the transition to retirement, but the influence of gender ideology significantly hampers this propensity” ? Shouldn’t we merely ask this question to the man of the street ? In other words, I would like to ask he Authors to better discuss and interpret the results obtained by the interesting theoretical framework.

**Response:**

*Following the referee’s suggestions, we proceeded to better bring out both the purpose and the results of our analysis by integrating the abstract and the conclusions. As a result of our analysis, the estimated impact of the retirement of a traditional man on the labour division between partners supports the theory that the male partner is hard to give up the role and attitude of the “breadwinner” after his retirement (e.g. Barnes and Parry, 2004).*

*In order to balance the introduction of further comments in the text and the related bibliographic references, we had to remove some (less relevant) comments in other parts of the paper (namely in the 3<sup>rd</sup> Section: Data and Estimation Results)*

**By referee:****Minor comments**

- At least in the version received, odd pages have all numbered with "5", while even pages have all numbered with "6". Please change accordingly.
- At page 3 in the phrase "... of both partner in each equation", the word partner should be plural.
- In several part of the paper the Authors have introduced two spaces between words; the first time is in the Abstract written in Italian "*di più nel lavoro*". Please remove all the double spaces.

**Response:**

*Corrected as requested.*

**References:**

1. Barnes H. and Parry J. (2004): Renegotiating identity and relationships: men and women's adjustments to retirement. *Ageing and Society* 24(2): 213-233. DOI:10.1017/S0144686X0300148X
2. Kahn J.R., McGill B.S., Bianchi S.M.: (2011): Help to Family and Friends: Are There Gender Differences at Older Ages?. *J. Marriage Fam.* 73: 77 – 92 DOI:10.1111/j.1741-3737.2010.00790.x
3. Solomon, C.R., Acock, A.C., and Walker, A.J.: (2004). Gender ideology and investment in housework. *Journal of Family Issues* 25(8): 1050-1071. doi: 10.1177/0192513X03261323